



Parkman Historical Society Presents

Clinton Air Line Railroad – Parkman Crossing

In the Fall of 2006, Father John Burkley (known as a local Train buff) presented very detailed talk about the history of local Railway development and Tracks that crossed our area in Parkman's past. The "Clinton Air Line" shows scars across NE Ohio. In 1853, one of Dewitt Clinton's sons developed a vision of a railway from Chicago to Buffalo. This bold undertaking was near completion, and the tracks would have come right through Parkman. Traces can be seen crossing Rt. 700 in Troy and in Parkman crossing Grove Rd, Jug Rd, Mumford Rd, and Agler Rd. The rail touches the north edge of the Parkman Cemetery, and crosses Old State Rd just south of Rt. 88 disappearing into Trumbull County. This ambitious project was close to completion until it was quickly halted by the "Panic of 1857", which wiped out potential investors and froze all efforts. Other companies attempted to revive the project but adequate funding was never reached.

Father Burkley presented maps from 1900 that showed Parkman in a very different light, and many in attendance had helped to put the puzzle together with personal experience of local railway grading knowledge.

Thank you all for sharing this lesson in Parkman History. The fun is to imagine if the so called 1857 Panic never occurred, how would Parkman be with a railway running through it? Ponder on that! Our town might look like this painting of a Dewitt Clinton Steam Engine that was found on [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeWitt_Clinton_\(locomotive\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeWitt_Clinton_(locomotive)). Lots of info about this history is online.



Thanks to Father Burkley and everyone who supported this Parkman Historical Society Presentation and sharing their thoughts!

The Trumbull Historical Society also has a very nice presentation about this on their website – check it out!

<https://www.trumbullcountyhistory.com/clinton-air-line/>

