

CLARKSTON COLUMNS

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

From the President

Hello and Happy Spring! With any luck, that long winter is now behind us and we can look forward to a wonderful summer season. Two of our popular annual events will be returning this season: the 3rd annual Porchfest event in June, where local musicians play on the front porches of homes around Clarkston's Mill Pond, and the 47th annual Art in the Village in Depot Park in September. Planning for these events is already underway and volunteers, by the way, are needed. Please contact us if you can help, even a couple of hours will make a difference.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the Clarkston Heritage Museum in the Clarkston Independence District Library. Read the article found inside to learn more about this significant milestone, something we're very proud of.

Lastly, I would like to ask our members to consider joining the CCHS Board of Directors. Over the winter, two of our Board members retired, leaving us with just seven. If you think you might be interested, come to one of our Board meetings to learn more. Our only requirement is that you have a good sense of humor! Yes, we have work to do, but we always have fun in the process!

Best Regards,

Jonathan Smith

President,
Clarkston Community Historical Society

Upcoming Events



In 2018 the Patrick Cooper Irish Band performed on the porch of 71 N. Main Street.

PORCHFEST: Sunday, June 23, 2-4 p.m. Plan to attend this wonderful, free event, held rain or shine. Musicians will perform on the porches of homes around the millpond for your listening pleasure.

**JUN
23**

2-4 p.m.

PRIVY PROGRAM: Tuesday, August 13, 7-9 p.m. Presented by Tony Panepucci, the expert privy digger who helped us with all of our local digs. You won't want to miss this fascinating look at outhouse archeology: Tony has so many great stories!

**AUG
13**

7-9 p.m.

ART IN THE VILLAGE: Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15.

**SEP
14**

**SEP
15**

Our signature fundraiser, this will be our 47th consecutive Art in the Village, and we hope you plan to be there. We are ALWAYS looking for artists, so check out our website – www.clarkstonhistorical.org – and pass along the information to anyone you think might be interested. Not artistic?

We need volunteers to help us during that busy weekend. Please consider it and give us a call at 248-922-0270.



Please consider the CCHS for your antique and collectible donations. We desperately need items to sell in our Art in the Village Antique Tent this year. Call our office to arrange for pick-up anytime.



It's Time to Toot Our Own Horn

This year, the CCHS is celebrating the 20th anniversary of our Heritage Museum. The museum opened in November, 1999 with an exhibit about Clarkston schools. Originally the museum space was a large meeting room with file cabinets against the wall and a big center table. It was used for local research but most of the time it was underutilized. And look at us now!

We estimate that our collection of photos and artifacts has quadrupled in the past 20 years, and we've had thousands of visitors to the museum. Those visitors keep coming back, too! Having a changing exhibit space allows us to display different artifacts so patrons can enjoy stopping in over and over again.



Here are the 32 exhibits we've showcased in the museum since we first opened – see how many you remember!

The Way We Learned: The First
100 Years of Clarkston Schools

Clarkston at Work:
From Farms to Factories

From the Beginning:
The Native American Story

A Jump in Time: Clarkston
Photos from Past to Present

Pastimes and Parades:
Clarkston at Play

Windows in Time:
A View Through Clarkston History

Clarkston Collections:
Gathering Our Past

Clarkston in Conflict:
From Hometown to Homefront

Capturing Clarkston:
A Celebration of Everyday Life

Death on the Millpond:
Clarkston Tragedies, Accidents
and Losses

Clarkston Celebrates:
An Old-Fashioned Christmas

Clarkston in Costume:
A Century of Fashion

Clarkston Throws a Party:
Fun, Fellowship and Function

Clarkston Childhood:
From Schoolyard to Farmyard

A Village Vacation:
P.S., Wish you Were Here!

Pieces of our Past:
A Collector's Story

Dearly Beloved:
Clarkston Courtships & Weddings

**The Butcher, the Baker, the
Candlestick Maker:** Merchants,
Shopkeepers and Tradesmen

Fast Forward: Clarkston
Landmarks Past to Present

The Way We Learned:
100 Years of Clarkston Schools

**The Doctor Will See You
Now:** Caring for the Clarkston
Community

Clarkston Salutes:
Patriotism and Parades

Clarkston's Kitchens:
History in the Baking!

**Factories, Floods
and Henry Ford**

Clarkston's Hidden Treasures:
Beneath the Ground, Below the
Water and Behind the Walls

Beyond Fashion: Bustles,
Buckles and Bathing Suits

In Front of the Lens:
Our History in Photos

For Your Amusement:
Clarkston Entertains

Clarkston at Play:
A Generation of Toys

20,000 Artifacts:
Endless Stories

**Clarkston Celebrates
the Holidays**

**Behind the Door
of a Clarkston Privy**



Exhibit 29



Exhibit 30

That's an impressive list of exhibits for a small town museum supported by volunteers, donations and one part-time museum director. We believe it's important to connect Clarkston's past with the present, and we hope you do, too. You can help us continue our mission in many ways, including tax-deductible donations of cash, local artifacts for our collection, and antiques and collectibles that we can sell in our Art in the Village Antique Tent. You can also donate your time; just give us a call at 248-922-0270. We look forward to hearing from you!

Outhouse Archeology at the Heritage Museum

We recently installed a new exhibit titled "Behind the Door of a Clarkston Privy." For this exhibit – our 32nd – we pulled out all of the interesting items excavated from the privy digs we conducted a few years ago in Clarkston.



It's a fascinating look at what kinds of things were typically tossed into backyard privies, or outhouses, of homes in the village. We found local bottles, clay pipes, china, ceramic doll heads, marbles and all sorts of interesting booty. We hope you will stop by the museum and view the exhibit, and see why Clarkston families' trash is now our treasure!



Are you interested in having a privy dig in your backyard? Call us at 248-922-0270 to discuss the details, we would love to see if it's a possibility.



Photo of the privy dig at 21 E. Washington. The home was built around 1870 for the Hammond family, who operated Hammond's Grocery & Drugs on Main Street.



These china doll heads were found in one of our privy digs.

Deep Dive Into the History of Parke Lake

Most visitors to downtown Clarkston are unaware that the millpond isn't the only body of water within the village. Parke Lake, located east of North Main Street, has always been a part of our geography. We thought you might want to know more about its history.

To begin, you have to go back to 1842, when Nelson and Jeremiah Clark commissioned a local surveyor to survey the village. The name chosen for the lake may not come as a surprise when you learn that the surveyor's name was Hervey Parke.



View across Parke Lake when the original clapboard school was being dismantled, and the new brick school was being built. c. 1910-1920

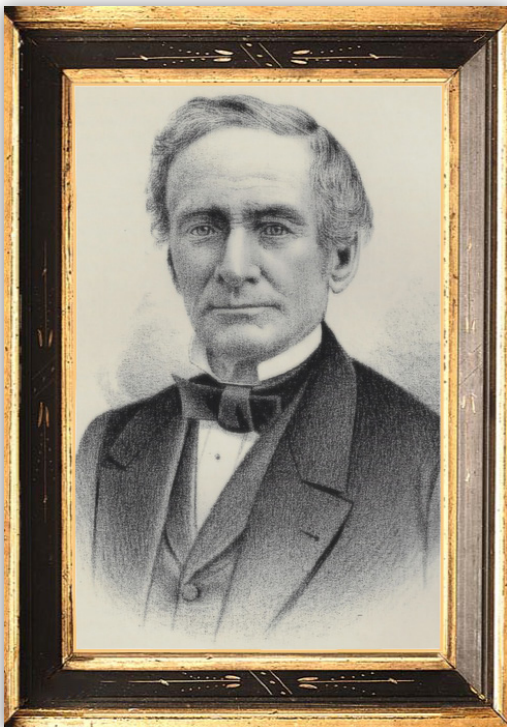


Image from the 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album of Oakland County.

Parke was born in Connecticut in 1790. His father was a sea captain and his son hoped to study navigation. But Captain Parke would not hear of it, and insisted that young Hervey learn surveying. When he was 18, Hervey moved to New York to complete his education and was also employed as a schoolteacher. It was while walking home from the school one evening that Parke suddenly decided to move his young family to Michigan to work as a government land surveyor. It is perhaps fortunate that Parke was unaware at the time that Michigan was considered a land infested with marshes and swamps with hardly an acre out of every one hundred that was fit for cultivation.

Parke wanted to get established before uprooting his family, so in March of 1821 he and two friends began walking the 500 miles to Detroit. He eventually arrived in the area of Birmingham and joined another surveyor on his first job. The work was miserable and often, they had to endure deep snow, mucky water, inadequate food and swarms of mosquitos so thick that they could block the sun.

Parke would persevere and within a year, his wife joined him as well as his brother, Dr. Ezra Parke. An interesting side-note is that Dr. Parke named

his first son after his brother Hervey. That boy, Hervey C. Parke, would grow up to found the Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Company.

So, it was Hervey Parke that - like so many of Clarkston's earliest settlers - came to Michigan to build a life for himself and his family. Parke is perhaps not as well-known as the Clarks, Holcombs or Millers, but his name is still a part of our local history and he deserves to be remembered for his role in the beginnings of our little town.

**A special thanks to Dale Bond for the inspiration and information in this article.*












A scene on the shores of Parke Lake in 1907, when the banks were still thick with foliage.

Early Records and a Tough Life

We recently acquired a large amount of information from local historian Dale Bond, and these records certainly remind us that modern medicine has come a long way. As you read the list, keep in mind that in 1860, Independence Township had about 1,644 residents. That makes it even more unbelievable that lightning killed two people in the same year.

In 1860, the following deaths were caused by something other than old-age.

23 DIED OF SCARLET FEVER 	1 DIED OF TYPHOID 	2 DIED OF LIGHTNING STRIKES 
1 DIED OF MEASLES 	1 DIED OF CONSUMPTION 	1 DIED OF DROPSY 
1 DIED OF SCROFULA 	1 DIED OF LUNG INFLAMMATION 	1 DIED OF CHILDBIRTH 

In case some of these diseases are unfamiliar:

Scrofula is a condition in which the bacteria that causes tuberculosis causes symptoms outside the lungs. This usually takes the form of inflamed lymph nodes in the neck.

Dropsy is an old term for edema, a condition where accumulated fluid in the body leads to swelling – usually because of kidney or congestive heart disease.

Consumption was the common name for tuberculosis, a highly contagious lung disease.

It wasn't unusual for families to bury deceased loved ones on their own farms, but for village residents, it was another story. The Clarkston Union Cemetery (now Lakeview Cemetery) was officially established on August 20, 1850, at a community meeting held in the Baptist church on Main Street, now the Clarkston Union. The CCHS has the original record book with the minutes of that first meeting. It's been 169 years, and the cemetery still provides a final resting place to those in our community.



Photo of the Union Cemetery, later renamed Lakeview Cemetery. c. 1910



Photo of the Baptist church located on Main Street. This is where the first cemetery meeting was held. c. 1905

CCHS Thanks James and Gini Schultz

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

— Dr. Syed Muhammad Zeeshan Hussain Almashhadi

For as long as we can remember, James and Gini Schultz have been the heart and soul of the CCHS community. James served on the Board of Directors for many years, and both have been responsible for creating highly successful CCHS programs and events.

To name just a few: They created and coordinated all of our historic barn tours. They suggested we include an antique tent at Art in the Village, and then solicited donations for that tent, which quickly became one of our biggest fundraisers.

James and Gini suggested the idea of Porchfest, and they chaired the first one. It was also their idea to hold a winter carnival, which was the beginning of Shiver by the River.

The Schultzes worked tirelessly not only for the CCHS, but for the entire community. Clarkston is a better place to live because of the indelible mark they made. Simply put, they are irreplaceable and greatly missed. We know they're having a wonderful time in their new home in Traverse City, and we're sure that their new hometown will soon realize how special they are.

To show our appreciation, the CCHS and others in the community donated funds to purchase a charming bronze dog to be placed in Depot Park. Eventually there will be a plaque next to him that honors both James and Gini, as well as ALL the people who volunteer to make this a better community. Stop by soon and greet the Depot Dog!

Thank you for everything James and Gini - we wish you happiness and good health.

Sincerely,

The CCHS Board of Directors



This friendly St. Bernard is now greeting visitors to Depot Park.

CCHS 2019 Board of Directors

Jonathan Smith, *President*

Debbie DeVault, *Vice President*

Kelly Crawford, *Secretary*

Angela Freeman

Hope Mason

Melissa Luginski

Amy Wilson

Clarkston Heritage Museum

Toni Smith, *Director*

Our Partners

Margret McDermott, *Website*

Joette Kunse, *Genealogy*

Jennifer Arkwright, *Social Media*

Kim Huttenlocher, *Children's Education*

For Students, We Take the Mystery out of Local History

It has always been part of our mission to educate Clarkston students about local history. We do this by visiting elementary schools to talk about our community's interesting past, and by hosting young people at the museum.

Kim Huttenlocher, our education chairperson, does a great job of connecting with students. Often, she is called into the schools around the same time at the end of the year, so she may visit seven schools in a few short days!



Original artwork by James Russell, 1995

Last year, Kim and a group of dedicated second grade teachers asked the CCHS to work with them to revamp the children's history textbook we originally published in 1995. Once again, we provided all of the photos, and allowed the original artwork, by James Russell, to be used in this updated version. It took many hours on our part but we're thrilled to support this great endeavor and excited to see the newest book in the hands of all second-graders in Clarkston Community Schools.

Clarkston and the Pony Cycle


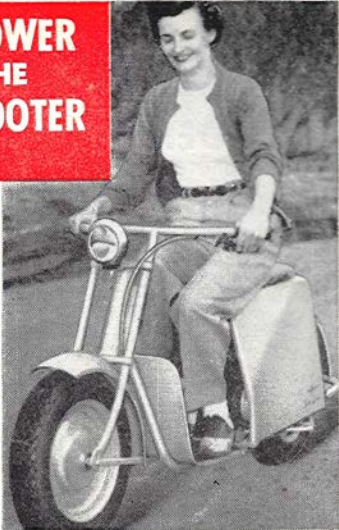
Did you know that Clarkston was once the manufacturing home of a popular scooter called the Pony Cycle? They were manufactured at Hawk Tool and Engineering Company which moved into the current Mills building at 20 W. Washington around 1950.

When the Pony Cycle first hit the road, it was very well received. It was inexpensive, lightweight and easy to operate. Initially, it was sold through bicycle and lawn mower shops, with national distribution through All-Flo Products. Realizing the potential of the scooter market, Hawk Tool expanded their line of bikes to a less expensive, step-through model. Eventually, the family's dream of a large catalog/department store alliance came true. In 1956, Montgomery Ward awarded Hawk Tool a contract to supply them with Pony Cycles. Everything was looking great. The assembly line was rolling out bikes and inventory was growing, but after a year and a half, Hawk Tool was unable to meet Ward's production quota and lost the contract. It was a big financial set-back for Hawk Tool.

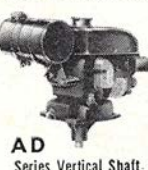
Collectors still seek these great bikes and treasure them for their versatility. We would like to thank the Hawk family for the information and photos. They still own and restore these popular scooters and rumor has it that they may even make an appearance in this year's 4th of July Parade. We say Welcome Back!



HORSEPOWER FOR THE PONY SCOOTER



AU
Series Horizontal Shaft




AD
Series Vertical Shaft

You get dependability, as well as agility, in this well-designed two-wheeler built by Hawk Tool & Engineering Co., Clarkston, Mich., and sold by Montgomery Ward & Co. It's powered by Continental Red Seal AU Series engine, equipped with built-in generator to operate its lights. It will pay you to specify Red Seal for any job within its power range.

For information, write:

Continental Motors Corporation
INDUSTRIAL AIR-COOLED ENGINE DIVISION
12800 KERCHEVAL AVE., DETROIT 15, MICH.



Advertisement from Popular Science magazine, July 1956.

Kroger Community Rewards

If you support the CCHS through the Kroger® Community Rewards program, please note that our organization number has changed to EH450. You will need to make the change by going in to your rewards program online. If you have not yet signed up, please consider it. Last year, the CCHS received about \$500 in free money through this program. Thank you for your support.



Frank Walter's and his traveling grocery wagon came WAY before Krogers!



6495 Clarkston Rd.
Clarkston, MI 48346