

Canton Historical Society News

Canton Historical Society Newsletter I

January-February 1999

MUSEUM CLOSED
JANUARY AND FEBRUARY
OPENS MARCH 2

Calendar of Events

January

18th Board Meeting

29th Newsletter Deadline

February

15th Board Meeting

March

2nd Museum Opens

11th Society Meeting, Guest Speaker
*Dave Washburn, On the Spanish
American War*

15th Board Meeting

31st Newsletter Deadline

April

8th Society Meeting, Guest to be
announced.

15th Board Meeting

May

13th Society Meeting, Guest to be
announced.

17th Board Meeting

31st Newsletter Deadline

June

10th Society Meeting, Guest to be
announced.

21st Board Meeting

Phila Gust a life member of the Canton Historical Society and lifelong friend of many society members died in early November.

Historical Society Members Elect Four Trustees

In October Canton Historical Society members elected David Curtis and Phyllis Patterson to a second three year term and Jeanne Seifert to her first three year term with Nancy Nelson filling a one year term left vacant by a retiring board member. The election committee was surprised by the high number of ballots returned for this important election. In the mix of ballots returned was one from last years election; it was historic but not counted. We want to thank the people who ran for trustee and were not elected. It gave us encouragement that they were willing to give their time to help our society, and we will ask them, as well as others, to give us a hand from time to time.

It's an exciting time for our historical society. The new officers roles, as well as the current officers roles, will be key to our society's success. Canton Historical Society has many accomplishments and it is up to the new board to continue this legacy left by former board members. Our society has taken on many projects in the past with great success. It's because of volunteers and people willing to help that we have made these projects a big success.

That is why it is very important to keep going and growing with new people and new ideas, as the past boards have done.

We have many new projects being talked about and just waiting to be started as well as some old ones that need to be completed. One of the projects being talked about at present, is the pension records of Civil War soldiers that David Curtis has been working on. You may have noticed some of the recent newsletters have featured his work. These records will allow our society to focus on the people who resided here in the past, where they lived and how they lived. Pension records also yield information on family members, and often even David is amazed at what information has been found in these records. That is why it is so important to have these records from the last century.

The tool shed is another project we are working on with the Historic District Commission. The shed was donated by Joan Palmer and was damaged by the movers when moved to its new location.

Continued on page 2

Thanks to Steve Foley and Terry Bennett we were able to recover some damage expenses and hopefully we will be able to put the shed back to its original undamaged condition. This will be no small project and will require expert help. We should know more about this project by spring.

Fairies or Faeries at our October Meeting

If you missed our October 8th meeting, you missed Sally Beckman, a wonderful speaker on Fairies. She uses the old English spelling of Faeries. What a treat it was to see all the displays of Faeries that she brought with her. We had several children in attendance whose parents had seen our newsletter at another historical society and didn't want to miss Sally and her Faeries. Sally gave the children all a "Dew Dimple" and had the children give everyone in attendance a Dew Dimple. We were all told how to care for them and over a period of time what they would turn into. My Dew Dimple was painted and decorated beautifully. One of my granddaughters will be its proud owner and I will share this legend with her as Sally did with us. You should ask someone who was in attendance to show you their Dew Dimple.

"Faeries are centuries old", Sally told us and reminded us of some we knew but may have forgotten, such as, *Tinker Bell* from *Peter Pan* or what child could forget the *Tooth Faerie*. The best thing about Faeries is they can still live in our imagination.

Sally gives lectures at schools, birthdays and other functions. If you would like her to speak on Garden Faeries, you can contact her at 248-349-1589

1862 Detroit Free Press article yields list of Canton men exempted from military service

This newspaper article came from David Curtis, who has been working on the Civil War Soldiers pension records. He took the list and placed it in alphabetical order. With this list he is doing more research to find these people in our 1860 census.

The article states, "The following is a complete list of those exempted from military service in the country towns of Wayne County, both from alienage and physical disability." Included in the list were sixty-three men from Canton all exempted because of physical disability. The list is as follows:

*Anderson, John W.
Balmer, James H.
Barns, Norris
Barton, Lewis
Breaky, John A.
Butterfield, O H
Cady, Geo
Callison, Luke
Cleveland, Ad
Cleveland, F
Cobb, Stillman
Cole, John
Corwin, J
Cragg, Miles
Curtin, Edward
Dill, Martin
Dunkly, Russell
Easton, Thomas E.
Fisher, Michael
Francisco, N
Fuller, Chas
Fuller, David
Gear, C D
Goodell, Pike
Grissell, Fred
Hannan, Wm. Jr.
Hannon, W.
Harmon, John
Harmon, S
Harrison, J H
Hazleback, Jacob
Holt, John*

*Huston, Rueben
Huston, Robert L
Huston, Wm
Knickerbocker, Cha
Lescom, T
Lohr, John
Lyon, John L
Malanaphy, John
Matteson, Alex
McGraw, Wm.
McKinstry, Robert
More, James A
Nichols, John
Parish, A N
Parish, Cyrus
Parrish, Dewitt
Patterson, Chas H
Pettingell, O
Ping, Geo D
Robinson, Hugh
Secord, John
Selly, Geo
Sherman, S
Smith, David
Smith, Geo
Stewart, John M.
Stirling, John
Thompson, Wm.
West, John P
Weston, David
Wherry, Wm N*

November 7th Harvest Dinner and Pound auction was a huge success

Hosted by Bonnie Berg and Ronni Curtis and other volunteers the Harvest Dinner and Pound Auction was a big success. The pot luck food was great, thanks to some very good cooks. The dessert table had many homemade baked goods that made your mouth water. It was great to see friends and neighbors enjoying each others company while eating together. This dinner symbolizes what past generations did for social events. It seemed even more worthwhile because we ate without a television or a phone interruption.

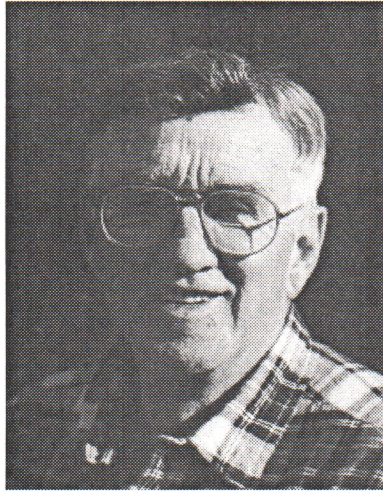
Bob Boyer received an award at the event for his service to the Canton Historical Society. He also served as auctioneer for the pound auction and did a great job. If you have not attended our pound auction in the past, this is how the auction works. Everyone brings a fancy wrapped package that weighs about a pound or more. It is then put up for auction to the highest bidder. Usually the fancier wrapped packages bring the higher prices. Some people get a real bargain, and everyone enjoys the bidding. Sometimes you wish you had bid just a little more when you see what someone else received for their bid.

If you missed this Harvest Dinner and Pound Auction, plan to attend our next one in November. We are sure you will enjoy the company, dinner and auction.

The society thanks everyone who participated and especially the Duane Bordine family for furnishing the table decorations, which really enhanced the look of our tables.

See photos on page 5

Boyer Elected Society President



Canton Historical Society Board of Directors elected Bob Boyer President for 1999. This position has been vacant since Esther Sprengel passed away early in 1998. The other positions will remain the same, with Bonnie Berg, as Vice President, David Curtis, Secretary and Charles Mott, Treasurer. With the election of two new board members the Society is fully staffed and ready for action for the upcoming years events.

Retiring from the Board of Directors was Evelyn Aksamit who was instrumental in giving us leadership when we needed it most. When asked to fill a position on the board she gladly pitched in and helped. Evelyn has volunteered on many of our events and is a valued member of our Society. We thank her for all she has done for the Society and the work she will continue to do.

The lost Sidewalks of Canton

Everyone that lives in Canton knows we have a shortage of sidewalks. You can't rollerblade or walk very far in any direction because of the lack of sidewalks. So, what's my point? Well, Dave and Ronni Curtis along with Virginia Bailey Parker went a-hunting for sidewalks. Just where do you start to look for sidewalks? As I said you can't find many along our streets. This motley looking crew adorned with shovels, rakes, brooms and cameras went hunting in the woods for sidewalks, just like you would if you were hunting for small game or deer. You know what? They found them. These sidewalks were just lying there waiting for sidewalk hunters to find them.

It appears that these particular sidewalks had been there for quite some time. How or when the sidewalks were installed is still a mystery. At first, it was thought that the WPA had put them there as part of a work force. However, after looking things over at the Canton Historical Museum and Canton Township planning office it appears now that it was part of a planned subdivision about 1927 that never materialized. This property was once called McIntyre Gardens.

It certainly is ironic that Canton had sidewalks before it had the people to use them, and now

that we have the people, the sidewalks are few and far between.

This area is located just south of Ford Rd. and east of Morton Taylor. The property is currently being developed by Office Max. Much of the property will be designated as wetlands. If the sidewalks are in good enough shape perhaps it could make a great area for people to visit and see the "*sidewalks in the woods*." If anyone has information about the sidewalks or the area, please call the Canton Historical Society at (734) 397-0088 and leave a message.



One of the old sidewalks found at Morton Taylor and Ford Road.

Adopt a Civil War Soldier

I would like to make a **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** contribution to obtain the pension records of:
(Please Check One)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams, David Leroy | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Moore, Amzi H. | 3rd MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anderson, George B. | 1st MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Newton, Stephen | 3rd MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artley, John H. | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Packard, Winslow | 4th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bagley, Osceola | 1st MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Passage, John | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baker, George W. | 1st MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pooler, Nelson | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baker, Murray S. | 1st MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Reinhart, Robert | 1st MI Lt. Art. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baker, Thomas J. | 4th MI Cav. | <input type="checkbox"/> Root, Roswell | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berdan, Dixon | 5th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Safford, Joseph | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronson, Edwin | 4th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Stevens, Newell | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collier, Ortha | 100th OH Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Stoll, Jerome | 24th OH Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coykendale, Alfred | 3rd MI Cav. | <input type="checkbox"/> Suggitt, George | Western Shrpshtrs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Derby, Ezra E. | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Simeon | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duntley, Sylvanus R. | 3rd MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Thayer, William | 11th MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eddy, Willard | 2nd MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Truesdell, Ephraim | 4th MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eldred, George | Eng. & Mech. | <input type="checkbox"/> Truesdell, Horace | 16th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairman, Sebre | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Truesdell, Lewis B. | 1st MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardner, William | 9th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Westfall, Orson | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gillespie, James | 24th MI Inf. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hughs, Hiram | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huston, Benjamin W. | 23rd MI Inf. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leonard, Heil | 101st PA Inf. | | |

Amount of **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** donation:

\$_____ \$25_____ \$_____

Please return this slip with you donation and make the check payable to: **Canton Historical Society**
Mail this slip and check to: Canton Historical Society, PO Box 87362, Canton Michigan 48187-0362

Thank you for your support

Canton's Country Schools

Compiled by Joan Cavell Palmer

Sold at the Museum on Canton Center Rd. This 445 page historical collection of photos and information dates back to the last century. This exciting book tells how the schools merged into the present school systems. Did you know Canton had the last operating one room school in Wayne County? Buy the book, you will not be disappointed.

Canton's
Country
Schools

© 1993



Bob Boyer receives award from the Historical Society's Vice President Bonnie Berg and Secretary David Curtis while board members look on.



Bill Sprengel, David Curtis, Ronni Curtis, Marie Gentz, Bonnie Berg and Bob Boyer wait for guests to arrive before dinner.



Ronni Curtis and Marie Gentz get things ready while Kelly Wheatley hangs his coat



Enjoying the pot luck dinner with friends and neighbors.



Bonnie Berg shows us some of the great food.

This first addition of the **Canton Historical News** was put together by C.D. Mott and edited by many, but mostly by Patricia A. Norton. Patricia's corrections reminded me of why my knuckles had ruler marks and hers had none.

For corrections, omissions or something to add, please Call 734 397-5495

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton

By Virginia Parker Bailey

Our best selling book. We only bought 1,000 copies so don't delay they are going FAST.

To order by mail, fill out the form below and mail to:
Canton Historical Society, P.O. Box 87362, Canton, MI 48187-0362

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make a check for \$14.95 (Includes shipping and handling) Payable to:
CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Board of Directors

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Marie Gentz
Nancy Nelson
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Museum Displays: TBA
Education: Marta McCabe
Publicity: Marie Gentz
Vital Statistics: Ruth Wiles
Historic Dist. Comm. Rep: Virginia Parker Bailey
Dec. Craft Sale: Bonnie Berg
Harvest Dinner: Bonnie Berg and Ronni Curtis
DuMouchelle: Marie Gentz
Liberty Fest: Carol Bodenmiller and Robert Boyer
Flea Market: Ronni Curtis

Cemetery Book

The Society has a *Cemetery Book* available listing the people in the older cemeteries of Canton Township. If you are doing a genealogy study this book is a must. The book can be purchased at our Canton Historical Museum or at Master Lighting, 44125 Ford Road east of Sheldon.



Canton Center School

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