

## CLARENCE AND FLORENCE HANES

Many readers of the *Arisaema* are familiar with the 1947 publication "Flora of Kalamazoo County, Michigan" by Clarence and Florence Hanes and are also familiar with Duane McKenna's comprehensive review and update of the Haneses' findings, field work carried out during and after his study at Western Michigan University and published in the *Michigan Botanist* in May, 2004 (Vol. 43, no. 3).

My intention in this manuscript is to bring to you details of the efforts the Haneses, farmers but both amateur botanists, put forth in preparing their 350 page volume. Clarence kept a short journal of sorts, quoted in McKenna, but it is devoid of the ordinary, human interest, everyday happenings that Florence recorded, for better, for worse.

In the spring of 1947 Clarence Hanes, clad in milking outfit of well-worn overalls and rubber boots, trundled his wheelbarrow down to the Schoolcraft freight station to tote home a 120 pound box, the first shipment of Flora of Kalamazoo County, just arrived from the printer in Maine.

This short trip represented the culmination of a long journey that the dedicated couple had started fourteen years before, a journey whose very human details come to life in the day-at-a-time 3" by 5" diaries Florence kept from 1939-1942 in the most punctilious fashion, tidy Palmer method handwriting included. Daughter of a school teacher, Florence herself taught school briefly. After her death these little books, along with all the Haneses' herbarium sheets and other papers, came to rest at Western Michigan University.

Dr. Richard Phippen introduced me to the diaries some ten years ago and ever since I've had this yen to share the very human story of their intermixture of daily farming and scientific labors with botanists who could appreciate their remarkable, long drawn-out efforts. If you've ever prepared herbarium sheets you will have special insight into the time and labor involved in preparing 1749 sheets.

Daily entries have the same general pattern including specific weather details first, then their day's activities, foods cooked, canned or served, correspondence in or out, family or Schoolcraft Village news, house-hold tasks accomplished, any work done or herbarium sheets or Flora manuscript, and usually a farming update such as "Stopped milking Jeanette tonight." Some selected excerpts drawn from the diaries will tell you the vivid story of years of hard work, both indoor and outdoor. There were entries regarding events of World War II. Parts of a few daily entries here will give you the idea:

January 1, 1939: "Start a new book with little to say except warmer."

January 2: "Scrubbed and waxed half the kitchen floor. Mounted six specimens to start another 100. Clarence sold 500 bu. of his corn."

January 5: "Rats still eating poisoned wheat. Mounted and wrote 8 specimens ... Clarence has headache."

A Childless couple, the Haneses enjoyed many hours with Suzanne Shoemaker, the little girl from next door, perhaps a baby sitting arrangement in part but both of them were devoted to the child whose activities appear throughout the diaries. Florence's main social activity was the Ladies Library Association of Schoolcraft, a very active group in which she carried major leadership responsibility for many years. Clarence was deep into local school affairs, politics and all, and conducted numerous business and real estate affairs for friends and relatives. They had both pressed plants in high school but their botanical knowledge they extracted from

the best texts of the time. (Dr. Edward Voss was still a college undergraduate in an adjoining state.) I have not been able to find any clues as to how they happened to think up doing a county flora.

The Haneses entertained frequently, friends, fellow botanists and especially family members, often as house guests, They lived in a comfortable white house on the main street in Schoolcraft from which location they sold their own milk, eggs and fruits in season. James, Florence's relative, came often, living with them several months at a time to help with heavy spring and summer farm work.

The first five years of the Haneses' active botanizing were conducted laboriously by bicycle or on foot, but by 1933 they had been given an old truck and the January 4, 1939 entry read: "Had a new timer put on the truck. Took Johnsons' Quarter of veal (43# at 10c.) Finished scrubbing and waxing kitchen floor."

Seasonal entries for all four years follow here, beginning with typical winter excerpts:

{Finished weekly cleaning, hall, bath, stairs, living room and dining room. Kitchen did not need much but had to clean up tracks after Shutes boys three times and Clarence once. Sold 3 doz. eggs for 47c. Mounted and wrote up 9 plants.} {Can mincemeat – enough for 22 pies.} Fix up wigs some. (Because of childhood disease Florence had worn a wig for many years.)

{About 4 degrees above freezing at milking time last night and almost 5 below zero at milking time this morning .... Everything beautiful with about an inch of frost hanging to it .... Mount and write 9 spec .... Mrs. Harter called for Johnny Cake rule.} {C. saw "Gone With the Wind" in Kazoo.} {Mount and write 7 sheets of oaks.} {C. at work on everlasting specimens, paper for Academy and letters.} {Apple trees hanging down with loads of snow the most beautiful things in the moonlight at 3:00 A.M.}

{Suzanne here to dinner. Wanted glasses so found her some old ones with only one glass. She looked down and asked "What is the floor doing?" so we take out the other glass.} {Clarence took short trip with Mr. McLinden. I mended stockings.} {Mounted 6 sheets of *Rubus* (3 plants) floracanes and primocanes of each} {Made pie. Mounted 14 specimens in P.M. intending to write them in the evening but Ollie came with some very interesting plants, one an unusual grass.} {Write up plants mounted yesterday 2 of Kenoyer's, 1 of Rapp's and rest of ours. Clarence says they are the last of Kazoo Co's but I'll bet he digs up some more.} {Little time to do more than make soap. Make three batches, 21 to 24 lbs.}

{Wash. Clarence sent a large package of plants to Harvard to place on record. I made "dropped doughnuts" and mush .... Sent for cyclamen seed. No one except milk customers in today. Drifting all day.} {17 below during night. Drain from sink frozen .... Clean upstairs in A.M. Mount 7 specimens in P.M.} {He worked on *Antennaria* and I mounted 5 sheets of those he placed .... Started cleaning bathroom walls.} {Worked out Bird paper for Garden Club} {Played Flinch} {Montgomery Ward bundle comes – sheeting (11 yd) pillow tubing (6 yd), corset, mattress pad and double boiler (27c) for \$7.48.}

{Made beds and slicked and cleaned generally. Baked Jelly Roll cake and a batch of sour cream cookies. Churned 1-3/4# butter.} {First time in my life I ever handled a \$100 bill.} {Clarence got loin pork roast for 16c per pound.} {Cleaned up two old spiders and iron kettle for syrup house.} {Made devil's food cake, cherry custard (good).} {Big washing. 3 extra tubs ... Good apple pie from Rhode Island greenings.}

{Suzanne here about all day. Mounted 6 specimens.} {Men leave me with dishes to go wash syrup pails. Mend a few things. Make cake and two mince pies ... I clean spiles. (tree taps)} {Make milk strainers (2) from sugar sacks.} {I get awful tired in this day after day drive to get work done.} {Heavy fall of snow during night.}

By March each year the Haneses were deep into making maple syrup, a wearing task involving hours of heavy, semi-outdoor work, preparing all necessary equipment in the shanty, hauling buckets of sap, keeping a steady wood fire going, running the evaporator, bottling and selling the syrup, then cleaning and putting everything away when it was all over.} 1942 total 90 gal. from 99 bbls sap.

{Worked all day. Men collected 10 bbls. Made 10 gal and worked until 8 P.M. to get sap all on. Dinner and supper at camp. Baked potatoes, cold meat, kraut and mince pie for dinner.} {Wash – and what a washing. 6 prs. overalls and union suits and everything else according – started before 8 and got the last out at 2 P.M.} {Gathered 9 bbls made 9 gal. Saw song sparrow. Ate dinner and supper down there – creamed dried beef and baked onions and pumpkin pie went pretty well.} {Men clean septic tank – nasty – nasty job}

{Small washing but slow to finish because of lack of electricity. Mounted eight specimens and repaired 5. Hemmed red dress. Men collect 6 bbls of sap.} {Warm enough to keep sap going all night. Meadow lark seen and how the Red wings did sing. Letter from Paul about the flower show. Now must get things ready.} {8 above zero at 7 A.M. ... Clarence wanted to get clover seed in up north but wind and snow prevented.}

{Mounted three specimens and wrote up and corrected the whole batch to go to Detroit (the flower show)} {Rec'd Orchid Book from Cranbrook. Used 2 of our pictures but gave Kazoo County only credit for 16 Orchids.} {Made two pies and crust and some cakes and rusk. Feel some better .... Sold some syrup.} {Suzanne here to dinner, nap and supper. Saw "baby cow" and was quite excited. She said "she bit Peggy's seat" to get its supper.}

{Big washing. Churned about 3 lb. of butter .... George Watkins here all evening – play checkers and put a jigsaw puzzle together.} {Mrs. Nesbitt brings 26 youngsters from 5th and 6th grades to see syrup making. 3 girls came back – pests .... Baked beans today} {Clarence's birthday. Made his usual devil's food cake.} {Go out to Crane Town for hemlock specimens.}

By April when syrup making slowly wound down, house-cleaning, farming and field botanizing took over. {Go to Syrup house for day. Miserable time in kitchen, fire choked when potatoes were baking, etc, hot water used up just as I needed it etc. Glad we are about through. make about 9 gal. of nice syrup.} {Becky had a nice calf this A.M. almost as large as Peggy's and pretty active. Weigh calves – 77 & 73 lbs (today) 73# one to veal.} {Peggy gave 37# of milk when calf was a week old.} {Made 2 batches of sugar, about 15# .... Clarence on innumerable errands, writing and placing syrup.} {Haul two loads of wood with Charlie (their very old horse who died several months later). He was so anxious to get busy that he almost left the men.} {Rain all day .... Clarence distributed specimens. I fixed up Genus sheets and changed a number of names.} {Men worked at "getting up next year's syrup wood."}

{Cool in A.M. but warming. In P.M. go S.E. of Vicksburg to see violets ... Big hickory seemed full of bloom. Saw Baybreasted Warbler ... Saw Meadowlark's nest in Smith field with several babies and one egg. Guess I'm 54 today. Clarence

got new bicycle tire \$1.50. Canned 3 1/2 qts of pie plant.) {Kazoo Garden Club here for dinner – C. took them to tramp to Willard Davis Woods and Island. Tired? Maybe. But they gave us \$5.00}

{Clarence cleaned manure basin in two loads. Planted cucumbers, squash and pumpkins, set cabbage and tomatoes, spaded for and planted morning glories, did some hoeing. Picked three strawberries. Suzanne here to dinner and supper. Worked a little on my paper.} {I cleaned ceiling and walls in living room and windows and curtains, moth dope into our stuffed pieces.} {Helped register men 45 to 65 – find a very interesting group of men.}

{Take all day trip to Dustin Lake and many short stops in Texas and Oshtemo Townships. Do quite a little collecting but can't say yet how much it is worth.} {Men finish manure job – 4 loads in A.M. Got everything back into guest room and worked some on bed spread .... Clarence and I gathered dandelions for greens.} {I mended 15 pr. socks} {Help C. dry dividers, press roses.} {Mount 2 specimens for Suzanne – and she writes 2 ferns.}

{Got up early to spray and iron. I would much prefer staying in bed today. Iron 5 1/2 hrs., get a blister, ache in back but finish. Men put two loads of spray in orchard.} {Clarence loses two teeth and doesn't know how or where. Turn cows out – leave them at night.} {Clarence off on hunt for beeches – red and white – not many blossoming ... Betsy jumps fence into road when Clarence comes home with milk at night.} {Heard dickcissel and saw young quails in flight and the old lady in distress.}

{Sick with something – feel just awful – no work – but plenty of misery. Clarence worked enough for both. Apples still have petals so no spraying today.} { ... all day trip to east side of county. Find things Clarence wanted – “Showy Orchid”, “Butter Cups” ect but no mushrooms} Suzanne has tricycle} {Clarence thinned the peaches and I mounted 17 sheets of plants in the A.M.}

{All day trip to East side of Co. and wind up at Beckers. A little better luck than usual, one new one and a var. and a form.} { ... Made six glasses of strawberry jam ... Work some on Three Rivers Garden Club paper.} {Clarence decided to fix the bath tub so water would run better – he did – it gushes. War news (June 1941) Bad.}

Long summer days meant gardening, amazing amounts of canning, harvesting garden and farm crops, frequent botany trips and lots of company.

{ ... up at 5 for all day trip in Climax Twp. Make several stops where Clarence wishes a checkup. Interesting trip. I get an orchid with seed pod to see if I can mature seed.} {92 at 2:00 P.M. and were on an all day trip with cold meat, onion bread and berry pie for dinner. Clarence couldn't seem to get enough to eat.} {Not very good sleeping. Suzanne awake and wanting me to sleep with her then pokes me because I snore.} {Pd. \$42.50 for marl and spreading.}

{McLinden comes looking for a short tramp to see the whip-poor-will's nest.} {Make first Red Astrician Sauce – good. Use peeling and cores in jelly tomorrow.} {S. had a cooky (found one) and ordered me to “Jam it”, sounded like something else.}

{England getting a little rest today. Heard Willkie accept – good talk. Married 29 years today.} Up early for all day trip in S.E. Kazoo Co. Butternut best find along R.R. and *Muhlenbergii* Oak along River.} {Sweep rugs in bath and back bedroom, make two beds and finish fixing one, do some cleaning in bath all before breakfast.} {Got sox for Suzanne's birthday. Finished apron for Clarence to give

her. She know she's important today but not why.) {Three pictures of *Rubus Hanesii* from Dr. Bailey today.} {Went to Parchment Regions, Three Lakes, Campbell Lake territory and to Lyons Lake (for gentian) and back by Pickerel Lake.}

Arrival of all season brings major apple picking, delivery and sales, constant fatigue, endless canning and vegetable harvesting, election, more field trips and new pullets.

{To Pretty Lake and Pawpaw Lake .... Not the least interesting was a baby puff adder about 7 inches long that exhibited all the tricks of a grown up.} {Left at 9:30 A.M. on all day tramp ... Lyons Lake, Galesburg .... Ate dinner (potato soup, coffee, meat and melon) on bank by road. Here, Clarence found a new coreopsis and a queer berry.}

{Canned enough plums to make 6 qts. Ironed lunch cloth and three sheets and got things ready for LLA Luncheon tomorrow. Clarence working on corn in A.M. In P.M. take field trip – 2 stops at Sugarloaf Lake, one in Portage and two at Austin Lake. Clarence interested in Oaks. Get silver polished and make pad for table in evening.}

{Canning again ... 8 qts of peaches, 4 qts of plums and fixed Shirley's cherries. Clarence dug 1 1/2 bu potatoes and picked peaches, plums and tomatoes.} {Made the second "Apple Sign". Suzanne also making A P P L E signs without mistake – caught on in a hurry.} {Clarence picks 20 bu in A.M. and together we gather from trees and ground 10 more – deliver a few.}

{Clarence goes for cider (24 gal). Neighbors say it is the best they ever had. I can 2 gal. We sell 14 gal ... Bake big batch of cookies.} {Clarence has worked most of day on Botany things but found time to finish Byrd's "Alone."} Made two kinds of candy and dressing to go to Beckers tomorrow (Thanksgiving) and a cake that may go.}

Jeanette's bag is better, using tannic acid now to see if that will toughen it.} {Clarence working on school election most of day when he should have been working in the orchard. only picked 8 bu. sold and delivered a few.} {Did my ironing and went to LLA luncheon. Seating was done skillfully so that warring factors did not come together.} {Lost 4 dollars somehow, probably in making change. Clarence husking popcorn.} {Saw two garter snakes in orchard, one about 8 ft. in an apple tree ... G.E. check of \$27.50 came, same as last time.} {Leave for Kalamazoo with Clarence ... filed our Wills with the Register of Deeds ... Made \$10.00 look sick with 3 pr. stockings, 2 house dresses, rubbers (\$1.65) trimming for red dress and a few small items.} Total canning for 1939 was 102 quarts and 165 pints plus 20 quarts of pickles.

{Two loads of slack in today about 7 tons all told – \$5.50 per.} Clarence planted peach pits in little garden back of house.} Clarence putting in all extra time working on "Flora" making additions, corrections, rewriting some pages.} {C. took boat out of lake.} {Worked out 6 sheets of plants, 5 sedges, hope to goodness that is all of those.} {Suzanne here to supper. Asked if Clarence had to wipe dishes, he didn't so she didn't.}

{Full moon Danger to England.} {Men at popcorn all day. Up so late I got poor start but clean Jame's room by working late .... Can yesterday's catsup – about 4 pints in all – good. Bake apples for dinner desert .... Go to DeForests for honey. Get 2 pails at 65c. for 10 lbs.} {Lard 19c per pound – get 2 lbs - can't always get it. No coffee in town ....}

Christmas days were spent socializing with relatives or friends. Very simple gifts, sharing fun with Suzanne, a good dinner alone or with friends were features. Lots of cards and letters in and out. No mention of a tree, decorations, lights or church-going. One year Clarence gave her \$5 for a sweater.

The final entry for 1942 was similar to all that preceded:

{December 31, 1942: Colder and still dismal. Suzanne here before dinner. Had nap. Made pumpkin pie - good, Wrote letters to the --- and to -.}

One final commentary about her entries which so consistently indicated penny-pinching, economical living and shopping for bargains. Cash accounts in the back show that when a farm was sold for a good sum, 100 shares of GE stock were purchased for 26.5 cents a share indicating they were canny investors. They had lost heavily in the early '30s depression and needed to rebuild their nest egg.

It's really sad that there are no more diaries available telling of the completion of their herbarium sheets (at least 1600 in the end) and finalizing their "Flora" manuscript ready for the printer. But somehow all the many details were done and Clarence got to bring the books home himself.

Clarence lived until 1956 and was able to see their book well reviewed by professional botanists, a very gratifying experience for both of them.

A long-time MBC member, then a nurse (and non-botanist) at Bronson Hospital, in Kalamazoo, cared for Clarence at the end and was given a copy of the "Flora", carefully inscribed "To Lois Hoyt, Bronson Hospital Nurse from the authors Clarence R. Hanes and Florence N. Hanes, February 8, 1956." Lois noted that Clarence passed away the next day.

Florence, twelve years younger than Clarence, lived on alone in the house another ten years. If you're in Kalamazoo some time, drop down to Schoolcraft, visit the large local cemetery, and, well in from the road, watch for their distinctive dark red gravestone. Florence herself chose the gracious spray of flowering dogwood, a fitting choice for a couple to whom Michigan native plants meant so much.

According to the terms of the Haneses' will, "The Hanes Fund" was set up to "facilitate the study of Michigan Plants." After the farm was sold and final expenses paid, the executors used the remaining \$35,000 to purchase 17,500 shares of GE stock at \$2. a share. It is now over \$30. a share and the fund has grown to over a million dollars. In recent years steps have been taken to diversify the holdings so that GE is now about 60% of the fund. The purpose is not to grow the fund but to see that it is truly used "to study Michigan plants", facilitating all kinds of efforts and projects for students and for active practitioners.

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