

# TYRONE GLEANINGS

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## MAYNARD'S RAMBLINGS:

Kent City days Sept. 12, 2009 are over. What a wonderful day – so different than last year when the rain really came down on the parade. We had a nice attendance to our open house and we were privileged to have the Dulcimer Players who provided us with 1 ½ hours of old time music. They sure were good! I want to thank all the members that turned out to help and brought delicious food for lunch. A big thank you goes to Nellie Afton for offering a quilt to raffle but because of time restraint - due to the wind storm that prevented us from having a meeting in August - we were unable to get things in order to sell tickets before Kent City days. Nellie says she will have another quilt ready for next year and you can bet she will.

We have two new members: Mary Bjork and Carolyn Clark. Welcome aboard. We also lost a long time member, Jean “Homrich” Collins. Jean was a neighbor of mine when we were growing up. We went to grade and high school together. She was my age but a year ahead of me in school. Jean will be missed by all of us.

We have had some nice things added to the museum. Franklin Wegal has donated a large oxen yoke in beautiful condition. This yoke came to this area in the 1800's when his ancestors came to Michigan. Lowell Johnson has loaned us an old trunk that his ancestors brought with them when they came from New York to Ohio in 1825 and finally coming to Michigan in 1854. Wouldn't this have some stories to tell? I have some connection to this as I'm related to Lowell. Joe Clark also loaned us an interesting article which came out of the house his family originally built and owned in 1888. It is located on the southeast corner of 18 Mile Rd and Fruitridge. When some remodeling was being done, on the back of a board being removed was a paper attached which I would call a label for delivery. It said, “Lyman Clark, Casnovia, Mich from White, Friant & Letellier, Grand Rapids, Mich.” It still has the square nails that held it in place.



**Please mark your calendar for the next 3 meetings at 1:00pm  
Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8**

## TYRONE TOWNSHIP

Tyrone was originally a part of Sparta Township until it was organized separately in 1855. It was named for Tyrone, New York. The first known residents were Mrs. Louisa Scott and her family who settled in the southwest section of the township in 1849.

Mrs. Scott boarded the workmen who were cutting the state road through the forest from Grand Rapids north to Newaygo and on over to Big Rapids. This is now known as the Kenowa Road. John Brooks of Newaygo was one of those cutting the road and he was paid off in land which was located north of Lisbon.

In 1848 Lot Fulkerson along with friends and family left Hillsdale County and came to Grand Rapids in search of new land. There they learned of John Brooks and his property and agreed to buy land in the area where Casnovia is now located for about \$1.25 per acre. In 1850 Lot Fulkerson erected a small log house on the site of the present Casnovia School. He opened a tavern for travelers which was known as "Half-Way House". It was on the state road. In 1853 a post office was opened in Mr. Fulkerson's tavern. The post office name was "Casnovia Corners".

It took an act of the State Legislature of 1875-76 to organize Casnovia Village, since it is located partly in both Kent and Muskegon counties. At that time, the village had a population of 300 with a new brick school, two general dry goods stores, two grocery stores, two hardware stores, a drugstore, three millinery stores, one furniture store, two blacksmith shops, a grain elevator, livery stable, hotel and I.O.O.F. lodge.

Kent City, the other thriving community in Tyrone Township, owes its existence to the Grand Rapids, Newaygo and Lake Shore Railroad which was built in 1873. Kent City was settled in 1874 and was so named because it was entirely in Kent County. A depot was erected by the village and other businesses soon developed.

The first school in the township was organized in 1853, when a small log house was built near the home of Mrs. Scott. This was used as a school until 1881. By that year there were seven school districts with 434 school children in the township and 12 teachers, whose total salaries were \$1,323. The entire school budget for the year 1881 in the township was \$2,523.13.

Today, Kent City has a population of 1,061 and despite its name, is still just a village. The village population has remained steady the past few years, but the area surrounding it is attracting new residents, particularly mobile home dwellers. The village of Casnovia has about 400 permanent dwellers but the numbers swell from May through October with the annual influx of migrant workers who come to help pick the fruit which grows so abundantly on many of the farms in the area.

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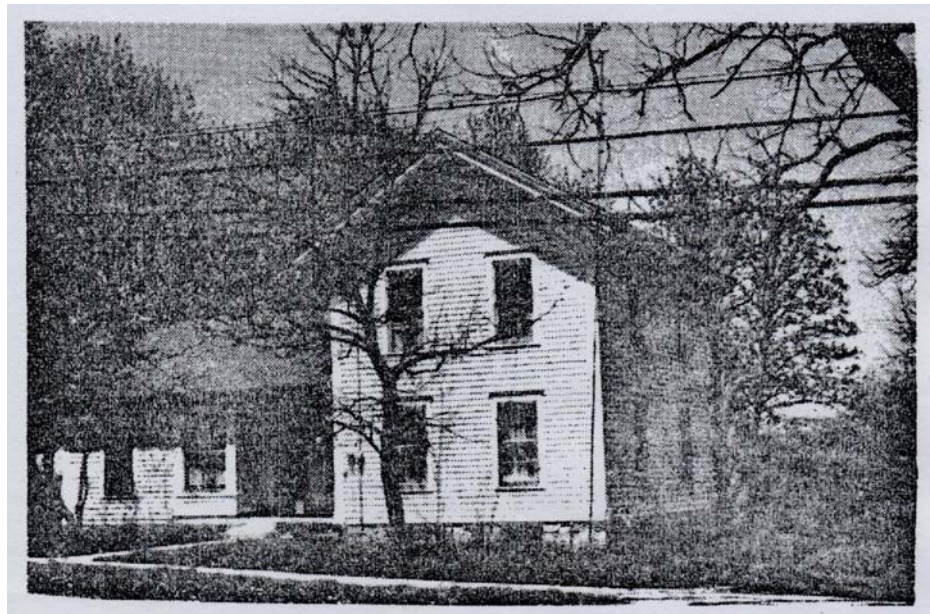
*This was taken from the Nov. 1, 1917 Casnovia Herald-*

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank was selling Liberty bonds. This was the second issue and the government had arranged to give a "badge of honor" to each person buying a bond. 178 people signed up. Here are some names I recognize. How many of these do you?  
Floyd Bull, Ethel Bull, A.H. Haring, Austin McCune, Courtney & Floyd Afton, Fred Woodwork, Everitt Morton, Roy Ransom, Lowell Stinson, Sammuel J. Drummond, Howard Roland and Hazel Doyle.

After putting the steps in, the men decided to replace a chunk of sidewalk that had gone bad. This was a summer job the Historical Society had done.



This is the oldest house in Casnovia. It's located at 91 E. Waterloo St. It was built originally for The Treadway family in about 1876. The Leusenkamps owned it and lived there for many years. It is now owned by Dennis Kober.



## What Is A Farmer?

WELL, THAT DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON WHERE YOU STAND:

To his wife, he's a big eater, a heavy sleeper and a worry.

To his minister, he's a believer in God, in nature, and nature in God.

To a politician, he's a someone you talk about during elections.

To a business man, he's a customer.

To the banker, he's a depositor.

To his neighbors, he's a friend.

To his children, he's a man who always has a chore for them.

To his dog, he's a man with a quiet voice.

To the grocer, he's a Godsend.

To the dairy operator, he's a name on a milk check.

To the insurance agent, he's a big risk.

To the mechanic, he's a mechanical wizard who fixes things himself.

To the doctor, he's a physical wonder.

And to himself, well, only he can tell you that — but chances are, he won't.

So many of us are from a farm background so I thought you might enjoy this little article

### H. J. Kelly

A native of the Empire State Her Kelly came to Michigan in 1879 and opened a shop in Casnovia. A few years later moved to Kent City and set up shop on the east side of the road, a little north of the railroad. The fire of 1907 destroyed his shop so he moved to the west side of the road and built a new business. He had a wagon and general woodworking repair shop and a lunch room.

Mr. & Mrs. Kelly were married in 1892 and were the parents of seven children.