

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**H**appy Clarkston Winter to all of you! We've had a busy and successful fall at CCHS and it's time to bring you up to date. The 33rd annual Art in the Village ran smoothly, as always, with all your help! Thank you very much on behalf of the Board. This year marked another record year with profits of more than \$20,000! Four weeks later a glorious October day dawned for Born in a Barn, our historic barn tour. Hundreds of barn enthusiasts enjoyed the ten barns, craftspeople at work, horse show and sheep herding! Thank you again for volunteering your time to be a barn docent. A few weeks later, we raised over \$2,500 at our first Antique Auction. The evening drew a small attendance that fortunately had a large appetite for antiques!

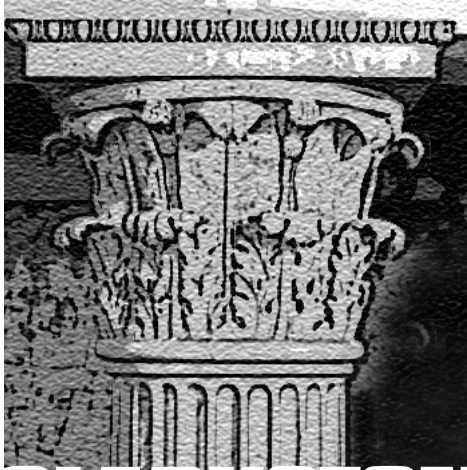
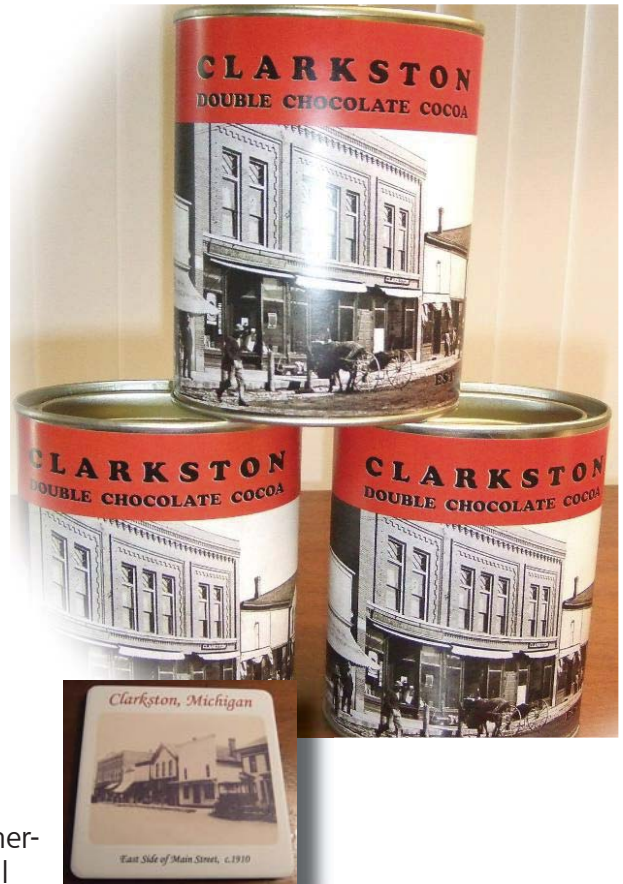
2007 was indeed a splendid year for CCHS, to say the least! We feel very fortunate. Thank you again for your help, donations and input during 2007. And so begins 2008. Read on to learn about what's coming up in the new year. Don't miss the articles on the Collections Night on February 26 or the Village Players benefit play, *Absurd Person Singular*, on May 1.

Remember, we are always looking for program and exhibit ideas, Clarkston artifact donations, volunteers interested in working on special projects and new members. We love hearing from you! In fact, we have recently been contacted by a volunteer who is interested in recording oral histories. We are looking for input from you about who should be interviewed from our community for this project. Call our office, and let us know! Hope to see you February 26 for the Collections program.

Jennifer Arkwright

## Our CCHS Gifts Will Warm Your Winter!

**T**wo of our newest merchandise items are still available. Tins of delicious hot chocolate with a special private Clarkston label are \$8.00 each. They make a wonderful gift for any occasion. We also have a box of four stone coasters, each with a different historic scene of Clarkston for just \$24.00 a set. You can't get this special edition anywhere else, so call today!



# CLARKSTON COLUMNS

6495 Clarkston Road  
Clarkston, MI 48346  
248.922.0270  
www.clarkstonhistorical.org

### Mission Statement

The Clarkston Community Historical Society has been created in order to bring together those people interested in the history of our community and area; and, as far as is possible, to collect and preserve such things that are of historic interest, and may collect, care for, and make these items available for scholars, students and the public to use in researching the history of our area.

### Board Members

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248.922.3757

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248.625.8624

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Toni Smith, *Museum Director*  
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248.922.0019

# PIECES OF OUR PAST: THE COLLECTOR'S STORY

Toni Smith

The Clarkston Heritage Museum has recently opened a very exciting new exhibit that truly offers something for everyone. The collections of eight different individuals are on display and the variety is wonderful.

Interested in Victorian fashion? There are seven incredible dresses here to see. From bustles to ball gowns, you will be amazed at the dresses of longtime collector and national historian, Barbara Kincaid.

Do the mysteries of the Knights Templar intrigue you? Then you will enjoy Chuck Robertson's collection of fraternal swords with all the many symbols and secret codes that snake across the scabbards. Or what about the idea of treasure hunting? Dick Ellis has an amazing collection of items found underwater and underground with a metal detector. Piles of old coins, jewelry, tokens, medals and an endless variety of "found" treasures are here for you to see.

Other collections on display include late 19th century squeak toys that are sure to make anyone smile and beautiful brass scales of all shapes and sizes from CCHS board member Jonathan Smith. Also, there is a wonderful collection of hand whittled farm implements made almost a century ago by Alfred Newman, grandfather of Jane Basinger.

This is our 16th exhibit and it is truly unique from all those held before it. Come visit and experience our history through the eyes and passions of each collector.



## A Unique Window of Opportunity for Someone Special

When the museum was first opened in 1999, part of the room layout included these four great photo films inserted within the long wall of windows. The photos served two purposes; first they added drama and interest to the museum, secondly they offered protection for the displays from the harsh sunlight. They lasted seven years, but eventually the films faded and had to be removed. We are currently working on a plan to create a new window with similar yet hardier materials. This time, instead of four different photos, we hope to use a single photo of Main Street in the early 1900s. The



scene would be divided into four continuous sections. Looking at the window, the effect would be like you were looking down Main Street in 1900. The cost for this project is \$1,700 and we are hoping that someone may be willing to sponsor our new window. It could be one person who pays the full amount, or several who contribute smaller amounts. This could serve as a

memorial or remembrance window and we would be happy to include a plaque to that effect. This is a perfect opportunity to have a personal impact on the Museum. For additional details, please call 248-922-0270.

**COLUMNS**

# Are Some of Clarkston's Earliest Pioneers Still HERE??

Over the years, we have heard a handful of interesting stories about paranormal activity in many of the old homes and buildings in Clarkston. In most cases, it seemed as though past residents just weren't ready to give up their old routines! There is the well-dressed Victorian gentleman who still enters the Masonic building for meetings, the young girl whose laughter floats through her old house and the sad little boy who continues to play where he died at a young age. Many historical societies collect these stories and we hope to do the same. Give us a call if you have ever had a 'ghostly' experience or have something to share, and don't worry, we'll leave the light on . . .



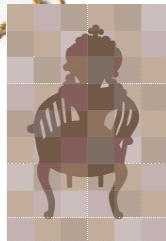
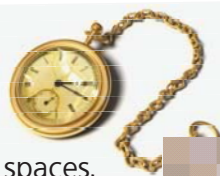
## *Newest Museum Collection Item Provokes 'History Mystery'*

We recently received this photo postcard from an out-of-state collector. The photo shows a man presumed to be a mail carrier with his wagon in the center of the photo along with several other townspeople. On the back of the postcard, written in pencil are the words "From Pa" on the left side and it is addressed to "Lettie Lee, Clarkston, Michigan" on the right. It was never stamped or mailed. According to the census of 1910, William Lee lived in Clarkston and had a daughter named Lettie who was born in 1898. There are several mysteries about this postcard. First and most importantly, does the photo look like it was taken on Main Street in Clarkston? Second, was William Lee ever the postmaster and is that him in the photo or could he be one of the other men? Third, could the little girl in the far left of the photo be Lettie herself? We encourage all history detectives to take a closer look and give us your opinion!



## We Can't Stop Now!!

Aside from renting booth spaces, our biggest source of income at Art In The Village has been the Antique Tent Sale. Many of the items in the sale have been the leftovers from estate closings or garage sales. We take the unsold antiques/collectibles and you get the tax write-off. Or if you just have a few items you would like to donate, that works too! We take items all year long, so don't hesitate to call us when you next clean out your closets!



# You're Invited to Our Next Evening Program

Col·lec·tion (noun):  
a group of things or people  
together in one place

On Tuesday, February 26th at 7 p.m. the CCHS is planning to host a special gathering for collectors of just about anything! Featured that evening will be some of the individuals whose collections are currently on display in the museum. Victorian fashion expert Barbara Kincaid will be on hand to briefly discuss her collection of several hundred dresses. Also on hand will be Dick Ellis to speak about his underwater treasures, Jane Basinger to describe her grandfather's handiwork and Jonathan Smith to answer questions regarding his antique scales.

This will be an informal and entertaining evening and we are also encouraging anyone who has a collection of their own to bring in a sample and tell us about it. Think of it as a meet-and-greet with a bit of show-and-tell thrown in! We'll even have refreshments to make it even more enjoyable (as if that were possible). Please consider joining us that evening, it would be nice to have a good turn-out for those collectors who are giving us their time. The program is free and will start at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the library, hope to see you there.



## *You're Invited to the Wedding*

We are already planning our next exhibit and wedding bells are ringing! We will be combining the wonderful wedding collection of vintage fashion expert Barbara Kincaid with Clarkston wedding items and are on the search for more. Do you have a gown, document or anything else that might be related to Clarkston weddings? Would you consider loaning it to the museum for this exhibit? Please consider our plea and call the office at 248-922-0270 if you have something to offer.



## got milk?



We recently purchased this photo on the internet. The information on the back reads that this cow is Daisy Aaggie Ormsby the 3rd and she was the champion butterfat producer in the US. She produced 1,286.23 pounds of butterfat in 365 days at Lakefield Farms in Clarkston. Our research shows us the farm was located off Clarkston Road, where Heather Lake Estates is now. The farm existed from at least 1924 until 1956. Supposedly it was over 1,000 acres and was owned by the J.L. Hudson Mercantile Co.! This poses all kinds of questions such as; did they use the farm produce to decorate ladies hats? Was all that buttermilk the secret to their famous Maurice dressing? When you stepped into the brass elevator at the store did the uniformed attendant say "2nd floor Menswear, 3rd floor Livestock?" Was this a way to lower the cost of leather goods (just joking folks!). If anyone has any additional information, we'd love to hear it.

## CONSIDER US!

Even though it's only February, it's not too early to begin thinking about your 2008 charitable donations! The Clarkston Community Historical Society is an IRS approved 501c-3 charitable organization, meaning that any donations made are fully tax deductible. But of even greater value will be the knowledge that your donation is a reinvestment in the community you love. That's because the mission of the historical society is to preserve and protect Clarkston's rich history.

Donations to the historical society can be made in several ways. Direct gifts of cash or check are the most common, but some other alternatives you may want to consider include:

- Memorials, Gifts in Memory or Gifts in Honor are all possibilities
- Clarkston related artifacts for use in our museum -or- non-Clarkston related antiques which we can sell to support our operations
- Estate assets specified in a will or other estate-planning documentation, such as a living trust
- An endowment gift that will be invested to generate income
- Naming the historical society as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy
- Matching gifts through your employer, which will effectively double the amount of your donation (check with your employer to see if they offer this benefit)

*Thank you for your consideration and, of course, feel free to call our office with any questions.*

Jonathan Smith, Treasurer

## CCHS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Recently the CCHS was approached by the Trustees of the old Sashabaw Cemetery. After almost two centuries of caring for this wonderful cemetery, they were hoping to convince the township to take over ownership. It had been a long road, but with a gentle nudge and extra support from the CCHS the township finally agreed. We were so glad to help and are happy in the knowledge that this cemetery will be cared for into the next century.



*Sashabaw Presbyterian Church, c. 1890  
Photo donated to the museum by  
Charlotte Maybee*

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
presents **The Clarkston Village Players** in

Thursday, May 1, 2008  
Depot Theatre  
7 PM Hors d'Oeuvre  
7:30 PM Curtain



# Absurd Person Singular

By Alan Ayckbourn

Tickets  
\$20.00 each  
Includes Wine & Hors d'Oeuvre

To purchase your tickets, please  
send your check payable to CCHS  
6495 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston, MI 48346  
Call (248) 922-0270 with questions.

*"Walks  
a zigzag line  
between  
comedy and  
manages to be  
staggeringly  
funny"  
- Newsweek*

Three couples - six hilarious characters - "celebrate" three  
Christmases in three different kitchens. Running like a dark  
thread through this wild comedy of behind-the-scenes disasters  
is the story of the advance of the Hopcrofts to material  
prosperity and independence and the decline of the others.

## Michigan's Troubadour in a **FREE CONCERT**

Community Meeting Room  
Independence Township Library

### Neil Woodward

*Award Winning Michigan Troubadour*

Sunday, March 2 ■ 2:00 PM

Don't miss the opportunity to hear this  
accomplished Michigan musician, vocalist  
and story teller. Enjoy traditional ballads,  
dance tunes, original songs and other  
music that will bring Michigan culture and  
history to life.

Quality entertainment  
or the entire family.

*A master of over a dozen  
musical instruments.*



#### INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

6495 Clarkston Road  
Clarkston, MI 48346  
248.625.2212

CLARKSTON  
COMMUNITY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



& HERITAGE  
MUSEUM

6495 CLARKSTON ROAD  
CLARKSTON, MI 48346

# CLARKSTON COLUMNS

News about the Clarkston Community Historical Society - activities, exhibitions, people and plans for CCHS members