

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

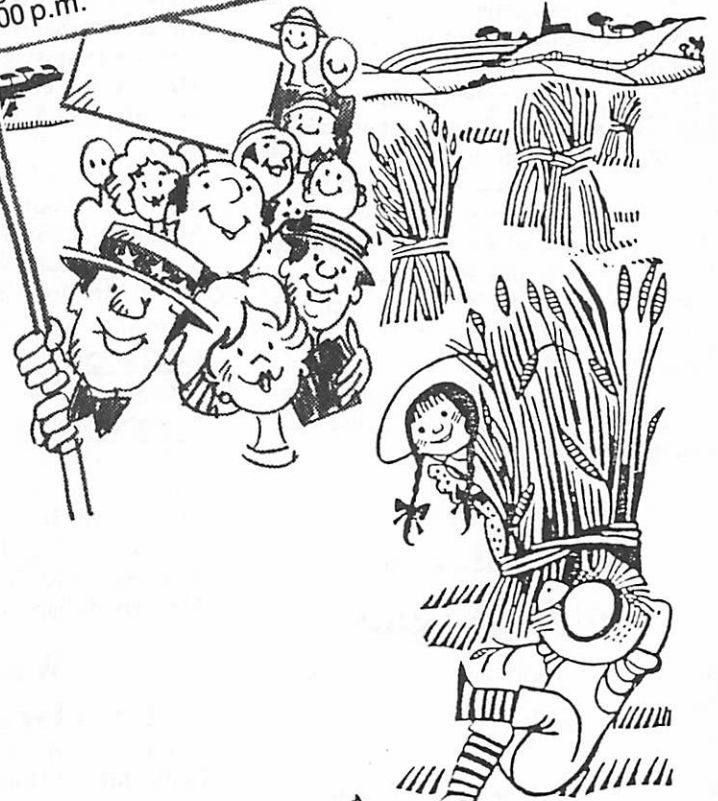
Donation: Adults \$3.00
Children under 12, \$1.00

WITH
SELECTED AREA CRAFTERS
Displaying and Selling
their Creative Works

FEATURING
Ice Cream, Home-made Cake
Lemonade, Iced Tea
Also Available: Hot Dogs, Coffee

Tour of Historic Buildings
Lively Musical Entertainment
Used Book Sale
Old-Timers Reception in the Grove
Chrysanthemum Plant Sale

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



PLEASE RETURN THE
ENCLOSED MEMBER
RESPONSE SHEET!!!!



Georgene Sloan

New Administrative Coordinator

Georgene Sloan, our new Administrative Coordinator, began her duties on June 17th. She has had much experience in working with non-profit organizations and volunteer groups such as ours and looks forward to the challenge of promoting the on-going growth of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

Mary Ann Treais, who has been our Administrative Coordinator for the past five years, resigned June 1st. As a parting gift to Mary Ann, the Society gave a contribution to the American Lung Association in her name.

**Calendar of
Coming Events**

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

August 4 - 1:00 p.m. to 5 p.m., Annual Ice Cream Social

August 21 - 9:30 a.m., Board of Directors Meeting

September 18 - 7:30 p.m., Annual Membership Meeting

**Oakland County
Pioneer & Historical
Society Welcomes
New Members**

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

NEW MEMBERS

- Mrs. Joseph L.B. Bennett
- Mr. & Mrs. Art Buehre
- Miss Dorothy Cheal
- Mr. Carl Dalligan
- Mrs. Bessie B. Dawe
- Mrs. Earl English
- Mrs. Rebecca Gould
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Hampton
- Mrs. Joan C. Harbaugh
- Miss Louise Haskell
- Mr. & Mrs. Sanford J. Mall
- Mrs. Earl Oltesvig
- Mr. & Mrs. Leo D. Ottoni
- Miss Barbara A. Powell
- The Larry M. Quick Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Del Reeves
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ross
- Mr. James R. Saile
- Mr. & Mrs. John-W. Taylor
- Mr. & Mrs. John B. Wilson
- Miss Mary S. Young

LIFE MEMBER

- Mrs. Nancy Avery Follansbee

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to report the death of the following members:

- Mrs. Harvey Bidstrup
- Mrs. Vernon C. Abbott (Life)
- Mrs. Harold Kelly
- Mr. David Clark Wallace (Life)

Wisner

Great Grandson Dies

David Clark Wallace, the only great-grandchild of Gov. Moses and Angeolina Wisner, died after a long illness, at the age of 73, on April 1, 1985. His mother, Florence Clark Wallace was the only child of Jessie Wisner Clark.

After Mr. Wallace's retirement from General Motors, he was often a tour guide at the Wisner Historic House. He delighted the schoolchildren by telling them about his early years at Pine Grove, of learning to drive an automobile by going over the grounds in his Grandfather Clark's Oakland, before being allowed on the street, or by raising more rabbits than he could take care of.

Mr. Wallace was a life member of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. He is survived by his wife, Ruby, children, David, Jr., Sandra and Robert, and two grandchildren. They have always been strong supporters of the Society and he will be greatly missed.

**Gift By Civitan Club
Gives Schoolhouse
A New Look**

The Civitan Club of Pontiac recently gave a designated gift of \$500.00 to the Society for the painting of our Drayton Plains one-room schoolhouse.

On Saturday, June 8th, the Junior Membership of the Civitan's, all high school students, along with members of our Society, gave a day of volunteer work to prepare the school for the painting. The group, 14 in all, scraped paint, filled holes, puttied windows and removed shutters.

Rita Etlinger, sponsor of the Junior organization, and John Lusk, made the arrangements for the Junior group's work.

Our schoolhouse has been in need of new paint for some time and we are most grateful for the money and time given to assist us in keeping our Historic House Museum in good condition for the benefit and pleasure of the public.

Donors of charitable contributions to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society may deduct their gifts from their income tax returns.

**Along the
Garden Paths**

Our summer gardens and shrubs at Pine Grove are flourishing and now in full bloom. The memorial rose garden along the walk to the side entrance, given by Rex Lamoreaux, is a thing of beauty. The pot-pourri herb garden gives off the wonderful scents of lavender, thyme, basil, chives, and dill, all used by early homemakers. This garden too, is a gift of the Michigan Herbal Society. A lovely new flowering tree was recently given and planted by the Pontiac Branch of the Women's Farm and Garden Association.

Most of the flower beds, however, are planted with annuals that must be replaced each year. New areas are slowly being started with perennials, but they are costly to buy and our landscaping budget very small.

Late summer is the time when many plants must be removed from existing beds, separated and replanted. If there is anyone who has an over-abundance of perennials in their gardens that they would like to give to the Pine Grove gardens, they would be gladly accepted.

**DON'T FORGET
THE ICE CREAM
SOCIAL**

Lanterns of the Victorian Age

by Robert Reynnells

The lanterns displayed in the carriage house farm museum date back to the nineteenth century. They were the type used at Pine Grove and in other country homes and farms for outdoor, and often indoor lighting, before the general use of electricity. In some areas of Oakland County this didn't occur until the 1920's.

The barn lantern was a necessary tool for the farmer, especially during the early, dark hours of winter, in lighting his way from the house to the barn and other farm buildings. Its friendly, guiding light was a welcome one as he completed his nightly chores. Lanterns and oil lamps were often used by the farmer's wife while doing her nightly supper dishes, and, although difficult at best, for reading before bedtime.

Kerosene lamps and lanterns are still vital in the areas of people living through tropical storms. There is no better substitute for light when the electricity fails.

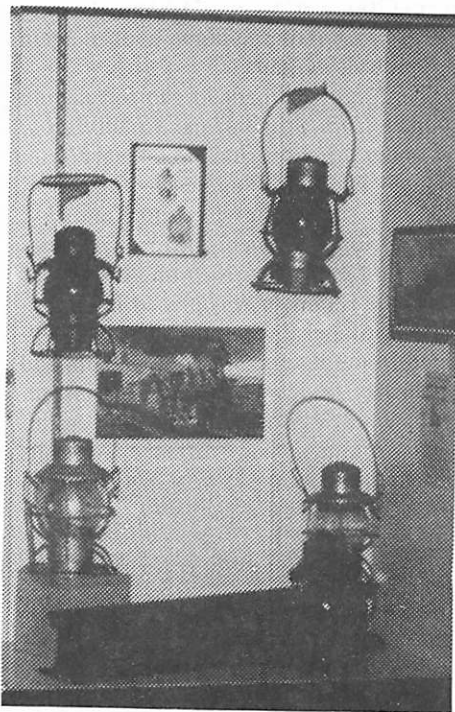
The lantern cases were generally made of tin, with either pierced holes or glass sides for enclosing the light and to protect it from the wind and rain or snow. The earliest ones were lit with candles. Whale



Kerosene barn lantern ready for nightly chores.

oil was also used, but its pungent odor was most disagreeable and required ventilation to clear the air. I remember this quite well from the days spent on my grandparents farm, the odor was quite strong at times. Later kerosene was the common fuel used in lanterns and lamps after the discovery of

oil in Pennsylvania in 1859. This was cleaner to use and required only the daily removal of the black carbon from the glass sides and lampshades to give out its warm yellow glow.



Railroad Lanterns

Top left, Copper Range Railroad signal light, c. 1900.

Top right, "The Casey", Pere Marquette Railroad signal light, red globe, c. 1902.

Lower left, Pere Marquette Railroad signal light, white globe, c. 1912.

Lower right, Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad signal lights, no dates.

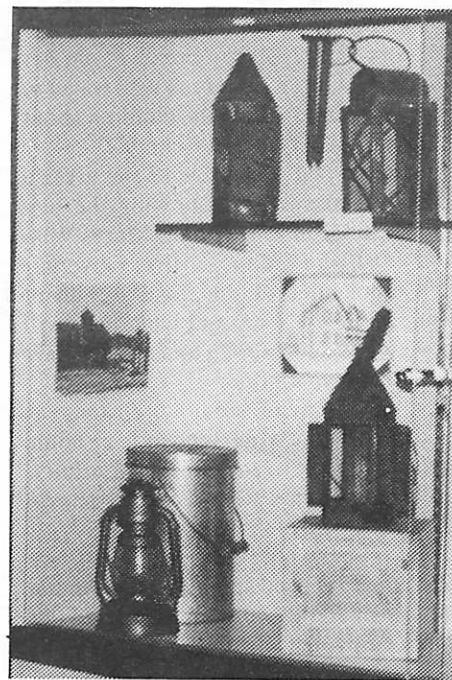
The balance of the lanterns in the display are railroad lanterns. Often the glass in the fixtures was colored green or red. These colors indicated stop or go to the men working on the trains. Even in strong winds the workmen could maintain their light. It seemed that the lanterns could withstand the worst weather.

I can remember as a child the thrill of watching the brakeman at night signalling the engineer of the train with his lantern, in order to tell him that the track was clear and that the train could proceed to the next town.

A few of these lanterns can still be seen on small working railroads and scenic ride railroads, that are used for excursion purposes.

Adams and Westlake were one of the principal manufacturers of railroad lanterns in the early part of 1800. As a buyer for a local truck and bus plant before I retired, my one assignment was to purchase signal equipment for the factory's plant railroad. My source was Adams and Westlake even in 1980.

We are indebted to Lillian Paull for the collection of lanterns assembled in this collection.



Barn Lanterns

Top left, Early 19th century pierced tin, using candle for light,

Top right, Glass enclosed tin with candle. Owned by John Andrews of White Lake Township, in 1845.

Lower right, Pierced tin and glass, using candle.

Lower left, Dietz Farm Lantern, Glass enclosed tin, using kerosene, c. 1900.

History Lady Travels to Schools



History Lady, Miriam Foxman, has her suitcase packed and is all ready to travel to an area school to talk to the children about the early days in Oakland County.

On her arrival at the school she gives a slide/tape presentation, showing the historic buildings at Pine Grove, Moses Wisner as Oakland County's first Governor and Commander of the 22nd Regiment during the Civil War, and what they will see when they come for a tour and to study in the one-room school.

She talks to them about her costume as the kind women wore for work at home and in the garden, and for social affairs. Men and children's clothes are also shown that were typical of those earlier days.

Among her other suitcase items are tools for carding and spinning wool, butter molds, a small oil bedroom lamp used in a Waterford Hotel, marcel iron, cobblers last, buttoned shoes, clamp-on ice skates, the McGuffy Reader, slate, ink well, school bell—all nearly forgotten, everyday necessities of the past.

Miriam is a retired elementary school teacher, an excellent storyteller, and thoroughly enjoys this volunteer assignment. Since this last spring she has talked to nearly 300 schoolchildren. They are, in turn, delighted to see her again when they come to the Wisner House Museum for a visit.

1865 The 22nd Regiment Comes Home

At the close of the Civil War on April 9, 1865, the 22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment, under the command of Colonel Haber LaFavour, was assigned to the 3rd brigade, Army of the Cumberland, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. On June 20th it was ordered to Nashville and mustered out of service on June 26th. The following day, the regiment left for Michigan by way of Louisville, Indianapolis and Michigan City, arriving in Detroit on the 30th. They were paid off and discharged July 11th. Over 1200 war weary Oakland County soldiers then returned home to once again begin life as civilians.

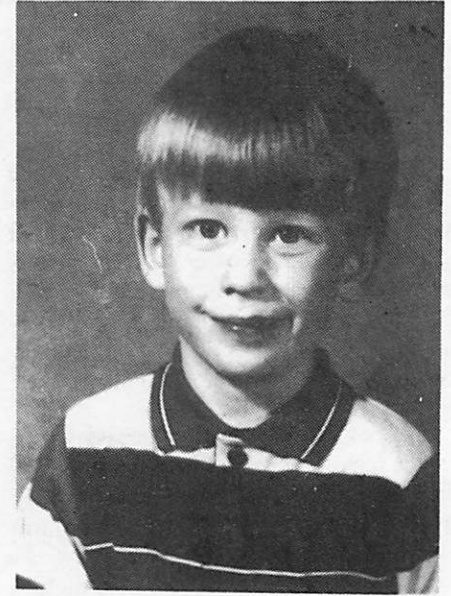
The 22nd Regiment, organized mainly by men from the Oakland County area, and under the command of Colonel Moses Wisner, had left Pontiac September 4, 1862, for service in Ohio and Kentucky. After Colonel Wisner's death of typhoid fever at Lexington, Ky. on January 5, 1863, the regiment was placed in command of Colonel LaFavour. They were engaged in numerous minor encounters and skirmishes in Kentucky and Tennessee, and the battle of Chickamauga in Georgia.

This regiment had carried on its rolls 1586 men and its losses were 374.

Michigan State Fair Held in Pontiac, 1901-1905

The Michigan State Fair, the oldest state-operated Fair in the nation, was held in Pontiac from 1901 to 1905. Organized under the auspices of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, the first Fair was held in Detroit on September 25, 26 and 27, 1849. Thereafter, it was held in numerous cities throughout the State until 1905 when it was permanently located at its present site at Woodward Ave. and Eight Mile Road in Detroit.

When Pontiac was host to the yearly event from 1901 to 1905 the electric trolley lines connecting Pontiac to Detroit and running throughout Oakland County was said to have been a major factor in the City's successful bid for the Fair. It was also a fitting location, for, until the coming of the automobile industry, Oakland County was one of the foremost agricultural producing areas in the State.



Dear Editor:

As the youngest life member of the OCPHS, I have developed an interest in history, even at five years old. As I go back and forth between my house in Rochester Hills and my Grandma's in Pontiac, I have noticed some figures lighted up on the top of the Pontiac State Bank Building. I think that they are "Indians" but my mom said I should ask you to tell me what they really are. Would you please write a short article in your next Gazette describing these figures.

Thank you very much.

mike

Mike Kamlay

Dear Mike,

I have to confess, Mike, that I haven't been able to figure out what these figures represent. I'll work on this for the next Gazette.

The Editor

Ed. Note: Will anyone with information on the history and identification of these figures please help Mike out by sending it to: "The Editor," OCPHS, 405 Oakland Ave., Pontiac, MI 48058.

Volunteers Needed

To all of our members: We are in great need of new volunteers, especially for the office, library, as maintenance men, gardeners, clothing collection, and guides.