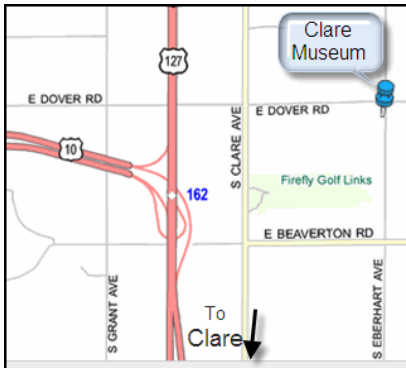




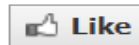
CLARE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

c/o Jon H. Ringelberg, Treasurer
3062 E Colonville Rd
Clare, Michigan 48617-9448



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

Like us on Facebook!



Questions, comments? Email museum@clarecountyhistory.org

A Question About Sawmills

One of our members contacted us about sawmills and whether the ones that operated in lumber camps during the lumbering hey-day in Clare County (approximately 1880 to 1910) were all huge and all stationary, or whether there were also mobile mills.

Member Andy Coulson provided the answer that is reprinted below.

"Mills were actually very mobile. The steam engines themselves were regularly on wheels, unless they wanted a more established



mill on something of a more sturdy nature. Later in the game, when lumbering was more sporadic, mills would literally be moved from location to location depending on where the lumber needed to be cut. The water source was

more for the steam than for log storage, though if lake was big enough it would be used for both. Mills were probably more short term than long term and were usually built to stay in one spot for a few years tops. Anything more than 2-3 years was only reserved for the biggest

MCC Photos Up

A number of photos on loan to us by Mid Michigan College and part of the Forrest Meek collection are now up at our museum. Some additional photos can be found at the Railroad Depot Museum in Clare and at the Historical Museum in Farwell.

The photos can be viewed during open hours .

Photos are available for loan to local libraries, museums, schools and county and township offices.



Aug. 17th

11 am-Noon: Music by Carrie Westbay
12-12:30 pm: Spikehorn Speaker Joe Bradley



12:30-1:30 pm: Music by Christopher Thurlow
1:30-2 pm: Spikehorn Speaker Martin Johnson
2-3 pm: Music by Dan Patch
3-3:30 pm: Spikehorn Speaker Melvin Brewer
3:30-4:30 pm: Music by Zig Zeitler
4:30-5 pm: Get Bear Smart Presentation

Aug. 18th

11 am-Noon: Music by Carrie Westbay
12-12:30 pm: Spikehorn Speaker Joe Bradley
12:30-1:30 pm: Music by Dusty Ballard
1:30-2 pm: Spikehorn Speaker Martin Johnson
2-3 pm: Music by Dan Patch
3-3:30 pm: Spikehorn Speaker Melvin Brewer
3:30-4:30 pm: Music by John Woolard
4:30-5 pm: Get Bear Smart Presentation

Plus, additional activities will be available each day.



We will host our annual "Old Fashion Day" on Sept. 28. Our guest speaker will be Mandy

Kramar from Central Michigan University who has been conducting research on possible burial sites at the County Poor Farm and Garrity Cemeteries and will provide us an update on her research.

In addition, the event is a great opportunity for the family to experience life in Clare County TVs, computers, smartphones were still topics of science fiction. There will be blacksmiths, farm equipment, animals, tractor rides, food, games and more.

Visitors will also have one last chance to tour the museum, the historic one-room schoolhouse and the log cabin where the Ott family raised 18 children.

There will be live music from the museum porch. Admission is only \$3 per person. Children 12 years and under admitted free.

Join (or Renew) Your Membership

Membership in the Clare County Historical Society remains 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). our 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: _____

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*

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



Catchmark

Newsletter of the Clare County Historical Society

Marty Johnson, Editor

Volume 19 Number 3

Sharing Our Past With the Present.

Summer 2019

Marker Restoration

In the summer of 1958, the State of Michigan installed an historical marker in the roadside park north of Clare to commemorate logging railroads (Our county was one of the first to use them). Very few markers in the state have graphics to go with the text. Ours was one of those and, as it turns out, once had a very colorful graphic that had dulled over the decades.

The marker is currently undergoing restoration thanks to a generous donation of time by one of our members, and will be returned to its rightful location in the fall.

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. Access to these is by appointment. Learn more at

Upcoming Events

We have two big events coming up on our grounds the next two months.

The first, "Spikehorn Days," is sponsored by Major Day Entertainment, and the second is "Old Fashion Day," our trademark event. Both take place at our museum complex. Both are

quite different, although both feature food, music, special speakers and fun. We really hope to see you at them.

Plus, we are open every Saturday through September from 1-4 p.m. and we hope to see you one of those days when things are a bit quieter.

SPIKEHORN

AUGUST **DAYS** **17TH-18TH**

\$5 ENTRY **11AM TO 5PM**

CCHS
CLARE, MICHIGAN

MUSEUM

OLD FASHION DAY

Saturday, Sept. 28

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Clare County Roads—Part I

By Andy Coulson

The building of Clare county roads is a very interesting story to follow. To be clear, the majority of travel in early Clare county was certainly done by rail. First by the Pere Marquette, beginning in late 1870, and then on the Ann Arbor Railroad when it laid tracks through the county in 1887. While most Clare county's settlements sprang up along railroads, roads were also developed to connect farms and settlements together. This article is about the progression of those traditional roads, although then they were mostly poorly built being mostly of sand and/or gravel and didn't hold up well, especially when it rained.

The first major road to traverse the entire county was the Ionia and Houghton Lake State Road. J.L. Littlefield surveyed Clare county's portion of this road. At the time, the road was of vast importance. Starting in Ionia, it was the only official path to the northern part of Michigan, and would later continue to the Straights of Mackinac.

One would think that a road of such importance would spawn settlements in the county, but this was widely not the case. Excluding Farwell, there were perhaps only two settlements that owe their existence to what has become locally known as Old State Rd. The first is a little-documented settlement in northeastern Greenwood township by the name of Mark. Mark was located at the southwest corner of Section 12, where



Cranberry Lake Rd. intersects Old State Rd.

The other settlement called Jonesville was located where Old State Rd. crosses the Muskegon River, an obvious place for a settlement. If you put yourself in the shoes of the people back in the early 1870's you would think that if you had a location where the only north/south road in the state crossed a major river, a metropolis would eventually rise, but you'd be wrong. The only evidence of Jonesville is the iron bridge (photo above) that is now used primarily by ORVs. One can't even make out the original path of the road.

There was also a Clare to Farwell route paralleling the railroad. This was a simple road, which is today's Maple Road.

Another early state-sponsored road went by the name of the Clare and Gladwin State Road. It was meant, more or less, as a branch of Old State Rd., heading northeast out of Farwell toward Gladwin County, via the farming settlement of Dover.

There is a good chance that the Clare and Gladwin State Road was only ever meant to get one as far as Dover, which is one of the earliest communities in the county and formerly called Crawfordville.

Little, if no evidence exists of the Clare and Gladwin State Rd. being completed more than a few miles through Sheridan township. One reason is that there was nothing at the time in Gladwin county to warrant a state road. An 1884 map shows this road ending two miles east of Dover, still five miles short of its county-line. Today, known as Kapplinger Drive, the road still services the needs of those traveling in this direction.

Speaking of the community of Dover, it is one of the best example of a Clare county settlement that was not associated with a railroad. Dover was served by what was called Dover Road. This is not the Dover road we know now that runs east/west that. This was a route from the east side of Clare to the settlement of Dover. We know the road now as Eberhart Ave., but early on it was one of the most traveled roads in the county.

With the inclusion of this route, we can now see the connections to three of Clare county's biggest settlements of the time: Clare to Farwell, Farwell to Dover, and Dover to Clare keeping in mind that Harrison was just being settled at this time.

We'll pick back up with more in the next newsletter.