

Catchmark



Newsletter of the Clare County Historical Society

Angela Kellogg-Henry, Editor

Volume 27 Number 2

Sharing Our Past With the Present.

Summer 2026

Boxing History in Harrison

By ANDREW COULSON

I moved to Harrison in 1985 as a 9-year-old and it didn't take long to start hearing that the civic center building was constructed with the singular intention of providing a facility of the Hayes Township Area Boxing Club. I vaguely recall the outside of the building announcing it as such. If you are not from the area, the civic center is the current Hayes town hall, it being remodeled in 2015 and the previous town hall soon after demolished. At the time, the building was noticeable as being one of the largest buildings in Harrison.

In spring of 1979, Hayes township had just completed their community building on Grant Avenue, just south of the Pleasant Plains cemetery. This building was partially funded by grant money, and one of the stipulations of the grant was to use the facility for local youth activities. (I attended many Cub Scout meetings here.) Exactly how boxing became one of the activities isn't known, but can be surmised that through the interest of several families and one of the directors of the building, David Lubs, a local craze was about to be born.

In 1981, the club reported having 40 active, 20 part time and over 150 overall members. In the years 1980 thru the summer of 1983, I counted over 70 active names in the newspapers. Included in these articles are many photos. The participants were not limited to residing in Hayes township, the ages ranging from 8 to 19 years old. They spoke of fundraising for equipment, jackets, travel expenses and were hopeful someday to build their own clubhouse.

One of the most active members in the early days was Randy Evers, who would have been around a freshman in high school at the time, wrote his correspondences to

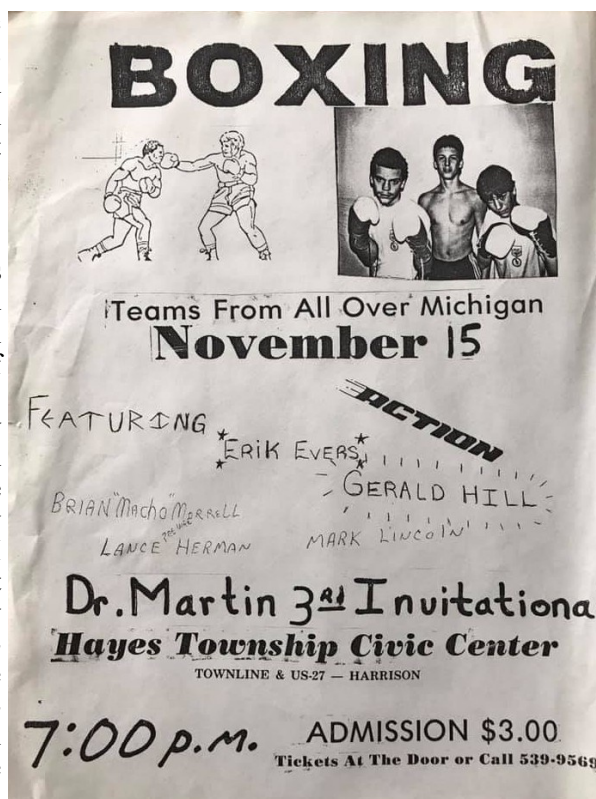
the Clare County Cleaver on a weekly basis. He not only kept readers informed of local boxing news, but also wrote about boxing history and current events on a national scale. His weekly column was titled Randy's KOner (KO as in "Knock Out"). Randy continued boxing into his adult life and won the Ringside World Championship title in 2008 as a light heavyweight. His brother Erik, won the welterweight title in 2009.

On May 7, 1981, Harrison hosted the largest ever to that date, Junior boxing tournament, 143 registered to fight that day. The location for this tournament was the high school gymnasium. A similar tournament was held the following year at the high school. Regular boxing matches were held at the smaller community building on Grant Avenue, while the larger ones used the high school facilities. It is probably because of this, a larger venue was sought by the Hayes township group.

On May 20, 1983, the ground was broken for the much larger Hayes Township civic center building, David Lubs aiding with the ceremonial shovel. By the end of the year, boxing "shows" were being held in the new building. By the late 1980's, some community members were pressuring Hayes Township into disassociating itself from the boxing scene

and by 1990 boxing in Harrison was done. No doubt there were discussions of possible liabilities. It was also around this time that coach Lubs was offered a job with the Marquette Olympic boxing team.

The early to mid-1980's was raging inferno for boxing activity in Harrison. Having grown up in the area, I can only see this as being a positive addition to the community. It is a shame that it didn't last longer, but still left its mark on local history and no doubt more than a few childhoods. It is something seldom talked about but should be looked at as a very proud moment in Harrison history.



Early Settlements Part 8

By ANDREW COULSON

1889 – Campbell City/Temple; The Ann Arbor railroad made its way through Clare county in 1887. Maps from 1889 show 3 different places in the area where the Ann Arbor crosses the Muskegon River, which may cause a little confusion. The first activity seen in the area was caused by W. S. Gerrish, this area being the northern end of his railroad activity at a place named Winterfield. The Winterfield camp was actually a little south of where the town of Campbell was started, but most of the Gerrish grade was used for the Ann Arbor right of way. One map even shows Winterfield on the east side of the river with Campbell directly across to the west, though this was inaccurate. Campbell was named after Allen Campbell. Campbell got into legal trouble in Evart and most or all of his holdings in Clare county had to be forfeited to reimburse legal fees and bonds. William M. Temple was a local landowner, business owner, politician and “genial” gentleman who was gaining fame at the time the Campbell name was going into a decline, and as is often the case, the United States Postal Service required a somewhat original name for the location (i.e. no “Smithville, or Smith City” names) upon application of a post office and the Temple name was given.

As a side note, Temple was always a little bit late in any of the major local events that may have bolstered its success as a town. It really didn't enter the lumbering business until 1890 when the local lumber was gone and had to rely on the timber coming south down the Muskegon. By the time oil was struck in the area in the late 1920's, the timber industry was long gone. The oil industry give Temple new life for a while, but the activity that oil brought to Temple began to taper off by the time that good roads (and tourism), namely M-61 was built to the north of the place. If these three events would have happened closer together, then Temple would no doubt be a bigger place than it is today.

1896 – Colonville; Settlement activity most likely dates as far back, or at least close, to any other settlement activity in the county. It at least had a school in the late 1870's and most likely into the early 1870's. Colonville was originally known as Bradley, and was given its Colonville name as it first gained a post office in late 1894 and began appearing on maps soon thereafter.

1899 – Leota; Leota, named after local prominent business owner A.E. Rhodes' daughter, was a very late comer in the lumbering business. He set up a large mill in the area and other activities began to form around it. Leota historically had a very active school, church, and grocery store, a post office for twenty years, not to mention was the terminus for its own branch of the Pere Marquette railroad. Today, there is still a bar, convenience store with gas, motel, church and is the location for the township hall. A few miles to the northeast, at the Jonesville bridge is a very busy trailhead for off road vehicles.

1899 – Long Lake; The Long Lake area saw much activity by the 1880's, much of it centering around recreation, though some farming found success in the area. It was a popular stop for gas and confections, along with some lodging while traveling north out of Harrison. It had a very popular school, beginning at least in the early 1890's and probably much earlier. By 1899 it had a big enough population to offer a post office.

1901 – Alward; Information on this place is scarce, though it does write is correspondences into the Clare newspapers during the summer of 1904 when it speaks of new houses and roads being built in the area. It had a post office, and most likely accompanying general store from 1899 to 1907.

President's Message Much to Be Thankful For

Dear CCHS Members,

2026 is a milestone year in more ways than one. It marks 250 years of American independence. It's amazing what the Founding Fathers and other colonists were able to accomplish, the legacy they created for us. I'm thankful to live in the 'land of the free.

This year also marks 150 years for the Dover School. This historic building served to educate children from 1876 to 1966. And since 1970 the Clare County Historical Society has preserved it to educate the general public through countless records, displays, and presentations.

Keeping such heritage alive would not be possible without your sup-

port—membership, funding, artifacts, labor, your friendly faces visiting the Historical Complex. Thank you!

Jon Ringelberg has retired from our board, having been involved in the CCHS since the 1980s and is now moving to a new home. His passion for local history has resulted in a growing collection of books in publication. His body of work touches on personal experiences, general history of Clare County, and even state-wide history. Thanks, Jon, for all you've done and continue to do!

"Random Recollections of Legal Times" shares stories from Jon's days as a lawyer and judge. He recently completed the sixth volume in his "Michigan Log Mark Search & Activity Tool" series which catalogs thousands of registrations from the white pine lumber era. And his newest book, "Funn Stuff" by "Ubenn Haade," features a mix of satirical news articles, humorous memoirs, and bits of Clare County history.

Members, I'm sure each of you has cherished memories of your own tied to Clare County. Perhaps you vacationed at a lake when you were little, shopped at a 'mom & pop shop' that no longer exists, grew up on a farm that has since been sold, or met a quirky character who is no longer with us. Maybe you moved here from far away and made some new friends. Or there was a favorite teacher here who made an impact on your life.

Whatever those memories are, I encourage you to preserve and share them. Write them down so that future generations can remember your special moments and benefit from lessons you learned the 'hard way.'

Furthermore, I welcome you to enter your writings in our history contest. Details are available in this newsletter, at the museum, and on the website (clarecountyhistory.org). You could be an award-winning writer!

Again, thank you!

David Hutchinson
President

SHARE YOUR HISTORY CONTEST

Clare County Historical Society

To commemorate the USA 250th anniversary, we will be awarding \$250 total in cash prizes for winning entries of local history.

To commemorate the Dover School's 150th anniversary, the top prize will be \$150.



Prizes



1st: \$150

2nd: \$75

3rd: \$25

Winning entries will be awarded and displayed on Old Fashion Day (Sep. 26, 2026).

Submissions

- Entrants must be Clare County residents. All ages welcome. Minors must have parent permission. One entry per person.
- Entries must be truthful stories relating to Clare County, Michigan history. Any time period welcome. Various mediums & topics welcome.
 - Printed or handwritten personal memories or researched stories (up to 2,000 words).
 - Original or hi-res copy photographs with detailed captions (identify people, places, times, events).
 - Digital entries (photo, audio, or video) welcome but must be made publicly available online.
- **Entries must be submitted in person at CCHS museum. Deadline is Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 4 p.m.** For digital entries, provide internet addresses on entry form.
- Entries will be judged according to historical value, local connection, storytelling, and refinement.

Contact

CCHS Museum, 7050 S Eberhart Ave, Clare, MI 48617 5 miles N., 1 mile E. of City of Clare

Open Saturdays May – September, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Website: clarecountyhistory.org

Email: museum@clarecountyhistory.org

CLARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OLD FASHION DAY

7050 S EBERHART AVE, CLARE, MICHIGAN



TOUR THE MUSEUM, DOVER ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE,
OTT CABIN, BELL KNAPP CABIN AND A WORKING
BLACKSMITH SHOP

LIVE MUSIC

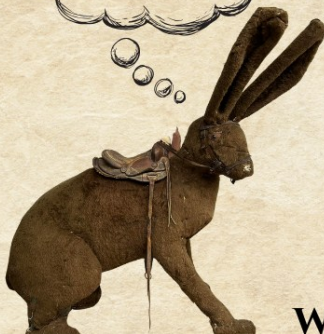
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS
AND MUCH MORE!



SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION
DONATIONS ACCEPTED



WWW.CLARECOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

Lake George

By Andrew Coulson

In our last newsletter, I wrote an article titled, "A Brief History of Lake George." In this article I cautioned readers and researchers of history against always believing what you read, especially if found on the Internet. The Wikipedia entry for Lake George states that the town was named after George Lake, and other websites have followed suit. The only historical place that this has been written was by Col. Dale Sharp in book, "At Ease with Col. Sharp," written about 40 years ago. This story was purely satire, about two fictional characters and their families, George Lake and his friend, Woody Shingle, venturing northward in their covered wagons in search of a place to settle. They happened across a place they found suitable, (Lake George and Shingle Lake) and commenced to drive their wagons back and forth in a north/south direction, then in an east/west direction, until the main intersection of Lake George was formed. Anyone who reads any of Sharp's literature can plainly see that it was meant purely for amusement.

digmichnews.cmich.edu

After this article was published, I related the story to a friend who had the idea of tasking Artificial Intelligence with the question of whom Lake George was named. Not surprisingly, AI came up with George Lake as the namesake. It gave bogus additional information of him being an early settler, businessman, probably in the lumber business. In the natural course of things, we continued to task AI was the problem, saying that we believed it was lying to us and we needed proof. Eventually, and this is where things get both eerie and concerning, it cited two sources; the 1881 Michigan Gazateer, and 3-Ring binder #40 housed at the Clare County Historical Society. It took about 5 minutes to debunk both these sources as a legitimate location for anything related to Lake George.

scroll to "Lake County Star"
down

However, one would have to assume that most anyone else doing a similar search would have a much more difficult time assessing these alleged sources and most likely assume the accuracy or give up trying.

click on "titles" tab

After giving this problem some additional thought, I had the idea doing a careful search of the online database of newspapers on the Central Michigan University website. This website hosts a multitude of regional newspapers, focusing on central Michigan, and more specifically, Clare county. My idea was to filter the searches of Lake George based on the correct time period that it may have received its name and removing any lished news-astonishment, minutes I had whom Lake named!

six

Clare county newspaper. To my within a few my answer of George was

Since this has never been printed anywhere else, I'm choosing not to actually print it in this article. Instead, you'll have to follow the directions above and below. This is entirely because I don't wish AI to access this historical fact from my article. Any future publication of where Lake George received its name should be able to be traced back to whoever followed these instructions from this article.

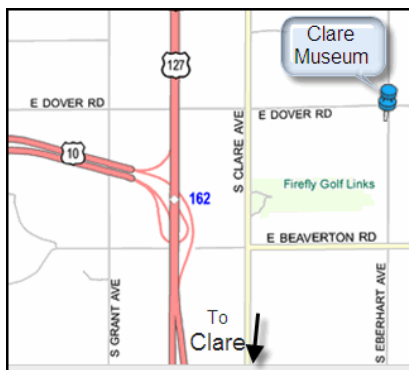
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**MIDDLE
OF PAGE**





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



Our museum complex is at 7050 Eberhart Rd. at Dover, five miles north of Clare. It is open every Saturday May 23 to the last Sat. in Sept. from 1-4

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

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'Fun' New Local Book



Ubenn Haade takes the lifestyle premise that one is in real trouble if not laughing half of the time, and so humor is to be found in penning thoughts occurring to a 'crazy mind.

This book collects off-the-cuff articles which find humor in tales of the past, life in the present, and speculation of the future. Many stories depict the quirky goings-on in mid-Michigan.

The stories related are 'true' as best recalled. Many have a focal point related to life on the planet Earth where humor is often in short supply.



Join the Clare County Historical Society

Name: _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Address: _____

☐ I am 80 or older, live in Clare County and qualify for a free membership. (Five years of paid membership required)

Address 2: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Yes, email me the newsletter

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 Andrew Coulson, Treasurer
P O Box 723
Harrison, Michigan 48625