



# Clinton County Historical Society

Museum & Archives

CCHS Newsletter



Volume 2 Issue 3

April 2025

## Museum Announces 2025 Theme

### Meet the Volunteers

Ron Matson

Ron was born in Zeeland, Michigan in 1938 and soon thereafter moved with his family to Clinton County.

After attending Ovid High School he enlisted in the U. S. Air Force and spent 3 years in France as a GCA Radar Technician on a supply base providing support to all U. S. Air Force bases in Europe and depot level maintenance on U. S. and NATO aircraft. After his discharge he took a job driving truck and eventually retired as an over the road driver for USF Holland.



Ron and his wife Maxine have been married for 65 years and have four children, seven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Ron began volunteering at the museum in 2008 and was appointed to the advisory board in 2011. He organized the document room at the museum where documents and photos relating to Clinton County are located. He has researched and written the history of the foundries located in St. Johns and also wrote the history of gasoline and steam engines manufactured here. Ron currently has a Richmond Bro's stationary steam engine manufactured in St. Johns on loan to the museum carriage house.

### Not a Member?

Join the CCHS and receive our quarterly *Clinton County Trails* for just \$20 (for email delivery) and \$25 for a paper copy. A downloadable membership form can be found on [our website](#).

The CCHS Museum special exhibits for 2025 will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rodney B. Wilson High School. Rodney B. opened in 1925 as a replacement for Central High School in St. Johns.



**CCHS**  
**MUSEUM**

The school was named for Rodney B. Wilson, a high school student who died of influenza in 1918.

Rodney B. Wilson school served as the St. Johns high school until the current building opened in 1969. It was then used as a junior high until 1998.

Currently the building is being renovated into a mixed use facility with the old classrooms being converted into apartments while preserving the auditorium and gym for public use.

A more detailed history along with information on the acquisition of land for the school can be found in the March 2025 issue of *Clinton County Trails*. *Clinton County Trails* is published quarterly and sent to all CCHS members.

### Did You Know...



you can search to see who has lived in your house before you?

Go to our [website](#) and Click on



You can search by name, postal number, or street name. Use of one word in the search works best.

This is a work in progress. If you don't see your address, please email Julie a note to be added at [petersj@cchsmichigan.org](mailto:petersj@cchsmichigan.org)

Julie would also love to get copies of any house pictures, both old and new.

Let Julie know if you have any questions.



## MONTHLY REPORT OF ACQUISITIONS & RESEARCH

January 2025 Acquisitions

Meeting: February 5, 2025

We're off to a good start for 2025 with 11 visitors in January. We have a new volunteer who will be starting next Tuesday. Haila Hayner will be joining the gang. She is a new recruit gained from the Mint Festival during our 50 Year Anniversary Celebration. Please welcome her to our family when you see her.

### ACQUISITIONS JANUARY 2025

#### **CHURCHES:**

- White 3-ring binder containing several pages of youth membership roster cards for the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

#### **SCHOOLS:**

- Rodney B. Wilson High School Yearbook "The Wilsonian" – 1955

#### **FAMILIES RESEARCHED:**

Crowner, Mulder

Respectfully submitted:

Julie Peters, Director

CCHS Archives



## MONTHLY REPORT OF ACQUISITIONS & RESEARCH

February 2025 Acquisitions

Meeting: March 5, 2025

We had 4 visitors in February. Work continues as usual.

### ACQUISITIONS FEBRUARY 2025

#### HISTORIES:

- The Great Northern Ghost (signed) by Ford Stevens Ceasar; 6 1/4 x 9 1/4"; hardcover; 300 pp (COPY 2) [V / H 172-2]

#### PHOTOS:

- Wedding of Wayne C. Walker & Helen Morrison; Aug. 4, 1956. Attendants: Barbara Jean Morrison, Mary Ruth Schultheiss & Joan Plunkett; Wendell J. Walker, Irvin Walker, Gerald Burke. Kaye & Curtis Swanson, flower girl & ring bearer. 5 x 7"; b/w
- Wedding of Connie Cressman & Russel Bauerle March 22, 1958; Attendants: Mary Schultheiss, Nancy Cressman, Joan Pardee. Judy Whitlock was flower girl. Attendances: Bruce Baird, Russell Shepherd, & Robert Fink. Teddy Loomis was ring bearer. 8 x 10" b/w
- Graduating class of 1942 Rodney B. Wilson High School; 8 x 10"; b/w
- Class of 1942 20 Year Reunion; Bob Law, Virgil Zeeb, Kjoie Mazzolini, Gordon Bond, Duane Witt, Maurice Haynes, Jean Black, Ed Mankey, Mary Ellen Elliott Sievert - Reo Sievert, Eloise Shiner, Arden (Bud) Manley, Donna Clark Love, Bill Osgood, Loyal Stevens, Leola Rhynard Thurston, Fraser McKinnon, Dorothy Housel Burk, Ray Rademacher, Gale Redman, Lillian Rossow Law, Duane Hefty, Beth Ann Wagoner, Bob Orr, Jack Lyon, Bob Roof, Ardith Phelps, Dorothy Rehmann Wieber, Wilene Estes Gutshall, Doris Heathman Swatman, Onalee Diehm Blizzard, Kenneth Blizzard, Lloyd Love, Dale Myers, Ming Foo, Dale Robinson, Kieth Phelps
- Class of 1942 50 Year Reunion; Rodney B. Wilson High School; 8 x 10"; color; Jiggs Geller, Fraser McKinnon, Dick Clark, Duane Hefty, Delbert Anderson, Bob Roof, Loyal Stevens, Mary Ellen Elliot Siefert, Bill Osgood, Dale Robinson, Ed Mankey, ? Anderson, Reo Siefert, Ray Rademacher, Max Hott, Joe Mazzolini, Jack Lyon, Dorothy Hansen, Dorothy Housel Burk, Jean Black, Betty Cornell Woodhams, Shirley Mygrants, George Pierson, Wilene Estes Gutshall, Leola Rhynard Thurston, Arola Rhnard Delemeter, Lillian Rossow Law, Donna Clark Love, Barb

- Bennett Pierson, Beth Ann Wagoner, Doris Heathman Swatman, Bud Manley, Ervin Walker, Don Stewart.
- French School Reunion Up to 1959; Oct. 12, 2006; Cynthia Jones, Helen Post (Teacher), Bob Kuhns, Richard Droste, Enza Viges, Barb Howard, Sybil Smith, Jean Stockwell, Don Bendt, Elden Bendt, Gene Havens, Nan Stockwell, Katie Stockwell; 4 x 6"; color
  - Rodney B. Wilson 1944 High School Graduation; photo copy w/ names; D. Riddle, M. LeClear, E. Ringle, M. Oyer, Wm Grozdiak Jr, M. Williams, A. Flak, L. Ormston, D. Darnell, V. Drew, B. Althouse, M. Ladisky, J. Taylor, Eliz. Rose, M.B. Hayes, V. Randall, A. Diehm, M. Hopko, G. Mueller, M. Klug, F. L. Ellsworth, B. Bailey, E. Laurence, L. VanDouser, R. Fehrenbach, M. Chant, C. Demary, D. McGlaughlin, Bertha Cummings, H. Yanz, K. Harper, D. Pratt, J. Eldred, J. Miller, G. Warstyler, D. Plowman, E. Roe, J. Phillips, A. Black, R. Downing, G. Schoendorf, L. Green, M. Smith, E. Karber, L. Atkinson, H. Gifford, R. Brown, C. Milligan, B. Tabor, J. Myers, J. M. Casteel, L. Howe, D. Hainer, L. Stout, R. Parish, P. Walling, B. Kraft, C. J. Root, E. Smith, R. Kraustzky, V. Birkey, H. Postlethwaite, C. Main, D. Schmidtman, J. Osgood, S. Belkman, F. Bennett, M. Brooks, B. Wesner, J. Lyon, A. Hefty, R. Gibson, D. Harper, R. Prowant, J. Black, B. Fisher, R. Jorae, J. Bond, M. Bradley, Maxine Wilson, Alice Bodine, Ruth Brainard, Tom Marek, Ned Lawson, Ardis Vaughn, Joe Schoendorf, Jean Smith, Ruth Fleisher, Dorothy Baumgartner, Donald Steavens, Vincent Snyder, Reginold Stevens, Alan Law
  - Rodney B. Wilson High School Class of 1944, 40 Year Reunion, 8 x 10"; b/w
  - RBW. Class of 1944, 50 Year Reunion; Viola Drew, Hazel Postelwaite, Florence Ellsworth, Rita Parish, Clair Maier, Charlotte Milligan, Hazel Grove, Coralee Demara, Jean Lyon, Jean Myers, Ardis Vaughn, Lorabell Stout, Jean Miller, Ann Diehm, Barbara Bailey, Delight McLaughlin, Jean Casteel, Louise Green, Ardith Hefty, Janet Osgood, Shirley Belknap, Elaine Smith, Betty Wesner, Ruth Gibson, Elizabeth Karber, Louise VanDouser, Reginald Stevens, Dick Gillson, Maralyse Brooks, Roger Jorae, Gene Schoendorf, Jim Black, Alan Law, Don Stevens, Homer Gifford, Don Darnell, Lester Howe, John Bond, Marion Bradley, Melvin Oyer, Bill Benedict, Lee Ormston, Don Harper, Malcom Williams, Melvin LeClear, Ned Lawson, Ernest Ringle, Ross Downing
  - RBW Class of 1955, 45 Year Reunion, 2000; 8 x 10" color; Ricard Mack, Pat Benson Gomulinski, Pat Snater Moore, Dorothy Colando Acker, Irene Motz Armbrustmacher, Linda Baker Taylor, Marcia Cowles Nemcik, Marcia Weir Davis, Caroline Gasser Garrick, Larry Churches, Tom Wilson, Gerald Smith, Martha Warneke Seitz, Jo Woodbury Wakefield, Carol Lancaster Frisby, Elaine Damon Phinney, Mary Schultheis Beutler, LaRene VanEpps Smith, Connie Shinnabury Mack, Jack Richards, Rosemar Eaton McCarthy, Richard Slagel, Leo Henning, Ruth Pasch Nihart, Jack Willis, Gayle Desprez, (hiding) Marilyn Bachman Pomeroy, Richjard Bancroft, Tom Beechler, Bob Webb, Maurice Tiedt, Anna Amy, Jim Phinney, Barbara Martin Wiseman, Pat Grew Sabrosky, Donna Gove Ballinger, (unseen) Carol Ricker Beechler, Mary Snitgen James
  - Jack Desprez, Tom & Carol Beechler, Katie Stockwell; 1975; 4 1/2 x 3 1/2"; color
  - Rowlan Smith & LaRene VanEpps, 1955 Sr. Prom; 3 x 2"; color
  - Mrs. Huot's 6th grade class, May 1949; 4 1/2 x 3 1/2"; color

- Larry Churches, Barb Martin, Tom Wilson, Carol Ricker, Leo Henning, Sylvia Green; May 1952; 4 1/2 x 3 1/2"; color
- Girl Scouts at Crystal Lake, l to r: Marcia Weir, Martha Larsen, LaRene VanEpps, Elaine Damon, Sherry Mitchell, ? Lois Jury, Rosemar Eaton, Pat, Benson, Caroline Gasser; 4 1/2 x 3 1/2" color
- Bath School Disaster, May 18, 1927; 8 x 10"; b/w
- Bath School Disaster; May 18, 1927; 5 x 3"; b/w
- Egan Motor Sales, 1938, 200 W. Higham St., SJ; Ford Dealership; 9 1/2 x 7 1/4"; b/w
- Clinton Co. Fairgrounds, Townsend Rd & Lansing St., SJ; 9 1/2 x 7 1/2"; b/w

**VERTICAL FILE:**

- Papers Relating to Anthropology, Ancient Mounds in Clinton County, MI; M. L. Leach, of Traverse City, Mich.; 5 1/2 x 9"; 8 pp

**SCHOOLS:**

- Class of 1953 Rodney B. Wilson High School; 11 x 14" Class composite.

Respectfully submitted:  
 Julie Peters, Director  
 CCHS Archives