



CROSSROADS OF CANTON

Canton Historical Society Newsletter

July-August 1998

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton Debuts at Liberty Fest

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton debuted with good sales at Liberty Fest. This book of folklore developed from a meeting where local ghost tales were recorded, beginning with stories about Denton Road Bridge. Those, in particular, had long since spread to surrounding communities. Even some folks in Ohio and Indiana had heard of the bridge. Now the entertaining tales, along with more of our folklore, have an even wider audience since a few requests for the book have come from as far away as



England, Spain and Canada.

It is currently available at the museum and at D & M Studios on Joy Road just south of Lilley. You can purchase the book in either location for \$11.95, or order it by mail using the form on the insert. (Be sure to enclose a check or money order for \$14.95, which includes shipping and handling.)

"Grandma Ivah Bordine, in spirit." Rhonda Bordine related stories of sensing her great-grandmother's presence in the house Ivah once owned. Illustration by Sharon Lee Dillenbeck and Roy Rinke.

Flea Market Set for August 8



Register now if you want to reserve a space at the 1998 Flea Market. It will be held on Saturday, August 8, at Cherry Hill School (located on Cherry Hill and Ridge roads) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per 10' x 10' space. Participants may rent as many spaces as they wish. They should plan on bringing their own tables and chairs.

No used clothing is to be sold or exhibited. Canton Historical

Society will have a concession stand where hot dogs, potato chips and ice-cold pop will be available.

The flea market always offers a wide array of items for sale, which, in the past, have include some antiques, collectibles, and new clothing, plus the classic, eclectic assortment of flea market goods.

If you wish to rent a space, a check or money order must accompany your "application for space" form, which appears on the enclosed

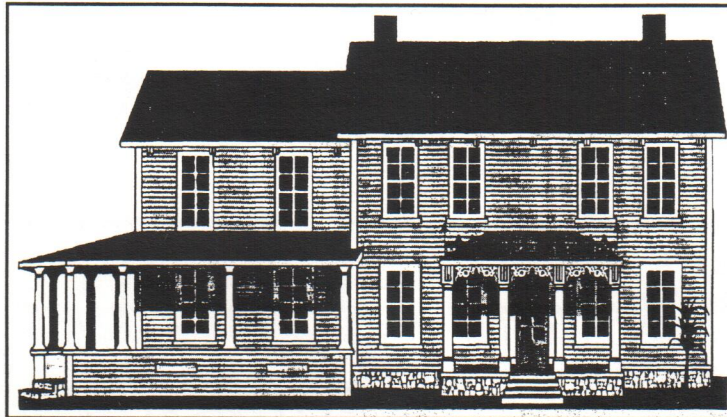
Continued on page 3

Basement poured in Bartlett-Travis House

Progress on the interior restoration continues as the basement has been poured in the Bartlett-Travis House. The replica of the facade is Canton Historical Society's newest building in the Sweet Corn Series.

The house was originally located on Canton Center Road, south of Warren Road. It now sits on Ridge Road in the Cherry Hill Historic District.

The original part of the house, circa 1840, was a one-and-a-half story Greek Revival structure. It was remodeled several times between 1860 and 1919. The house retains some of its earliest elements, plus decorative details own-

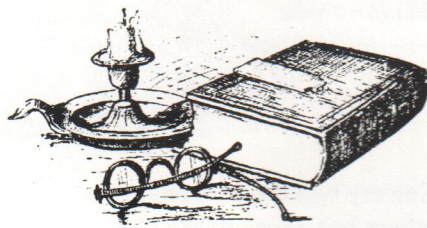


ers added during subsequent expansions to keep up with fashions of the day. Among the most prominent features are: (Greek Revival) pilasters and interior Egyptian window surrounds; (Italianate) brackets under the eaves and wrought iron cresting on the front-porch roof; (Queen Anne) the wrap-around porch with round columns.

The exterior paint colors chosen—natural and toasted almond with burgundy accents—were popular during the early 1900s. The interior will also reflect architectural and decorating styles popular from 1840-1919. For the visitors' benefit, some of the preserved historic elements will be able to be viewed through glass-covered cut-away sections.

The replica sells for \$16. Its companion piece—the outhouse—sells for \$8. These along with other issues in the Sweet Corn Series can be purchased at the Canton Historical Society Museum, and at Master Lighting on Ford Road, east of Sheldon.

Historians and Genealogists Find Treasure Trove of Information in Census Records



Roving researcher, David Curtis, has been studying nineteenth and early twentieth century U.S. census records for clues to Canton's past. He is focusing currently on those from 1860 in his effort to find out more about Canton's role in the Civil War.

"I hope to compile Canton's census records from 1840-1920, which were taken every 10 years.

However, those from 1890 were destroyed by fire and are not available," said Curtis.

So far, he has invested 80 hours in this quest and is logging his results in a data base for other researchers to use. Canton Historical Society is investigating the possibility of publishing the documentation in a book. This would be part of the CHS's ongoing commitment to produce publications that record Canton's heritage.

Among some of the intriguing occupations listed for residents living in Canton in 1860 were:

- 1 sailor
- 11 schoolers (distinct from the 3 schoolteachers listed)

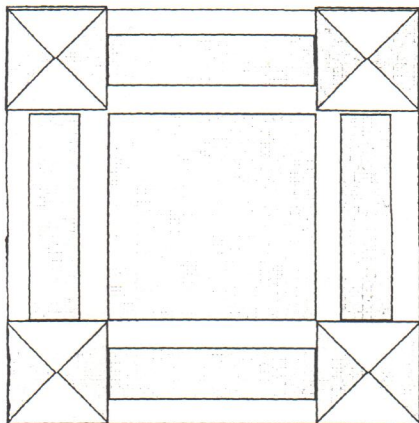
- 1 tollgate keeper
- 1 safe merchant
- 1 carriage maker (distinct from the 2 wagonmakers listed)
- 2 dead!

One wonders what a schooler was; perhaps a tutor or teaching assistant? Canton eventually had nine one-room schools; five of the buildings are still in existence.

One of the fun but time-consuming things about research is that discoveries often tend to raise questions which send the researcher scurrying in new directions for more documentation. "We had a

Continued on page 3

Name This Quilt



The Society has accessed an historic quilt (shown at left), but our staff has not been able to discover the name of the pattern. If you can help us out, please call the museum at 397-0088.



Census Records *continued from page 2*

tollgate keeper, but I have no idea where there was a tollgate in 1860," said Curtis. The answer will keep him digging for a while.

In addition, bringing the Civil War closer to home and demonstrating how the Civil War divided families, Curtis has learned that one of General Robert E. Lee's

nephews was married to a Canton woman. This has sent Curtis on yet another hunt. Cherry Hill Cemetery has Lees buried there. He wonders if they are connected to the famous Confederate general's family.

This signals a new turn in his genealogical research; that means more time, more fun.

Flea Market *continued from page 1*

flyer. The deadline for application is July 25.

Remember, we need customers as well as vendors to make this fundraising event successful. So plan on spending a sunny, summer day in a quiet country setting. Join us on the shady lawn of the one-

room school in Cherry Hill Historic District.

If you have anything you would like to donate for sale at the CHS table, or to obtain more information about the flea market, call the museum at 397-0088 or Ronni Curtis at 981-1475.

Canton Historical Society wishes to acknowledge that

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton

was funded in part by a generous donation from

Yazaki North America, Inc.

We would like to thank Yazaki for their kind support of our efforts to preserve our community's heritage.

Looking Ahead

July

20: Board meeting. All members welcome. CHS Museum, 7:00 p.m.

August

8: Flea Market at Cherry Hill School, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. See flyer for details, or call Ronni Curtis at 981-1475.

17: Board meeting. All members welcome. CHS Museum, 7:00 p.m.

September

10: General meeting. TBA. Guests and the public are welcome. CHS Museum, 7:30 p.m.

21: Board meeting. All members welcome. CHS Museum, 7:00 p.m.

October

8: General meeting. TBA. Guests and the public are welcome. CHS Museum, 7:30 p.m.

19: Board meeting. All members welcome. CHS Museum, 7:00 p.m.

November

7: Harvest Dinner and Pound Auction at Cherry Hill School. 4:00 p.m.

Note: This year, the Harvest Dinner is being held on a *Saturday*.

16: Board meeting. All members welcome. CHS Museum, 7:00 p.m.

December

5: Christmas Fair at the museum. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Memorials

Canton Historical Society wishes to express our thanks for donations made in memory of

Esther Sprengel

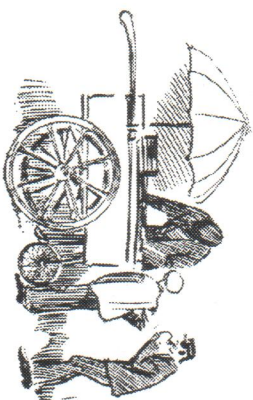


Located at Cherry Hill School
(corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge
Roads)

NO WEATHER-RELATED REFUNDS.
*If you are not a "weather gambler,"
DON'T SIGN UP!*

	Ford		
	Cherry Hill	N ↑	1-275
Ridge	Michigan Canton Center		Haggerty

You furnish your own table!



HOT DOGS AND
DRINKS AVAILABLE

Canton Historical Society

Flea Market

Saturday, August 8, 1998
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Seller set up: 7:30 a.m.; pack-up: 5 p.m.

10 FT x 10 FT SPACE
\$15.00

You furnish your own table!

Make check or money order payable to: Canton Historical Society. Mail it with this application form to: Ronni Curtis, 1440 Ranier, Canton, MI 48187. For more information, call 981-1475.



Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton

By Virginia Bailey Parker

Illustrated by Sharon Lee Dillenbeck
and Roy Rinke

Published by
CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- A fun-filled collection of local traditions, including the Blue Lady and the Light at Denton Road Bridge.
- Myth, childhood pranks, inexplicable events, and historic tragedies set in some of this Michigan community's Victorian farmhouses.
- Plus a collection of non-ghost-related stories that have also passed into local lore.
- ISBN: 0-9664723-0-6 \$11.95

For a list of locations where *Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton* is available, call Canton Historical Society Museum, (734) 397-0088.

If you prefer, use the form below to order a copy by mail. Send it to:
Canton Historical Society, P.O. Box 87362, Canton, MI 48187-0362.

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

*Make a check for \$14.95 (price includes shipping and handling)
payable to: Canton Historical Society.*

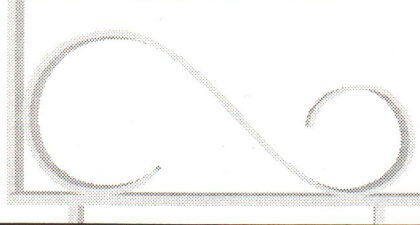


Board of Directors

Vice President: Bonnie Berg
Secretary: David Curtis
Treasurer: Charles Mott
Trustees: Evelyn Aksamit
 Bob Boyer
 Ronni Curtis
 Marie Gentz
 Phyllis Patterson

Committee Chairs

Program: Bonnie Berg
Labels: Marta McCabe
Museum Displays: Evelyn Aksamit
Education: Marta McCabe
Publicity: Marie Gentz
Vital Statistics: Ruth Wiles
Historic Dist. Comm. Rep.: Virginia Parker
Dec. Craft Sale: Bonnie Berg
Harvest Dinner: Bonnie Berg
DuMouchelle: Marie Gentz
Liberty Fest: Carol Bodenmiller &
 Bob Boyer
Flea Market: Ronni Curtis



Museum Hours

Tuesdays 1:00 to 3:00

Saturdays 1:00 to 4:00

(Closed January and February)

**Corner of Canton Center
and Proctor Roads**

Phone: 313-397-0088

Membership Corner

Canton Historical Society welcomes new members. Annual dues include a year's subscription to the newsletter, *Crossroads of Canton*.

Individual: \$10.00

Family: \$20.00

Business: \$25.00

Life: \$100

Volunteers Needed

Canton Historical Society is looking for your support. We need help in the following areas:

- President
- Membership Chair
- Docent Chair
- Refreshment Chair

The Society contributes a great deal to quality of life in the township by preserving the community's heritage. We know everyone is busy, but we hope you can find a small amount of time to assist us.

*Deadline for the Sept.-Oct. issue:
Aug. 1, 1998*

Send to:

Virginia B. Parker, Editor
Crossroads of Canton
 6269 Runnymede
 Canton, MI 48187

Memory jogger: Deadlines for press releases, pictures, and articles is the **1st of even-numbered months.**



Canton Historical Museum

Canton Historical Society
 P.O. Box 87362
 Canton, MI 48187
 313-397-0088

FLEA MARKET
AUGUST 8