



ANNUAL DINNER, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th

This year the Society's Annual Dinner is set for Wednesday, May 15th, and will be held at the Main Event in the Silverdome.

The evening festivities will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. A cash bar will be available. Dinner, following at 7:00 p.m. includes a choice of entree of either Broiled White Fish or Chicken Cordon Bleu.

Again, as in previous years, each guest will receive a pine seedling, as a souvenir of the occasion.

The program, featuring the Meadow Brook Theatre Trunk Showing of Period Costumes, promises to be the highlight of the evening.

A gala presentation of 60 magnificent costumes from the wardrobe of Meadow Brook Theatre will provide 45 minutes of exciting entertainment. The costumes, modeled by approximately 20 members of the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild, a volunteer organization, are drawn from the Theatre's productions, beginning with

Greek tragedy and running through the 1930's.

Narration during the performance will describe the period and the play for which the gowns were designed. Among those shown will be Queen Jocasta's gold and burgundy textured sheath from Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex," Portia's cream and pink velvet gown from Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice," a splendid brocade, velvet and fur attire for Henry VIII, hoop-skirted taffetas from Henry James' "The Heiress," Gibson girl leg-o-mutton designs from "Charles Aunt," lavish 1930 styles from the Barrymore's story "Royal Family," and many, many more.

The tickets for the evening are \$14.00 each. This price includes the complete dinner and all gratuities. Reserve your tickets now by completing the enclosed reservation form and returning it with your check to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, MI 48058. Reservations must be received on or before May 8.



Loops of fabric ribbon form leg-o-mutton sleeves in this gown from "Charlie's Aunt".



a gown from "Twelfth Night."



Reviewing the lineup for the show are the models, members of the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild.

Don't Forget to order your Annual Dinner Tickets

FOR AN ADVENTURE IN HISTORIC LEARNING



The Education Committee has prepared a packet of up-dated materials, available free of charge, for teachers who wish to bring their students for a day of study at our Drayton Plains one-room school.

Included in the packet is a new 15 minute slide/tape presentation describing the historic buildings and grounds at Pine Grove, as well as other educational materials, such as a teacher's guide and vintage textbooks that would assist them in preparing their lesson plans for the day in the classroom.

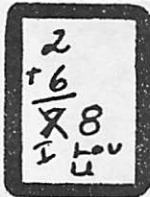
On request, our History Lady will also go to the school with the slides, tapes, and a basket full of hands-on materials to prepare the children for their adventure in historic learning.

For additional information or to make a reservation for the schoolroom please call 338-6732, Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. 4:00 a.m.



***School days of over one hundred years ago**

***Practicing penmanship with slate boards and pencils**



***Reading from McGuffey Readers sitting at old-fashioned wooden desks**

***Gain a better understanding of our past**

Ice Cream Social and Harvest of Crafts Day

This could be our best year ever!

For the first time we are combining the annual Ice Cream Social and the Harvest of Crafts Show into one event which will be held on Sunday, August 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There will be special Sesquicentennial exhibits, carefully selected crafters, guided tours of the Wisner House and outbuildings, ice cream and cake, hot dogs, beverages, entertainment.

Join us on the beautiful grounds of Pine Grove at the Wisner Historic House and Museum for a day of summer fun. Bring your friends!

Mark your calendar now for August 4th.

Bricks Anyone

Clarke Kimball, our chief volunteer gardener, is putting forth a request for old, used bricks for the garden borders to replace the Wisner bricks that were reclaimed for use in the chimney restoration last year.

Calendar of coming events

April 1 - Re-opening of Pine Grove for Spring Tours

May 1, 8, 22 - 9:00 a.m., Crafts

May 15 - 6:00 p.m., Annual Dinner, Main Event, Silverdome

May 27 - Closed for Memorial Day

June 19 - 9:30 a.m. - Board of Directors Meeting

July 4 - Closed for Independence Day

July 17 - 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

August 4 - 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social and Harvest of Crafts

'On the Road Again' Schoolhouse

Display Cases

The theme for the schoolhouse display cases for Spring is "On the Road Again," featuring pictures and mementoes of automobiles of the early 1900's that were made in Pontiac, such as the Welch, Carter, Oakland, and also trucks made by General Motors Truck and Coach.

Of particular interest to antique car enthusiasts will be a Scrapbook and Diary, owned by Margaret Ann Jackson, in which she has recorded her family's participation in the Glidden Antique Automobile Tour of September, 1954.

In competition with 256 other entries in the race, on the route from New York City to the White Mountains and return, a distance of 1,000 miles, her father, Robert C. Beattie, driving a 1903 Model A Ford, won the Grand Trophy.

New Members

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

ACTIVE MEMBERS

G. Brieger
Nelson Haynes
Rick Richards
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton C. Cook
Ms. Jennie Heathman
Mrs. Valarie Coxen
Mr. James Gary Blain
Mrs. Glen D. Brancheau
Mr. Fred Chamberlain
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Ellis
Mr. Fred H. Ellison
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Grogan
Ms. Grace Larrison
Mrs. Lucius Nixon
Mrs. Clinton Plympton
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Stepp
Mr. & Mrs. John Takacs
Melvin T. Wright Family
Miss Annette Yagobian
Hubert Distributorship, Inc.

UPGRADE TO LIFE

Mrs. C.T. Ekelund
IN MEMORIAM

We regret to report the death of the following members:

Helen Anderson
Esther Voorhees
Mrs. Leland Forman (life member)
Mr. Marshall Smith (life member)
Mr. Leo Brown
Mr. Wayne McMeans
Mrs. Elizabeth Borsvold
Mrs. Emmett Buckley

Spring Flower Gardens in Bloom

April days are bringing out blossoms on the forsythia, dogwood, crabapple trees and spring shrubs. Over 1000 tulip bulbs are now a mass of bright color, soon to be followed by iris and lilies. We invite you to enjoy this spring flower show.

Mary Arnold Retires

Mary Arnold, our housekeeper at the Wisner Historic House and Museum for the past nine years, retired at the end of March.

She was honored with a potluck luncheon in the Carriage House, at Pine Grove, on March 27th. Hosted by the Craft Committee, 24 board members, volunteers, and her sister, enjoyed the festive event.

In appreciation for her years of faithful service to our organization, she was given monetary gifts from the Board of Directors and her many friends.

All of us extend to Mary our best wishes for many years of happy and healthy retirement.

New Displays in Wisner Historic House for 1985 Tour Season

In preparation for the 1985 opening of the Wisner Historic House and Museum buildings on April 8th, the House Committee, under the direction of Susan Metzendorf, Priscilla Gayton, Rex Lamoreaux, and Lillian Paull, have given a new look to some of the rooms.

The former ladies sitting room has become a bedroom, looking much as it may have when Angeolina Wisner used it during her latter years and when she died in 1905.

The three-quarter size Ash bed, is made up with handwoven linen sheets, given by the Leggett family, and covered with an antique quilt, embroidered with the names of the ladies who did the quilting. Additional quilts are in the closet area. A recent bequeath from the Dunlop family, a walnut chest once belonging to the Wisners, is also now in this bedroom.

The pantry has been newly painted and carpeted, and now has on display a collection of Art Glass, on loan from the extensive Glass Collection of Lillian Paull.

Changes have also been made in the family sitting room and dining room. During the winter all the glassware in the Wisner Collection was inventoried by the House Committee.

Our volunteer maintenance men, the so-called "Honey-Do-Boys," removed much of the old steam-heating radiator pipes throughout the house.

When you tour the house this Spring, we think you will enjoy these new displays.

The Potpourri Shoppe has also been refurbished and rearranged. A good supply of new and different gift items has been prepared by the crafters for the coming summer visitors who are looking for unusual buys.

Oakland County Historic Sites

The following historic sites in Oakland County have recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places:

Dr. Henry K. Foote House in Milford

Horatio N. Howard House in Pontiac

Placed on the State Register of Historic Places was the South Lyon Elevator in South Lyon.

Four Oakland County Townships Celebrate Sesquicentennials in 1985

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Avon, Groveland, Highland and Orion Townships.

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society salutes each of these Townships as they celebrate this historic event.

It was in 1835 when those first hardy pioneers, who had braved the unknown to take up new lives in the untamed lands of newly established Oakland County, formed Township Governments. Through the ensuing 150 years, each of these Townships has become prosperous residential and or business communities. They have provided a splendid heritage and environment which has helped make Oakland County one of the finest places to live in all of Michigan.

AVON TOWNSHIP

Avon Township, until 1835, was a part of the original Township of Oakland, that was established June 28, 1820, with the founding of Oakland County. An Act providing for a separate Township to be named Avon, was enacted and approved by the Legislative Council of the Michigan Territory, March 30, 1835.

It was in this area that the first permanent settlement in the county was made. James Graham and his son, Alexander, along with Christopher Hartsough and John Hersey located here on March 17, 1817. Another son, Benjamin Graham, had been employed by Colonel Wampler, in surveying the Township in 1816.

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP

Groveland Township, lying in the upper (5th) tier of Townships in Oakland County, and bordering on Genesee County, was a part of Pontiac Township until 1835. At that time it was organized as a separate Township, but until 1838 also included land that is now the Township of Holly.

The first settlers were William Roberts and Martin Richards who built cabins on the old Saginaw Trail near the site of the Hadley Cemetery.

Down through the years this Township has remained a rural community, with many lovely lakes and beautiful wooded areas.

ORION TOWNSHIP

The Township of Orion was in 1820, like Avon, a part of Oakland Township. In May, 1828, it was then united with Pontiac Township, and remained so until March, 1835, when it too was organized as a separate Township.

The first purchase of land in this Township was made by Judah Church and John Wilmore in 1819, who bought a lot on Section 19, in what was known as the "big pinery". Jesse Decker, Philip and Jacob Bigler, and John McAlvey came in the fall of 1825. They built log houses and where they settled was soon known as Decker Settlement, and around it became the earliest associations of Orion Township.

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

Highland Township, located on the western border of the county, next to Livingston County, was organized as a separate Township by an Act of the Michigan Territorial Legislature on March 17, 1835. The name "Highland" was given because its surface was then supposed to be the highest land in the settled part of Michigan, south of Saginaw.

The first purchase of land in the Township was made by Naham Curtis on September 6, 1832. He and his brother, Jeremiah, sold out soon after, and both left the Township in company with some Mormans who had also previously settled in the area.

Holocaust Memorial Center, West Bloomfield Township

An Unusual Historical Museum

The Holocaust Memorial Center, in West Bloomfield Township, cannot be compared to the usual historical museum, and yet, on a visit there, one finds within its stark and forbidding walls a tremendous record of historical events, infamous events, that one must hope will never be allowed to happen again in our world's history.

The memorial uses films, photographs, artifacts and audio-visual techniques in their exhibits to document the suffering and death of the six million Jews in the concentration camps of Europe during World War II.

The purpose of the Memorial Center, according to those who planned it, is meant to educate the public to the warning signs of the gradual societal build-up of genocide in the future.

The Memorial Center is open Sundays through Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and until 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Admission is free.

Getting the Early Settlers to Oakland County

Completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 from Albany to Buffalo, New York, aided the settlers coming to Oakland County. Although the boats on the canal, drawn by horses were slow and crowded, travellers preferred them to roads which were sometimes impossible. Steamboats making regular trips from Buffalo brought the new settlers to Detroit. Getting into Oakland County was more difficult. The earliest road was that build over the Saginaw Trail to connect Detroit with a point favorable for a military post among the Indians near the head of Saginaw Bay. By 1826 a stage-coach line began regular trips over it to Pontiac.

Roads, however, in the 1820's and 1830's, were primarily a strip cut through the woods. Stumps were cut as short as possible and the undergrowth chopped out. During the wet seasons of spring and fall and over the swampy areas, wagons and stagecoaches often bogged down. Logs were laid down to form a cordoroy road and extra horses needed to get going. To avoid these difficulties, those coming into Oakland County often came in from Macomb County.

The Pontiac and Detroit Railroad Company was incorporated July 31, 1830, but it met insurmountable difficulties in construction and the charter became null and void. A second Company formed and a new charter was obtained and approved. It was completed to Birmingham by 1839 and to Pontiac in 1843.

Michigan Territory Council Members from Oakland County

In the various legislative councils for the Territory of Michigan from 1824 to 1836, Oakland County was represented by the following members:

Council of 1824 - Col. Stephen Mack, Hon. Roger Sprague.

1826 - Hon. Wm. F. Moseley, Hon. Sidney Dale.

1828 - Hon. Thomas J. Drake, Hon. Stephen Trowbridge.

1830 - Hon. Thomas J. Drake, Hon. Daniel LeRoy

1832 - Hon. Charles C. Hascall, * Hon. Roger Sprague

1834 - Hon. Samuel Satterlee, Hon. Charles C. Hascall.

*Charles C. Hascall was the father of Angeolina Hascall Wisner.

170th Year of Birth of Moses Wisner

June 3, 1815.

Governor Moses Wisner was born in Springport Township, Cayuga County, New York, to Moses and Nancy Merwin Wisner, the 12th of their 16 children. Eight of the children died before the age of 14 years. He was of the fifth generation of the Wisner family to settle in America.

Oakland County Chronicle First Newspaper Published in Oakland County

The Oakland County Chronicle was the first newspaper to be published in Oakland County, and the third published in Michigan outside of Detroit. Others were the Michigan Sentinal, Monroe, in 1825 and The Emigrant, Ann Arbor, 1829. The Chronicle's initial number was issued in Pontiac on Monday morning, May 31, 1830, by Thomas Simpson, the editor and publisher.

The Oakland Whig, published in Pontiac by Arthur G. Sparhawk, began on January 28, 1835.

The early newspapers were all four-page weeklies. The front page often contained a column of advertising, with the other columns filled with articles or fiction. It might be called the magazine page. Page two had editorials, state news, news of the Territorial Government, news from the Eastern States and articles on politics. Newspapers then were strongly partisan and the editor, whether Whig or Democrat, attacking the opposition with great venom. The Chronicle's editor supported the Jacksonian administration and his editorials in 1830 were very mild as there was no other local newspaper being published at that time, but by 1835 the Whig editor Sparhawk had ringing editorials against the opposition.

Page three had local news, such as announcements of coming events, but stories of community happenings rarely appeared. Editors apparently believed everyone knew what had occurred at home. Most of page three and all of page four were occupied with advertisements. Money was scarce, so editors often accepted farm produce in payment for advertising and subscriptions.

The Great Fire of 1840

London, Chicago and Detroit all had great fires that destroyed much of their business districts and Pontiac was no less fortunate. The following account of Pontiac's great fire is from The Jacksonian, of April 30, 1840.

PONTIAC IN ASHES!!!

“Our flourishing village now one almost universal heap of ruins.

The fire broke out about noon in the Exchange recently occupied by E. Burlington, corner of Saginaw and Lawrence Sts. The wind was blowing fresh from the East. It was soon found impossible to save the building. Efforts made to prevent the fire from reaching the opposite side of the street soon found impossible. The fire first caught on the East side of Saginaw Street, we believe, in the building occupied by Messrs. Marsh and Hendrickson. It soon spread to the opposite side of the street. The flames from both sides of the street now mingled into one, consuming everything in its course.

On the West side everything was swept clean down to the building corner of Saginaw & Pike Sts., on the East, everything to Pike St., about 25 buildings in all, besides barns and other outhouses. The loss in property immense, probably not less than \$25,000.00, perhaps greater. The Hodges House is the only good building left on the West side of Saginaw Street.

Everyone acted with commendable coolness. The ladies who turned out and carried buckets, water, etc., are worthy of all praise.”

1885 Child Labor Law

The child-labor law of 1885 forbade the employment of children the age of ten in a factory, warehouse or workshop, and the employment of any person under the age of eighteen for more than ten hours a day or sixty hours a week. Children under fourteen were not to be employed unless they had attended school during at least four of the preceeding twelve months.

Oakland County Centenarian

1985 - Bartlett Wager, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, was born February 6, 1885. He has been a member and interested in the work of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society for many years. We take this opportunity to congratulate him upon having reached this historic milestone in his life.