

Catchmark

Newsletter of the Clare County Historical Society

Angela Kellogg, Editor

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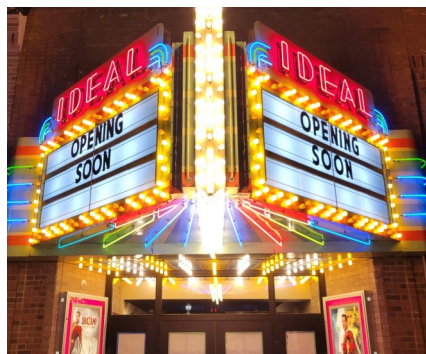
Sharing Our Past With the Present.

Spring 2023

New Remodeled Ideal Theater to Open in March

Renovations have been underway for over a year on the Ideal Theater in Clare. Their eagerly awaited opening is scheduled for the end of March.

The Ideal Theater of Clare received \$988,045 for restoration of historic downtown theater.



Bridge Work Completed by Members

Last August, Jon Ringelberg and Andy Coulson stained the bridge at the roadside park. Over the past couple years, while visiting and completing other various projects, it had been noticed that the bridge needed some attention.

Prior to the 1995 flooding, the park used to boast of two bridges over its stream. After the flood, one temporary bridge was built. It took more than ten years to construct a more desirable bridge at the park.

In 2008 a decorative arched bridge was constructed through various funding; \$1,000 was donated by Charles and Dorothy Ashcraft. \$700 came via the Clare County Unrestricted Endowment Fund. \$1,700 was matched by a grant through the Rolin M. Gerstacker Foundation. The bridge was built under the direction of Mr. Gerald Schmiedicke.

For a number of years, the road-

side park was overseen by a local garden group, but this is no longer the case. The current arrangement for the overseeing of the park is a little complex. A number of years ago, Greg Rynearson investigated the requisition of the park. It was apparent that the county had no interest in maintaining it. The county said they could not give or sell the property to a private person. Greg then turned to the Clare County Historical Society. From there, the roadside park is now on a 99-year lease to CCHS from Clare County. Cops and Doughnut and currently Elm Creek Landscaping have invested a lot of time and money into making the park presentable.

It is believed that the bridge had not received any weatherproofing since its construction in 2008. Now, thanks to Jon and Andy, the bridge will last many more years to come.

Clare County Historical Society

Our mission is to preserve, advance, and share the history of Clare County, Michigan.

Our Society oversees a History Park at Dover and Eberhart Roads northeast of Clare that includes a Museum, the Dover one-room schoolhouse, Ott Family Cabin, and a Blacksmith Shop. We also have photos, books, newspapers and documents. CCHS board meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at our museum May—Sept at 7 p.m. All are invited. Learn more at clarecounthistory.org or visit us on Facebook.

March Planning Meeting Report

By ANGELA KELLOGG

CCHS held their annual planning meeting on Saturday, March 10 at the Clare Depot. The following are a few items of interest and discussion from the meeting.

- ⇒ Dennis Guerriero is heading up the effort to rearrange and freshen up the museum at Dover Road complex. A display case of items about surveying is finding a new home at our museum from Ada. A few things will be freshened up in the Ott cabin too. More information about area churches will be added, several exhibits will be moved around the museum building.
- ⇒ Jon Ringelberg announced he will be stepping down as Treasurer in May. His current assistant is Andy Coulson. Officers will be decided at the May meeting.
- ⇒ Bids are being accepted to repaint the Dover School.

⇒ **Volunteers are needed in all areas for CCHS to thrive. School visits were discussed and the high energy and logistics of bringing a large number of children to the museum. More volunteers are needed for school visits and for Saturdays from May through October when the museum is open.**

⇒ A brainstorm session of sorts was held to try to bring more visitors to the museum complex. A new brochure, membership drive and social media presence were discussed.

⇒ “The Rabbit” a Spike Horn Meyer artifact on display in the museum will be featured in the May/June issue of Michigan History magazine. Marty Johnson headed up the effort to feature the rabbit and our organization.

⇒ Additional Spikehorn items

maybe donated this summer by Meyer family members in con-

Museum complex opens Saturday, May 2 See you soon!



The Dover School

Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2 at the museum complex at Dover and Eberhart Road.

History is Everywhere in the County!

In addition to our county museum complex there are lots of places to view and enjoy Clare County History.

- ⇒ The Pere Marquette District Library, 185 E 4th St, Clare has given CCHS some display case space and a rotating display will be placed there for the next year. (see photo)
- ⇒ The Clare Depot has a wonderful and large collection of depot, railroad, and local history at 201 W 4th St, Clare.

⇒ When the Harrison District Library moves to their new location this year in the Surrey House building. 125 E Beech Street, Harrison, they will have a dedicated local history and genealogy room.

⇒ The Farwell Historical Museum will have regular hours beginning this summer. This is the first time they will be open on a regular basis since 2020. Visit their Facebook page at Farwell Area Historical Museum.



Dr. A.E. Mulder display at Pere Marquette Library in Clare, courtesy of Rosie Demerest.

Bellaire and Lansing Win Newspaper Digitization Grant

CCHS Nominated Marion

Every other year Central Michigan University’s Clarke Historical Library holds a grant contest to digitize newspapers.

CCHS member Andy Coulson nominated the community of Marion for digitization. Clare County newspapers already have a plan for digitization and a great number of our county newspapers are already on the CMU site.

Why does the Clare County Historical Society care about newspapers in another county? There is an historical void in the northwestern portion of Clare county. That portion of the county is now, and was especially historically, isolated from the main body of the county due to the course of the Muskegon River. There are no more bridges today crossing the Muskegon River in the county then there were 125 years ago; two at Temple (a railroad bridge and conventional), one in Winterfield township known as the Church bridge, and one at Leota, which in old days doubled as a dam. Those living on the north side of the river were therefore very iso-

lated in respect to the southern portions of Clare county, and naturally felt more connected to Marion, where the majority of the communities news ended up.

From 1903 to 1944, The Marion Press had only one editor, a man by the name of Charles Sadler. Charles Sadler was a multi-talented musician, writer and community-minded businessman who bought the Marion Dispatch in 1899, survived the fire of 1904 under The Marion Press without missing an issue, and after a lengthy, distinguished career, left the paper in 1944.

Pre-1903 history of the area has already been covered in multiple venues, including J. August Lithen’s 2019 book, The Road to Marion Town. The book ends with the town’s 1904 fire, which is where the microfilmed newspapers and the online newspapers will pick up.

Although we didn’t have enough Twitter votes to win we thank all those that voted and may duplicate the effort in the next grant round. Visit <https://digmichnews.cmich.edu/> to access the Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal .

Join or Renew Your Membership

Memberships for active for the calendar year. Please check your address sticker to see your “paid to” date.

Membership is only \$10 per calendar year—unless you are 80 or older in which case your

membership is free if you have been a member in good standing (dues paid) for the previous 5 years.

Your support makes it possible to run our museum complex; publish our newsletters; host our website; run events;

educate residents and visitors on our local history; promote tourism; protect artifacts; and more.

In any event **we hope you'll join with us--or renew!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address 2: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

\$ _____ **Total enclosed***

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

New **Renewal**

I am 80 or older, live in Clare County and qualify (see above) for a free membership.

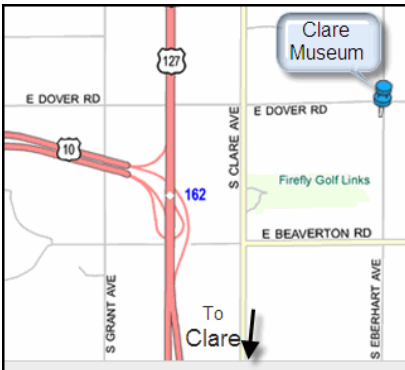
Yes, email me the newsletter

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



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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. from 1-4 p.m.

Like us on Facebook
[@clarecountyhistory.org](https://www.facebook.com/clarecountyhistory.org)

Questions, comments? Email
museum@clarecountyhistory.org

1938 Clare County Aerial Photos



The photo, above, of the Temple Civilian Conservation Corp camp is just one of many 1938 aerial photos of Clare County that were given to Angela Kellogg at the Clare County Cleaver by a retired DNR employee. Members and

researchers have sought out this set of 1938 aerials for many reasons. They photos are a great resource for researching landmarks, railroads, roads, and other natural or manmade structures.

The aerials are a great resource for researching the county's logging and railroad history in particular. In 1938, the logging era had ended 40-50 years ago and railroads, spurs, and sidings are recognizable. Today's aerial and satellite photos are better quality but unfortunately many clues about railroads and shadow town locations have been covered over with modern roads, farmland, homes, etc

If you have interest in the 1938 aerial photos contact Angela Kellogg at 989-539-7496 or editor@clarecountycleaver.net.



Receive the Catchmark Via Email

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