



A Library For All Seasons

by Dick Jones

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society was founded in 1874 to preserve the historical documents of Oakland County pioneer families. Of all the treasures of Wisner House, the Society's headquarters, none is such an integral part of the whole as our Library.

From small beginnings when the House was purchased in 1945, it has grown over the years into one of the finest research facilities in Michigan. As a researcher from Palm Springs, California commented last August, "it is a real jewel."

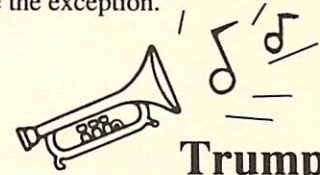
Though small in space, it contains virtually every reference material that a person needs for researching genealogy, and various aspects of Oakland County history. Included are Black history, the saga of the American Indian, Civil War veterans and their respective regiments, the incorporation records of all twenty-five townships in the County, the autobiographies of its earliest pioneers, Michigan censuses going back to 1710, plats and

maps 125 years old, original photographs of people and places of Oakland County dating to the 1860s. Records encompass nearly all cemeteries in the County, antiques, artifacts, furniture, clothes and address directories from 1860 to the present. Comprehensive histories of Michigan include an original set of "Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections," early school records, journals, diaries, scrapbooks, ledgers, and so much more that can't be listed here because of its sheer volume.

In the past year, some 350 researchers have come into the library to use its many books and periodicals. Lillian Paull, our volunteer Librarian since 1975, has responded to more than 22 out-of-state inquiries this last year. Many of the persons who come to see us have been referred by the Pontiac City Library, Fort Wayne, the various township libraries, the Detroit Public Library, and the Detroit Historical Society. Very simply, the Library is the perineurium of Pine Grove, the linch-pin of the Society. It is not at all unusual for three or four researchers at one time to be sitting at our tables, pouring over books and papers, with Miss Lillian climbing up and down her ladder, accommodating each in his or her turn. Virginia Clohset, our other volunteer Librarian, manages and administers a whole array of unpublished material and manuscripts, shelved, flat, boxed, vertical and otherwise, ranging from family papers to contents of cornerstone records.

Our members can be justly proud and

boastful of their Library. It is, indeed, a "jewel" that is an attraction, a mecca, to hundreds of people in the County, out-state, and nationally. We salute Lillian and Virginia for their long hours and endeavors. No one is indispensable, but they may well be the exception.



Trumpeting Victorian Christmas

1988!!

Once again it is time to invite you to share with us warm memories of Victorian Holidays past. Enjoy another on Sunday, December 4, 1988 at Governor Moses Wisner's home, Pine Grove. You will be receiving an invitation highlighting various happenings for you and yours at our annual Victorian Open House.

Membership Drive Underway

The recruitment of new members will be of primary focus this year as we move forward in our plans for Wisner House. Rosamond Haeberle, chairman, observes that if each member will obtain ONE new member, we can reach our goal.

Ever on the alert for interested individuals in our daily contacts who are concerned with preserving Oakland County history, we ask your help in providing names of possible new members. Your participation is crucial to the success of this endeavor.

The enclosed form is provided for your confidential reply. Send your list today! The Membership Committee appreciates your interest in the Society's future and will follow up on all leads.



Wisner Library



Researcher John Lasher, Akron, Ohio & Lillian Paull



Virginia Clohset

114th Annual Business Meeting Notes

The annual reports of our President, Gretchen Adler, and Committee Chairmen continue to reflect the dedicated, day-to-day participation of our many volunteers at Pine Grove. The buildings and grounds were carefully maintained by members of the House and Maintenance & Grounds committees. The Finance, Membership, Master Plan and Policy and Procedure Committee members have met regularly with the Executive Board to assure our business affairs have been handled with expertise. Future plans were reviewed to project our needs as the Society continues to grow and serve the Oakland County community. The Board of Directors, meeting monthly, have provided direction to all aspects of our operation.

This year our guides were busy as 1,402 students and 600 adults toured Pine Grove. The schoolhouse was used for classes from 18 different schools representing 13 districts as 606 children captured century old school experiences using our slates and *McGuffey Readers*. The Crafters provided many hand-made items for sale in the Potpourri Shoppe. Researchers from 18 different states gained information they needed from our fine library.

The Victorian Christmas Open House and Ice Cream Social events were well attended with resulting benefit to the Society.

Our collections continue to expand with significant additions to our library and archives. Accessions included 95 donations encompassing 200 artifacts.

In compliance with Public Act 170 of 1987, State of Michigan, our membership approved an addition to our Articles of Incorporation, Article IX which outlines the responsibilities of our Society in protection of our volunteers' activities. We recognize the support of 49 new members, six organizational and one business membership.

Election of members to the Board of Directors with terms ending in 1991 was followed by a reception. Refreshments were provided by Mr. & Mrs. James Huttenlocher to close the 114th annual meeting. Officers were elected at the October 26th Board Meeting.

Officers 1988-1989

President: Gretchen Adler
Vice President: Clarke Kimball
Secretary: Marion Roush
Treasurer: Kathryn Daggy

Board of Directors

Term ending 1991

Mrs. William Bell
Miss Faye Donelson
Mrs. Jeffery Dorchock
Mrs. Charles Hudson
Mrs. Thomas Kamlay
Mr. Clarke Kimball
Mr. Rex Lamoreaux
Mrs. Anna Baker Lane
Mrs. Thomas Metzendorf
Mrs. James Owens
Mrs. Calvin Patterson
Mrs. Gordon Paull
Mrs. Stuart Rodgers
Mr. Merritt Romine
Mrs. Charles Roush

Term ending 1989

Mr. Edwin Adler
Mrs. Bruce J. Annett, Jr.
Mr. Gaylor Forman
Mrs. Priscilla Gaytan
Mrs. Harry Harrison
Mrs. Douglas Hoard
Mrs. James Huttenlocher
Mrs. Peter Lektzian
Mrs. Donald McMillen
Mr. John Madole
Mrs. Jean Milton
Mr. Jack Moore
Mr. Robert Reynnells
Mrs. Maxwell Shadley

Term ending 1990

Mrs. Donald Adams
Mrs. Edwin Adler
Mr. Howard Caldwell
Mr. Ross Callaway
Mrs. Clarence Clohset
Mr. Donald Daggy
Mrs. Donald Daggy
Mrs. Daniel Foxman
Miss Rosamond Haeberle
Mr. W.E.C. Huthwaite
Ms. Delta Kelly
Mrs. Leslie McIntyre
Mr. Charles Martinez
Mrs. Allen Priestley
Mr. James J. Tedesco, Jr.

Book Review – F.Y.I.

An Old Fashioned Christmas American Holiday Traditions

by Karen Cure

Harry N. Abrams, Inc. Publishers, New York 1984

The author tells the story of Christmas in America and colonial traditions, Victorian Celebrations, regional festivities. Because music has always been an integral part of the holiday, featured also are early American and Victorian Christmas carols.

This book, which is in our Wisner library, provides a vivid and arresting invitation to America's age-old Christmas pleasures through its rich text, recipes, music, and more than 100 colorful illustrations. To further whet your appetite for the coming

holiday season, and so too for our annual "Victorian Christmas, we present some excerpts from this charming book.

• The degree to which Christmas was celebrated in the early years of American history varied enormously from one family to another even within the same geographical region. The presence or absence of gifts and a gift-bringer (and his identity, appearance, and timing), and the inclusion or omission of a Christmas tree—these basic aspects of the modern Yuletide were not standardized until after 1840.

• Even in areas selected largely by Anglicans, where Christmas was widely accepted, the old English-style Yuletide that Washington Irving had so appealingly romanticized had not always been wholeheartedly applauded. As hostilities with the mother country crescendoed in the War of 1812, it became well-nigh unpatriotic in some quarters to celebrate Christmas in the English fashion. Possibly it was for that reason that Britain's Yule log, which the Virginia planters enjoyed never became as popular as a handful of other customs that were primarily legacy of other immigrant groups.

• But that as it may, by the time Victoria ascended the throne, the Christmas customs brought to these shores from Europe had mingled and melded, and America was well on its way to developing a set of Christmas customs all its own.

• When Victoria married Albert, a German, in 1840 and decked out a small royal tree that was pictured in ladies' magazines on both sides of the Atlantic, the Christmas tree became as fashionable for adults as it had been delightful for children.

• In New York hundreds of advertisements touting the suitability of certain items as Christmas gifts appeared in local papers. It was in the New York SUN that editor Francis P. Church declared, in answering a letter from a doubting young Victorian, "Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

— Pauline Harrison

Editorial Staff

Ross Callaway, Pauline Harrison,
Dick Jones & Marion Roush.
Photography: Ross Callaway &
Connie Owens

"We Met at the Ice Cream Social"

August 7th of this year was truly a "meeting place" for members and friends of OCPHS'ers. Music continually filled the beautiful day for all to hum and enjoy provided by the Franklin Village Band, led by Dr. Conrad Lam. Interested crowds followed 1860's bedecked ladies in tour of this lovely historic site, partook of home-baked cake and ice cream and hot dogs, then browsed amongst the charming booths, including the first-time "Christmas Booth". Let's meet again next August 5th, same time, same place, same weather!



Edna Burke and Thelma Wright at White Elephant Sale Table



Bessie Lawton Weatherston of Orchard Lake



Franklin Village Band under direction of Dr. Conrad Lam

New Members

We welcome the following new members and appreciate their support of our programs:

Mrs. Lavon DeLisle
Mr. John R. Hahn
Mr. Gilbert Haven
Mrs. Marie M. Maggard
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald B. Petrella
Mr. Merritt Romine
Mr. Burt W. Taylor
Ms. Phyllis Wilkinson
Mr. Donald R. Wood

New Organizations

Ferndale Rotary Club

In Memoriam

Mrs. Marian L. Bell
Mrs. Basil E. Brown
Mr. Wendell A. Green
Mrs. Burton M. Mitchell
Mrs. Aaron D. Riker
Mrs. Morris A. Wattles



Faye Donelson with Used Book Sale in Carriage House



Young "ice creamers" tour Wisner House

Recent Library Acquisitions

Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points – Noel D. Justice
Rose Township 1837-1987
Meyer's Directory of Genealogical Societies in the U.S. and Canada
Directory of Archives & Manuscript Repositories in the U.S. 1988
Naturalization Records for Oakland Co. Michigan 1827-1906
Sea Scout Scrapbook

1860 Federal Census & Mortality Schedule – Oakland Co. Michigan
Atlas of Michigan Edited by Lawrence M. Sommers 1977
Edna Cousins Shaw – My Family – Ancestors & Descendants
The Golden Guide to American Antiques by Ann Kiborn Cole
Collecting Victorian Porcelain by Ernest Reynolds

Silver Collecting for Amateurs by James Henderson
Readers Digest – Pocket Guide to American Antiques
Blown and Pressed American Glass by Richard Carter Barret
Collecting American Victorian Antiques by Katherine Morrison McClintor

Deck The Halls!



To All Our Members:

**Best Wishes
For A Happy Holiday Season
and a Prosperous New Year**



— The Officers Board and Staff



Lacemaker Helen McLennon

Bobbin Lacemaking

Lacemakers, Judy McBroom and Helen McLennon will demonstrate bobbin lacemaking in the Farm Museum downstairs in the Wisner Carriage House on Sunday, December 4th from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Lace has been made since medieval times, and Belgian lace is particularly famous. Children were employed in lace factories and taught to make lace in the factories in Bruges, Belgium. Judy learned to make lace in England when she resided there in 1979, and took classes in bobbin lacemaking in Leicester. After her return to Michigan she was asked by Susan Metzdorf to demonstrate her art at the OCPHS Ice Cream Social in 1981. While there she met Helen McLennon and they have been working together ever since.

Helen learned to make bobbin lace from her grandmother, and took lessons later in life to refresh her skills from the late Elsie Bentley. Helen also writes a column for seniors in the Royal Oak Tribune Newspaper.

Connie Owens



Crafters have been planning, sewing, painting, and doing all to stock and display in the Potpourri Shoppe. Open House co-chairpersons, Lavon Delisle, and Connie Owens are the first on the left.



Connie Owens displaying hand-made Santas, Victorian and otherwise that will surely appeal to children and collectors alike.



Susan Metzdorf chooses display dolls in the Wisner childrens' playroom.