



The Catchmark

Newsletter of the Clare County Historical Society

Marty Johnson, Editor

Volume 19 Number 1

Sharing Our Past With the Present.

Winter 2019

Please Renew Your Membership

Our fiscal year and membership term run January through December. That means it's time again to ask you for your support for 2019 with your \$10 contribution that helps fund our museum complex, printing and mailing this newsletter, funding our website, as well as continuing maintenance and capital expenses.

As usual, no membership contribution is required for those 80 years and older, your membership is free (although donations are always gratefully appreciated).



Volunteers assemble a storage shed on museum grounds this past summer. It is just one of the many projects your financial and volunteer support makes possible. Learn more on page 4.

Planning Meeting March 9

Our annual CCHS planning meeting will be Saturday, March 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Pere Marquette Library in Clare.

This meeting provides an opportunity for board members, volunteers and those with an interest in local history to lay out ideas for 2018. Everyone is invited and light refreshments will be served. The meeting is also a great way to learn about our organization.

We also appreciate the Clare District library for again allowing us use of their facility.

Museum Opens May 4

Snow covers the steps, porches and roofs of our buildings and the doors remain locked.

While the snow will be long gone (we hope) by May 4, the first Saturday in May, that will be the day all the doors are opened to the public at our museum complex and we officially open for the 2019 season. We will then be open every Saturday, including holiday weekends, until the last Saturday in September.

So, please mark your calendar and we hope to see you at our season opener. We also hope you come some Saturday to sit on our porch to talk local history.

Clare County Historical Society

The mission of the CCHS is to preserve, advance, and disseminate the history of Clare County.

The Society oversees a complex located at the corner of Dover and Eberhart Roads northeast of Clare, which includes a Museum, the Dover one-room schoolhouse, Ott Family Log Cabin, and Blacksmith Shop.

We also have photos, books, old newspapers and documents in our archives. Access is by appointment. Learn more at clarecountyhistory.org or visit us on Facebook.

Reliving the Past at Old Fashion Day



Thanks to all who helped make our Annual Old Fashion Day the last Saturday in September a grand event. That includes all the volunteers who helped, the vendors who came out and the visitors who attended.

The day was filled with live music, homemade soup, old cars and tractors, wagon rides, live animals and fun.



Our guest speaker was Mark Jager, (at left)

author of the *Mystic Michigan* series of books. His presentation was fascinating and well attended and we appreciate his agreeing to take part. .

It was also a special day in which we honored long time member Ruth Owen (at right) who was dressed to "the nines" in one of her many outfits, including a mink jacket.



Recreating 'The Calkins'



The Hotel Doherty has been stood in the City of Clare since 1928. However, before the Doherty there was The Cal-

kins, another mid-Michigan showplace, this one built by John "Tip" Calkins.

Calkins started in the hardware business before branching out into other businesses, including agriculture and logging. In 1891, he opened his new hotel complete with steam heat and electric lights in all the rooms. A brick addition in the back was built in 1901.

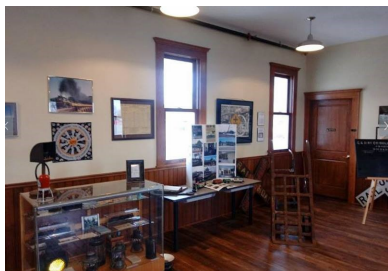
The hotel burned on Jan. 20, 1920, and site stood vacant until A. J. Doherty built his hotel

there in 1924.

The scale model of the Calkins at left was created by CCHS member Gene Bodnar, whose creations are in museums and collections throughout the country.

We currently have another of Gene's creations, a model of a U.S. destroyer that was sent to Great Britain in WW II and renamed the H.M.S. Clare after our city. Both models can be seen at our museum in the Spring.

The Clare Depot Opens Its Doors



The Clare Union Depot is again serving the City of Clare; however, not as a rail-

road depot but as home to the Clare Chamber of Commerce, the Clare County Arts Council and as a railroad museum. It has a number of wonderful displays that tell the story of rail-roading in our county and show the history of the depot.

The museum can be visited during open hours of the Chamber,

which is Monday—Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please note that hours may vary in the event the Chamber office is closed for lunch or another event so you may want to call first. The phone number is (989) 386-2442. The depot is located at 202 W 5th St, in Clare, just south of the water tower.

Read All About It! (It Being Clare)

Here is a listing of three recent books that have to do with Clare County.

⇒ *Small Town Citizen; Minion of the Mob: Sam Garfield's two Lives*, by Robert Knapp:
A look at the, gangster, oil-man, gambler, scam artist, as well as a Clare businessman and solid citizen.

⇒ *Where They Lived Historic Clare Michigan Homes and the People Who Lived in Them* by Ken Lingaur

The book with photos chronicles the lives of people who lived in 51 historic Clare homes.

⇒ *Jim Carr and Maggie Duncan, An Historical Compendium* by Jon H. Ringelberg

A collection of newspaper mentions and articles about two of Clare County's most notorious citizens.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership (or Join!)

Please check the membership label to see if it's time for you to renew your Clare County Historical Society membership. **Most memberships expired at the end of December 2018.**

Membership is only \$10 per calendar year—unless you are 80 or older in which case your membership is free! (but we still ask you mail in the form so we have a record of your interest).

Your support makes it possible for us to run our museum

complex, publish our newsletters, host our website, run events and promote Clare County history, tell its stories and protect its artifacts.

If you are not a member, we'd love to have you join us.

Name: _____

☐

New

☐

Renewal

Address: _____

☐

I Qualify for a Free Membership

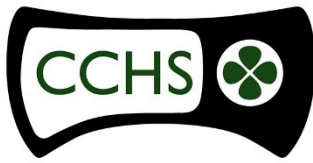
Address 2: _____ Email (optional) _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

\$ _____ Total enclosed*

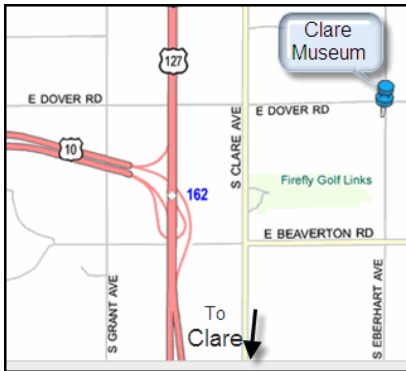
* Donations in excess of \$10 are greatly appreciated and will be used to improve our museum complex and promote local history. The CCHS is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation may be tax deductible.

Make checks payable to: Clare County Historical Society and mail them to
CCHS, c/o Jon H. Ringelberg, Treasurer
3062 E Colonville Rd
Clare, Michigan 48617-9448



CLARE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

c/o Jon H. Ringelberg, Treasurer
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Clare, Michigan 48617-9448



Our museum complex is at 7050
Eberhart Rd. at Dover, five miles north
of Clare. It opens the first Sat. in May.

Like us on Facebook!



Questions, comments? Email
museum@clarecountyhistory.org

2018 was Another Fun, Productive Year

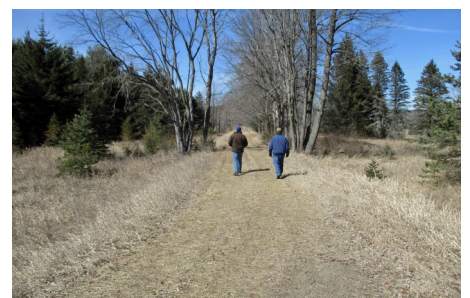
Here are just a few of the things we accomplished and were able to do last year (outside of Old Fashion Day. We hope you will come out in 2019 and take an active role. We really NEED you!



*Twenty people attending a fundraising
Amish dinner at Countryside Kitchens*



A ramp was installed at the Ott Family Cabin to make access easier to those with mobility problems. We would like to eventually install a sidewalk at our complex to connect all the buildings.



Several members found and walked part of the original railroad grade that ran from Clare to Harrison, and that dates from 1875



We installed several new displays, including a 19th century law office; the oil industry in Clare County; the murder of Isaiah Leebove at the Doherty Hotel; the U.S. destroyer that Great Britain renamed the H.S.M. Clare; and an old wooden phone booth that once stood in a Clare drug store. We even repainted the sign at the Poor House Cemetery in Harrison. We have even more planned for this year. Help us make it happen and be a part of it all!