

100th Anniversary of U.S. Entry into WWI

In 1914, much of Europe had entered a war that was viewed by the U.S. as a clash between old world powers, so the U.S. remained neutral. That changed once Americans had been killed and four merchant ships had been sunk by Germany.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson addressed a joint session of Congress citing Germany's violation of its pledge to stop submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and its attempts to entice Mexico into an alliance against the U.S.

On April 4, 1917, the United States of America, officially entered World War 1 when it declared war on Germany.

Newaygo County sent many young men into this battle. Some of these young men, were able to come home and pick up their lives, but others, like John G. Frens, lost their lives.

On June 28, 1919 the Treaty of Versailles was signed by Germany and the war ended.



Most famous of forty-six posters by James Montgomery Flagg (1877-1960) to stimulate support of the war effort.

went west again in January of this year and remained there until

called into the service May 29 when he went to Camp Custer. He remained at Custer until July when he sailed for France with the 85th Division.

Besides his father and step-mother he is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Gerben Bekkering of Denver, Col., Mrs. Arie DeKuiper of Grand Rapids, and Mrs. Herman D. Kolk of Fremont and one brother, Richard Frens, of Grand Rapids. His step-sister and brothers are Miss Hattie Nieboer of Muskegon, Ed Nieboer with the colors in France, John Nieboer of Fremont and Gerrit Nieboer of Platte, So. Dakota.

Mr. Frens was one of the fine young men of this community. He was always especially solicitous for the welfare of his parents and his one ambition was to alleviate their burdens.

Following is the last letter he wrote his parents before being wounded.

JOHN G. FRENS DIES OF WOUNDS IN FRANCE

First Local Boy to Pay Supreme Sacrifice In Active Service "Over There"

John E. Frens, who lives two miles west of Fremont, received a telegram from the War Department Friday conveying the sad news of the death of his son, John G. Frens, who died in France, November 12, of wounds received in action October 15. He was 22 years, 9 months and 25 days old. Mr. Frens is the first Fremont boy to have given his life as a direct result of the contact with the enemy.

That Mr. Frens did not believe his wounds would prove fatal is evident from a letter dictated by him to a Red Cross nurse. The letter follows:

American Red Cross,

October 15, 1918

Dear Folks:

Just a line to let you know that I have been wounded and am getting along fine. There is nothing to worry about and I will write very soon myself. I will be sent to a base hospital in a few days and will write you as soon as I can from there.

Best love to all,

Your loving son,

John.

Written by Rose Peabody,

Red Cross, Mobile Hospital No. 2, A.E.F.

John G. Frens was born on the farm where his father still lives west of the city and grew to manhood in this community. In August of 1917, he went to Platte, So. Dakota for his health and remained there about three months. After spending a few weeks at home, he

Somewhere in France,

October 2, 1918

My Dear Folks at Home:

I suppose you folks think I have forgotten you altogether but that is not the case at all. I could have written a week ago but we could not get the mail out, so you don't want to worry if you don't hear from me for quite a while, because there is always some little reason.

I sure am feeling fine and I am in the best of health and hope you folks are all the same.

Well we have seen some of the real stuff by this time. We were at the front for about eighteen days. Got along fine. Do you folks ever hear from Ed? I suppose he is over here some place, but where I don't know. But no doubt he is getting along fine also. Is he still in the Artillery? I don't know if I wrote it before, but we were transferred to the 42nd Division quite a while ago. Ed may have been transferred also. It would not surprise me any if he was.

I have not had any mail yet but expect some most any day, as some of the boys that came over with me have received some already.

I suppose by the time you get this letter the fall work will be about done. I do hope you are getting along well with it. Is Dick going to school again? Well, father, you have got it pretty hard this year, but I hope and pray that things will be different next year. From the way things look now, I think they will too.

I have written about all I can think of this time. Will try and not wait so long with writing next time.

Your loving son and brother

John

- Fremont Times Indicator, December 5, 1918

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



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.**

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

DR. WEAVER COMPILES COUNTY HONOR ROLL

Following is a List of Boys Killed or Wounded in Democracy's Struggle

Killed

Ole Webster, Big Prairie
Don M. Dickinson, Fremont
Frank Clark, Fremont
Paul Steffe, Newaygo
Carl Loxen, Grant
Clyde Crabtree, Big Prairie
Herman Brandt, White Cloud

Wounded

Leo McGrath, Bitely
Frank Raymond, Fremont
Jack Stewart, Woodville
Herbert Lenhard, White Cloud
W. H. Dubois, Newaygo
Cornelius Wolters, Fremont
Selah Reber, Fremont
Chas. Risher, Hesperia
Wm. Sherman, Newaygo
Glen Anthony, Newaygo
E. O. Cooper, Newaygo
Will H. Horton, Fremont
D. J. Carlington, Fremont
A. C. Harper, White Cloud
Andrew O. Goebel, White Cloud
Clyde D. Chism, Fremont

John D. Brookhuis, Fremont
Milo Ostrom, Grant
Howard Grown, Fremont
Geo. K. Bowen, Hesperia
Alto Sherman, Hesperia
David Hopkins, Fremont

Died of Wounds

John G. Frens, Fremont, France

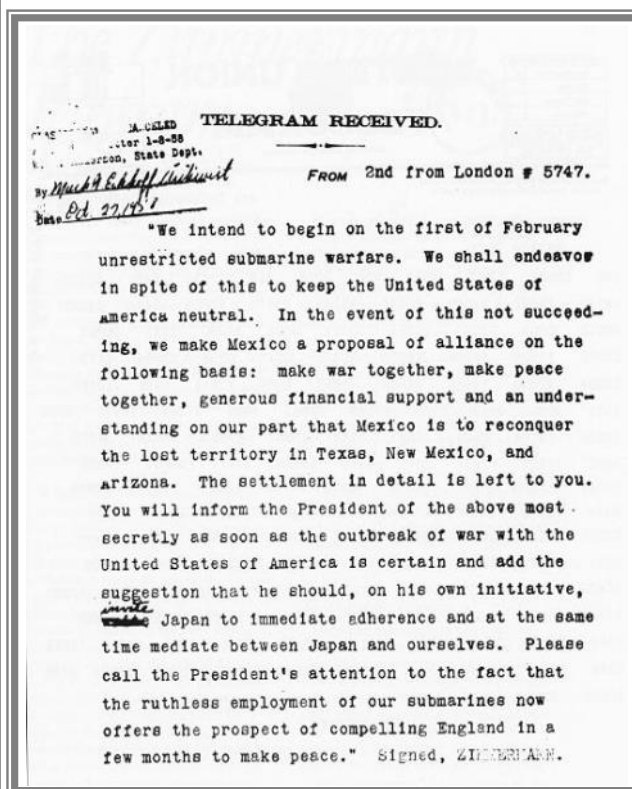
Died of Disease

Carl Reynolds, Hesperia; Great Lakes
Training Station
W. H. Fowler, Hesperia; Camp Custer
Glen Taylor, Fremont; Camp Custer
Bert Lambers, Fremont; Ann Arbor
H. Teisenga, Fremont; Camp Custer
Auren Brown, Grant; France
Wm. Hutchinson; France
Chas. Alvord, Croton; Camp Custer
Dan Covey; Paris, France
A. D. Jordan; Paris, France
Howard Schoolmaster, Fremont; Great
Lakes Training Station

Gassed

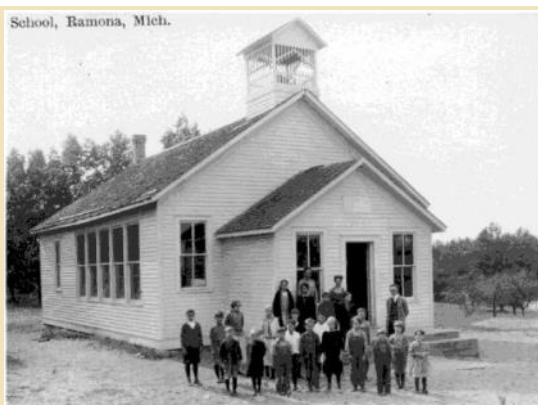
C. C. Upton, Fremont

- Fremont Times Indicator, Jan. 30, 1949



The Zimmerman Note

Intercepted and decoded by the British, this secret telegram from the German Foreign Secretary, A. Zimmerman, to the German ambassador in Mexico, proposed that Mexico ally with Germany against the United States, and, promised Mexico the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in return.



Newaygo County Public Schools

MANY FACTS OF INTEREST TAKEN FROM SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

By Carrie L. Carter, County School Commissioner

The following data taken from the Director's reports for the school year ending July 1, 1922, was prepared by the County Commissioner of Schools.

School Districts in the county	126
Graded school districts.....	5
Three-roomed schools.....	1
One-roomed schools.....	115
Church schools.....	1
School rooms.....	187
Rural Agricultural Districts.....	2
Children on census list.....	5,547
Children enrolled in school.....	4,743
Value of school property.....	\$290,250
Assessed valuation of the districts.....	20,045,828
Tuition paid.....	\$11,088
Total cost of schools.....	\$273,118
Amount of library money received.....	\$678.00
Number of books in libraries.....	17,848
Amount of primary money received.....	\$56,731.86
Or about one-fifth of total cost of the schools.	

These schools are scattered over an area of 864 square miles. Many improvements were made during the summer of 1922.

Croton Agricultural School District has just completed a modern building in which school opened Monday morning, Alfred Wyss, director.

White Cloud is building a large addition which will be a credit to its patrons. It will soon be ready for use. Ford Fry, director

Grant No. 2 remodeled its building last summer by lowering the ceiling, changing the windows so as to have the light from one side. David Branyan, director.

Troy No. 1 moved its building from the county line to a site one mile farther east. This was also remodeled into a modern one-roomed building. A. Huntley, director.

Sheridan No. 1 made extensive repairs by building a new triple flu-chimney and redecorated the walls of the school rooms. Mrs. Laura Castle, director.

Dayton and Denver No. 2 full enlarged the basement, installed a furnace and made other repairs. Wm. Preston, director.

Sherman No. 3 installed a room furnace. John Breuker, director.

Many other districts redecorated the walls of the school room and painted the outside of the building until no longer does the following couplet from Whittier apply to the school buildings of this county.

"Still sits the school house by the road,
A ragged beggar sunning,"

A neat tidy school room has its silent influence for good upon the children that can not be measured.

Wallace Scott, merchant at Bridgeton, gave to Bridgeton No. 1 a gas lighting plant that is appreciated by the pupils and patrons.

Plans are under way in many districts for the home and the annual patrons' day.

These are very helpful in bringing the home and the school together.

Fremont Times-Indicator, January 18, 1923

2017 EXHIBITS

Come see what's new!

KKK

O&A Electric

Norwich Township

Zinn Civil War Collection

Hands-on Pulleys

Native American

School Room

Parlor

newaygocountyhistory.org

Knotty Problem Face Television Engineers

According to latest report, television is still more or less a dream of the future. We know it can be done, and yet, before sound and vision sets become commonplace in the American home, many "kinks" must be ironed out.

One of the first major problems is the matter of distance. While a good radio set will cover the country from coast to coast, no television set has yet been built to approach this range. The present range of the "seeing" broadcast is about 25 miles and network television depends on the lacing of the coaxial cables by which the broadcast can be carried.

Another hitch is in the matter of receivers.

Any set coming upon the market today would have to be very expensive and would, at the same time be very short lived. Even with an old, out-of-date sound receiver you can still hear something. But the moment any change involving new development is made in television transmitters the set you bought yesterday or last week or last month will be worthless because it will not pick up the changed wave bands. Instead of getting merely poor reception you would get nothing.

All in all, television may be "just around the corner," but the corner may be a good deal like another one of those "corners" we've been trying to turn.

-Newaygo Republican, Dec 26, 1935

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Retired**Joe Maile**
Retired**Gene Reid**
Artist/2x Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran**Rick Sharp**
Retired**Ronald James Campbell,
Jockey**

Jim Campbell, son of Ormal and Gladys Campbell of Dayton Township, was born in 1943. He was one of six children in the family. His father began training race horses when Jim was a young boy. Being exposed to this environment and small in stature, an interest in riding was developed.

He performed his first summer as a professional racer in 1956 by racing in county fairs throughout the country. At Ohio's Mercer County Fair in front of 25,000 fans, he won three races, the last one riding his father's horse Lagonda Miss over the mile and an eighth course in 1:52. After these thrills, he returned home to begin his Fremont Jr. High classes.

Jim left home in 1959, at age 16, for a career racing thoroughbreds. In the early

days of his career, he raced all over the country and spent winters racing in Hot Springs, Arkansas and Miami, Florida.

A highlight of his early career was his mount in the 1967 Kentucky Derby aboard Gentleman James. He married twice and had four children.

He eventually settled down with his family in Detroit, where he rode at Hazel Park and The Detroit Race Course, with occasional mounts in Toronto, Cleveland and other nearby tracks.

After hanging up his racing silks in 1994, he became a State Steward for the Michigan Office of Racing Commissioner, working primarily at Mount Pleasant Meadows, until his retirement.

In his free time, Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, canoeing, and cooking. During his travels he met a variety of people who introduced him to various cuisines that he worked into his own specialty dishes. Only the best ingredients would suffice, often coming from his garden or butchered, cured and smoked with the help of his brother, Rod.

He lived his last years near Fremont and was survived by his children, five grandchildren and two sisters at his death in 2015.

- Toni Rumsey

*Fremont Times-Indicator: Aug. 30, 1956
Fremont Times-Indicator, Oct. 15, 2015
shorelinememorial.com, Oct. 14, 2015*

SCHOOL NOTES
High School

We are having a hard time studying these fine days.

The high school is purchasing a large flag to place in the assembly room.

English III is making a study of John Milton's minor poems.

The Junior play, "Aaron Boggs, Freshman" will be given at Volney next Saturday night.

The real American patriotism is felt and shown by all the students of the school.

English IV enjoyed a great deal of guessing on the last examination.

If your lawn needs raking, engage the services of Miss Reynolds. She has not had much experience, but promises to get in better form by practice.

The mumps and measles have once more been extinguished.

We are anticipating a strike of the teachers. Higher pay? No, spring fever.

- Hesperia Union, April 20, 1917

Heritage Speaker Series

3rd Wednesday of the Month

May 17 - Stephanie Zinn

Emma's War; Michigan Woman Enlists as a Soldier in the Civil War

June 21 - Michael Deeb

Lincoln Assassination Theories

July 19 - Elon Howe

Mason to Fiddle Maker

Free Admission

Doors Open at 5:30 pm

Speaker Begins at 6:30 pm

Cream Puffs
AT
Schurger's Home Bakery
Friday and Saturday
20 cents per dozen

White Cloud Eagle, April 19, 1917

HISTORY OF WHITE CLOUD

By Velma Fowler, White Cloud Union Newspaper, Oct. 1, 1925

White Cloud is located in Wilcox Township and is in the county seat of Newaygo County. It is located on White river, and on the junction of the Pere Marquette railroad which was built between White Cloud and Big Rapids about the year 1870. It is, therefore, a good industrial center, as it has its own electricity, water power and good ways of transportation. It is also on an intersection of the Michigan state trunk line, numbers 54 and 24 respectively. This gives a good tourist trade.

The chief reason for the settling of White Cloud, was for its valuable timber. It was at first only a lumbering camp and every other house was a saloon, but it has banished saloons and is now a very prosperous little village.



Wilcox Ave. Looking East

Some pioneer settlers were: S. N. Wilcox, James Morgan, Alonza Scudder, William Falkerson Sr., Fred Ramsey, James and Fred Gibbs, Charles Decker, James McLeod, William Ross, Charles Wilcox and Lee Mason. Prominent business men of today are: Charles E. Wilson, A. Q. Adams, Getty Rosenberg, W. S. Bird, Ray W. Gannon, Louis W. Fuller, James and George Patterson, Ray C. Sanders, W. E. Barnhard and others.

At first White Cloud did not make as much progress as it might have on account of another small village just west of it. The two villages (White Cloud and Alleyton) were too close together for both to flourish. White Cloud gradually grew and Alleyton declined until nothing was left but a few scattered buildings. It was disputed between these two villages as to where the school house should be built, but it was finally decided to have it at White Cloud. In 1923 a new addition was built on the school house making it one of the best in Newaygo County. It was put on the accredited or university list in 1923.

The first church was the Congregational which was built in 1875 at a cost of \$800. It was then called the Union church with James Warden as first pastor. There are now four other churches in White Cloud. Namely, the Methodist Episcopal, Rev. George VanWingerden, pastor; the Seventh Day Baptist, Rev. Lemuel Branch, pastor; the Swedish and the Catholic, Fr. Van Gessel, priest.



Other early buildings were: the Hayward building built by James Morgan, the Murray building, the Caswell house and the present shoe factory which was used as a skating rink and billiard parlor, and at an early date it housed a bicycle factory, machine shop, and afterwards, as Dr. Vernon's feed barn. About 1920 or '21, it was remodeled and used as a shoe factory with F. H. Welch as manager. Other factories now are: the Canning factory, A. L. Swangren, manager; Selin's Planing mill and two pickle stations.

White Cloud was incorporated in 1879. It was then called Morgan for James Morgan who came about 1868. It was renamed chiefly through the efforts of S. N. Wilcox also an early settler. It is said that Morgan and



Pere Marquette Depot

Wilcox were enemies.

Pioneer doctors were: Hollis Reed, who came in 1879, and Reuben S. Trask who came in 1880. Present doctors are: Dr. J. C. Brach, Dr. H. J. Turner and Dr. P. T. Waters.

The population in 1883 was 450 and in 1922, a little over 600.

The greatest improvement toward making White Cloud a flourishing village was the building of gravel roads. In 1912, there were only three gravel roads leading about a half mile from White Cloud. Now there are gravel roads in all directions, extending for many miles. The need for good roads was not a priority as in 1912 there were only three automobiles in White Cloud. They were owned by Henry Forwood, M. D. Hayward and Zean Trumble. Now they are so numerous that White Cloud has five garages besides the salesrooms. The garages are owned by Glenn G. Webster, Ralph Fry, Foster Mudgett, Roy Rivait and H. J. Hanson.

About 1917, the farmers organized a cooperative association. They bought the old Fitzgerald mill and are now doing a prosperous business with Lee Twing as manager.

When it was time to decide where the court house should stand, Fremont, Newaygo and White Cloud all wanted it. It was decided to have it at White Cloud when they deeded their town hall to the county for a court house. That was about 1919 or 1920.



Courthouse, White Cloud



County Jail

In 1922, the county began to build a jail at White Cloud, which was completed in 1923. This addition to the town makes a great difference in the appearance of Main Street. The building cost about \$20,000 all told.

The White Cloud Park was deeded to the state two or three year ago and was made a state park. The state has since built a baseball diamond and cinder track there. The White Cloud Sailors' and Soldiers' Reunion, which has been held in the park annually for a number of years, was a great success this year.

White Cloud, as a small village, boasts a very good weekly newspaper. It is edited by C. E. Cooper.

The dam at White Cloud was built in 1873. The first mill was also built in that year.

The first station agent was William Ross. The agent now is J. B. Hopper.

The first hotel in White Cloud was located on Caswell's corner later being moved to where Decker's Oil Station now stands. It was afterwards used an implement store, then torn down and an oil station built.



Altogether, White Cloud has made great progress in a few years. ~



The Catch

You asked me if I caught anything?
 Well, now, I didn't catch fish.
 But still I made as grand a catch
 as anyone could wish.
 I caught a glimpse of the work of God,
 with another day begun.
 I caught a sight for which artists strive,
 the glory of a rising sun.
 I caught gentle breezes on my brow,
 the morning mist in my hair.
 I caught cloud filtered rays of sun
 And nature's perfumed air.
 I caught the sound of singing birds;
 The sight of a squirrel at play.
 I caught the wonder of the world,
 The awe of a breaking day.
 No, Mister, no. I didn't catch fish,
 but that doesn't matter, you see,
 When I catch all the glories that nature
 unfolds and puts on display for me.

- Newaygo Newt

ASK DRILL FOR INDIAN BOYS

Commission Urges that
 15,000 Pupils In Schools be
 Trained for War Service

A recommendation that 15,000 Indian boys of the various Indian schools and reservations throughout the country be organized, armed, equipped and drilled under regular army officers and unanimously adopted by the United States board of Indian commissioners.

The resolution was forwarded to Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior in Washington.

The plan calls for 13 full regiments of 1,000 each. The commissioners said they were

confident the full quota could be secured, especially in case of emergency.

The resolution was offered by Commissioner Edward E. Ayer of Chicago, who stated that he already had presented the plan unofficially to Secretary Lane. Mr. Ayer said the secretary had approved and forwarded it to Newton D. Baker, secretary of war, who in turn approved and sent it to Maj. Gen Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff. The latter, Mr. Ayer said, recommended it to the war college.

- *Hesperia Union*, April 27, 1917



WE wash cars. We take care of cars. We do everything in the garage line about cars. Can we be of service to you with your car? This is an up to date, right on the job garage—reliable, efficient, reasonable. Put us to the test. We can make good. We please patrons.



WHITE CLOUD GARAGE

F. S. MUDGET, Prop.

WHITE CLOUD, MICHIGAN

Citizens Phone No. 23 2r

White Cloud Eagle, May 5, 1917

Thank you!

Thank you to these wonder-workers who toiled throughout the winter to improve the exhibits. Thank you, also, to these businesses for their generous gifts of in-kind goods and services.

Jane Bode-Fowler

Shirley Brooks

Joyce Carpenter

Phyllis Carlson

Ken, Deb, and Jamin Fisher

Beulah Fowler

Larry Gouine

Joan Wise

Dudley Irwin

Dave Moore

Gene & Helen Reid

Bill Ridderman

Marie Rose

Toni Rumsey

Joyce Patrick

Steven & Karen Potter

Rick Sharp

Eduardo Sanchez

Vivian Sorden

Chuck Vannette

John and Jackie Veenstra

Paul and Nancy Vlahakis

City of Newaygo

Elizabeth Halsey Boutique

Engle Painting

Parsley's Sport Shop

Rau Electric

Terry's Furniture & Carpeting

Dale Wenz

Many thanks as well to our staff and families for their support.

Thank you!



Hesperia Union, April 20, 1917

Men's Fashion History

In World War I, in order to secure a seal on a gas mask, men had to be clean-shaven (this did not affect mustaches)." As a result, beards and sideburns went quickly out of fashion in the early twentieth century.

Greetings!

We invite you stop by this summer and see the great things our Volunteers and Staff have accomplished over the winter. The school room and parlor have switched places and have both been given a new look, and the Military Room has handsome new carpet.

Have a seat surrounded by prints from the **Zinn Civil War Collection** as you read the story of the envelope received by the Newaygo Post Office containing the correspondence of a Civil War soldier from Croton and the story uncovered by postal historians.

View the **Ku Klux Klan** display as you enter the Gangster/Bootlegger exhibit and consider the social climate of the 1920s which accepted the presence of the KKK in Newaygo County. Propaganda techniques are also presented.

The Native Circle has created a setting that represents their lives before Europeans came to the land. Their final interpretive panels should be completed in time for Memorial Day weekend. The **2nd Annual Native Gathering** is scheduled for **September 23 & 24th**, in Brooks Park.

If you haven't yet been in to view the **Gerber Pea Story** exhibit, you may want to do so soon as Nestle may be replacing it with another presentation sometime this summer.

NEW BOOK PROJECT: Please make an appointment if you need help getting started on your family history project. Family graduations, weddings, Mother's Day, and picnics are a great time to connect and collect family details! Add your family's story and make **Volume 2 of Newaygo County History and Biographies** a gift your kids and grandkids will appreciate when they get to be our age! Download your information packet and generational chart at: newaygocountyhistory.org/book-project Deadline is October 31.

\$10,000 MATCHING GRANT: Available from the Fremont Area Community Foundation, if we raise **\$20,000 by 12.31.17**. Your history is our mission! Your donations make exhibit improvements and artifact collection preservation possible! Thank you.

Remember, if you would like to receive an **email notice** when newsletters become available, please sign up at: newaygocountyhistory.org/newsletters-1

Gems of Newaygo County's history await your discovery! Visit us **Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm**. Our monthly **Heritage Speaker Series** will again be the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Thank you for your support!

In appreciation,
Roxanne

Here is my/our gift of support to be applied towards the **\$10,000 MATCHING GRANT** available from the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Enclosed is my/our gift of: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 Other: _____ Ck# _____

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

The Gerber Foundation
Enhancing the quality of life of infants and young children

Thank you!



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