

The Clara Waldron Historical Room:

A Treasure Trove of Local Historical
Resources

By Chuck Harpst,
Reference/Local History Librarian

Historical Room Mission Statement

- Since its founding in 1974, the Tecumseh District Library's Clara Waldron Historical Room has pledged itself to preserving and interpreting the unique history of Tecumseh and the Lenawee County area and encouraging community interest in local history to ensure that present and future generations can share in and understand their rich heritage.
- (Adopted by the TDL's Board of Trustees on November 15, 2006)

Historical Room History

- In 1974, TDL created the first Clara Waldron Historical Room (CWHR), which was located in a small room in the basement. The room was named in honor of Clara M. Waldron, author of One Hundred Years a Country Town, a history of Tecumseh from 1824 to 1924.
- The Historical Room moved to its current location in 2010.

Clara Waldron



One Hundred Years A Country
Town by Clara Waldron.

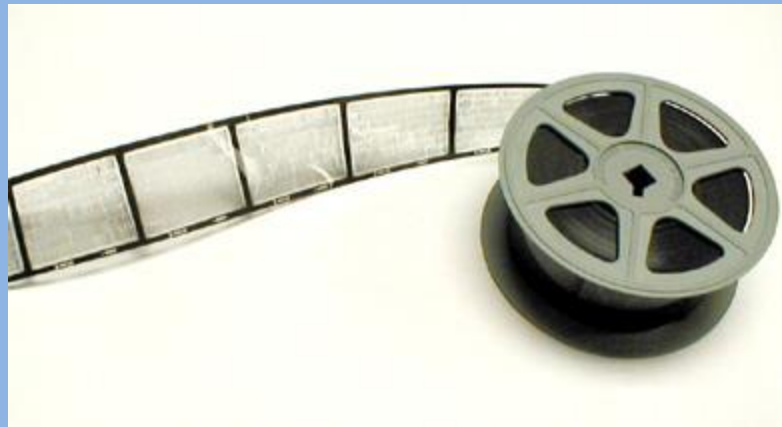
Scope of the Collection

- The collection primarily includes material on the city of Tecumseh and the area covering the Tecumseh School District. Subjects include the history of the area's settlement and growth, government, schools, churches, clubs, businesses, architecture, and individuals important to Tecumseh's history and development.

Newspapers on Microfilm

- **TECUMSEH NEWS**
- 1884-1894
- 1912
- 1914
- **TECUMSEH HERALD**
- October 1850 – December 1856 (plus the front page of March 5, 1857)
- March 12, 1857 – November 11 1858
- June 25, 1863 – November 8, 1866
- November 19, 1874 – December 28, 1876
- 1878 – 1920
- 1922 to the present

- There are alphabetical indexes of births, marriages, and deaths for the Tecumseh Herald for 1850 – 2013.
- The index notebooks are located on top of the filing cabinets next to the microfilm storage cabinets.



Atlas, Plat Maps & City Maps

- Lenawee County atlases for the following years are available:

1874, 1893, 1916

- Also on hand is a small collection of Lenawee County plat maps and Tecumseh city maps, including a Sanborn map of Tecumseh, Michigan, 1922.

Yearbooks

- Junior High/Middle School paperback annuals dating back to 1970 are available. Senior High School hardcover and paperback yearbooks (called either “ANATH” or “SENIOR ECHOES”) dating back to 1919 are available. Editions from 1950 through the present are stored on the shelves. Older issues are storied in acid-free boxes.

Directories

- Tecumseh: 1869, 1877, 1883, 1893, 1895, 1900, 1930, 1951
- Lenawee County: 1897, 1915, 1916, 1927, 1940, 1953, 1968
- State of Michigan Gazetteer of Business Directory, 1856

Scrapbooks and Ledgers Collection

- Minutes of meetings, club program booklets, business records, ledgers, and scrapbooks from over 50 businesses, clubs and governmental units have been collected.
- The archives include the Kiwanis Club of Tecumseh, the Little Garden Club, the Tecumseh Music Club, the Tecumseh Monday Club, the Wit & Wisdom Club, the Al Meyers Airport, and the extensive Perry Hayden diary and ledger collection.

Tax Assessment Rolls for the Village of Tecumseh

- Tax rolls from the mid-1880s through the mid-1940s and a few ledgers of voter registrations are available for research. These collections are still in the process of preservation and organization.
- Microfilm rolls of tax rolls for the following years are available for viewing: 1893, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929.

Pamphlet Files

- Fragile material such as newspaper clippings, brochures and pamphlets are stored in acid-free folders in file cabinets. Material is arranged by subject and filed in either the extensive Tecumseh Pamphlet File or the Michigan Pamphlet Files, which included materials about Lenawee County.

Newsletters

- The newsletters of the Tecumseh Area Historical Society, the Lenawee County Family Researchers and the Tecumseh Public School District have been collected and are archived. The current newsletters of the Tecumseh Area Historical Society and the Lenawee County Historical Society are displayed on the research tables.

CENSUS MICROFILM ROLLS

- Lenawee County: 1850 – 1930

Rev. Michener +70	1	2		Joseph Hagen 17H	1	1	1
Sam. Chapman	1	2		David Ladd	1	1	1
Wishard Griswold	1	3		David Ladd	1	1	1
Sam. Griswold	3	2	6	Abner Ladd	1	1	1
Nathan Lord	2	7	2	Yehraim Tracy	1	2	2
Abraham Mills	2	7	2	Joshua Smith	2	2	2
Nathan Robinson	3	1	3	Joshua Smith 2	1	2	2
Wm. G. Edwards	2	2	5	John Cook	1	2	2
Comfort Williams	2	3	6	Abner Ladd	3	2	6
Amos Williams	1	1	3	James Armstrong	1	1	2
Reuben King	2	1	3	Calvin Huntley	1	1	3
Isaac Armstrong	1	4	1	John Smith	3	2	2
Sam. Griswold	4	1	5	Sam. Smith	1	1	3
Mela Armstrong	1	4	3	Hope Armstrong	2	2	2
John Mathews	4	2	6	Levi Armstrong	1	2	2
John Mathews 2	1	1	2	Benjamin Labin	2	1	3
Lyndell Mathews	1	1	2	John Taylor	1	2	2
John Armstrong	3	3	3	Joseph Ayers	3	3	3
Amos Armstrong	3	3	3	John Ayers	1	1	1
Eda Armstrong	2	2	2	George Ayers	1	2	5
Alpheus King	1	2	5	Sam. Ayers	1	5	3
Martha King	1	2	2	Martin Bell	1	1	2
William King	2	2	2	Parrell Bell	1	1	2
John E. King	2	1	5	Pinchas Beck	3	3	3
Samuel Ladd	3	2	2	Jonathan Emerson	1	2	2
Isaac Ladd	2	1	6	Joseph Ladd	2	2	3
Joseph Ladd	2	1	4	Joseph Hyde	2	2	2
Stephen Ladd	2	2	4	Solomon Ladd	2	2	2
Jeremiah Ladd	3	1	2	Orvil Edgerton	1	3	3
Major Hagen	2	2	3	Joseph Scott	3	3	4

BLUEPRINTS

- The architectural firm of MARR & MARR donated several blueprints and drawings for buildings that have been projects of the Herrick Foundation. These buildings are in the Lenawee County area.

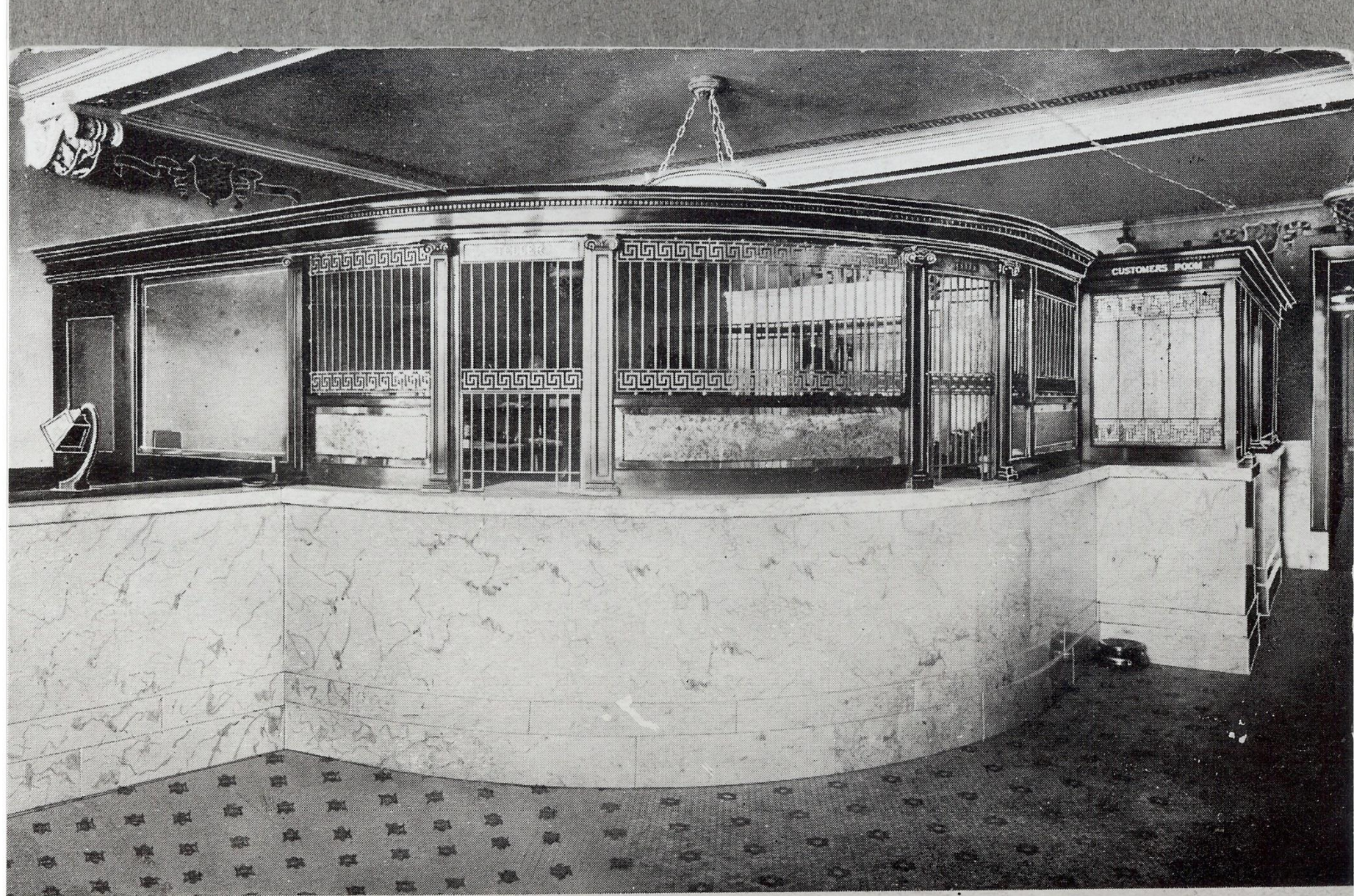


Photographs and Slides

- There are over 600 photographs of the Tecumseh area dating from 1860.
- There is also a collection of color slides dating from the late 1950's through the 1960's taken by Tecumseh residents Joe Rice and Donald Berkley. Mr. Rice documented much of the construction going on in Tecumseh at that time. Through the use of memorial funds, the slide collections have been duplicated as prints for easier access to patrons and organized for better preservation of the original slides.







The Lilley State Bank, Tecumseh, Mich.





Films

- Tecumseh resident Leon Rosacrans made seven black and white silent home movies of the Tecumseh area between 1927 and about 1950. Subjects featured include Henry Ford, Perry Hayden's Dynamic Kernels project, Tecumseh Products Company, and the Irish Hills area of Lenawee County. These films have been transferred onto one videotape. The family of John Saling also donated a videotape of home movies depicting familiar Tecumseh scenes, events, and citizens, including the downtown area, sledding, Tecumseh Products Company staff, and Ray Herrick.

Oral History Videotapes

- Tecumseh District Library produced a set of oral history videos that features twenty-eight interviews conducted by Mrs. Diane Proctor and videotaped by Mr. Harry Sabourin during the summer and fall of 1989. Lifelong residents and citizens instrumental in Tecumseh's history shared their memories and commentaries. Participants included:
- Donald Berkley, Elizabeth Kidman Boyce, Richard P. Boyd, Lillian Buttolph, William Chase, Harriet Colyer (relative of Clara Waldron), Fred Dickinson, Merlyn Downing, Bernice Duncan, Dr. Richard Dustin, Harold Easton, George Elliott, Bob Gerweck, Albert Hammond, Sue Hoot, George Kempf, Barb Kruger, Wallace MacGeorge, Charles Manley, Albert Merz, Frances Pennington, William Powell, Olis Puffer, Frances Rathbun, Ned Rosacrans, Magdalena Saling, E. L. "Speck" Simmons and Nellie Wilson.

More Videotape Details

- The videotapes give viewers an “up close and personal” account of Tecumseh’s development. Subject areas discussed include: education, medicine, city government and services, Tecumseh Products, churches, Clara Waldron, downtown businesses, neighborhoods, local organization and clubs, banks, the military, the Depression, the Tipton community, family life and women’s roles. The length of the tapes varies from 30 minutes to 1 1/2 hours.

Books

- There is a small collection of standard histories of the Tecumseh area and Lenawee County. Other useful multi-volume resources include the Michigan Pioneer Society, the Germans to America Series II: List of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports in the 1840s, the Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files, the Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, and the Names of Soldiers Who Died in Defense of the American Union, interred in the National Cemeteries, accompanied by the Index to the Roll of Honor.

Handling Materials and Photocopying

- Materials in the CWHR are often fragile. Please handle all items carefully and observe the following guidelines:
- Turn pages of books carefully.
- Close books when not in use. Leaving them open or open face down damages the spine.
- Do not write in or on any material.
- Do not turn down corners of pages.
- Handle photographs by the edges only.
- Do not remove photographs from the plastic Mylar sleeves.
- Leave photographs face down on top of the file cabinet when you are done.

More Photocopying Guidelines

- Nothing in the CWHR collection may be photocopied without permission from the library staff. The heat and light from the photocopier accelerate the aging process of materials. In order to preserve the valuable items contained in the collection, permission to photocopy will be given at the library staff's discretion. Original photographs may be copied by camera only, never by the photocopier.

- Questions