



All the quiet corners at Pine Grove . . . await the festivities

The Ban-Joes of Michigan have accepted an invitation to join us on that day. This talented musical group will provide entertainment, nostalgic tunes and modern medleys, throughout the afternoon.

The Quilting Guild will be busy plying their needles on the 1977 quilt which depicts motifs for 30 states. Tickets will be available in the Guild tent at \$1.00 each.

Drawing for the quilt will be at the Victorian Open House in December.

Two Pot Pourri shoppes will be open. One will be in the House at its regular location, the other will be in the Quilting Guild tent.

A Book Booth will offer county wide selection of local histories for sale. Also, the Society has a limited number of old maps that will be for sale. These include Birmingham-1922; S.E. Michigan-1925; City of Pontiac-1926 and, most interesting of all, Oakland County maps showing farm ownership in 1921-22.

The Susan Metzdonf thimble collection will be on exhibit in the entry room of Pine Grove.

Parking for the day will be available at the Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church at 404 Oakland Avenue just across the street; and in the Wisner school lot next to Pine Grove. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE LOT AT THE BACK OF WISNER HOUSE. Committees who must bring supplies, are asked to do so before 12:30 and then move their cars at another lot.

Annual Ice Cream Social Sunday, July 31 1 to 4 p.m.

On Sunday, July 31, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society will hold their annual Ice Cream Social. It will take place at Pine Grove, on the lawns surrounding historic Wisner House at 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac. This is the 103 year of the Society's organization.

At a special ceremony at 3:00 PM, the Society will honor one of its past presidents, Probate Judge Donald E. Adams in recognition of his forty years of service on the Bench. Judge Adam's retirement is effective on the very day of the Social, July 31. Mrs. Robert Anderson will be in charge of the 3:00 ceremony.

Chairperson for this annual summer event is Mrs. William Rachwal, assisted by Mrs. Edwin Adler. Mrs. Rachwal has made plans for an interesting and lively social.

In charge of refreshments are Mrs. Douglas Hoard, Mrs. Russell Pickering, Mrs. Richard Wright and Mrs. James Burke. There will be homemade cakes, Richardson's ice cream, lemonade and Vernor's gingerale.

Your \$1.00 admission ticket includes refreshments.

TICKETS

Enclosed with this Gazette, please find 5 tickets for you and your friends. Please return any money or unsold tickets to the Wisner House, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48058 by July 25. Make checks payable to Lillian Balmer, Treasurer.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL—Tear off and mail to Wisner House, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48058 in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible.

I will serve as—

Host-Guide	12:45 to 2:00	2:00 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:15
Host-Server	12:45 to 2:00	2:00 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:15
Sales	12:45 to 2:00	2:00 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:15

(Pot Pourri Shoppes or Book Booth)

I will bring cake(s) Sunday forenoon or Saturday between 1 P.M. and 4 P.M. The Refreshment Committee will be glad to have any type cake, but sheet or flat cakes cut to better advantage. Any questions, please call the office: 338-6732.

Name

Phone

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In case you have not heard, I am sorry to inform you that our carriage house was totally destroyed by fire on May 4th. It was deliberately set by a child. We were completely covered by insurance but we do not as yet know how much we will be reimbursed.

A new crew of NEOVEC students will begin to reconstruct the building on Friday June 17. To prevent any other damage, we plan to completely fence in the barn area with 8' anchor fence and two padlocked gates. We will enclose also an area about 85' x 130' of our property which is now the back part of the Wisner School playground. This will cost over \$3,000. Eventually we will remove the fence from across in front of the carriage house after we get moved in.

Several of our special funds are depleted. The balance in the Restoration Fund went toward the new curtains in the parlor. The Library Fund is used up because we have had a number of atlases and other reference books restored to preserve them. They were getting so much use by our own members and the public at large.

The driveway has deteriorated with all the traffic. Cecil Dumbriue, Grounds Chairman, wants to widen the drive in two places so cars may pass. If you have priced gravel recently, you know we need money in the Grounds Fund. Any donations to these funds will be gratefully accepted.

Here is another practical way to help get funds for the Wisner House. Word has come from Lansing that the House Bill 4167 which includes an appropriation for Michigan Council for the Arts is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

We are filing a request for funds with Michigan Council for the Arts, but the Governor's recommended appropriation was reduced in the House. As a private citizen, write letters, expressing your concern for the arts, to Senators Jerome T. Hart, Chairman; William S. Huffman; James DeSana; Kerry Kammer; David S. Holmes; Joseph M. Snyder; Earl E. Nelson; Thomas Guastello; Charles O. Zollar; John F. Toepp and Gilbert E. Bursley.

I know from experience that letter writing helps get what we want - and need.

Faye M. Donelson
President, OCPHS

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

Mrs. Ralph Sievewright
Mrs. Cameron Clark
Mrs. Vernon C. Abbott

MEMORIALS received for Maurice F. Cole and Arthur Selden from:
Judge and Mrs. Donald E. Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Balmer

MEMORIAL received for Mrs. John Dodge (Jennie E. White) from:
Rex Lamoreaux

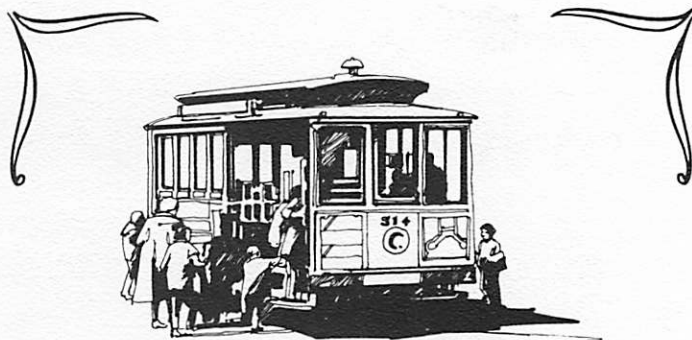
MEMORIAL received for Mrs. Elva Moore Burnes from:
Faye M. Donelson

MEMORIAL received for Bruce Annett from:
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Adler

CONTRIBUTION from:

Capt. (Ret.) and Mrs. Douglas Hoard

Continuing growth of the Endowment Fund is an added guarantee that there will always be money available for maintenance of Pine Grove. Life memberships and memorials, as well as designated contributions, all go into this important fund.



BOOK BOOTH A FEATURE OF THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

A purchase from the Book Booth at the Ice Cream Social on July 31 could prove to be an enriching experience.

Communities and historical societies have been invited to sell their published histories on that Sunday here at Pine Grove.

A collection of these books would be a treasure for the future. There are paper backs and hard cover books in a wide range of prices.

Out of Small Beginnings is a Bicentennial Historical sketch of Oakland County by Richard Lee Waddell, edited and rewritten by the History Committee of the Oakland County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. In paperback, it is on sale at the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society headquarters year around, and will also be offered at the Book Booth. It sells for \$2.00.

There is *Heritage*, a pictorial history of Independence Township and the village of Clarkston, edited by Jennifer Radcliff. It contains 122 pictures, bookplates and broadsides.

Rochester: A Lively Town covers 152 years of that city's past. The late John Boeberitz chaired the commission that wrote this book, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the village charter.

Farmington has several publications; *Farmington-An Original Entity* and a map of Indian trails for that area. This is in addition to Lee S. Peel's *Farmington: A Pictorial History* whose 246 pages includes an index and a wealth of pictures.

Troy Historical Society will offer two books: *150 Years Plus... A Story of Troy* written and compiled by Society members, and *Pathway of History Through Troy* by Lois Lance.

Heritage in Oakland Township was edited by Delta Kelly and Barbara Kandarian. The book contains ninety photos. It grew out of that Society's first undertaking; an inventory of historic buildings in Oakland.

Early Addison Township History was a very successful effort of Barbara Stafford, Mildred Schmidt and Shirley Patterson. Months of reading county and village records, census lists and cemetery markers and old family Bibles as well as numerous interviews resulted in an 81 page book with a 24 page genealogical index.

Commerce Township Area Historical Society has reprinted the 1931 book of Henry C. Severance, *The Story of a Village Community*. An account of the early days of that area.

The Book of Birmingham was written by Jerry B. McMechan. Researched by Virginia Clohset, there is a bibliography, proper name index and a chronology of dates in Birmingham history.

Also, in the Book Booth will be displayed model trollies, complete with track, stations and scenery. This was built and will be operated by Fred Gibson. His book on the history of trollies will also be on sale.

FORMER SOCIETY PRESIDENT RETIRES AS PROBATE JUDGE

Forty years ago in early July, 1973 Judge Donald E. Adams heard his first case as the newly elected Justice of the Peace in the Township of Waterford. He has now submitted his resignation as Oakland County Judge of Probate to the Governor effective July 31, 1977, so that he will have completed forty years of judicial service here in Oakland County.

Judge Adams was born in Waterford Township, attended Waterford and Pontiac public schools, and was graduated from Pontiac High School in 1929. In 1934 he received his Bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan where he was awarded membership in Phi Beta Kappa. In 1936 he received his J.D. degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan; served two terms as Commissioner of the State Bar from Oakland County; and is also affiliated with the Oakland County and American Bar Associations.

He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Michigan, the Federal District Court, the United States Supreme Court and the highest military court in the United States, the Court of Military Appeals.

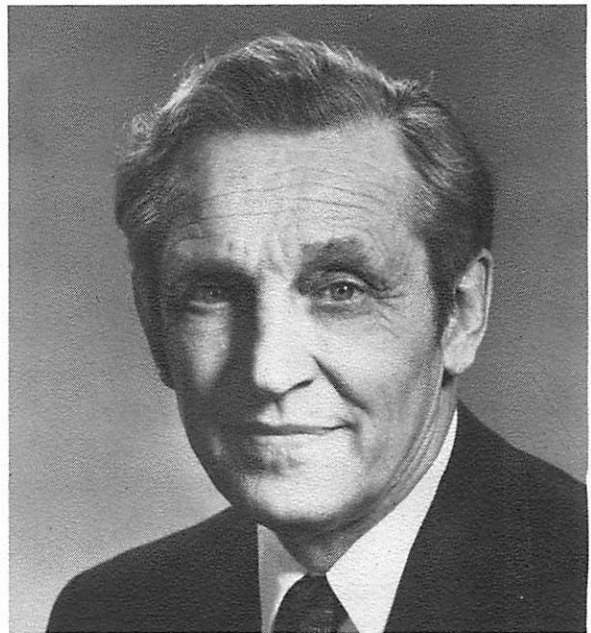
In addition to being a member and a past president of the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society, Judge Adams is also affiliated with the North Oakland Chamber of Commerce, First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac, Lions Club, Masons, Hi-12, Boy Scouts of America, and the American Topical Association.

He was on the first Oakland County Community Mental Health Service Board, serving for several years as its chairman. It was during this time the Mental Retardation Center plans evolved. This Center was dedicated in 1972.

When Judge Adams first sought election to the office of probate judge, he made the following statement which remains his judicial philosophy:

Few positions offer greater opportunity for public service than that of Judge of Probate. Since the Judge of Probate handles problems of juveniles, the mentally ill, and estates of decedents, it is in the Probate Court more than any other that the judge deals directly with the rights and individual liberties of persons appearing before him. It is essential that he like people in every walk of life and that he understands human nature. (Excerpt.)

Judge Adams lives with his wife the former Elizabeth Sparks, on the shore of Silver Lake on a part of the farm where he was born. In retirement he anticipates he may have more time to pursue his hobbies which include hunting, fishing, gardening, stamp collecting and joining his wife in researching local history.



Probate Judge Donald E. Adams

CHARITY BAZAAR WINS PRIZE

The booth of the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society won second prize at the Charity Bazaar held at Meadowbrook Village Mall the end of April. The theme was "Christmas Comes But Twice a Year".

Judging was on the basis of appropriateness of the decorations to the purpose of the Society. Margaret Ann Jackson designed a background depicting an old fashion stove surrounded with Christmas trees.

Sales were very good, with baked goods, books and early American items from the Pot Pourri store going rapidly.

This is the first time the Society participated in an activity of this type. It might prove a consistent fund raiser for our organization.

There will be another charity bazaar held at the Pontiac Mall, Telegraph and Elizabeth Lake Rd., October 10 to the 15, Monday through Saturday. Our Historical Society expects to take part.

The theme is "Love Circus" and there is an immediate need for Design and Construction chairmen, as well as an Organization Chairman to schedule workers.

Anyone desiring to work and contribute items for sale, please call the Pine Grove office - 338-6732.

Prizes for the best theme and best costumes will be \$100.00 in each category.

SPINSTERS WILL BE A FEATURE OF THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Three members of the Guide Committee have been taking classes on spinning. Twice a week for several weeks, Ellen Rice, Janet McAlpine and Jan Bell have traveled to Plymouth for lessons at the studio of Ellice Kulick.

Mrs. Kulick is a spinster and weaver, and was the Conservator of Fabrics at Greenfield Village before opening her own studio.

The Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society is fortunate in having several spinning wheels in the collection here at Pine Grove. These wheels have needed only minor repairs, and they will be a part of the spinning demonstrations at the Ice Cream Social on July 31.

The Society will display two small, or Saxony, wheels and two great, or walking, wheels. A spinster could walk 20 miles a day at

a great wheel, and oftentimes practiced dance steps to while away the time.

During the month of July, prior to the 31st, members of the Guide Committee are urged to make appointments to learn this skill. **THIS IS NOT A CRAFT CLASS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC.** Only active guides may participate at this time.

For a spinning lesson, please call at the office at Wisner House - 338-6732 or the following: Janice Bell - 623-6825 Janet McAlpine - 887-2049 Ellen Rice - 334-7151

GUIDES: Please ready your costumes for the Ice Cream Social. If you use one from the collection here at Pine Grove, check it out early enough to have it laundered for that day.



Pioneer women gave of their courage and energy . . .

Photo Collection
OCPHS

OAKLAND COUNTY'S PIONEER WOMEN

Women pioneered in Oakland County at a time when terms such as equality and women's lib were not the common household words they are today.

Small wonder that in the pioneer papers here at Pine Grove library, biographies of men outnumber those of women by at least twenty to one.

SUSAN BUTTON

At 68 years of age, Susan Button felt a spark of determination and became one of the exceptions. It was 1875 and the Pioneer Society was still asking for personal accounts of early days. Susan dipped her pen and told her story.

In the fall of 1831 24 year old Susan, a bride of six months, left New York state with her husband John. Four years previously, John Button had come to Oakland County and purchased government land. Returning to his home state, he had worked those intervening years at \$12.00 a month.

It took John six weeks to build their first house in Farmington. In the meantime, they lived in the front part of the Walter Sprague home, a room without windows or hearth. Their bed was the two packing boxes they had moved their goods in.

Even the Button's new house had neither door nor windows. Susan hung a bed blanket on the door frame and shoulder blankets

shawls - at the window openings. There was a stick chimney but it was spring before the hearth was built. Three times a day Susan crouched in front of the fire to poke an iron spider filled with johnnycake batter into the coals. On Sunday they had biscuits. That, and potatoes and pork, made up the majority of their meals for a year.

A pioneer's tasks were not always tinged with grace. Susan's housekeeping was not made easier by the fact that before John got a barn built, he often had to bring the oxen into the house to shoe them.

Once John and his brother, who lived with them, were felling an enormous tree. Night came before they were finished. Reluctant to leave the tree for fear it might fall on the cattle, they called out Susan to hold a candle for them to see by. In the dim, flickering light they finally felled the tree.

The Button's lived on this same farm for forty years. At sixty-four, Susan was living alone on a few of the acres, independently refusing to live with any of her four children.



. . . and youth to build homes in the wilderness.

Daguerretype Collection OCPHS

SARAH SOPER

Sarah Hadsell Soper was blessed with a good memory and the ability to translate all the stories she heard as a child onto paper. Born to pioneer parents, she missed only a few of the hardships of early settlers.

Sarah's parents, Mary Lewis and Cyrus Hadsell were married in the village of Pontiac, two miles north of the courthouse, in 1838. Their honeymoon was a day's trip with a borrowed span of horses and a lumber wagon. Then they went to work together drawing logs for a cabin.

Once the logs were hewed and the corners matched, they held a bee. It was as nice a house as any of their neighbors. A floor of white ash was put in the kitchen that was so sound, it was ripped up to be used in the couple's new house 18 years later.

Mary Lewis was one of those thrifty New England women with a great talent for spinning and weaving. In addition to helping with the farm work, she took in spinning on shares and kept her family in all the necessary woollen clothing for winter.

Sarah learned all these skills at an early age, and told, years later of helping her father hetchel his field of flax. This was a process of combing the flax.

Aided by her daughter's spinning ability, Mary set herself to the task of helping save the money necessary for a new house. A brother-in-law had built her a loom a few years after her marriage. Her skill as a weaver became so great that she never failed to turn out a thousand yards of fabric a year. There were a few years when she doubled that amount.

The great hardship for Sarah's generation was the Civil War. Her husband Charles enlisted with Col. Wisner's 22nd. Volunteers and had to leave before the corn and wheat on their farm was harvested, Sarah moved back home with her small daughter and infant son.

The draft was taking so many men she was unable to hire anyone to care for the crops. Each day Sarah left her children with a younger sister, and harnessing up a wagon, drove the three miles to her farm. Here she would cut enough corn to fill the double bed, and each night husk all she had cut to feed the cattle for market. A husking bee by her friends put 300 bushels of corn aside for winter. Of course, these tasks would end for her when Charles came home from the war - but he never returned.

The Pioneer Society had asked for accounts of days of the early settlers and that was what Sarah gave. She wrote voluminously of her parents and uncle Asa Hadsell, and of her in-laws but she tells nothing of the struggle of the twenty two years after her husband's death. She closes the door on her account with the words that she was one of the women who gave a loved one "somewhat unwillingly" for the Union.

Excerpts from Pioneer Clippings
OCPHS Vol. 1 & 2
Pictures from Photo Files
(unidentified)



Tintype Collection
OCPHS

THE MOSES WISNER FAMILY

1815-1975

Ruth G. Priestley

Part V Jessie Wisner Clark

Florence Wisner Clark Wallace

David Clark Wallace

David, Sandra

and Robert Wallace

Jessica Wisner, the youngest child and only daughter of Moses and Angeolina Hascall Wisner, was born at the family home, Pine Grove, in Pontiac, Michigan, on November 8, 1856. As all little girls seem to do with their father, Jessie, as she was called, at once found a very special place in Moses Wisner's heart. She was a dainty, pretty little girl, with beautiful big eyes and her head covered with a mass of brown ringlets. This she must have inherited from the Hascall family, for Angeolina's sister, Esther, had hair so tightly curled that as a young girl she resorted to the use of bear's grease to keep it in place.

The older children in the family were a half-brother, Edward M., the son of Moses and Eliza Richardson Wisner, who was 14 years old, and her own brothers, Charles, who was six and little Frank, just two. Throughout her life Jessie always had a very close relationship with her own brother, "Chip", and with Frank, until he died very suddenly of a fever in September 1867, when only 13 years old. She never really knew her half-brother, Edward, very well, however.

Edward, even at an early age was addicted to wanderlust and would occasionally take off for parts unknown, causing Moses and Angeolina endless anxiety and concern until he again returned home. For a time he attended a private school in Detroit and later college. When the Civil War broke out, he followed in the footsteps of earlier generations of Wisner men and enlisted as a Sergeant in the 5th Michigan Regiment, on June 19, 1861. He took part in the battles of the Potomac under General George McClellan. When Moses Wisner formed the 22nd Michigan Regiment, Edward transferred to his father's regiment, where he served as a First Lieutenant, in CO. A, until January 31, 1863. He then retired with a medical discharge. Returning to Pontiac, the following year on May 23, 1864 he married Clara Pierce, whose parents

were early settlers of Orion Township. By 1867 he again had an urge to travel. One day Clara asked him to go to the butcher shop to get some meat for dinner. Instead of bringing home the bacon, he left town and never returned. He travelled the western states and territories, China and Japan for 27 years. In 1894, he settled in Fulton, New York, where he remained until his death in 1919.



Jessie Wisner
before her marriage

Jessie was just two years old when her father was elected Governor of Michigan. Hardly old enough to understand its importance to the family, she would later recognize that it was the happiest time of her childhood. Over and over again, down through the years, Angeolina would tell her of events that occurred during those two years. She was especially fond of telling about the time she and Moses participated in the welcome of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII of England, to Detroit, on Thursday evening, September 20, 1860. He was the first heir to the English throne ever to visit the United States. As originally planned, the 19 year old Prince was to visit Canada to convey to that country Queen Victoria's gratitude for the troops they had provided in the Crimean War. President Buchanan then invited the British heir to visit Washington, whereupon requests were made by other American officials for him to visit their cities. The invitation of Detroit's Mayor C.H. Buhl was accepted and plans were made to give the Prince a proper welcome. The Queen had requested that he was to travel in the United States as a private citizen and that re-

ceptions of welcome were to be simple and not on a "grand scale". A committee of 50 prominent persons were appointed by the Mayor to escort the Prince across the river by steamer from Windsor to Detroit, and proceed up Woodward Avenue to the Russell House where the royal party would be staying. On the evening of the gala event buildings on both shores were ablaze with lights and steamers, decorated with colored banners, the cheering crews tooting horns, crowded the center of the river. Between 15,000 and 25,000 persons had gathered "to obtain a glimpse of the only live Prince who had ever visited the town". All went well until the steamer "Windsor" approached the dock at the foot of Woodward Avenue. Fireworks, set off by the waiting crowd, fell upon the cartridge of the gun to be fired in royal salute by the Scott Guard Artillerymen causing an explosion. Then as the boat docked, mad confusion reigned, making it nearly impossible for the royal visitor and the welcoming dignitaries to reach their waiting carriages and proceed to the Russell House as planned. Finally the Prince was hurried into the nearest carriage and taken by a back street to his hotel, and securely deposited in his room, protected by a police barricade. The crowd then converged on the hotel until well after midnight. The following day the Prince boarded a special train and went on to Chicago but his welcome in Detroit remained a topic of conversation for quite some time.

Moses Wisner was often away from home for several days or weeks at a time, first as Governor and then, after his term of office was completed, on court cases being heard outside of Oakland County or on speaking engagements on behalf of the Republican Party or in protest against slavery. This was becoming an all-consuming political issue and Moses was among the leaders in Michigan who strongly advocated the abolition of slavery, although several members of earlier generations of Wisners were slave owners. His Great-Grandfather, Adam Wisner, of Orange County, New York, was the owner of a female slave in 1755. On such occasions when Moses was away from his family, he missed them as much as they did him. To overcome this, he had various ways of showing his love and affection and to try to draw them closer in thought to him. In his letters he would tell Jessie and Frank to sing songs every night at 7:00 P.M. and at that time he

would also be thinking of them. He would also have Angeolina kiss the children for him and then have them kiss her for him. Then came the time when he went away for the last time.

In the summer of 1862 Governor Austen Blair appointed Moses Wisner to recruit and train the 22nd Michigan Regiment of Infantry. On September 4, 1862 he left with his regiment to fight the enemy forces in Kentucky. Jessie was now six years old and well remembered how sad she, her Ma. Chip and Frank felt that day when he kissed them goodbye. From then on the house seemed to empty and lonely but then one day a letter came that made Jessie very happy. Her father told them that he had named his army horse "Jessie", for "she is the finest horse I have seen since I left home", and that he had also "requested that the horse be sent home if he should fall in the war."

Shortly after that he became ill with typhoid fever and died at Lexington, Kentucky on January 5, 1863. When Jessie was told her Pa was dead and she knew that he could never again ask her to sing, she thought that she could never feel like singing again.

While family and friends were mourning for Moses Wisner, another Pontiac family was making preparations to bury their soldier son in Oak Hill Cenetery. Private Charles Voorheis, age 22 years, the son of J.E. Voorheis and the deceased Lucy Ann Frost Voorheis, had also died at Lexington, Kentucky on January 4, 1863, just one day before the death of his commanding officer, Colonel Moses Wisner.

Jessie received an education such as most young ladies of her time were given. She attended the Pontiac Union School, but since compulsory education was not yet required in Michigan her attendance was frequently erratic. The School Register for the term of September 4, 1865 to December 22, 1865, as reported by the teacher, Julia E. Comstock, shows that both Frank, age 11, and Jessie, age 8, were in attendance from September 18th thru October 2nd, a total of 11 days during the entire term, and both attended only 9 days during the first two weeks of the term of April to June, 1866. In those days it was thought that the proper profession for a woman was to be a homemaker, and Jessie learned the arts of homemaking early. Pine Grove was large and after Moses went to War Angeolina had no regular household help, so Jessie, as soon as she was old enough, had to learn to clean and cook and help preserve the

fruits and vegetables from the large garden and orchard that every farm family depended on for food, both summer and winter.

All of her time wasn't spent in work, however, for she learned to play the piano that Angeolina brought from her parent's home in Flint about 1862, the same one that today is in the parlor at Pine Grove and, on occasion, still gives out the same sweet melodious tunes that it did over 100 years ago. The spacious lawns and numerous pine trees that her father had planted in 1853 afforded plenty of opportunity for outdoor fun. Running games and climbing trees, riding Chip's pony, the gift of his Grandfather Hascall, or playing marbles with Frank provided hours of happy freedom that made her childhood a happy one. And of course, there were visits from aunts, uncles, cousins, and family friends who frequently shared in the fun.

In 1970 the Wisners had a rather unusual neighbor, Mrs. Dr. J. Churchill, living across Saginaw Street. On June 7, 1871 the Pontiac Bill Poster ran the following ad:

MADAME CHURCHILL

This celebrated clairvoyant seer describes diseases and prescribes in all cases of sickness. She can be consulted on business matters; well describe persons who have stolen property, will reveal past and foretell future events; and will satisfactorily describe home and friends. Residence on Saginaw Avenue, nearly opposite Mrs. Governor Wisner.

This somewhat unfavorable reference to the Wisner's may have caused Angeolina to consider making some changes.

When Charles H. Wisner graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1871 he decided to practice in Flint so Angeolina and Jessie, who at that time was about 15 years old, moved there to keep house for him. Angeolina owned a house on Hascall Street, on property that was a part of the lands her father had bought when he first went to Flint in 1837 as receiver in the Government Land Office. She had grown up in Flint and, with the children, had visited there often after her marriage. Her mother still lived in the old family homestead on the corner of Saginaw and Court Street, three brothers also lived there and she knew most of the old established families, for in 1871 it was a city of only 10,000.

One older family was that of William Clark, a Druggist and his wife, Mary Whitney Clark, whose family had owned a marble works in Flint since the early 1850's. The Clark's lived at Harrison and Third Street, just two blocks from Angeolina's home. One of their sons, Alpheus Whitney Clark, was born May 15, 1852, attended the Flint schools and after graduating from University of Michigan in 1874 came back home to work at the First National Bank of Flint.

Just how or when their romance began we do not know, but in 1877, when Jessie was 21, and now a beautiful young lady, she was married to Alpheus Clark. They lived in Flint until 1880, when they moved to Pine Grove and "Alf" rode the commuter train to Detroit, where he now worked for the First National Bank of Detroit. How delighted they must have been, when after seven years of marriage, they became the parents of a daughter, Florence Wisner Clark, who was born on January 8, 1884. She was the only grandchild of Moses and Angeolina Wisner to live to maturity. Another daughter, Jessie G. Clark was born to Jessie and Alpheus in 1893, but died when she was five months old. It is no wonder that Angeolina thought Florence was just about perfect and would always take her side when Jessie disciplined her. If Florence tore her clothes or got dirty when climbing the trees in the pinery Angeolina would say, "Now Jessie don't scold her, you used to do the very same thing."



*Florence Wisner Clark
"only grandchild of Moses
and Angeolina Wisner"*

When Florence was ready to start school the Clark's moved to a home on Forest Avenue in Detroit. At that time it was an excellent neighborhood of fine brick homes. Charles A. Lindbergh was born at 1120 W. Forest Avenue, on February 44, 1902, but moved shortly afterwards with his parents to Little Falls, Minnesota. The house was owned by his maternal Grandfather, Charles M. Land, a Dentist, who had bought it in 1898. Forest Avenue today is in the area close to Wayne State University.

The summers were always spent at Pine Grove and Florence, with her friends, enjoyed much the same pastimes as her mother had before her. One of Florence's good friends was Lucille Hoffman, who lived at 321 Oakland Avenue. Her Grandfather and Grandmother Hoffman lived in the oldest part of the Wisner house (where the office and library are now.)



*Mary Platt and Florence Clark
"Under the pines at the
Wisner House"*

Lucille, the mother of Lillian Pardee Balmer, often told of the good times she had playing at Pine Grove. One time she fell out of the big old spruce in the orchard, called "Old Faithful," and broke her arm. The cookie jar was always filled with big fat sugar or molasses cookies and Angeolina would let the children reach in and pick out just the one they wanted. Florence loved to dance, so while Jessie played the piano, Alpheus Clark, a large, jolly and friendly man would dance jigs with her and her playmates.

In 1902 Florence graduated from Detroit Central High School and was then employed at the school as assistant to the Grade Principal. She was sometime called on to teach pupils almost as old as herself and bring order to classrooms of

unruly students. On one occasion she was told not to come out of the room "until they throw you out."

Jessie was ill for several years with Bright's Disease and the winter of 1905 or 1906 she and Florence went to Mesa, Arizona in an attempt to improve her health. At the hotel where they were staying was also another visitor from Detroit, a handsome young man, Edward Wallace. He and Florence began a friendship that would continue far beyond the Arizona vacation. Jessie's illness gradually worsened and resulted in her death on August 12, 1907, just shortly before her 51st birthday. She was buried in the Wisner family plot at Oak Hill Cemetery beside her father, brother, her own little daughter and her mother, for Angeolina had died on December 7, 1905. Alpheus Clark lived for 29 years after Jessie. He was in business in Detroit for over 40 years, then retired to Pine Grove in 1927 where he lived at the time of his death on September 2, 1931, at the age of 79 years old.

On October 18, 1909, Florence Wisner Clark and Edward Bruce Wallace were married. At 11:30 A.M. they took their place before the bay window in the parlor at Pine Grove and, with the Reverend Jerome, a former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac, performing the ceremony they took their vows. Florence was gowned in an attractive travelling suit of brown and was unattended. A wedding luncheon was served to the 50 relatives and friends assembled and the bride and groom then left for an extended wedding trip through the East.

Edward was a member of the grocery firm of Wallace and Sons, founded by his father, David Wallace, located at 119 Woodward Avenue Detroit. After the father's death it was run by Edward and his brother, Avery. The store remained in business at the location for 43 years, until 1933. A second grocery store was then opened at E. Jefferson and Cadieux Road, which remained in business about four or five years. This was before supermarkets were so numerous and a good business was done in making deliveries to the wealthy families in Grosse Pointe.

Florence and Edward's first home was on Rhode Island Avenue, in Highland Park. Their only child, David Clark Wallace was born June 15, 1911. He was also the only member of the fourth generation of the Moses Wisner family. The Wallace's later moved to 164 Richardson

Avenue, Highland Park, and maintained that home for nearly all of their married life. David Clark Wallace, always called "Clark", grew up there and attended Highland Park High School. He also clerked and made deliveries at both of the family grocery stores.



*Edward and Florence
Clark Wallace
after their marriage in 1911*

Although Florence had lived a good part of her life in Detroit, she always considered Pine Grove home. After Jessie's death, Florence struggled valiantly to carry out Angeolina's last request to preserve it for future members of the family. By 1926, Florence, her father Alpheus Clark and Clark were living there most of the time, with Edward Wallace coming out on the week-ends.



*David Clark Wallace
"on the porch at Pine Grove"*

Clark, who is now retired and gives much of his time as a volunteer guide at Pine Grove, has many tales to tell of his childhood and young adult years that he lived in the Wisner house. One day a man gave him four rabbits and said that he

would buy back as many more as Clark could raise. In no time at all there were 400 rabbits crowding the pen. When Clark went looking for the man to complete the sale, he was nowhere to be found. Before he was old enough to get his driver's license, he would drive his Grandfather Clark's old 1917 Oakland car up and down the driveway and around the yard, going forwards and then backward, accepting any passengers who would take the risk.

There were always other children and lots of things to do around the Wisner house. For years there had been caretaker families, who lived in the back part of the house, which by now had been converted into a very comfortable living quarters. Between 1911 and 1921 the Cowen family lived there, Mr. Cowen was the janitor of the new Wisner school after it was built in 1911. Then in 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kath and their two small sons, Vernon and Maynard came. They lived there for over 35 years. The boys each had ponies and Clark has said that often the yard would be full of children waiting their turn for a ride. The ponies also plowed the garden and when harnessed to lawnmowers made cutting grass much easier. Both Kath boys lived there until they married. Mr. Kath worked for Pontiac Motors and when he retired and with Mrs. Kath moved up north Maynard and his wife then lived at Pine Grove until about 1958. Vernon Kath has said that for a long time after the family moved away, it seemed that whenever he went past the driveway he should turn, for to him, that had always been home.

In 1940 Clark Wallace went to work at the General Motors Truck and Coach plant in Pontiac. The following year, on October 18, 1941, on the 32nd Wedding Anniversary of Edward and Florence Wallace, Clark was married to Ruby Bowman, of Rochester, in the Wisner parlor. The bay window was decorated with baskets of chrysanthemums and Ruby wore a beige gown for the ceremony. They lived at Pine Grove with Florence and Edward for three years and their first child, a son, David Clark Wallace, Jr., was born there. A daughter, Sandra, and another son, Robert, were born after Clark and Ruby moved to their present home on Lochaven Road, at Union Lake in 1944.

Late in the fall of 1944, Edward became very ill so he and Florence also moved from Pine Grove to Lochaven Road. He

was 65 years old when he died there on November 20, 1944. Florence never again returned to Pine Grove to live. She continued to live with Clark and his family for 30 years, until her death on February 6, 1974, one month past her 90th birthday. She remained active, energetic and interested in life for almost all of those years.



*Alpheus W. Clark
husband of Jessie Wisner,
during the later years
of his life*

Showing a love for their Country through military service has been an outstanding characteristic of the Wisner family men from the first generation down to the present one. Moses Wisner would be exceedingly proud of his Great-Great-Grandson, David Clark Wallace, Jr. A second year student at Wayne State University in 1967, he voluntarily enlisted in the army for service in Vietnam. Completing basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., he was sent overseas to Khorat, about 100 miles northwest of Bangkok, in Thailand. Here he was assigned to the 7th Maintenance Battalion, the Headquarters for all battalions stationed in that area. He attained the rank of Specialist 5th Class. His work



*Specialist 5th Class
David Clark Wallace, Jr.
Khorat, Thailand
"wearing the Thailand
Lei of Welcome"*

took him to Okinawa, Laos, Burma, Saigon, the Philippines and many other fields of action. He was in the army for 2 1/2 years, returning to civilian life in 1969. For his overseas service he was presented with the Army Commendation Medal by the Commanding General of Thailand. This medal, David says, is one of his most cherished possessions, but, he is most emphatic in saying that he felt it a privilege as well as a duty to serve the country he loves.

When, in 1944, Florence Wallace turned the key in the lock of the big front door and drove away from Pine Grove, it marked 100 years and five generations of the Wisner family that had seen all phases of life pass through its doors—birth, death, joy and sorrow. The commitments of both Angeolina and Florence for its future have been fulfilled, for today, it is still a living memorial to Moses Wisner, and a source of pride and pleasure to Clark and Ruby, David and his wife, Jean, Sandra and Robert Wallace. Hopefully it will do the same for future generations of the Wisner family.

Material for this series of articles in addition to that already listed include the following:

General Histories of Michigan: Bald, Dunbar, Farmer.

Oakland, Genesee and Lapeer County Histories, - 1877.

Histories of Cayuga and Orange County, New York.

Vital Records of Michigan and New York.

U.S. Census, Flint and Pontiac City Directories, U.S. Army Records.

Maps and Plats of Genesee and Oakland County, Cayuga and Orange County, N.Y.

University of Michigan Catalog, 1870-71, also Records from Alumni Association, University of Michigan.

Newspapers: Pontiac Gazette, Pontiac Bill Poster, The Oakland Press, Detroit Free Press.

Chronicle, "A Wreck of Hoops", by William Miles, Vol. 12, No. 4, Winter 1976-77.

Wisner Family papers in Oakland County Historical Society Library.

Personal interviews: Clark Wallace Family, Dr. and Mrs. Hazen Atkins, Lillian Balmer, Vernon Kath, David Clark Wallace, Jr.