

## Programs and Events

### Through Her Eyes – Women Photographers

A docent from the Detroit Institute of Arts will discuss the work of women artists with a focus on the current DIA collection. This is the perfect way to hear about their collection before you visit the DIA this summer!

Admission is free; program sponsored by the CCHS and CIDL.



**MAY**  
**9**  
7 p.m.

*Clarkston Independence District Library Community Room*

### Porchfest

This new CCHS-sponsored summer event features musicians performing on several front porches at homes bordering the Millpond – on North Main, Miller, North Holcomb and West Washington. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a relaxing front-yard concert.

Stay as long as you like or move on to the next stop. Light refreshments will be provided by the CCHS. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.



**JUN**  
**25**  
1-4 p.m.

*City of the Village of Clarkston*

### Art In The Village

This is the 45th anniversary of this wonderful CCHS event and fall Clarkston tradition. Thousands of visitors fill the city to enjoy the great artists, music, food and children's activities. Proceeds from Art In The Village help us fund educational community programs and acquire and preserve local artifacts for the Clarkston Heritage Museum. Don't forget our silent auction, Clarkston merchandise and antique sale. Mark your calendars and invite your friends for a great day in the park. Admission and parking are free.



**SEP**  
**16**  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**SEP**  
**17**  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*Depot Park*

### CCHS Holiday Party

We will be back to celebrate the holidays in the finest Clarkston tradition, so save the date and watch for more details. You won't want to miss this festive and magical evening.

**DEC**  
**1**  
7 p.m.

*71 N. Main Street*



Clarkston, MI 48346  
6495 Clarkston Rd.

## CLARKSTON

# COLUMNS

News about the Clarkston Community Historical Society ~Activities, exhibitions, people, and plans for CCHS members.

## From the President



CCHS President Jonathan Smith helps with check-in at the Historic Ellis Barn Dance.

2016 was another busy and successful year for the Clarkston Community Historical Society (CCHS), but it ended on a very sad note with the unfortunate passing of our dear friend and president, Bart Clark. Bart was a direct descendent of Clarkston's founders and extremely passionate about the community. He was a strong leader and visionary for the Historical Society as well as being a very accomplished military and business professional. Bart was simply an amazing person and friend and we will miss him in so many ways.

To continue the CCHS positive momentum created by Bart Clark and Jennifer Arkwright before him, I have volunteered, with the Board's full support, to become the next CCHS president. This will surely be a challenge, but I have been on the CCHS Board as the treasurer for 27 years now and am ready for a change! I, too, am passionate about our community and the rich history that has made it such a special place to live and raise our families. I recently retired from Chrysler (FCA) after 34 years, so I have the time now to increase my involvement.



Bart Clark portrays his ancestor at our 2010 Cemetery Walk.

My first responsibility as president will be to find a replacement treasurer! So, I'll shamelessly take advantage

of this front-page column to ask the question, would you or someone you know be willing to become the next CCHS treasurer? The ideal candidate would be a financial professional living in the Clarkston area wanting to support the community through a charitable position. If that might be you or someone you know (even if not a current CCHS member), please contact the CCHS office at 248-922-0270. Training would be provided and the time commitment would be very minimal.

Like many businesses, January for the CCHS will be the month we set goals for the year and establish the corresponding budget. The board is continually evaluating the CCHS activities and events to ensure they are fulfilling our mission as well as best meeting the needs of our membership. Your feedback – be it about our museum, our programs, or our fund-raising activities such as Art in the Village and the Barn Dance – is always welcome and encouraged. You can reach the board by calling the museum office (248-922-0270), sending us an email ([info@clarkstonhistorical.org](mailto:info@clarkstonhistorical.org)), sending us a letter (CCHS, 6495 Clarkston Road, 48346), or even slipping an anonymous note under the museum office door in the Clarkston Independence District Library. No matter the format, we would love to hear from you!

Best regards and Happy New Year,

**Jonathan Smith**

President, Clarkston Community Historical Society

## It's All in the Details!

We have so many great photographs in the Heritage Museum collection that it's sometimes easy to overlook the details and lose part of the story. Look closely to see if you can find the following images.

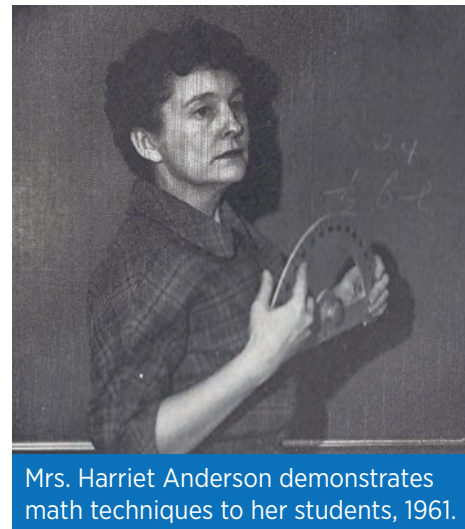


1. A set of wooden wagon wheels leaning against the building.
2. A small child playing near the side door.
3. Wooden emergency whistle way up high.
4. The bus line wagon waiting to take visitors into town.
5. Clarkston spelled with an 8 rather than a S.



## Serving Up a Great Donation

A wonderful donation recently came to us from Cindy Gehman. Cindy's mother was Harriet Anderson. Mrs. Anderson taught in the Clarkston schools from 1953-1979. Do you remember her? She started teaching at Clarkston Elementary, then moved to the Junior High when it still shared a building with the high school. At some point, china must have been purchased for the high school. Perhaps it was used for school banquets?



Mrs. Harriet Anderson demonstrates math techniques to her students, 1961.

We would love to know more if anyone has anything to add. In the meantime, we are so grateful to Cindy for carefully packing up this complete CHS place setting and shipping it to the museum. It was new to us, and just goes to show you never know what might come through the door!

## Have You Seen the Clarkston Video?

Back in October, the Friends of the Village of Clarkston sponsored a wonderful Clarkston video that highlights the many reasons that make the City of the Village of Clarkston such a great place to live. The three-minute video was filmed and directed by Alan Partington, with script and narration by Jordan Bellant. The CCHS helped by contributing some historic photos.

We encourage you to visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and enter Beautiful Clarkston to view it. We think it will make you proud to call Clarkston your hometown.



## Programs and Events

We have other activities in the works, but this will get you started on all the great events coming to you from the Clarkston Community Historical Society in 2017

### A Conversation with the Local Authors of 'One Cup At A Time'

Meet the local authors of 'One Cup at a Time,' a new book that offers several personal accounts of historical events beginning with the Great Depression and running through the high-style, hot-rodding 1950s. Authors will sign the book, and the Clarkston Community Historical Society will provide refreshments. Admission is free; program sponsored by the CCHS and CIDL.

**JAN**  
**26**  
7 p.m.

*Clarkston Independence District Library Community Room*

### History of Jazz, 1920 – 1960

Lars Bjorn and Jim Gallert of Detroit Music History will trace the evolution of jazz from its early days to the dawn of Motown Records, along with many rare recordings and photographs of Detroit musicians. Admission is free; program sponsored by the CCHS and CIDL.

**FEB**  
**7**  
7 p.m.



*Clarkston Independence District Library Community Room*

### Anne Sullivan Speaks

During Women's History Month, join us for this innovative event in which Colette Cullen will portray Helen Keller's devoted teacher, Annie Sullivan, whose work with Keller began 130 years ago. Admission is free; program sponsored by the CCHS and CIDL.

**MAR**  
**7**  
7 p.m.

*Clarkston Independence District Library Community Room*

### Great Women in History

Maureen Esther returns to tell us about the most interesting women in history, including King Tut's wife, Henry the VIII's six wives, Mary Todd Lincoln and many more. When it comes to storytelling, Maureen never disappoints! Admission is free; program sponsored by the CCHS and CIDL.

**APR**  
**4**  
7 p.m.



*Clarkston Independence District Library Community Room*

(Continued on Next Page)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – Join Our Party!

Hello and Happy New Year! It's that time of year again when your CCHS Membership is up for renewal. Your membership supports the mission of the historical society: **to preserve and protect Clarkston's rich history**. Without people who want to invest in the community they love, we could not provide historical programming and unique events, or retain fresh, exciting and educational exhibits at the Clarkston Heritage Museum. We can't tell you enough how much we appreciate your **partnership as members together** ensuring Clarkston's past will not be forgotten, but protected and cherished in a manner that **all** the community can enjoy.

You will find the membership remit envelope inside this newsletter. It's easy to renew! Just place your check made out to CCHS into the envelope and mail. All donations are tax-deductible as the historical society is a 501c-3 organization. Our Individual/Family membership contribution is \$25 and you can review the other categories as printed inside the flap, including a one-time contribution to become a Lifetime Benefactor, if you wish.

In addition to membership, you can support the historical society through direct gifts that can be used to sponsor a museum exhibit, event or a new program. Some other supportive alternatives to consider include:

- Donating Clarkston-related artifacts
- Specifying estate assets in a will or trust
- An endowment gift
- Naming the historical society as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy
- Matching gifts through your employer.

### Kroger Community Rewards

Another easy way you can support the society, in addition to membership, is by shopping at Kroger! Kroger will take a percentage of what you spend and donate it back to us! Just go to the Kroger website and set yourself up with a user name and password, if you don't already have one. Then click on Community and then on Kroger Community Rewards. Hit Enroll and fill in the information requested. The Organization name is Clarkston Community Historical Society and the Organization Number is **90960**. Voila! Now you are making a donation to CCHS every time you shop at Kroger. So far, we have received over \$500 in community reward money.



Wiltzie Vliet enjoying a game of cards in the doorway of his cabinet shop.

### Like Us on Facebook

Be sure to visit our page to keep up to date on the latest society happenings ... search under Clarkston Community Historical Society and Heritage Museum. Our website is also a bevy of information: [clarkstonhistorical.org](http://clarkstonhistorical.org).



Thanks to supportive and dedicated members like you, CCHS has provided for the community a means of learning about our past and has preserved and saved many items that might have otherwise been lost forever.

Respectfully yours,

**Jen Arkwright**  
Membership Chair

## Local Estate Sale Yields Incredible Artifacts

Have you ever wondered where all the items come from in the museum collection? Of course, many are donated. But we also have a budget to buy local artifacts, thanks to the profits from our Antique Tent at Art in the Village each year. During the summer we found some real treasures right here in our own backyard. These are just a few of the things we bought.

First, we found a wonderful large wooden Clarkston Village Limit sign that once stood at the north end of Main Street. We love the crackled gold letters and are excited at how this will add impact to a display in the museum.

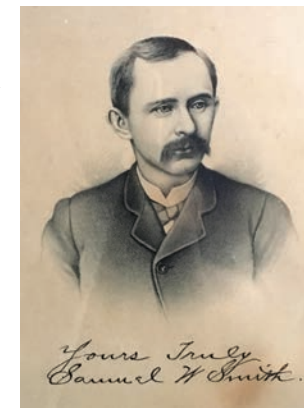


The next item might seem mundane to many people, but we were thrilled to find a vinyl stadium seat from the high school. One side has the wolf logo but the other side – with all local advertising – is our favorite. Many of the businesses are gone, so this is a great way to remember them.



By the way, can you spot the one ad that was printed upside down?

Then there are my personal favorites – a large, oil-on-canvas portrait of local resident Samuel Smith, as well as a smaller pen and ink drawing of him in his younger days. Even with some damage to the canvas, this is one of the BEST portraits I have ever seen and Mr. Smith is a fine-looking gentleman. Apparently this portrait was found in the home when it was purchased several decades ago. It was pretty easy to find information on Samuel as he lived quite an interesting life!



Samuel was the son of N. B. Smith, who owned a general store on the corner where the Masonic Temple now stands. (Fun fact: The Masons started meeting upstairs in the store before eventually buying the property to build the Temple.) Samuel was born in Clarkston in 1852 and was educated in the village school. In 1877, at the age of just 25, he was admitted to the bar and graduated from the law department of the State University in 1878. He set up a private practice in Pontiac and by 1880 was elected prosecuting attorney of Oakland County. In 1884 he was elected a state senator. Then he was chairman of the District of Columbia, rather like being the mayor of Washington.

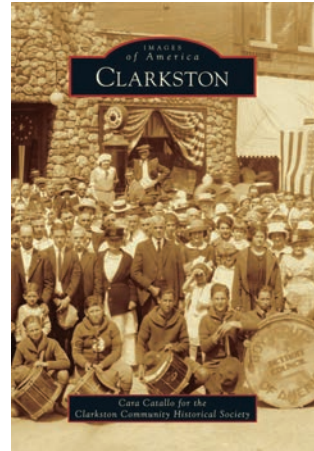
In 1911, he returned to his law practice full time. By then he was married to Alida DeLand, a young woman who worked to incorporate the first Pontiac City Hospital and was a suffragette. Apparently, he married his equal in ambition and civic duty. I can hardly believe that we were able to secure this important portrait and we hope to find the funds to have it completely cleaned and restored.

*If you would like to help us with that mission, please think about making a donation to the CCHS restoration fund. We believe Samuel deserves to look his best for many more years to come.*



## Something to Read on a Cold Winter's Night

It's always fun to "keep it local" when you add to your reading list. Most of you are already aware that last year the CCHS and local author Cara Catallo produced *Images of America: Clarkston*. It's a terrific book full of early Clarkston photos, as well as some great local history and insight. The book is \$21.99 and all proceeds benefit the CCHS.



Recently, another local book was added by a group of residents who regularly meet for coffee and conversation at Brioni Deli. *One Cup At A Time* is touted as "a living history by 10 Clarkston-area authors." It covers everything from the Great Depression to the fabulous 1950s and sells for \$29.95. A portion of the proceeds of this book sold from the Clarkston Independence District Library will benefit both the CCHS and the Friends of the Library.

Both books are now being sold behind the circulation desk at the library, so stop by and get a copy for yourself and one as a gift for your favorite reader. We guarantee a real page-turner!

## Heritage Museum Hits the Road

In October, the Clarkston United Methodist Church celebrated its 175th Anniversary here in Clarkston. A celebration in the church fellowship hall after each service included a mobile exhibit from the Clarkston Heritage Museum. We spent many hours pulling together items that would represent not only the church but also what was going on in the community over that 175-year span.



It was very well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy walking along the timeline and viewing the items on display. It's another way the museum gives back to our community, with educational exhibits and cool stuff that's so much fun to look at!



## Once in a Generation You Need to Take a Break!

For the past several years, the CCHS has been fortunate to be invited to hold our holiday party at the lovely historic Main Street home of Joe and Melissa Luginski, also known fondly as the Clark House. Like all homes that last for generations, occasionally there is a need for a bit of historic restoration to keep them strong and looking beautiful. So this year, we had to forego the party and give the house a much-needed rest. We hope you had a great holiday (and maybe missed us just a little). We plan to be back at 71 N. Main again next year and it will be even sweeter to see you all again.



The Luginski home during our 2015 holiday party. [www.mpkphoto.com](http://www.mpkphoto.com)

## The Moon and Stars Aligned for a Perfect October Barn Dance

Once again, the sounds of country music and boots stomping on a century-old barn wood floor rang out over the fields around the Ellis Barn in October. The CCHS teamed up with Oakland County Parks and Recreation for our third barn dance, and the evening could not have been more perfect. It was so warm that we threw open the big barn doors and let the lights and music spill out for a memorable evening of fun, great food and lively music. A full moon rose over the barn for an effect right out of the movies.



About 200 people began the evening with a delicious barbecue dinner catered by the Union Woodshop. Then Annabelle Road provided the live music and no one could sit still once the barn got jumpin'. There was fresh pie for dessert, cold beer at the bar and the 50/50 raffle was a huge success. Everything came together to make this an event to remember.



We especially want to thank those whose support made the event a success. Oakland County Commissioner Tom Middleton donated all of the pumpkins and gourds to decorate the barn in beautiful fall colors. Thank you, Mr. Middleton!

We also want to give a HUGE thank you to Curt Catallo, his wife, Ann Stevenson, and business partner Erich Lines for the delicious dinner from the Union Woodshop. Imagine our great surprise when after the dance was over they donated the entire food bill back to the CCHS. This extraordinarily generous donation made all the difference when the final tally was summed up. We just can't thank them enough for their amazing support – not only to the CCHS but to the entire community. They do so much that the public never hears about, but this time we want to SHOUT our thanks to them for being so kind.



It was so satisfying to see that beautiful old barn in all its glory, enjoyed by hundreds of people and reminding us why



it is so important to preserve these wonderful structures for future generations.

### CCHS 2016 Board of Directors

Jonathan Smith, <i>President</i>	Angela Freeman
Debbie DeVault, <i>Vice President</i>	Hope Mason
Kelly Crawford, <i>Secretary</i>	James Schultz
Pending, <i>Treasurer</i>	Melissa Luginski
	Lorrie Ellis

### Clarkston Heritage Museum

Toni Smith, *Director*

### Our Partners

Margret McDermott, *Website*  
 Joette Kunse, *Genealogy*  
 John Meyland, *Photography*  
 Kim Huttenlocher, *AIV Artists*  
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