



Newaygo County History

Quarterly Newsletter of the Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center

Jan/Feb/Mar 2017



Winters in Newaygo County



NEWAYGO COUNTY MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER

12 Quarterline Rd
Newaygo, MI 49337
April thru October
Wednesday - Saturday
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Research Room

November thru March
Open Wednesdays 9 - 3
Tuesdays & Thursdays
by appointment

Phone
231-652-5003

Website
newaygocountyhistory.org

Email
museum@
newaygocountyhistory.org

*The Newaygo County History
newsletter is part of our mission to
collect, preserve, and share Newaygo
County history.*



[facebook.com/newaygocountymuseum](https://www.facebook.com/newaygocountymuseum)

The Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center is made possible by the gifts of individual donors, businesses, in-kind gifts, and by the generous support of the **Fremont Area Community Foundation**.

Field Trip transportation for Newaygo County elementary students is funded by the **Gerber Foundation**.

Ancestrylibrary.com is provided by the **Arthur Christian Nelsen & Virginia Faith Nelsen Fund of InFaith Community Foundation**.

Select equipment has been provided by the **Great Lakes Energy People Fund**. (Support the People Fund by rounding up your bill!)

Local News

Hospital Ball to Be

Held in Fremont

Plans for the second annual hospital ball are nearing completion. Mrs. M.R. Dietz, president of the Gardner circle of the Newaygo County Hospital guild, has announced.

Eddie Martin's orchestra, a popular dance band, will furnish music for the event which will take place Friday, February 10, at 9:15 p.m. in the Fremont community building. The theme for the ball will be in keeping with the Valentine holiday and will be carried out by the decorations. The occasion will be semi-formal.

The ball is a benefit for the Gerber-Memorial hospital which serves Newaygo County. The funds raised by the ball are used for some essential articles which the hospital wishes to purchase.

- *Grant Herald-Independent Jan 19, 1950*

County Letters

CORRESPONDENT WANTED

The Eagle is desirous of having correspondents throughout the territory it covers, but at present has no correspondent in Home township, and is desirous of having one or two there. Will somebody kindly volunteer to write for us, and oblige.

The White Cloud Eagle

R. F. D. No. 1

Winter weather is sure here, the roads are drifted full, so our mail man has to have Mark Barton drive him with horses on the route.

- *White Cloud Eagle, Jan 18, 1923*



Newaygo Portland Cement

A year ago Charles E. Greening, of the firm of Greening Bros., extensive nurserymen at Monroe, was on a business trip through the northern part of the lower peninsula. On May 23 he delivered an address at Newaygo, and the day following joined a fishing party at Pickerel Lake, near that village. While sitting on the trunk of a fallen tree, Mr. Greening observed that the roots of the tree were covered with a white substance resembling snow. His curiosity prompted him to taste it and he detected in it a strong flavor of lime. He sent a sample to the Agricultural College for analysis, but never heard from it.

A few months later Mr. Greening met Prof. Fred H. Borradaile, State analyst, and gave him a sample for analysis. When the latter reported he startled Mr. Greening by urging him to go to Newaygo at once and buy up all the land containing the deposit that he could get his hands on, explaining that the substance was a most valuable specimen of marl.

Mr. Greening hastened to Newaygo and immediately purchased about 1,000 acres of land surrounding four little lakes, the shores and bottoms of which contain unlimited deposits of marl which is said to be of a finer quality than any heretofore discovered in this country, the analysis showing 96 per cent of carbonate of lime, with little or no trace of iron. Within a short distance of the marl beds there is to be had an abundance of clay, which is an essential in the manufacture of cement.

- *Grand Rapids Herald, May 9, 1899*

Croton people say that they shall have their freight shipped via Newaygo, because the railroad rates are more reasonable, and the roads between this village and Croton are so much better than between Croton and Howard City.

Over 10,000 logs passed through the chute in the Little Muskegon river at Croton last Friday. The recent heavy rains have started the logs and they will be got out of that stream this season.

- *Newaygo Republican, Sept. 18, 1872*

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank Mr and Mrs Harold McKinley Sr. and Mr and Mrs Harold McKinley Jr. for the steak dinner. Also our friends for the many Christmas cards, letters, and gifts they sent us.

Grant Telephone Girls

- *Grant Herald-Independent Jan 12, 1950*



The engine "Tyeane" which traveled the Grand Rapids, Newaygo, Lake Shore line

The First Train!

Last Tuesday, as the track-layers appeared in sight and it became a certainty that the track would be laid to the bridge by Wednesday noon so that a passenger train could be run into the village, our citizens were informed that "a little informal excursion party might be expected on the first train—perhaps 25 or 30 in number." Our people at once made preparations for entertaining that number, and a dinner at the Brooks House was a part of the programme.

All Wednesday forenoon the workmen were watched closely. Excitement was at fever heat, and many were the speculations indulged in by the spectators as to whether the work would be completed by 2 o'clock, the hour appointed for the arrival of the train. At last the last rail was in its place, and the last spike driven, and then nothing could be done but wait. Truth to tell, but very little interest was taken in the excursionists, who were supposed to be merely railroad dignitaries coming on business. The main interest centered in the arrival of the first train; there were but a few visitors on board, and simple arrangements had been made at Courtright's for the entertainment of them all.

The long-looked-for locomotive was almost within hearing, and minutes seemed hours as we waited the arrival of the iron horse that was bearing to us the news that we were in reach of the outside world. The whistle is heard, and then such a handshaking and congratulating among friends and neighbors one must live a lifetime to see again; and when the train appeared it seemed that everyone was frantic for joy. Boys screamed, girls giggled, men cheered and women looked on with hearts too full for utterance. It was the greatest day in the history of Newaygo.

We have said before that a little excursion was expected, but what was our surprise to see pouring from the cars about 300 of the best citizens of Grand Rapids, accompanied by the Valley City Brass Band. No preparation had been made for entertaining that number of guests in a manner befitting the occasion. No time was to be lost. Each citizen captured as many as he could take care of, and marched them off in triumph; the hotels were thrown open, and all was done that could be to entertain the guests who honored us with their presence.

After dinner, W. D. Fuller, T B. Church, Wm. H. Wells, and others made brief speeches, and our guests departed for their homes in the beautiful "Valley City".

- *The Newaygo Republican, Sept. 18, 1872*

(This line became known as the Grand Rapids, Newaygo and Lakeshore Line)

Local History/Research Room

While always busy, the staff and volunteers working with local history and family research are planning some new projects for 2017.

In 2007, we published "Newaygo County History and Biographies, Volume 1" with great success. Volume 2 is now under way and we ask for assistance from you, the community of Newaygo County, for family biographies including generational charts. Information about the project and assistance can be found at our website newaygocountyhistory.org and click on "Book Project."

A community research project is underway about the Volney area, located in Beaver Township, which mirrors many of our early settlements. We are assisting this project by providing timelines and points of interest in and near this township. The research will eventually be published as a book.

A tour guide to historical sites in Newaygo County is also on our project list. We hope it will be useful to visitors and those of us in the county that want to do some site seeing near home.

As a reminder, we offer the following services:

- Scanning photos and documents you would like added to our historical archives
- Research assistance with local history and family history
- Oral history interviews of residents
- Archives: a room of original books, ledgers, documents, photos, and more.
- Historical community newspapers (digital PDF format)
- Ancestry Library Edition (online)
- Research for newsletter and exhibit interpretation

We love donations that speak of our county's people, their lives, interests and businesses.

Before discarding documents or photos that you think have no value, please consider their potential historical merit. While you may not know the people or places in the photos, others might recognize them immediately.

Finally, a warm thank you to our Local History/Research Room Volunteers who spend many hours of their time to type, scan, collect vital statistics, construct archives, and work on our many projects!

We are excited for 2017 and what surprises come to us.

It takes a community to record a community's history!

Toni Rumsey
Archivist



newaygocountyhistory.org/book-project

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Rick Sharp
Retired, Machinist/White Cloud Fire Chief

2016 Artifact Preservation Honor Roll

Bayleaf Used and Rare Books - Gabe Konrad

Countryview Auction and Resale - Terry Harrison

Osborne Gunsmithing - Rob Osborne

Ryan's Card & Coin - Tim Steele

The Toy Guy - Norm Strickler

This Old House Antiques & Resale - Donna Friar

David Huisjen

Gerber Federal Credit Union

Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital

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Baars Pharmacy

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Newaygo Insurance Agency, Inc.

River Valley Storage Co., LLC

Quality Tree Service of West Michigan, Inc.

*Thank you for supporting the care and preservation of the
13,000 artifacts held in trust for the people of Newaygo County.*

BIRTH OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY THURSDAY

An attempt is being made to form a Newaygo County Historical Society. A meeting for interested residents of the county will be held in the Community room of the Fremont Bank and Trust Company on November 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Almon G. Gilbert of Fremont is acting temporary chairman and has contacted some residents by letter. Mrs. Elizabeth Hutcins, Library Director at Fremont states this is a general meeting being called by residents of Newaygo County in an effort to organize the society and

officers will be elected.

She states the meeting is open to interested residents to attend.

Interest in Newaygo County History was spurred this summer by the work of University of Michigan archaeologists in the area. The desire for a Historical Society has been strong among residents and the meeting on Thursday evening will be its beginning.

- Grant-Herald Independent, Nov. 18, 1965

**2016 OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF
THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS.**

Bob Alighire	Martha Gabrielse	Bill Nottelmann	Roger & Rebecca Tuuk
Bill Alsover	Bernie Giles	Norm Ochs	Don Van Singel
Amanda Lularoe	Terry Gleason	Larinda Olson	Robert VanBuskirk
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Shirley A. Brooks	John Kiryanoff	Eric Rudert	Gerber Federal Credit Union
Susan Bull	Katherine Kole	Toni Rumsey	Gerber Foundation
Lisa Cabada	A. Loren Kraetz	James Rynberg	In Faith Community Foundation
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Nancy Carlson	Larry & Joyce Lethorn	Mike Saum	Mike Saum State Farm Insurance
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Sherry Davis	Jill Mead	Roger Smith	The Rudert Agency, LTD. Insurance
Todd & Carolyn DeKryger	Richard Meeuwenberg	Linda Sonoras	(Kindly notify us of any omissions or errors.)
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Vicki Frye	Al Nixon	Richard & Corinne Toth	

Thank you!

Your history is our mission!

EQUIPMENT MOVED TO NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING TUESDAY

The patrons of the Fremont post office have a right to be proud of the new post office building which is now equipped and in use. It was hoped that the new quarters could be occupied on Monday of this week but it took more time than was anticipated to install the new fixtures and the building was not ready for the transfer of the government's property until Tuesday when the force spent their holiday moving and arranging the equipment.

The new quarters have about 700 square feet more of floor space than the old and this relieves the congestion which made the vacated building inadequate. The new fixtures are of quarter sawed oak with a wax finish and are the newest thing in post office furnishings. The arrangement of the working department will add to the efficiency of the office.

The new building is located on North Division Avenue immediately north of the Reber building.

- *Fremont Times-Indicator, January 3, 1924*



Former Fremont Post Office

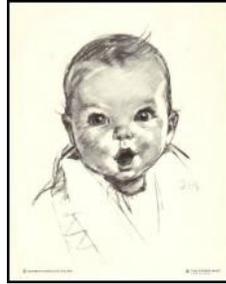
Located in the lower level of the Geo. E. Hilton building

NEW INFANT FOOD A GERBER PRODUCT

Local Concern Marketing

An Apple and Apricot Mixture

With Present Extensive Line



An apple and apricot mixture for use as an infant food was recently developed at the Gerber Products Company plant and was placed on the market all over the country this month. Manufacture was begun in December, since then approximately a million cans of the product have been packed.

When the Gerber infant foods were first produced, the line consisted mainly of vegetable products. Shortly after their introduction into the national market, prunes were added as a fruit item. Since then they remained the only fruit product in the Gerber food group. Recently, in response to a demand for another fruit, experimental work was begun on an apricot and apple mixture.

Canned apricots have been used in the manufacture of the food as dried apricots fail to give the desired flavor and color. The apples used were purchased on the local market. The proportion used is approximately two parts of apricots to one of apples.

- *Fremont Times-Indicator, January 21, 1937*



BRR-R-R

Get out the tackle,
Put on the warm clothes.
Now is the time,
Most everyone knows,
To fish thru the ice
For bluegills an' crappies.

Great sport for the youngsters,
The mamas an' pappies.
Although snow is fallin'
An' it's colder than sin,
God's Frozen People
Are at it agin'.

- *Newaygo Newt*

"My friend, they will return again,
All over the Earth.
They are returning again,
Ancient teachings of the Earth,
Ancient songs of the Earth.
They are returning again.

My friend, they are returning.
I give them to you, and through them
You will understand, you will see.
They are returning again
Upon the Earth."

- Crazy Horse (Oglala Sioux 1842-1877)

"More than anything else,
it is important to
study history."

B. B. King,
1925- 2015

Correction to previous print issue:
Everett Twp. (not Emmett) was the site of
the archaeology dig . Our apologies.

Happy 2017!

You did it! Your generosity has allowed us to receive our full **match of \$7,500** from the **Fremont Area Community Foundation**. Without you, and the steadfast support of the FAF, the Museum and Heritage Center would still be just a dream. **Thank you!**

While financial support is critical, with a part-time staff, the time and talent provided by our **Volunteers** is just as important. We are grateful to those who work in these areas to make it all happen; exhibit building, maintenance, cleaning, artifact assistance, education, local history/research room, greeters, and our board. We are grateful for all of you. Thank you for your knowledge, skills, and time!

The Education Team hosted a **record 1,444 students** for field trips during October and November, and **1,361 guests** visited during the Christmas walk!

As part of our mission to share Newaygo County's history, please share this newsletter far and wide. Remind family and friends to sign-up on our new website to receive an **email notice** when newsletters become available. newaygocountyhistory.org/newsletters-1 Thank you for your patience as we transition to our new website and notification system. Please let us know if something isn't working for you. (museum@newaygocountyhistory.org)

Time passes so quickly, so **don't wait** to begin collecting and composing your family history. The deadline for submission to be included in the **Newaygo County History and Biographies, Volume 2** is only nine months away. Begin now by downloading your information packet and generational chart at: newaygocountyhistory.org/research-room/book-project Your progeny will thank you!

Winter is the time we make **exhibit improvements**. The icy weather has set us back a bit, but we're doing our best to be sure improvements are all completed by April 1st.

As the Fremont Area Community Foundation continues to nudge us to seek greater financial support from the community, they have once again provided us with the opportunity to secure a matching grant as part of our operational funding.

This year, **with your help**, we will **raise \$20,000 by 12.31.17** to receive the **50% - \$10,000 match**. Your contributions for supplies and materials for historical artifact preservation will count towards this match. *Your history is our mission!*

In appreciation,
Roxanne

Here is my gift for supplies and materials to assist with artifact preservation.
Your contribution will be matched 50% by the Fremont Area Community Foundation for operations.

Enclosed is my/our gift of: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: _____ Ck# _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail to: NCMHC P.O. Box 361, Newaygo, MI - Donate online at: newaygocountyhistory.org

Thank you for your support!



P.O. Box 361
Newaygo, MI 49337



The Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center is made possible by the contributions of individuals, businesses, the Fremont Area Community Foundation and The Gerber Foundation.



Thank you!



AASLH
American Association
for State and Local History



12 Quarterline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337

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Volume 2

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