

## From the President



CCHS President Bart Clark serves up s'mores at Shiver by the River

I hope everyone reading this newsletter has had a pleasant year since our last edition of **Clarkston Columns**. 2015 was certainly a good year for the Clarkston Community Historical Society (CCHS). Our group continued to be very active in the Clarkston community. Our efforts supported the preservation of the historic character of Clarkston, the character that helps make this community such a charming place in which to live. We sponsored or participated in many activities including Art in the Village, our second Barn Dance with Oakland County, and even a privy dig for buried treasure right in the village.

This year, the CCHS will again be working to make our fellow citizens aware of the customs, traditions and beliefs of our ancestors who settled our community. You will read more about these activities in this newsletter.

To learn more about Clarkston's colorful history, please stop by the Heritage Museum, sponsored by the CCHS. Located within the Clarkston Independence District Library on Clarkston Road, the museum uses artifacts to explain how our ancestors lived, worked and played. Director Toni Smith does an absolutely superb job organizing items for

display and preparing the exhibits. I am confident your visit to the Heritage Museum will be well worth your time (and your children's time). You can also check out our website at [www.clarkstonhistorical.org](http://www.clarkstonhistorical.org) or visit our Facebook page at **Clarkston Community Historical Society and Heritage Museum**.

The CCHS always welcomes new members. If you are interested in becoming part of the CCHS and helping to preserve Clarkston's rich history, please visit our website for membership information or contact the museum office at 248.922.0270. By the way, current CCHS members are encouraged to renew their membership for 2016. Many hands make light work.

Best regards,

**Bart Clark**

President, Clarkston Community Historical Society

## Summer Privy Dig

The CCHS hopes to be digging up more Clarkston history this summer when we hold another privy dig in town. Last year will be hard to top as we dug three very successful sites and unearthed enough artifacts to cover several long tables! We have some new dig sites in mind but if you are interested in having us look on your property, or just want to help, please give us a call at the CCHS office (248.922.0270). Watch for details to come if you just want to buy your ticket that day and check-out the fun. This is a fascinating way to unearth Clarkston history!



## 2016 Art in the Village is September 17 and 18

It's barely spring, but we're already selecting artists for this year's Art in the Village event, Sept. 17 and 18 in Clarkston's scenic Depot Park.

If you attended last fall, you may remember we partnered with the Clarkston Chamber of Commerce to test merging AIV's Sunday date with the chamber's popular Taste of Clarkston event. Many long hours were spent combining the two events.

However, after much study and feedback from our artists, the Board has decided to keep AIV – our signature event and biggest fundraiser – a CCHS-only event this year. We know Taste of Clarkston will continue to be a tremendous success independent of AIV and we wish the Chamber all the best.



And speaking of success, this year we are increasing our investment in advertising, which we hope will bring more customers into the park and, therefore, happier artists. And remember, we always need volunteers during the weekend, so we hope you'll say "yes" when we call later this summer.

**We would love to have another Ghost Walk this summer, but we need FRESH GHOSTS! Call us if you have something that goes bump-in-the-night.**







## Snowshoes, Snowmen and S'mores – OH MY!

It was a nerve-racking winter for those of us planning the 2016 Shiver by the River in Depot Park.

With hardly any snow, we were thinking of other options when just a few days before the January event the skies opened up, the snow fell and the ice rink froze. So, the conditions were perfect as hundreds gathered in the park to test their skill with snowshoes or on the ice rink.

New this year was a snowman bean bag toss game built by CCHS Board Member and Treasurer Jonathan Smith. Beanbags were stitched and stuffed by seamstress extraordinaire Diane Clark.

There was chili, cookies, hot cocoa and s'mores, all free. Also provided were children's crafts, prizes, music and a visit from a very important mouse – also free. This family-friendly event is sponsored by the Positively Clarkston Committee, of which the CCHS is a founding member. And it's just one more reason to love this community and support groups like the CCHS.



<p><b>CCHS 2016 Board of Directors</b>          Bart Clark, <i>President</i>          Debbie DeVault, <i>Vice President</i>          Kelly Crawford, <i>Secretary</i>          Jonathan Smith, <i>Treasurer</i>          Angela Freeman          Sue McGraw          James Schultz          Melissa Luginski          Lorrie Ellis</p>	<p><b>Clarkston Heritage Museum</b>          Toni Smith, <i>Director</i></p> <p><b>Our Partners</b>          Margret McDermott, <i>Website</i>          Joette Kunes, <i>Genealogy</i>          John Meyland, <i>Photography</i>          Kim Huttenlocher, <i>AIV Artists</i>          Jennifer Arkwright, <i>Social Media</i>          Ann Degen, <i>Merchandise</i></p>
--	--

A big thank you to John Meyland for all the hours he spends photographing our CCHS events.





## Mad for Plaid at Scottish-Themed Holiday Party

If it's the first Friday in December, there's a holiday party going on at the wonderful home of Joe and Melissa Luginski.

Their home, the historic Clark house on Main Street, never looked more beautiful, decked out in loads of fresh greens and colorful Scottish tartans. Guests were treated to a short concert by bagpiper George Murray, and Abby Bearman delighted us with her Highland dancing.

The house felt so warm and inviting, and we heard over and over again what a magical evening it was. Many have told us this party kicks off their holiday season – and they count on it to catch up with old and new friends. The beef tenderloin and smoked salmon were delicious, and the silent auction was loaded with unusual and unique items.



We hope you enjoy the photos and mark Dec. 2 on your calendar, because it's never too early to make holiday plans.

## Foot Stompin' at the Ellis Barn

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 15, when CCHS and Oakland County Parks sponsor our third barn dance in the historic Ellis barn at Springfield Oaks County Park. It promises to be another night of foot-stompin' fall fun.



Our dance last October was a complete sellout, thanks in part to advertising and publicity support from WYCD Young Country Radio, and we had to turn away people at the door. The weather was great, the barn was warm, the food was hot, the beer was cold and the music didn't stop all night.



CCHS will use its share of the proceeds to fund community programs and activities.

The dance gets better every year, so watch our website in September and get your tickets fast. We guarantee we'll rattle the floorboards and raise the roof!

# By The NUMBERS

## Fun Facts From the 1894 Clarkston Advertiser Newspaper

**\$10** 

Was the price for the finest men's suit sold by Manly Bowers in Clarkston.

**8x** 

Per day, a train left the Clarkston station for destinations such as Pontiac, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

**2** 


Members of the 1894 senior class were "foreign pupils" who had to drive three miles to school each day.

 **6¢**

Would buy you a live chicken, while turkeys were 9 cents.

**293** 

Was the total number of primary school students in Independence Township.

**2** 

Days a week (Wednesday and Saturday) you could find Doctors Robertson and Sutherland in their village office. Otherwise, they were making house calls.

**28** 

Marriage licenses were issued by Edward Tully in Independence Township.

**15** 

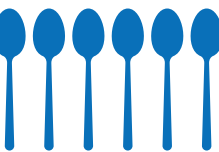
Good friends surprised John Beardsley on his birthday by hiding in his parlor with the lights down low.

**\$1** **EXTRA!  
EXTRA!**

Was the cost of a one-year subscription to the Clarkston Advertiser weekly newspaper.

**2** 

Fine deer were shot by W.R. Vliet while out hunting with Joseph Gulick, Jay Clark and Henry Richardson. The rest of the hunters were not so lucky.

**6** 

Silver spoons were given by Miss Cora Bailey to celebrate the marriage of Mamie Bailey and Ward Lessiter.

**\$50** 

Was the fine Mr. S. T. Cole paid for violating township liquor laws. In 2015 dollars, that would have been \$1,388.89.



# "EXTRA" "EXTRA"

## Latest Museum Donation is Making News

Most people are familiar with the Clarkston News, which began publishing in the early 1930s. But are you aware the CN wasn't the earliest paper in town? We recently received a large stack of original newspapers from Clarkston resident Bart Clark. Clark, who also is CCHS president, is a descendant of this town's early founders, and he offered two different local papers that were unknown to us.

The Clarkston Advertiser was a large, eight-page weekly paper that started in 1894. Six pages were devoted to world news and the remaining space was devoted to local stories and advertisers. It seems the paper was in print only for a year or so. In 1903 came a smaller paper, The Clarkston Record, which centered on local events.

In keeping with our mission to preserve our community's history for future generations, the CCHS Board of Directors voted to have these papers professionally scanned so we can make them available online to the public. This would be a great resource for researchers, as well as just a fun read for anyone interested in local history. In the meantime, here are a couple of the stories we found.

### The Clarkston Advertiser, December 1894

A very serious accident befell Miss Stella Fair last Sunday morning while she was endeavoring to clean her gloves. She had the gloves drawn on her hands and was using a cloth and gasoline to that purpose. They were thoroughly saturated with the fluid and she stepped to the stove for the purpose of throwing the saturated cloth in the fire, when the gas arising from the saturated gloves became ignited and burned her hands and wrists very seriously. ... This was a very close call for the young lady but it is hoped that she will soon recover from this serious misfortune. This experience should serve as a lesson to others who use gasoline in a very careless manner.

LOOK OUT FOR HOLIDAY  
GOODS NEXT WEEK.

F. HAMMOND.

## MILLINERY.

Stamped and Fancy Goods. We have a very pretty assortment of novelties in trimmings.

## A NEW LINE OF CAPS AND BABY BONNETS.

A nice assortment of Stamped Goods, and Filo Silks in all shades. Ice wool in black, white and colors.

M. D. MASON.

## DRUGS.

For good goods and fair prices, call on E. A. Urch, dealer in general merchandise.

Drugs carefully compounded.

E. A. URCH,

Clarkston, Mich.

Clarkston Advertiser, 1894

### The Clarkston Record, December 1903

Eleven hundred copies of Dr. Goodenough's "Favorite Receipt Book" have been shipped to South Africa within a few months. In Ohio and other states it is to be found in almost every home. The doctor is at work on French and German translations of his work.

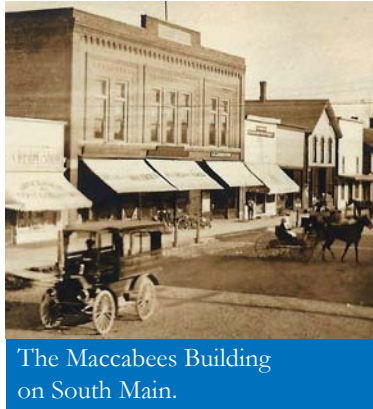
(Dr. Goodenough lived and worked at 42 N. Main Street.)

Watch our website ([www.clarkstonhistorical.org](http://www.clarkstonhistorical.org)) for project updates. You can also make a tax-deductible donation to help the CCHS with the cost of scanning. We'd consider that front-page news!



## New Exhibit Starts with a New Donation

“For Your Amusement: Clarkston Entertains” – the brand-new Clarkston Heritage Museum exhibit – is open and is already proving to be one of our most popular displays. The idea for this exhibit – our 28th – began in November when the Clarkston Village Players contacted the CCHS to donate the old opera house curtain.



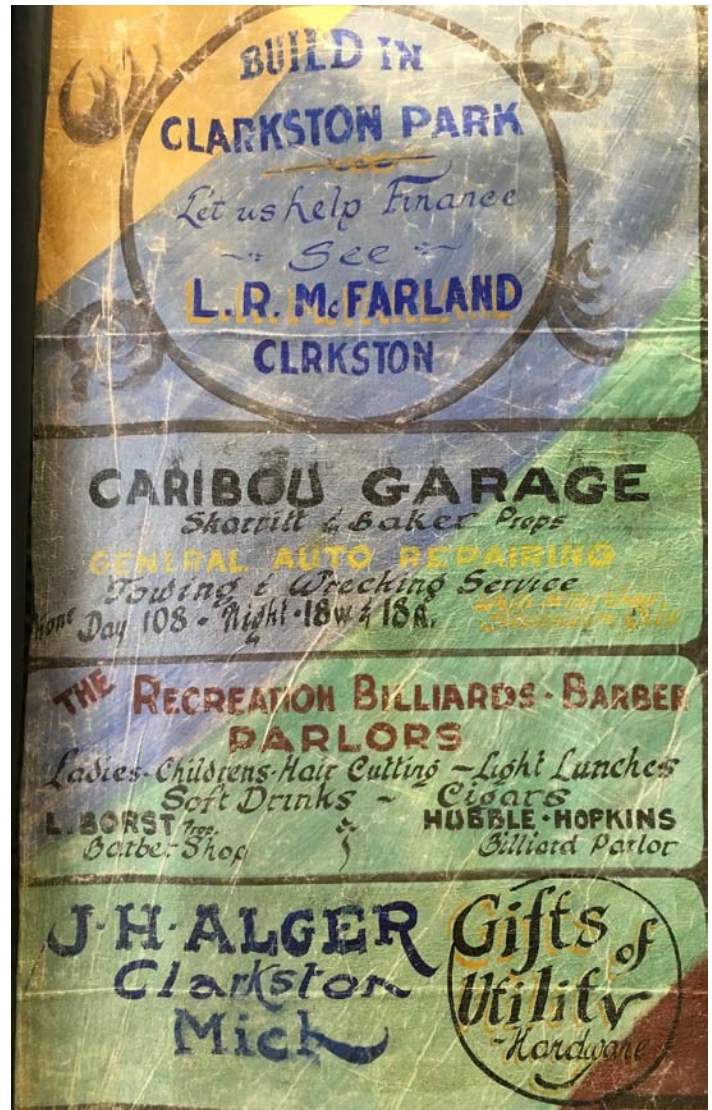
The Maccabees Building on South Main.



The opera house was on the second floor of the Maccabees Building (now the site of the popular Woodshop restaurant). The curtain is about 16 feet wide by 10 feet high and was most likely created by a local sign painter.

Clarkston was a small town by some standards, but there was always a variety of entertainment available at the opera house. Musicals, lectures and traveling Chautauquas (meant to enlighten the audience), as well as a variety of dances and balls, were held in the large space on the second floor.

There was a 40-foot-high stage, dressing rooms and a cashier's cage. In the late 1920s or early '30s, a colorful backdrop curtain was created for the stage. Much like



today, as we wait for a movie to start, the curtain gave local businesses the opportunity to advertise to a captive audience.

We are so grateful to the Clarkston Village Players for taking such great care of the curtain and passing it on to the museum so everyone can enjoy it. We urge you to stop by the museum and visit the exhibit. This wonderful curtain is just one of the many fun items you will see, and we promise you'll want to shout ENCOUR!

We want to give a big SHOUT OUT to Mark Kelly for taking all of our Holiday Party photos at the last minute. A great local photographer.

Mark Kelly  
313 549-7684  
mark@mpk-photo.com  
www.mpk-photo.com



# Programs and Events

## Digging up the Past

Renowned Privy Historian Tony Panepucci will offer a fascinating look at the science behind privy digging and display just a small sample of the thousands of bottles and artifacts he has found at outhouse excavations.

*Library Community Room. Refreshments provided by the Clarkston Community Historical Society.*

**MAY  
10**

7 p.m.



Tony Panepucci finding an old clay pipe.

## Art in the Village

You won't want to miss this annual art show in Depot Park. If you have a few extra hours for volunteering that weekend, drop us an email and we will be happy to have you!

**SEP  
17**

10 a.m.  
- 5 p.m.

**SEP  
18**

10 a.m.  
- 4 p.m.

## Victorian Mourning Customs

You will be amazed to see Diane Clark wearing a full Victorian mourning outfit while she talks about the fascinating customs and social etiquettes expected from a widow in the late 1800s.

*Library Community Room. Refreshments provided by the Clarkston Community Historical Society.*

**OCT  
4**

7 p.m.

## Leprechauns, Fairies, & the Emerald Isle

Historyteller Maureen Esther will enthrall you with stories, legends and customs of the Emerald Isles. Maureen is always a favorite and her presentations are always very popular.

*Library Community Room. Refreshments provided by the Clarkston Community Historical Society.*

**OCT  
11**

7 p.m.

## Ellis Barn Dance

This amazing barn with its wood floors and soaring spaces is the perfect place for a boot-stomping great time. Delicious food, cold beer and contemporary country line dancing in a heated barn make this the ultimate in fall events. Watch our website for ticket details.

**OCT  
15**

7 p.m.

## CCHS Holiday Party

Details to come but mark your calendar and watch for your invite in November. All CCHS members welcome.

**DEC  
2**

7 p.m.

6495 Clarkston Rd.  
Clarkston, MI 48346

