



Vol. 48, No. 1

Dedicated to the history and heritage of Oakland County, Michigan

March 2015

THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fred Lilmatta



Did you know Pine Grove has a plethora of superheroes? Before there was Superman, there was a superhero called Shazam. The letters of his name stood for noble characters of old: *Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, Zeus, Atlas* (why not twice!) and *Mercury*. A young man could simply call out "Shazam!" to become the powerful Captain Marvel, then fight the forces of evil in the world!

(Continued page 2...)

CALLING ALL BOARD CANDIDATES!



OCPHS is seeking dedicated, enthusiastic people to join our Board of Directors! Our 2015 Annual Meeting and Election will take place on Wednesday, May 20th at 4:30 pm in the Carriage House. Directors serve 3-year terms and the Board meets monthly. If you think you might enjoy serving OCPHS in the capacity of a Director, please contact the office for an information packet and application (due by April 30th).

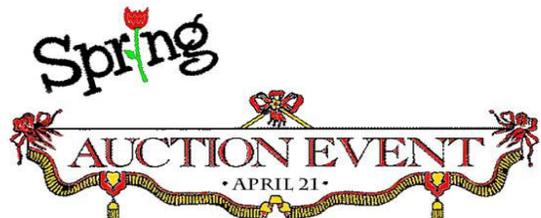
SPRING AUCTION 2015...

FAST, FURIOUS, FUN!

Bill Clink (Growth & Development Co-Chair)

I am pleased to report that OCPHS has a new reputation in town. You may be familiar with rescue programs for animals; well, word on the street is that our auctions are the place where "vintage rescue" is all the rage. If you have quality items needing a good home, items that have been loved but just don't fit in with today's lifestyle, send them our way! Our skilled placement professionals will help with transportation, storage and presentation of your donated treasures. With our charming team on the job, your items will find a special new abode while at the same time supporting the cause of Oakland County history. We are prepared to handle your gifts by the box, by the carload, by the truckload or by the houseload. Please contact our office to arrange pickups or deliveries.

If you are an "adoptive parent" looking to provide a home to one or more of the many great pieces that will be featured at our spring auction on April 21st...start saving your pennies, clear out a space in your house and bring a friend along in support of our "vintage rescue" effort. Your generosity makes all the difference!



FAST, FURIOUS, FUN!

Tuesday evening, April 21st, 2015

Auction Preview 6:30 p.m. ~ Bidding starts 7:00 p.m.

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

Auction held in the Carriage House at Pine Grove
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac 48342

for further information please contact:
www.ocphs.org ~ email: office@ocphs.org ~ phone: 248 338-6732

All donations are tax-deductible in accordance with applicable law
All proceeds benefit OCPHS
A Michigan 501(c)3 non-profit organization

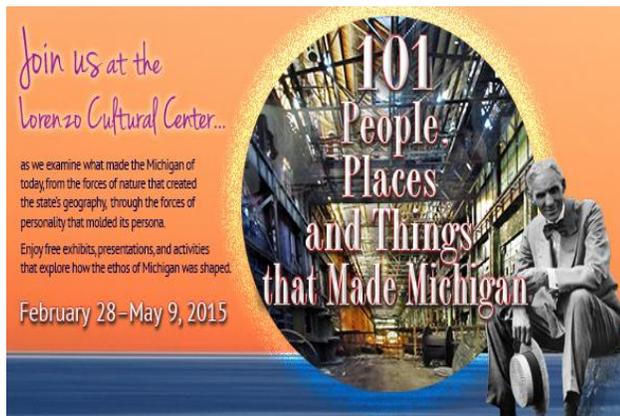


Everywhere I look at Pine Grove there seems to be reincarnations of these mighty heroes. Vandalism has been repaired and there has been a successful series of lectures, tours, events and fundraisers. Please allow me to speak for a moment about our upcoming spring auction...We are in need of 50 high-quality pieces or box lots to continue our auction success. It is great fun to see our comic book heroes rise to every challenge and it gives me a sincere attitude of gratitude for all of their efforts.

Come join us if you can or contribute some of your clutter to our cause! Do not be fooled by their outward appearances; our volunteers can leap tall buildings in a single bound and are stronger than locomotives. My biggest problem is remembering not to step on their capes...Fred

**OCPHS ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY IN
CLINTON TOWNSHIP**

The Albert L. Lorenzo Cultural Center at Macomb Community College's latest exhibit, "101 People, Places and Things That Made Michigan," includes several items on loan from OCPHS' collection! Governor Moses Wisner's personal effects and Civil War-era items can be seen along with many other significant artifacts from the Lorenzo Center and other local organizations' collections. The Lorenzo Center is located at 44575 Garfield Road in Clinton Township. Regular exhibit hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 1-4. The exhibit runs through May 9th, 2015.



(courtesy www.lorenzoculturalcenter.com)

Have you attended one of our Small Talks lately? If not, make it your goal to join us soon for one of these interesting and informative lectures! Chairwoman Kathy Davis has lined up an excellent schedule of topics and presenters for 2015! Here are some of the terrific presentations coming up this spring and summer:

Sunday, April 12th @ 2:00 pm-
"The Last Confederate Soldier"
(presented by Larry Hathcock)

Larry is an OCPHS member, avid historian and former U.S. Navy radio operator.

Sunday, May 17th @ 2:00 pm-
"Temper, Temper, Temper:
Franklin Buchanan, Captain of the Merrimack"
(presented by William Grandstaff)
An OCPHS Board member looks at a Navy officer who was the only full admiral in the Confederate Navy and commander of the *CSS Virginia* (formerly the *USS Merrimack*). Bill portrays Loren Andreus at the Octagon House in Washington, MI and heads up the Israel B. Richardson Civil War Roundtable.

Sunday, June 14th @ 2:00 pm-
"Meet the Jones Brothers Jazz Musicians:
Hank, Thad and Elvin Jones"
(presented by John Cohassey)
John explores the musical styles of the Jones brothers, raised in a family of talented musicians from Pontiac, and their impact on the world of jazz. He is an author of Michigan history, a musician and an OCPHS member.

Sunday, August 16th @ 2:00 pm-
"Moses Wisner's Older Brother, George"
(presented by Ann Johnson)
A Wisner family descendant and OCPHS Board member examines the life of George Wisner and how he influenced his brother, Moses. George was a New York City reporter, a lawyer and an abolitionist.

Admission cost for all lectures \$5 per person; includes refreshments.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



(Dan Dewey, center, poses with Accessions Chair Dr. Geoff Brieger, Growth & Development Co-Chair Bill Clink and the donated field cradle).

More rewarding than acquiring unique historic artifacts for OCPHS' collection is getting to know the person behind the donation! Last month OCPHS member Dan Dewey generously gifted an 1870's "field cradle" to the society. The cradle served as a secure place for children whose parents needed to keep them close by while working around the farm; attached wheels allowed for infants to be easily transported outdoors.

Dan's family operated a farm on Judah Road, between Joslyn and Baldwin roads, in the 1830's; the land remains in his family to this day. Dan's agricultural roots are so ingrained that he constructed a barn for his personal dwelling! The family also owned the Close Hotel which existed in Pontiac in the 1830's. Dan's father's family lived for a time at the Newman Farm where the gyrocopter that the Scripps family used to commute from Detroit to their outlying farm was kept in a hangar. The Newman Farm was less than ½ mile from the William Scripps farm buildings, where his grandfather spent a year caring for the horses.

These days Dan, in his trademark attire of sweatshirt, scarf and shorts, can be found at Beaumont Hospital on Wednesdays and St. Joseph Hospital on Thursdays delivering coffee to chemotherapy patients. Many thanks to Dan for his donation of the field cradle, which OCPHS plans to display in its Farm Museum, and for bringing smiles to those who need them most!

IN REMEMBRANCE...

OCPHS was saddened to learn of the passing of long-time member Dorothy L. Tyndell in January at the age of 91. Dorothy was a resident of White Lake. She worked for many years as a Registered Nurse and was actively involved with the Waterford Genealogical Society. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Tyndell family.

NEW "DREAM TEAM" NEEDS YOUR HELP TO MAKE WISHES COME TRUE!

Barbara Frye (Dream Team Co-Founder)

Sometimes there are things we wish we had, but there is just not enough wiggle room in the budget to obtain. Sometimes these are small things ("I wish I had a sharp pencil.") Maybe slightly larger things ("I wish I had a working pencil sharpener.") Or even bigger things ("I wish we had a gazebo to host weddings in!")
You get the idea!

"When you wish upon a star..." Our members are stars, and every one of you has the ability to grant wishes in many ways, small and large. There is a new interactive "Wish List" display at the Carriage House - for big wishes, not so big wishes and even teeny wishes. You may write a wish for OCPHS on a sticky note and attach it to the glass display for all to see. Someone who sees your wish may decide to donate that item or contribute financially toward making it come true. In this way, OCPHS can obtain a few "luxuries" to make our day-to-day operation a bit easier. For example, we recently received a digital scanner for our library, two mannequins for displaying vintage clothing and...a pencil sharpener!!! Each *Gazette* this year will highlight a few "wishes" that are on our minds and hearts. We look forward to your input!

Can you help us make one of our current wishes come true?

- *Ladies' floor-length black skirts (any size) & men's tuxedo shirts (any size)**
- *Wash all windows and storms at Carriage House**
- *Address condition of carpet in Formal Parlor**
- *Construct a dedicated walkway to front door of mansion**

Please contact the office if you can be the shining star that helps make one of these important goals a reality!

BEHIND THE SCENES...VOH 2014

Kathy Davis (VOH Planning Committee Chair)

About three months have passed since this wonderful event and I thought you should hear the untold stories that made the 2014 Victorian Open House a success.

One of the first volunteers to hit the ground running was Jo Pate, who made five beautiful stockings which were hung on the fireplace mantel in the Family Parlor for Santa to fill. Jo also helped serve refreshments in the Carriage House with Board member Charlotte Cooper.

Donna Mallonen jumped in and proceeded to organize work projects. The Wisner House needed ceiling repairs. Under Donna's oversight, this was accomplished! Donna visited Goldner-Walsh on our behalf and they donated greenery for the porch and doors. The whimsical paper snowflakes that adorned the Carriage House and Schoolhouse were all made by her.

Barbara Frye did a terrific job on the display in the Schoolhouse. She previously designed the layout for the WWII exhibit in the cabinet and added to it 54 photos of men and women who served in the armed forces. Photos were contributed by members and friends. Barb skillfully enlarged these photos as well as formatted flyers, programs, and the family photos adorning the Christmas trees.

For the first time, the love, life and death of Eliza Richardson Wisner, first wife of Moses Wisner, was on display in the mansion. Eliza passed away during the birth of their second child. The little girl died a few days later. Research on Eliza was completed by Donna Mallonen and Barb Frye.

Charlotte Cooper served cookies and hot cocoa to visitors in the Carriage House, assisted by the Pontiac High School JROTC. All were greatly entertained by guitar soloist Kevin Tyler. Charlotte also headed up the sale of quilt raffle tickets; at the 4:30 raffle, Board member and Wisner descendant Ann Johnson took home the coveted prize.

President Fred Liimatta organized veterans' activities, along with members Joe Cool and John Scholl. They read the Pearl Harbor speech originally given by Franklin D. Roosevelt and oversaw the opening and closing flag ceremonies with help from the JROTC. A special ceremony took place in the Schoolhouse with a mock flag-draped casket and 21-gun salute. Veterans could warm up in a trailer with coffee and donuts. Holly Bonser, a dance specialist, entertained with music from the 1940's. Member Larry Hathcock gave an informative lecture on Dr. Harold Furlong, M.D.

Barbara and Judy Hudalla skillfully set up the gift shop so that no one could resist buying items as they passed through and warmly welcomed shoppers. Gift shop sales surpassed previous years and included society memberships!

Vice President Mike West secured the donation of a 1901 carriage; he picked it up in Wisconsin along with volunteer Bob Sowles. Many visitors enjoyed seeing this wonderful double-seat carriage, built right here in Pontiac. The building stands today where it was born; it has come back home for tender, loving restoration. Mike also made it possible for great pictures of the event to be taken by photographer Len McIntee.

In the Formal Parlor musician Dan DelMastro played the grand piano, filling the room with Christmas music for visitors to sit and enjoy. The Family Parlor was the site of a concert by Musica Royale. Director Mary Ann Fischer played the harp and was accompanied by a violinist and dulcimer player.

Treasurer Amy Annett manned the entrance booth, and Board member Bruce Annett assisted with parking. Bill Clink helped organize volunteer groups like WWAM, which worked in the parking area and cleaned up the grounds before and after the event. Bill, with his experience in home repair, restored the bathroom in the gift shop to working order in preparation for our guests.

Former Office Manager Sara Guy contacted the Oakland Press at regular intervals and got us on the front page of the paper the Friday before the event! A 4th grade class from the Auburn Hills Christian School came for a tour on Thursday; they were ready to leave when the Oakland Press photographer arrived. The teacher and children graciously agreed to go back into the mansion to have photos taken for the newspaper (and its E-News too!) Board member Greg Kowalski did a wonderful job promoting VOH through various media outlets. Donna Mallonen and Barbara Frye sent out timely mailings for the event, which brought in several donations.

The Friday before the event, we learned that Board member Brian Golden, who has portrayed Santa for many years, was ill. That night Board member Linda Porter, Bill Clink, Barbara Frye, Adrian Rawls and I attended a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in downtown Pontiac and a Christmas program at the First Presbyterian Church. As we enjoyed the songs performed by different children's groups, we looked up and saw in the balcony a man with a beautiful white beard. It pays to go to church! It was Bo Young, proprietor of Pontiac's Downtown 51 Grille, and while feasting on cookies and hot chocolate in the church's basement I asked him to be our Santa.

Although he had never played Santa, he agreed to help us. He rented a costume and the children loved him. Member Annie Hunt took photos of him with kids of all ages.

The docents did a tremendous job of informing visitors about the Wisner House and making them feel comfortable. They all dressed in Victorian style and acted their parts well. Visitors complimented their work and enjoyed conversing with them. Nancy Duffield and Jo Pate put up new displays in the house and dressed the mannequins; they were assisted by Donna Mallonen. Everyone said it was truly an enjoyable event.

This Victorian Open House was put together in just two meetings, during which each committee was assigned their responsibilities. We communicated by phone and e-mail. We are thankful for our special donors, volunteers and everyone's prayers. The weather was sunny and mild; there were about 250 in attendance. The event brought in the most revenue to date for a VOH and enabled OCPHS to end the year with our finances in the black!



(Courtesy Kathy Davis)

LIBRARY TIDBITS

“Religion, Morality and Knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

OCPHS is seeking an original or copies of the annual School Directory of Oakland County by A.L. Craft, county commissioner of schools, from the 1910's to the 1930's (size 3" x 5"). We currently have the 1916, 1918, 1919 & 1923 editions. These little books are very informative and we could use more of them. If you can help, please contact the office and ask for Ray Lucas, OCPHS library volunteer currently working on the Oakland One-Room School Project.



2015 CALENDARS AVAILABLE NOW!

Take an armchair tour of Oakland County's one-room schoolhouses with our newest calendar, now available for just \$10. The one-room school served as a community hub, providing space for education, town meetings, funerals, political activities and much more. Many of these structures are still used today - some look as they did originally; others have been remodeled, making their original purpose more difficult to discern. See how many you can recognize as you mark important dates on pages featuring our county's past! Front cover and interior photos are black & white; back cover (above) is in color. Copies are available for purchase at the office, or order by mail via our website.

OCPHS is pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since our last publication:

Pontiac Creative Arts Center

**Lions Club of Pontiac
(Laurie Bishop, President)**

**Allward, Gary (Grand Blanc)
Demrose, Dawnaree (Pontiac)
Golden, Michael (Waterford)
Killen, Marie (Rochester Hills)
McIntee, Len (Bloomfield Hills)
McGuinness, Mike (Pontiac)
Malloy, Patricia (Rochester Hills)
Ondik, Josephine (Sylvan Lake)
Scussel, Elizabeth (Rochester Hills)
Zowada, Sarah (Rochester)**

AROUND THE COUNTY

Can't get enough Oakland County history? Check out a few of these events hosted by other local historical organizations...

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society
Spring Nature Walk @ Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary
Sunday, April 19 / 2-3 pm

Apple Island Tours
Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17 / 11-5 pm
More info: www.gwbhs.org

Milford Historical Society
Spring Tea @ the Mary Jackson House
Saturday, April 25 / 11 am-1 pm or 2-4 pm
More info: www.milfordhistory.org

Troy Historic Village
"Village Talks" lecture series @ Old Troy Church
2nd Wednesdays of each month
7:30-8:30 pm
More info: www.troyhistoricvillage.org

Waterford Historical Society
Log Cabin Days @ Fish Hatchery Park
Saturday, June 27 / 10 am-5 pm
Sunday, June 28 / 10 am-4 pm
**More info:
www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org**

Membership and Donation Form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Send my *Gazette* via: U.S. Mail Email

Please Make Me a Member! (indicate level):

- \$15 Student
- \$20 Individual
- \$20 Non-Profit Organization
- \$35 Family (two adults & minor children)
- \$100 Patron
- \$200 Benefactor
- \$500 Friends
- \$500 Corporate Sponsor
- \$Gift Membership (provide recipient's name & contact info):

Please Accept My Donation! (indicate preference):

- \$ Annual Giving (general operating costs)
- \$ Fill In the Gap (expanding hours & services)
- \$ Preservation (historic buildings & contents)
- \$ Where Needed or Other (specify):
- \$ In Memory of / Honor of (provide name):

What Prompted Your Support? (check all that apply):

- Interest in Oakland County History
- Invited/Introduced by Member/Friend
- Received Copy of *Gazette*
- Attended Event or Tour
- Research Library / Archives
- Newspaper / Magazine Article
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Website / Facebook
- Other (specify):

Mail this form with check payable to OCPHS to:

**Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342**

For your convenience you may also join or donate online at www.ocphs.org. Thank you for your support!

We are a 501(c)(3) organization
Donations are tax deductible in accordance with applicable law

FROM THE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Bill Clink (Co-Chair)

It's that time where we once again update you on all the new things going on at Pine Grove! Your growth & development team has been hard at work making plans to support another great year like the one just completed.

Our latest effort to further the cause of history was our Appreciation Reception held on February 11th. Our highly skilled hostess team consisting of Linda Porter, Kari Vaughan and Sherie Morgan pulled together delightful décor and an impressive food spread in celebration of our volunteers and financial sponsors. In spite of inclement weather it was standing room only in the Carriage House. Compliments were heard to the effect of, "This is impressive," "I am going to tell my friends they missed out," and "You should do this more often." Even those who couldn't attend expressed gratitude for our thoughtfulness. We made some new friends, improved existing relationships and laid the groundwork for future appreciation events.

Kari and myself attended a seminar at Dearborn's Automotive Hall of Fame sponsored by the MotorCities National Heritage Area to learn about their grant opportunities. We met a number of local history professionals and shared ideas about how to support growth in the history field. (Continued page 8...)



(Flowers, whimsical necklaces and hearty fare greeted guests at February's Appreciation Reception).



(Ruth & Ron Finch of Finch Custom Cycles enjoy pleasant conversation with Vice President Rodger Zeller).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events...

Sunday, April 12 -

Small Talk - "The Last Confederate Soldier"
Presented by Larry Hathcock
2:00 pm / Admission: \$5

Tuesday, April 21 -

Spring Auction
6:30 pm Preview
7:00 pm Bidding starts

Sunday, May 17 -

Small Talk - "Franklin Buchanan, Captain of the Merrimack"
Presented by William Grandstaff
2:00 pm / Admission: \$5

Wednesday, May 20 -

Annual Meeting & Election
4:30 pm

Sunday, June 14 -

Small Talk - "Meet the Jones Brothers Jazz Musicians"
Presented by John Cohassey
2:00 pm / Admission: \$5

OCPHS Officers and Board of Directors

President

Fred Liimatta

1st Vice President

Rodger Zeller

2nd Vice President

Mike West

Secretary

Kathy Davis

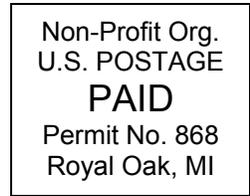
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Amy Annett

Directors

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Charlotte Cooper
Guy Duffield
Brian Golden
Bill Grandstaff
Ann Johnson
Greg Kowalski
Anne Liimatta
Charlie Martinez
Linda Porter
Kari Vaughan

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



(From the Growth & Development Team
continued...)

If you've not visited recently, you haven't seen that our dedicated Board members and the G&D team have stepped up to fill the gap left behind by former Office Manager Sara Guy. Museum hours have been maintained, phones answered, emails read and sent. It is important to us to maintain our ongoing activities as we search for a new administrative assistant.

It's that time of year when you may find yourself with some extra funds courtesy of the tax man or company bonus. Please do keep us in mind when you are deciding where that money will go. Your generous support is what keeps the lights on and the doors open. We appreciate your donations and will continue using them to preserve, protect and present Oakland County history.

Finally, don't forget to set aside time for us the evening of April 21st for our "Vintage Rescue" auction event. As I implored earlier, bring a friend, a bag of money and a large vehicle to haul off your great finds. We can't wait to see you there! - *Bill*



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Oakland Gazette is a publication of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Submissions, content suggestions or comments are welcome.

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Editor: Kari Vaughan

Contributors: Bill Clink, Kathy Davis, Barbara Frye, Fred Liimatta, Kari Vaughan

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