



Glenn Ruggles presents:

Lumbering and Logging In The 19th Century

Glenn Ruggles of Walled Lake will present the history of Michigan's lumbering and logging days of the 19th Century at the 100th Annual Dinner of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society to be held at White Lake-Oaks, May 16th.

Mr. Ruggles, who served on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society, is a teacher in the Walled Lake school system as well as an Associate Professor at Oakland Community College.

After three years of intensive research he is writing a history of this colorful phase of Michigan's past.

A native of Elk Rapids, he was instrumental in getting the base of the Dexter-Noble Charcoal Blast Furnaces registered officially with the Michigan Historical Commission as an official historical site.

Mr. Ruggles has done much to spark an interest in history among his own students. He encourages them to track down sources for their own research.

Mr. Ruggles has his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Detroit. He is President of the Commerce Township Area Historical Society as well as serving on the Board of Directors of the Township Historical Commission.

AGAIN - YOUR HELP NEEDED!

Do you have any pictures, books, pamphlets, reminiscences or letters relating to Oakland County places, people and events which you would like to give to the Society for use in conjunction with the Society's hundredth anniversary and the Bicentennial? Or do you have some old stereopticon pictures you would be willing to give us so that we can show the school children just how our stereopticon works?

If so, call Connie Lektizan at 338-6732.



Glenn Ruggles - Teacher and Historian

100th Annual Dinner to be held at White Lake-Oaks

On May 16, 1973 White Lake-Oaks will be the scene of the 100th Annual Dinner for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. White Lake-Oaks, located at 991 South Williams Lake Road, Waterford, was formerly known as the Twin Lakes Country Club.

There is ample parking off Williams Lake Road at both the front and back of the building. The Club is south of M-59, and north of Elizabeth Lake Road.

Phone 698-2700.

The dinner, starting with the Social Hour at 6 p.m., provides an opportunity to bring friends and prospective members for an evening of good food and fellowship. Mrs. Marion Hodges Roush will be there to take new memberships.

Our 100th Annual Dinner, however, is not our Centennial. In 1874, the first annual dinner was held. Plans are under way for the centennial celebration in 1974. See you at the dinner.

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DINNER RESERVATION (mail before May 8)

TO:
Mrs. Charles Roush, 468 S. Fox Hills, Apt. 2, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013. (Tickets will be returned to you by mail.)

Enclosed please find \$_____ for _____ dinner reservations at \$6.50 per person, for the Annual Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society Dinner to be held at WHITE LAKE-OAKS, 991 S. Williams Lake Rd., Waterford.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
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A Message from your President

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Society and look back over the years we are impressed with the devoted service of present and former members. A volunteer organization such as ours can succeed only when its members give "beyond the call of duty." This they have done, both in actual service and through generous gifts.

The recent receipt of a bequest from Sarah Van Hoosen Jones and of an epergne and Benningtonware from the family of Elsie Voorheis call to mind other bequests and memorials. Among past bequests were a substantial monetary legacy from Blanche Avery; some appropriate furnishings from the estate of Hattie W. Utter; a share of the residue in the estate of Elizabeth Lounsbury and numerous historical items from Florence Howard, from Ralph Keeling and Mary Margaret McCarroll. Special memorial gifts, which have been used for the purchase of essential furnishings, have been received over the years in memory of Jayno W. Adams, Harry and Lulu Becker Going, Arthur R. and Helen McCracken Green, Demaris Bigler Prall, Garnet M. Sparks, Lucius H. Frank, and Mary Pierson Todd. Most recently one of our long time members, Dorothy Callow Irwin, was remembered with contributions from the Keep in Touch Club, of which she was a member; Mr. and Mrs. Ted Panaretos and son, James, Mrs. Raymond Blevins, and Mrs. John Kennedy. These gifts, along with donations from many of our members, have made it possible for our organization to restore and furnish the Moses Wisner historic house and its outbuildings and to move to Pine Grove the Drayton Plains one room school.

But restoration of Pine Grove would be but a hollow gesture if our Society did not have a continuing program of service to Oakland County residents. This issue of the *Gazette* points up some phases of that program. We thank all of you who continue to make possible the creative existence of our organization in its 100th year. In 1974 we hope to have an appropriate centennial celebration.

Elizabeth S. Adams



Earth Day at Pine Grove

(Photo Courtesy Oakland Press)

On Monday, April 9, the first day of Earth Week, 110 sixth graders from the Wisner School came over to Pine Grove on what was an ecological project. They were accompanied by their teachers as well as the Wisner School principal, Dr. Rex Smith.

With the aid and direction of the Men's Garden Club—Oakland, these pupils braved the chilly weather and intermittent rain to plant 50 five-year old white pine trees. This is Michigan's official state tree.

At one time, in the area back of the root cellar, the

property at Wisner House was thick with pines of various kinds, thus the name Pine Grove.

All of the trees were tagged with the names of the students who planted them. Several pines have been earmarked for transplanting to the Wisner School several years hence.

This project was an idea of Mr. Cecil Dumbrigue, member of the Board of Directors of OCPHS as well as a past president of the Men's Garden Club.

This tree planting is a good example of the Society's continuing interest in community involvement.

Guides are needed at Wisner House

The response to our 1973 Educational Services letter has been overwhelming. Many schools who have never before visited the Wisner House are scheduling tours. The great demand for these tours is the result of publicity, hard work, and dedication of the guides.

In the past year not only has the number of tours grown but the number of people in each tour has increased. This is due to the fact that different classes often schedule trips together in

order to utilize space on the buses.

So...our tours have grown and grown—but our Guide Committee has not. For the larger tours we need five guides plus two people to work in the Potpourri Shoppe. This souvenir shoppe, by the way, has grown in popularity as rapidly as the tours.

Tours are a very vital part of our educational program at Pine Grove and this rapid growth is certainly proof of their importance and usefulness. During the busy season guides often

have to take tours two or three times a week. With a membership of 550 we should have more than the dozen or so names on our guide list that we now have.

For those who hesitate about being guides, storekeepers are needed in the Potpourri Shoppe for every tour.

Would YOU care to take a part in this continuing service to our community?

YOU are needed.

Call Wisner House 338-6732 and volunteer.

Heritage Handicraft Classes Are Popular

Beginning on April 14, and running for six consecutive Saturdays, Pine Grove is opening its one-room schoolhouse for craft classes.

Directed by Mrs. B. C. Vogt, reservations for these classes began as soon as the notice came out, and they were filled to capacity in a very short time. In fact, two of the courses, apple and corn husk dolls, had to be divided into two sessions each.

These classes range in interest from herb cultivation to doll and bead flower making.

The Society is grateful to the talented teachers who have spent a considerable amount of time and energy in making the series so successful.

They are: Mr. Cecil Dumbrigue and Mrs. B. C. Vogt, herb class; Mrs. J. Gresock, apple dolls; Mrs. Howard Wooley and Mrs. Marion Rabidue, clothespin dolls; Mrs. Ernest Ayres, beaded flowers; Mrs. Jack Scantlin, corn husk dolls; and Mrs. Arthur Loth, sock dolls.

Mary Vogt, who also heads up our Potpourri Shoppe, is planning a series of fall classes.

Please watch for our publicity.



Mr. Dumbrigue gives fine points of Herb Growing.



Mrs. Vogt explains Herb Blending.

Staff and Volunteers Man Pine Grove Office

"Wisner Historic House - Connie Lektzian speaking." This is what is often heard when calling Pine Grove. Lektzian is not easy to remember and it's harder to pronounce. However, it simplifies the conversation to remember that it rhymes with artesian. In fact, that's about the only word it does rhyme with. As you may know, she is the education coordinator at Pine Grove. The rest of our staff consists of Mr. E. R. Shields, our long-time caretaker, and student assistant, Miss Nancy Levin.

This past year the tremendous job of indexing a very large fifty year old scrapbook, was undertaken by Mrs. Clarence Clohset. This was typed and entered by Miss Helen Anderson. Additional volunteer office help was given by Mrs. Elizabeth King Wade. As well as office work, members have volunteered to work at home clipping and mounting items for the scrap books. In these two areas, office and scrapbook, there is always need for workers. If you feel that guiding is not for you, please consider these possibilities.

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Historical Figure in County Medicine



by Charles H. Martinez

Dr. John Paterson Wilson was born in Scotland in 1828. His distinguished and dedicated father, Dr. William Wilson, was a commissioned surgeon in Wellington's Army at the close of the Napoleonic Wars. So, in time it would be quite natural for John to select a medical career.

In 1844 the family journeyed to the United States and settled at Pine Lake in West Bloomfield Township. At first the elder Wilson only sought the role of a gentleman farmer. Gradually, however, the neighbors learned of his skills as a doctor and his practice was launched again. It quickly spread across early Oakland County and beyond, even taking the Scotch physician into Canada on occasion.

John accompanied his father on these house calls and learned the rudiments of the healing art. To formalize his training John left for New York City where he attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1851. For the next five years he practiced with his father at Pine Lake, eventually moving to Pontiac and forming a partnership with Dr. Isaac Paddock.

When the Fifth Michigan Calvary was formed during the Civil War, John was commissioned regimental surgeon, serving in this capacity until March, 1863. Upon formation of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, the commanding officer, George Armstrong Custer, made him Brigade Surgeon. This was a proud moment for John and yet one tinged with sorrow as he learned his father, whose footsteps he so closely followed, had died at the Pine Lake homestead at the age of 70.

Assuming the duties of his new rank, Dr. Wilson set about organizing the Brigade Hospital at Fairfax, Virginia. There for three months he personally cared for a large number of the sick and wounded. Next, the Brigade moved to Pennsylvania and Dr. Wilson found himself caught up in the fury of the Battle of Gettysburg. The mounting casualty figures from this

fresh confrontation, coupled with near exhaustion of working day and night, weakened Dr. Wilson and he contracted typhoid fever. For many weeks he lay near death close to this historic battlefield. Finally, he was moved to the Annapolis Hospital for better medical treatment and convalescence. Dr. Wilson was honorably discharged in October, 1863, but his health was seriously and permanently impaired. Dr. Wilson was later to write: "If the wrecks of that awful war could be summed up, there would be presented a powerful argument for peace among nations."

For five years after his discharge Dr. Wilson endeavored to recuperate his health. Finally, he was strong enough to resume his practice in Pontiac. He took on additional duties as well, becoming a member of the Board of Education, a post he held for 18 years, and also serving on the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Michigan Asylum. On May 25, 1874 he organized the Board of Health in Pontiac and represented the Board as its first Health Officer. But this hectic pace and his earlier physical infirmities contracted during his military career forced him to give up his practice in 1880. His service as physician and surgeon in time of peace and war was duly recognized by his colleagues with his election as honorary member of the Oakland County Medical Society on March 14, 1905. His father had been elected to the same Society 68 years before. Dr. Wilson's long successful and skillful career in serving his fellow man came to an end with his death in Pontiac in 1909.

This is the first in a series of articles utilizing the excellent resource material and photographs in the library here at Wisner House. These articles will cover the lives and events of early settlers in Oakland County. This first sketch, of Dr. John Wilson, was written by one of the members of our Board of Directors.