



PLEASE RETURN THE  
ENCLOSED MEMBER  
RESPONSE SHEET!!!

**PARKING**  
Wisner School Lot Adjoining Wisner House  
Oakland Ave. Evangelical Presbyterian Church Lot  
On East Side of Oakland Ave.

Sunday, December 9, 1984

## VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE

12:00 Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Featuring A tour, Music, Children's Program,

Mulled Cider and Holiday Cookies

DONATION: Adults \$3.00 Children (under 12) \$1.00

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Wednesday, December 5, 1984

starting at 9:30 a.m.

A fun time for willing workers. Wear your  
old clothes and bring a sack lunch.

## HOLIDAYS TOURS

(By Appointment)

December 6, 7 and 10 thru 14, 1984

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Special After School Tours  
By Appointment

## Victorian Christmas Open House

Plans are well underway for our 16th Victorian Christmas Open House to be held on Sunday, December 9th, from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. As usual, Pine Grove will be gaily decorated with the traditional evergreens, wreaths and bright bows. The day will feature costumed stationary guides throughout the buildings, Christmas music, crafters demonstrating their skills, hot mulled cider and Christmas cookies served in the carriage house and Margaret Ann Jackson promises another entertaining program in the one-room school.

The Potpourri Shoppe is being restocked with handmade items and reproductions of Victorian toys.

The date for the Hanging of the Greens is set for Wednesday, December 5th. Anyone desiring to help may drop in between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Bring a sack lunch and the coffee will be perking in the office kitchen for all to help themselves.

Tickets for the raffle of the beautiful quilt made by the women of the First Congregational Church of Pontiac are on sale now, the raffle to take place at the De-Hanging of the Greens on December 17th.

With this Gazette, you are being sent 5 tickets of admission. The ticket donation is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12. Your contributions will be gratefully accepted prior to the event, however, tickets may also be purchased at the door. We are including an insert for you to let us know in what capacity you would like to help.

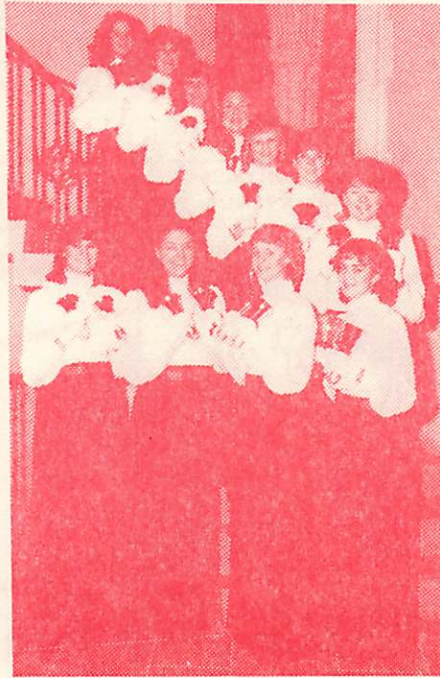
A sheet listing activities for this annual affair will be posted on the office kitchen door November 1st. Do drop in and sign up to help with preparations for and duties of this festive day. Guides, servers, ticket takers, decorators and un-decorators are needed.

## Christmas Festivities in the One-Room School

This year has been designated National Youth Theatre Year by President Reagan. As in the past, we plan to carry out the theme in displays and programs in the One-Room Schoolhouse for the Victorian Christmas Open House.

Santa Claus will be there to greet boys and girls of all ages. We have invited students from Willoway Apprentice Theatre, Country Day, Waterford and Mark Twain Elementary Schools to help us decorate and participate in the programs and displays presented for your enjoyment in the schoolhouse on the afternoon of December 9th. The displays and tree will remain for the holiday tours.

## The Jills



Using handbells to accompany themselves in their singing, the "Jills" musically hope to depict the spirit, energy and sincerity of today's youth.

## The Jills to Sing at Victorian Open House

The "Jills from Bloomfield Hills" will provide the entertainment in the parlor at the Victorian Open House.

This outstanding musical group is an honors vocal ensemble from Andover High School, whose musical ability has been demonstrated by the over 50 concerts that are performed outside of school each year.

Featured in national, state and local newspapers and magazines, with several appearances on radio and T.V., the "Jills" have been heard by millions of people in the United States, Canada and Europe.

They have sung at the National Cherry Blossom festival in Washington, D.C., representing our State on Michigan Day; at Fort Knox, Kentucky for the U.S. Army Troops; in Rome, Italy, for the International Choral Festival; in Toronto, at the Ontario Place; at the International Music Festival in Wales and for the former President of the United States, Gerald Ford, as well as for numerous university, hospital and charitable events.

## President's Message

Dear Members,

About 20 years ago Kitty and I moved to Waterford Township, but still maintained our jobs 30 miles south of Waterford. During that time, while still working, we both passed the Wisner House twice a day and often wondered what the Big House was. Now, four years after retirement, we are both totally involved in the business and maintenance of this fine Historic Place.

Through my activity at Pine Grove, I have made new friends and have found many people who are so much more knowledgeable than I regarding the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. As your new President, I am sure that over the next year I will be depending on them for guidance.

Some of the areas I feel need particular attention are: Membership - To increase our membership geographically throughout Oakland County for our concentration of members is in the Greater Pontiac Area only.

Restoration - Through application for financial grants as were awarded for the

roof, we could continue the restoration process so sorely needed. I would like to see new exterior paint on the Main House and the School. The Carriage House also needs completion by setting the field stones in cement around the footings.

Volunteers - As many of you know, volunteers are few in relation to our membership. We see the same familiar faces at all meetings including Board Meetings and Committee Meeting. It would be nice to see some new faces at all of our functions.

Committees - Through the cooperation of all who were asked, most committee chairmen for the 1984-85 year have been established. Hopefully, by the November 28 Board Meeting, we will have a complete list. If you feel you could donate some time to participate in our striving, on-going committees please let us know.

It is my intention to perpetuate the purposes of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Your confidence in my ability is greatly appreciated.

Donald H. Daggy

The Officers, Board and Staff Wish All Our Members...  
A Very Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year.



## MEMBER RESPONSE

Enclosed please find five tickets for you and your friends. Please return your check to the Wisner House, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, MI 48058 before December 1st. Make checks payable to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE: Please mail in as soon as possible.

I WILL SERVE—

Tickets

Host Server

Potpourri Shoppe

I will come to the Hanging of the Greens on Wednesday, December 5th.

I will bring homemade cookies Sunday forenoon or Friday between 1:00 and 4:00.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ quilt tickets which I will sell or return.

I will come to the De-hanging of the Greens on Monday, Dec. 17th.

I would like to participate in the Children's Program.

I will be a stationary guide, \_\_\_\_\_ time preferred.

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE 338-6732

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Life in Rural Oakland County in the 1800's and Early 1900's

By Faye M. Donelson

My great-grandfather, Ira, came to Pontiac in 1827. He was 37 and his wife, Mary was 33. They came from Massachusetts with their four children to find good farm land. They traveled by way of the Erie Canal and Lake Erie. They were 14 days crossing Lake Erie due to strong headwinds.

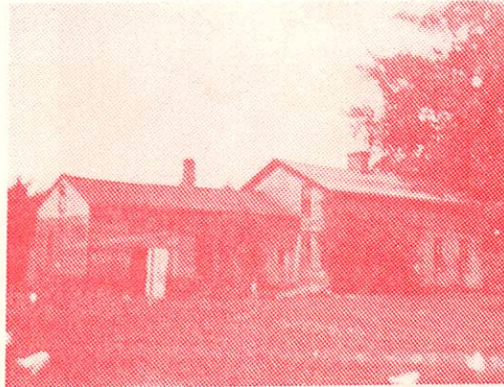
Ira was descended from Daniel, who arrived in Massachusetts from Scotland in 1736 at age 12. By 1754 he was living in Colrain, Massachusetts. He served in the French and Indian War. In 1756 he married Agnes Clark. Matthew, their fourth child was born in 1761. He served as a private in the Revolutionary War. He married Sarah Patterson and produced eight children. Their son, Ira, my great grandfather, married Mary Shattuck in Colrain, Massachusetts.

After arriving in Michigan, Ira built a 14'x24' log cabin at the southwest corner of Elizabeth Lake and Voorheis Roads. At first it had oiled paper for windows and a blanket for a door. They often heard wolves howling in the winter but were never molested by them. There was an abundance of hickory, walnut and butternuts for the picking. Their diet consisted of wild game and fish until they could get produce from a garden. Their biggest problem was mosquitoes. With so many swamps and so much tall grass, they bred profusely. Without screens, they suffered all summer from the bites and the "ague" (malaria). Sometimes every member of the family was ill. They prayed daily for the first frost.

Ira had brought \$500 with him to last until he could earn some money. After the cabin was built, he turned to clearing land for a garden and to plant crops come spring. That first winter he taught school in the one-room school at the corner of Scott and Elizabeth Lake roads. That was the second school built in Waterford Township. The first was over Oliver Williams's sheep shed built in 1821.

Five years after coming to Waterford Township Ira and Mary's fifth son, my grandfather Arza, was born. Their only girl, Mary, was born two years before. A letter from her to her brother Park, studying at Ann Arbor to become a minister, tells how she spent her nineteenth birthday, on July 4, 1849. "I took more pleasure on my nineteenth birthday than I ever did before on such an occasion. I went to Mr. Voorheis's and ate roast pig, then took a boatripe on Sylvan Lake; just at night went to Pontiac and saw the fireworks, such as bonfires, snap dragons, sky rockets and fireballs.

We are all well at present and enjoying ourselves on lemonade and sarsapilla."



**Donelson farmhouse, built by Ira Donelson in 1838, located on the southwest corner of Elizabeth Lake and Voorheis roads, in Waterford Township.**

On an adjoining farm to the south (the fence on the south side of Premont St. separated the Donelson property from the Voorheis farm) lived the Isaac Voorheis family. Isaac had come in 1824, at age 18, with Harvey Seeley. He married Sarah Terry, the daughter of William Nathan Terry, a Revolutionary War soldier. Their first child was Lucy, the first white child born in Waterford Township. Their second child was my grandmother, Susan Voorheis.

Ten years after arriving in Michigan, Ira had 80 acres cleared and money in the bank. One day he said to his neighbor, Isaac Voorheis, "I've lived in a cabin long enough, I'm going to build a frame house." Isaac replied, "I've been thinking the same thing. I have so much timber on my property, why don't you send to the east for the nails and I will cut the timber for both houses." So in 1838 each man built a house on Voorheis Road. Isaac's house is still standing. It is the two story house, west of Telegraph Road, across from the Patrician Apartments. Ira's house was built near his cabin on the southwest corner of Elizabeth Lake and Voorheis roads. It was demolished about 1921 to make room for a modern house.

In 1828 a minister was sent by the Ohio Conference (Methodist) to help organize a Sunday School at the Donelson cabin. Ten adults and the two oldest Donelson boys agreed that day to start a Sunday School. This was the beginning of the First Methodist Church in Pontiac.

The 1872 History of Oakland County tells of a sleighride party held in 1824 in the log cabin of Oliver Williams' daughter, Mrs. Rufus Stevens of Grand Blanc. Fourteen persons, packed into several sleighs, left Pontiac at 7:00 a.m. They stopped for a picnic lunch at the Big Spring and arrived at the cabin after dark, thirty-five miles from Silver Lake. After a bounteous supper they danced most of the night. The next day was spent visiting and

dancing. With very little sleep, they returned to Pontiac on the third day.

In 1826, the first New Years' party was held in Rochester and was attended by sixty people who each paid 50 cents for expenses.

Most farmers, in those days, raised sheep in order to have fresh meat, wool for weaving cloth, and a source of money income. They traded labor and farm products for what they needed. There was little cash. Most farmers paid their taxes by working on the roads.

Ira and Mary's sixth child was my grandfather, Arza. He was fond of two things—poetry and trotting horses. When Ira became too old to manage his farm any longer, he wrote a letter to each of his children saying Arza wanted to take over the farm as did also his daughter's husband, Gilbert Shattuck. He asked for their opinions. Arza took possession and named it The Rising Sun Stock Farm. He bred some of the fastest trotters of the period. A painting of Goldenbow, his chief sire, hangs in the office at the Donelson-Johns Funeral Home. Buyers came from all over the country. My grandmother had to have enough food in the house at all times to feed them since there were no nearby restaurants.

My father, Mark Donelson, worked on the farm for his father until Arza went out of the horse business. At age thirty, he married and went to Detroit to be the farm manager of a large farm out Jefferson Avenue. Five years later the renters on the farm were doing such a poor job that Arza begged my father to come back and run the farm. Two children, including myself were born in Detroit. Three more children, Carl, Rolland and Marian were born in the next seven years. There was lots of hard work to run the farm of 200 acres. We always had a hired man who lived with us. Extra help was hired when needed. Crops raised were hay, alfalfa, corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, and buckwheat. Mark gradually built up a herd of thirty milch cows. He always had a herd of beef cattle fattening for slaughter. There were sheep, hogs, goats, chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese, and of course, a driving horse, Babe, and eight work horses. Winters, my father would slaughter a beef and a hog or two, cut them up into roasts, steaks, and chops and peddle them from door to door in Pontiac.

All of us children suffered the usual childhood diseases—measles, chickenpox, mumps and red measles. Then came 1916 when the first Infantile Paralysis epidemic struck. The first victim was Erwin Greer who finally recovered but wore a brace all the rest of his life. Then Rolland came down with it on his first day



**Mark Donelson and his children Gilbert, Carl, Faye, Marion and Rolland, with "Nanny"**

of school. I was next. But we all survived and gave blood numerous time for experimentation trying to develop a vaccine.

School was at the corner of Cass Lake and Elizabeth Lake roads. There was a bridge across a stream about where the east exit from Perry Drug is now. The swamp was a source of nature study. Minnows, blood suckers, muskrats, mosquitoes, and lovely water lilies were sources of interest. Horseradish grew wild in the ditch past what is now the trailer park. Marsh marigolds and cat tails grew profusely.

School started at 9:00 with a fifteen minute recess at 10:30 and 2:30. Lunch was from 12:00 to 1:00 so in winter we had time to slide down a huge hill that was higher than Brookdale Street is now. Classes were ten minutes long. We usually had about thirty children in the eight grades. Christmas programs and the last day of school were the most important events in our lives. One time when Cass Windiate was an eighth grader, he waited for the moment when all was quiet, then he let go a whole handful of dried peas. It made a great noise and disturbed everyone but I do not think our teacher ever knew who did it. The furnace was in one corner of the room and used for drying shoes and mittens. Once in a while someone would bring a bit of limburger cheese and put it on top when the teacher was not looking. Naturally we would get a few minutes outside while the room was aired.

We loved to play London Bridge, Ante-i-Over, and Tag. Why we didn't all have our eyes put out by playing Duck-on-the-rock, I will never know. The toilets were outside. Much screaming and laughter accompanied attempts by the boys to tip one over when it as filled with several girls.

When we finished the eighth grade, we had to go into Pontiac, to the Courthouse and write examinations, under male

supervision, over all the subjects we had studied. If we passed, we could go on to Pontiac High School by paying tuition. Nothing was free. Books, tablets, notebooks, pencils, pens, ink, crayons all had to be furnished by the parents.

Until about 1930, Huron Street ended at Telegraph Road (we knew it as Hillsboro). The street car came out Huron and either backed around there and went back to Pontiac or turned left and went on to Orchard Lake. To get to Pontiac we had to go Elizabeth Lake Road or Voorheis. I remember when Elizabeth Lake Road was paved. Labor was done by a gang of Italian men who spoke very little English. Their leader had to interpret directions for them.

In 1918 real tragedy struck. Rolland and two neighbor boys six and eight years old, came home to find everyone away. When they realized they had the place to themselves, they took matches, as kids will do, and went to the barn to make cigarettes out of hay and paper. The result was that all of the barns: cow barn, horse barn, hay barn, sheep pen, hog pen and chicken coop all burned. The tenant house went as well. It was filled with hundreds of bushels of winter wheat. What I regret most was the loss of a huge wooden box of grandfather's letters. When my parents and I arrived a short time later, the big 12"x12" oak beams were glowing red and about to fall. Every piece of furniture in our house was sitting on the front lawn because the neighbors were afraid the wind would change and take the house too. The barns were full of hay and grain. Obviously this meant the end of farming. Without food and shelter for the animals, they would have to be sold. Two weeks later all the tools and animals were sold at an auction.

What now! Mark was 47 with a wife and five children to feed. He decided he had to sell some land. He secured a surveyor, and had the land east of

Voorheis Road platted into two acre parcels. He had only one street called Sunset, which exited on to a private road which is now Huron Street. Now we know it as Coleman named for Harry Coleman of the Pontiac Daily Press who built one of the first houses on the street.

A day after the fire Grandma Donelson's brother, James K. Voorheis came over and said they were moving into town for the winter, and we could live in their house until spring. There were barns for our one cow and two horses. It was at the corner of Voorheis and Josephine Streets where the Patrician Apartments are now. I could walk to Telegraph Road and catch the street car instead of getting to high school by horse and buggy.

When the whistles started to blow on November 11, 1918, we grabbed coats and ran for the street car. We spent the rest of the day on Saginaw Street in Pontiac watching people parade, pound on wash tubs and make noise of every kind to show how happy they were to have World War I over.

That winter was wonderful. The ice on Sylvan Lake froze smooth with no ridges because of no wind. We skated nearly every day and at night until about 9:00.

Have you ever juggled bees? We thought it great fun. One time we found nest of big plushy bumble bees near where we were hoeing. We got a gallon jug, one of those beige ones with a brown interior. We put in some water, set it near the nest, and with a rake or long stick stirred. The bees would fly out, see that black hole and whoosh! They would dive to attack. Of course they drowned. When they quieted down, we would stir them up again. It was good for an hour of fun and we got rid of the bees without getting stung—usually.

A farm is a great place for children to grow up. There is lots of work, but one learns how to do many things. One never goes hungry. There were animals to pet and love, games like Hide and Seek, Tappy on the Ice Box, Still Pond, Run Sheep Run to play evenings with neighbor children. Dog and Deer and Fox and Geese were winter favorites. Skating, sliding down hill, and catching rides on passing bobsleds were exciting. Every spare daylight hour in the fall as spent picking apples and storing them away for long winter evenings. Gathering nuts was important too if we wanted nuts in cakes and cookies. There were no rubber gloves in those days so for a week or more after a walnut shucking session, we were ashamed to let anyone see our hands.

I wish everyone could have the experience of living on a farm before the days of automobiles.

Faye M. Donelson is a retired teacher, a member of the Board of Directors and a former President of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

## Annual Meeting Report

The 110th Annual Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday evening, September 19, 1984, in the carriage house at Pine Grove.

Written reports of the committees were distributed to the members and verbal reports were made by the officers.

The following new members were elected to the Board of Directors:

For a 3 year term ending 1987

Mrs. Daniel Foxman (Miriam)

Mr. Norris Walls

To fill a vacancy, term ending 1986

Mrs. Jean Milton

To fill a vacancy, term ending 1985

Mrs. Thomas Kamlay (Jane)

Mrs. Madeline O'Connor

Mr. Rex Lamoreaux presented the wedding attire of his parents to the Society's Clothing Collection.

The meeting was followed by a very interesting program by Gretchen Adler on the Restoration of the Roof on the Wisner Historic House, and by Betty Adams on the work of the Michigan Historical Commission and the Michigan History Division.

## Officers for 1984-1985

At the October meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following Officers for the year 1984-1985;

Mr. Donald Daggy - President

Mr. Clarke Kimball - Vice President

Mrs. Charles Roush (Marion) - Secretary

Mrs. Donald Daggy (Kathryn) - Treasurer

## Calendar of Coming Events

November 22 & 23 - Thanksgiving Vacation

November 28 - 9:30 a.m., Board of Directors Meeting

December 5 - 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Hanging of the Greens

December 6 & 7 - 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Victorian Christmas Tours by reservation

December 9 - 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m., VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

December 10-14 - 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Victorian Christmas Tours by reservation

December 13 - 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., Special Victorian Christmas After School Tours by reservation

December 17 - 9:00 a.m. - finished, De-Hanging of the greens, Quilt Raffle Drawing

December 18 - Closed until January 2, 1985 for Christmas Vacation

January 16 - 9:30 a.m., Board of Directors Meeting

February 20 - 9:30 a.m., Board of Directors Meeting

## Visitors at Pine Grove

### Delegates from Kusatsu, Japan

On August 24th, our society sponsored a special tour and reception at Pine Grove for the Michigan Shiga-City Sister-State Program. The group that visited us was composed of nineteen Japanese delegates from Pontiac's Sister City, Kusatsu, Japan, and sixteen local residents and Pontiac city officials.

Several members of our Board of Directors welcomed the visitors on their arrival. Docents Kitty Daggy, Lenna McIntyre and Margaret Greer took them on a tour of the museum buildings, while Faye Donelson and Eleanor Liebman demonstrated quilting, and Laura Mackie entertained guests by playing popular 19th century tunes on Angeolina Wisner's piano in the parlor.

The visitors were much surprised and interested to learn that Pine Grove had at one time been a farm.

Connie Owens, who manned the Potpourri Shoppe, noted that the most wanted gifts and souvenirs were our hand-crafted items and those that were labeled either as having come from Pine Grove or Pontiac, Michigan.

Although only a few of the Japanese spoke much English, their smiles and bows fully expressed their enjoyment.

We look forward to seeing them again on their next visit in 1986. In 1985, Pontiac area residents will visit them in their home Sister-City, Kusatsu, Shaga, Japan.

We extend a special thanks to George Schipper, Pontiac's Sister-City Coordinator, who was responsible for bringing the Japanese delegation to the Wisner Historic House.

### Lapeer Child Study Club

The Lapeer Child Study Club held their first meeting of the 1984-85 year at Pine Grove. A late afternoon tour of the Wisner Historic House and grounds was followed by a buffet dinner in the Carriage House catered by two of our members.

The visit was of much interest to the group as Moses Wisner had first settled in Lapeer in 1837 before coming to Pontiac.

### Historical Society Kalamazoo

On December 8th, members of the Kalamazoo Historical Society will be coming for a tour of our facilities.

Each year at the holiday time, this Society takes a day trip to visit places of historic interest in a particular area of Michigan. This year they are coming to Oakland County and will make Pine Grove their first stop.

## Annual Giving Time

You can further the purposes of the Society by a tax-deductible gift to the Endowment Fund.

## Complimentary Memberships Given to Area Historical Societies

In recognition of the mutual interest that all Historical Societies have in the Historic Preservation of Oakland County, a complimentary membership in our organization has been given to the following Historical Societies by the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society:

Berkley Historical Society

Birmingham Historical Society

Bloomfield Hills Area Historical Society

Clarkston Community Historical Society

Clawson Historical Society

Commerce Township Historical Society

Farmington Historical Society

Ferndale Historical Society

Franklin Historical Society

Highland Historical Society

Milford Historical Society

Northeast Oakland County Historical Society

Northwest Oakland County Historical Society

Novi Historical Society

Oakland Township Historical Society

Ortonville Community Historical Society

Rochester-Avon Historical Society

Royal Oak Historical Society

Southfield Historical Society

South Lyon Historical Society

Springfield Township Historical Society

Troy Historical Society

Waterford Historical Society

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

Wixom Historical Society

This membership entitles each society to a group tour, and use of the Carriage House for one meeting each year without charge, upon request and reservation; our quarterly publication, the Oakland Gazette; and access to our historical records and library materials for research to each of their members.

## Potpourri Shoppe

Visit our Potpourri Shoppe and make your holiday shopping easy. New and attractive items for "those who have everything," hostess gifts, toys and stocking stuffers include handcrafted wooded articles, Victorian miniatures, doll kits, toys, stickers, attractive jars of bean soup mix, herb dip for vegetables and salad, holiday food recipe books, aprons, covered band boxes, quilted lined baskets, decorated bags and much more.

The shoppe is open Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until December 14th.

## New Members Welcomed

We welcome the following new members. Their interest in the Society and its activities is deeply appreciated.

Mrs. Andrew H. Berry  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Dale Compton  
Mr. Walter E. Ellicott  
Rev. Carlon E. Foltz  
Mrs. Carmyn Harbrueger  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Harrington  
Ms. Pamela Jobin  
Mrs. James O. Johnson  
Mr. Richard Kozlowicz  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Joseph Moore  
Dr. Maxwell Shadley  
Ms. Carole Andrea Sheppard  
Mrs. Bruce Smith  
Mr. John E. Stover  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Turzak  
Mr. Norris C. Walls  
Ms. Leonora Whitehall  
Ms. Kristina Wilson

## In Memoriam

Sadly we report the death of the following members.

Mrs. Henry S. Booth  
Dr. Charles Bowers  
Mr. James DenHerder  
Mr. Harold Goldberg  
Mr. W.M. Hebblewhite  
Mr. Gordon-Paull  
Mr. Everett Peterson  
Mrs. W.O. Roeser  
Mrs. Frank Schully  
Mr. Edmund Windeler

## Quilt Tickets Available

Quilt tickets are still on sale in the office. Some lucky person is going to receive this beautiful blue and white cross-stitched quilt. The drawing will take place on December 17th during the de-hanging of the greens.

## Craft Committee

Anyone who is interested in working on hand crafts and who would like to be on the Craft Committee please call the office (338-6732) for information as to dates and times they will meet.

## Needs and Dreams List

A donation of any of the following items will be greatly appreciated. You may take a charitable tax deduction for such gifts.

Men and children's clothing of 19th-early 20th century.  
Photographs of Pontiac.  
Pontiac and Oakland County Directories.  
Typewriter stand.  
Dry sink for the summer kitchen.

## Jest 'Fore Christmas

By Eugene Field

Father calls me William, sister calls me Will,  
Mother calls me Willie, but the fellers call me Bill!  
Mighty glad I ain't a girl—rather be a boy,  
Without them sashes, curls, an' things that's worn by Fauntleroy!  
Love to chawnk green apples an' go swimmin' in the lake—  
Hate to take the castor-ile they give for bellyache!  
'Most of all the time, the whole year round, there ain't no flies on me,  
But jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as I kin be!  
Got a yeller dog named Sport, sick him on the cat;  
First thing she knows she doesn't know where she is at!  
Got a clipper sled, an' when us kids goes out to slide,  
'Long comes the grocery cart, an' we all hook a ride!  
But sometimes when the grocery man is worried an' cross,  
He reaches at us with his whip, an' larrups up his hoss  
An' then I laff an' holler, "Oh, ye never teched me!"  
But jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as I kin be!  
Gran'ma says she hopes that when I git to be a man,  
I'll be a missionarer like her oldest brother, Dan,  
As was et up by the cannibuls that lives in Ceylon's Isle,  
Where every prospeck pleases, an' only man is vile!  
But gran'ma she has never been to see a Wild West show,  
Nor read the Life of Daniel Boone, or else I guess she'd know  
That Buff'lo Bill an' cow-boys is good enough for me!  
Excep't jest 'fore Christmas, when I'm as good as I kin beK!  
And then old Sport he hangs around, so solemn-like an' still,  
His eyes they seem a-saying': "What's the matter little Bill?"  
The old cat sneaks down off her perch an' wonders what's become  
Of them two enemies of hern that used to make things hum!  
But I am so perlite an' 'tend so earnestly to biz,  
That mother says to father: "How improved our Willie is!"  
But father, havin' been a boy hisself, suspicions me  
When jest 'fore Christmas, I'm as good as I kin be!  
For Christmas, with its lots an' lots of candies, cakes an' toys,  
Was made, they say, for proper kids an'

not for naughty boys;  
So wash yer face an' bresh yer hair, an' mind yer p's and q's,  
An' don't bust out yer pantaloons, and don't wear out yer shoes;  
Say "Yessum" to the ladies, an' "Yessur" to the men,  
An' when they's company, don't pass yer plate for pie again;  
But, thinkin's of the things yer'd like to see upon that tree,  
Jest 'fore Christmas be as good as yer kin be!

## The Presidential Election of 1884

Public opinion determined the voter's choice for President 100 years ago as much as it does today.

In 1884, Grover Cleveland, the first Democrat elected President after the Civil War, won the election largely because during the campaign the supporters of James Blaine, the Republican candidate, disclosed Cleveland had fathered an illegitimate child, which he did not deny. They further attacked the Democrats as the party of "rum, Romanism and rebellion". Cleveland also drew support from reform-minded Republicans, known as "Mugwumps."

The final result of the election was far slower in reaching the voters than today. The Pontiac Gazette (Weekly), for Friday, November 14, 1884, one week after the election, reported that the final result was still in doubt, but that the candidate receiving the vote of New York would win. Meanwhile, "both parties have taken steps to insure an honest vote," and that "many conservative men of both parties express the opinion that nothing less than a careful recount of votes in the state of New York will satisfy the country and avert possible violence."

## Historic Events to Commemorate in 1987

1837-1987 - Michigan's Susquicentennial. On January 26, 1837, President Andrew Jackson signed the bill making Michigan the 26th State in the Union.

1787-1987 - Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. Drafted and adopted during the summer of 1787, the Constitution of the United States will have endured for 200 years in 1987.

1787-1987 - Bicentennial of the Northwest Ordinance. This provided for the government of the Northwest Territory, which included the Michigan lands.