



Mount Clemens Public Library

Local History Sketches

A Mount Clemens Time Line

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1700s

1797 - John Brooks builds a distillery in the area of present-day Mount Clemens

1798 - Christian Clemens makes his first journey to the area now known as Mount Clemens

1800s

1801 - Christian Clemens acquires 500 acres of land in present-day Mount Clemens

1810s

1818 - Village platted by Christian Clemens and named Mount Clemens

1818 - Mount Clemens becomes the county seat of the newly-formed county of Macomb

1820s

1821 - January 12 - Mount Clemens post office is established

1824 - July - The name of the Huron River is changed to Clinton River by act of the Michigan Territorial Legislature

1830s

1834 - October 14 - The Baptist Society is organized

1835 - Ebenezer Hall establishes the village's first industry, Mount Clemens Glass Works

1835 - April 10 - Presbyterian Church is organized

1838 - Construction of the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal begins with a celebration in Mount Clemens

1839 - Site of St. Peter Roman Catholic Church donated by Christian Clemens

1840s

1840 - First Macomb County Courthouse built

1841 - June 2 - Mount Clemens' Masonic Lodge is organized

1844 - Aug. 25 - Christian Clemens dies

1849 - Grace Episcopal Church organized

1850s

1853 - November 9 - Mount Clemens' first volunteer fire company is organized

1855 - Clinton Grove Cemetery established

1857 - Feb. 20 - Union School District, forerunner of the present Mount Clemens Community School District, is organized

1859 - Union School building erected on the site of present-day Macomb School

1859 - Donaldson Brothers Foundry established

1859 - Grand Trunk railroad comes through Mount Clemens

1860s

1862 - Twelve-year-old Thomas Edison saves the life of the stationmaster's son at the Mount Clemens Grand Trunk depot

1864 - July 3 - Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church organized

1865 - Mount Clemens Public Library is organized in a classroom on the third floor of the Union School

1870s

1870 - Dorr Kellogg discovers the therapeutic properties of Mount Clemens mineral water

1873 - August Biewer establishes the Clinton River Brewery

1873 - July 10 - Mount Clemens first bath house, The Original, opens to the public

1879 - March 17 - Mount Clemens is incorporated as a city

1879 - Joshua Dickinson is elected first mayor of Mount Clemens

1880s

1880 - August 15 - The Old Crowd holds its first reunion

1880 - The first telephone service in Mount Clemens is established

1882 - Medea Bath house is constructed

1882 - November 5 - The Methodist Church building, known as the "Green Church" because it was discolored by fumes from the mineral baths, is dedicated

1886 - Fountain Bath house is constructed

1888 - Fountain Bath house gets the first electric service in Mount Clemens

1890s

1892 - Park Hotel opens

1892 - The Mount Clemens Police Department is established by city ordinance

1893 - Clementine Bath House built

1892 - Hubarth & Schott Company formed

1894 - Egnew Hotel, to be known in later years as Clinton Gables, opens

1895 - July - Electric street railway begins operation between Mount Clemens and Detroit

1896 - May 25 - Mount Clemens experiences a devastating tornado

1896 - December 1 - Colonial Hotel and Bath House opens

1899 - June - Alexander Macomb Chapter of the DAR organized

1899 - November 21 - St. Joseph Sanitarium, later St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, is dedicated

1900s

1901 - Macomb Sugar Company, later Mount Clemens Sugar Company opens its beet sugar processing factory

1901 - *Mount Clemens Daily Leader* founded

1901 - May 31 - Memorial cannons are dedicated on the lawn of the Macomb County Courthouse.

1902 - Plaza Bath House opens

1904 - Mount Clemens Public Library moves into its first permanent home, the Carnegie library

building

1908 - Jewish synagogue organized in Mount Clemens

1909 - July 4 - "Leap the Dips," a large roller coaster, opens on the banks of the Clinton River, near the site of the present Mount Clemens Municipal Building

1910s

1913 - September 29 - John Philip Sousa's Concert Band performs at the Bijou Theater in Mount Clemens

1915 - Production begins at Mount Clemens Pottery

1917 - Selfridge Field is established

1919 - Henry Ford-*Chicago Tribune* libel case is tried in Mount Clemens

1920s

1920 - National Candy Company builds a plant in Mount Clemens at 332 Cass, a building which would later house Copeland Products, Covered Wagon, and Ironrite, among other firms.

1921 - The first African-American Baptist church in Mount Clemens, now Greater Morningstar Missionary Baptist Church, is organized

1921 - Hacker Boat Co. begins manufacture in Mount Clemens

1921 - July 25 - Macomb Theatre opens for business

1921 - November 8 - Voters approve funds to purchase and develop Shadyside Park

1923 - March 10 - J.H. Malbin & Sons furniture store opens for business

1924 - Fountain Hotel burns

1924 - New Mount Clemens High School on Cass Avenue opens to students

1924 - April 14 - Mount Clemens begins installation of its first traffic lights, at eight intersections: Gratiot & Macomb, North Walnut & Macomb, Cass & Walnut, Cass & Gratiot, New & Court, New & Pearl, Cass Hotel corner, and Market & Gratiot.

1925 - Seminole Hills area annexed to the city

1930s

1931 - Cornerstone laid for new Macomb County building

1933 - December - The "flatiron" building is razed to make way for the widening of Gratiot Avenue

1935 - December - The Covered Wagon Company begins manufacture of travel trailers at 332 Cass

1936 - January 24 - The *Mount Clemens Monitor* urges local governments to stem the flow of raw sewage into the Clinton River

1940s

1940 - Park Hotel torn down

1942 - *Daily Leader* and *Mount Clemens Monitor* merge to form *Monitor-Leader*

1945 - Mount Clemens General Hospital opens at 134 Macomb

1945 - August 27 - Gen. Charles DeGaulle visits Selfridge Field to call on Free French troops stationed there

1946 - U.S. Supreme Court rules in the case of *Anderson v. Mount Clemens Pottery*

1946 - Ironrite begins manufacture of Ironrite ironers at its Cass Avenue plant

1947 - February - Students at Mount Clemens High School stage a strike to protest the firing of principal Monte McFarlane

1947 - May - WMLN, Macomb County's first FM radio station, goes on the air

1950s

1951 - April 6 - An Air Force amphibious plane crashes into the east wing of the Mount Clemens Civic Center while making an emergency landing.

1951 - June 23 - Metropolitan Beach is dedicated

1951 - August 13 - *The Mount Clemens Story*, a movie featurette shot on location in Mount Clemens, has its world premiere at the Jewel Theater.

1951 - Sept. 3 - Mount Clemens Race Track offers its first auto race under the ownership of Clayton Stubbs

1954 - June 14 - Mount Clemens adopts commission-manager form of city government

1954 - Ruth Westover, first woman elected to city commission, takes office

1955 - Sept. 28 - Union School District becomes Mount Clemens Community School District

1955 - Olympia Hotel and Bath House torn down

1956 - June 21 - Miriam Altman promoted to director of Mount Clemens Public Library

1956 - Sept. 10 - New 100-bed Mount Clemens General Hospital dedicated

1957 - Sept. 11 - The 75-year-old St. Peter Catholic Church is destroyed by fire

1958 - Oct. 13 - The new Mount Clemens Post Office opens for business

1959 - Urban Renewal projects begin in Mount Clemens

1960s

1960 - Sept. 20 - Richard M. Nixon campaigns for the presidency in Mount Clemens

1960 - October 30 - Mount Clemens Municipal Building is dedicated

1963 - Medea Bath house closes

1963 - July 27 - The collapse of a pedestrian bridge across the Clinton River on the Hillcrest Country Club golf course injures 48 people during a golf tournament.

1963 - December - The Stubbs-Slush mansion on South Gratiot, known as Whitehall, is destroyed by a devastating fire

1964 - Oct. 15 - The county's daily newspaper, formerly known as the *Monitor-Leader*, becomes the *Macomb Daily*

1964 - Nov. 8 - Macomb County Historical Society is founded

1967 - New fire station on Dickinson St. dedicated

1967 - Lee Williams, first African-American elected to city commission, takes office

1969 - May 4 - Mount Clemens Public Library's new building on Cass Avenue is dedicated

1970s

1970 - June 3 - Mount Clemens Art Center opens its first exhibit in the former public library building

1970 - June 4 - St. Mary's High School closes after 99 years, leaving only the elementary school in operation.

1970 - November 20 - The John F. Kennedy Macomb Memorial, a bronze sculpture by Marshall M. Fredericks, is dedicated in the plaza south of the Macomb County Court Building.

1971 - July 1 - Selfridge Air Force Base becomes Selfridge Air National Guard Base

1973 - November 1 - Officer Robert J. Ahrens becomes the first and only Mount Clemens police

officer to be killed in the line of duty.

1975 - Park Place Tower is built

1976 - Arethusa Hotel destroyed by fire

1976 - April - Crocker House is moved from Market St. to 15 Union St. to become the home of the Macomb County Historical Society

1977 - New Beth Tephilath Moses Synagogue dedicated

1977 - Clemens Towers is built

1978 - Murphy Hotel razed

1980s

1980 - April 28 - Construction begins to turn Macomb Street into a pedestrian-only mall, renamed Macomb Place.

1982 - June - Priehs' Department Store closes after 86 years in business

1984 - Colonial Hotel destroyed by fire

1986 - March - Mount Clemens Race Track sold to the city, eventually to become Gibraltar Trade Center

1987 - December - Mount Clemens Pottery ceases production after employee buy-out attempt fails

1990s

1991 - Medea hotel razed to make room for new county administration building

1992 - July - City officials re-open Macomb Place to vehicular traffic, after determining that the pedestrian-only mall configuration was detrimental to business.

1993 - December - Mount Clemens Pottery razed

1994 - Mount Clemens Ice Arena & Fitness Center opens

1994 - May 1 - the two-way portion of Gratiot is renamed Main St.

1997 - March - Clinton Gables destroyed by fire

1998 - New Macomb County Administration Building opens on former site of Medea Hotel & Bath House.

2000s

2000 - October 7 - Mount Clemens Coney Island (Barron Building), originally built about 1896, is demolished to make room for a new building

2003 - February 17 - Hubarth & Schott Lumber Yard on Cass Avenue is demolished.

2005 - April 18 - City Commission votes to disband the 113-year-old Mount Clemens Police Department as a cost-saving measure.

2005 - August 27 - The courthouse cannons, removed in 1943 and donated to a WWII scrap iron drive, are replaced with replica cannons by the Mount Clemens Rotary Club, and rededicated in honor of General Alexander Macomb and Col. John Stockton and the 8th Michigan Cavalry Regiment.

2005 - September 22 - Ground is broken for a \$1.6 million renovation and expansion of The Art Center.

2006 - April 3 - Hillcrest Country Club buildings along Groesbeck Highway razed to make way for redevelopment of the property.

2006 - July 18 - The 62-year-old Mount Clemens General Hospital changes its name to Mount Clemens Regional Medical Center after becoming a part of the McLaren Health Care system.

2006 - November 9 - The Mount Clemens Community School District administration building (formerly the John R. Murphy residence) at 167 Cass Avenue is gutted by a suspected arson fire

2007 - June 29 - Mount Clemens opens its first annual Stars & Stripes Festival.

2007 - July 2 - St. Joseph Mercy Hospitals of Macomb change their name to Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals after becoming part of the Henry Ford Health System.

2008 - April 9 - Former John R. Murphy residence at 167 Cass Avenue is razed.

2010s

2010 - August 19 - Mount Clemens and Clinton Township struck by EF-1 tornado

2013 – July/August – Industrial complex at 332 Cass Avenue, originally built for National Candy Company in 1920 and later the home of Copeland Refrigeration, Covered Wagon Company, and Ironrite, razed to make way for new development.

2017- Gibraltar Trade Center closes after property is sold for re-development.