

Catchmark



Newsletter of the Clare County Historical Society

Angela Kellogg-Henry, Editor

Volume 25 Number 2

Sharing Our Past With the Present.

Summer 2024

Jots of Interest

Old Fashion Day is Saturday, September 28 at the Museum. Mark your calendar to attend!

Dennis Guerriero, president of CCHS is now contributing to the Facebook page and is sharing content from the museum that is gathering attention and new followers. Like the Facebook page at Clare County Historical Society. Our page now has over 2,500 followers.

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, Bell/Knapp 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.

Do you have a few free Saturdays this summer? Consider spending time greeting visitors at the museum complex of the CCHS.



Clare Union Railroad Depot

Other History Destinations in Clare Co.

The **Clare Union Railroad Depot** in Clare is open from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Monday through Friday and occasionally on Saturdays. It acts as a tourist information center as well as local and state railroad history museum. The depot also houses the Clare County Arts Council and the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce. The building located at 201 W. Fourth Street in Clare.

Farwell Area Historical Museum is located on Main Street in Farwell and they are open from 12-4 on Saturday's through September. Their building dates back to 1882 and is full of interesting things about the Farwell area.



Farwell Area Historical Museum

Early Settlements Part 2



By ANDREW COULSON

In our last newsletter, I began a series on briefly describing the progression of Clare county settlements, as found on available period Michigan state maps. The last article touched on the first five settlements; 1.) Farwell, 2.) Remick, 3.) Clare 4.) Hinkle's Mill, 5.) Lake Station.

This installment takes us up to the year of 1879, nothing changing on maps until this point. All five settlements talked about in this article come from the same map, Rand, McNally & Co.' 1879 map of Michigan. In addition, all five settlements are in relation to the Gerrish railroad of Lake George fame. (Note: a sharp eye will notice that the rail stop of Remick on the F. & P.M. line is misspelled as Remwick on this

map.) Laughably, the Gerrish line, as shown, takes up nearly the entire west to east swath of the county, which was hardly the case, in reality taking up less than half the territory shown.

Winterfield; Winterfield township was one of the first townships to be formed in Clare county, early lumbermen immediately recognizing the importance of organizing a township that encompassed the entirety of the river at the time. Winterfield township at the time also was made up of the current Summerfield and Redding townships. The Winterfield as shown on the above map was the northern terminus of the Lake George & Muskegon River railroad and was actually a bit south of today's Temple, sometimes referred to as Winterfield Station.

Stimsonville: Thomas Stimson was a partner of Winifred Scott Gerrish. This location was later to be named Clarence and had a rather long history under this name. Located where the tracks cross Bear Avenue. Sometimes labeled "Stimson V" on maps.

Stafford Station; The July 26, 1878 Clare County Press holds the sole reference to Williams Stafford, and says that he was in town (Farwell) and that he was a foreman for Gerrish. The location of this place was most likely where the railroad came closest to the shores of Lake George, about midway the length of the lake on the east side.

Bailey's; There is little to no information on this place. Bailey was most likely another foreman of a Gerrish camp, this camp most likely located in the northeast corner of section 9, Lincoln township.

Grant; again, little to no information on this place, other than it was most likely the southern terminus of the Gerrish railroad, in the vicinity of the southern portion Bungo Lake.

It should be noted that none of the above locations were ever anything more than lumber camps that were only in operation for a few years. However, at least two of them helped pave the way for more permanent settlements, Winterfield for Temple and Stimsonville for Clarence.

Bell/Knapp Cabin Update

With the passing of Robert Knapp last year came the donation of his family log cabin to our historical society. Robert wished for his family cabin to be kept safe, maintained and mostly to be enjoyed by everyone, so its move to the site of our museum was the logical choice.

The original site of the cabin is in southeast Sheridan township, where Robert has deep family roots. The move from this location to its ultimate destination will necessitate an approximate six mile move. Currently, it is expected that the move will take place around the third week of July. When it arrives at our museum site, it will be



placed on a recently poured and block foundation, at the southeast corner of Dover Road and Eberhart Avenue, or the historical site of the old Dover store.

After the move is complete, it will receive a new roof. The interior furniture and kitchen will be much as it was before the move, containing period correct items.

It is hoped that the Knapp cabin will be open for public inspection and dedication during our Old Fashion Days, September 28.

Stay tuned to our fall newsletter for a complete update on the big move!

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!**

CCHS meets in the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. All are welcome! The next meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 7.

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.

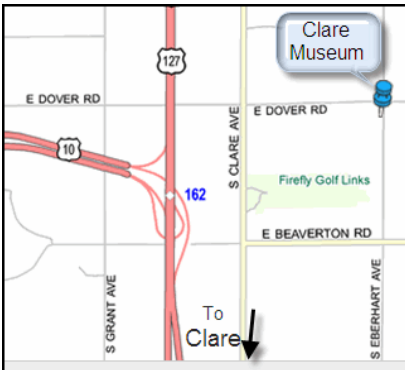
Yes, email me the newsletter

Make checks payable to: Clare County Historical Society and mail them to

**CCHS, c/o Andrew Coulson, Treasurer
P O Box 723
Harrison, Michigan 48625**



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Harrison, Michigan 48625



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

Special Guest at the Museum

We had a very special visitor to our museum recently: Ruth Owens.

Ruth has been part of our Society since its beginnings and her family was part of Clare for many decades. (They once farmed and owned property on what locals call "Hamburger Hill.")

She looks great and shared some history with us. For example, the desk at our museum entrance that has our Visitor Book on it was once a pulpit in a Clare church. Ruth's father preached from it and when the church was torn down, Ruth made sure the pulpit came to us. Our CCHS president took notes and plans to label the piece with the historical infor-

mation. Anyway, it was good to see her and we hope she visits again soon.



Ruth Owens and Jon Ringelberg



Blacksmith shop at CCHS

Receive the *Catchmark*
Via Email

With a single stamp now at .73, CCHS would like to offer the newsletter via email in a pdf format. If you would like to receive your newsletter via email please send you email address along with your renewal and check the box in the form in this issue or email editor@clarecountycleaver.net your email address with a memo of CCHS.