



Tombstone Trackers

The mystery as to why a large tombstone should be found in a Farmington Hills subdivision is being unraveled by our Operations Manager, Charles Martinez. Word of its presence reached the Society office in early February. It was then that Karen King, who lives within a few hundred feet of the monument in Bridle Hills subdivision, phoned to inquire as to the location of any nearby cemeteries. "She was definitely worried that someone might be buried in the subdivision," Martinez recalls.

His curiosity aroused Martinez visited the site and examined the stone which proved to be only the pedestal or inscription portion of a rather substantial marble monument. "The base and probable obelisk top were missing as was a key portion of the family name (DOH...) and the death date," Martinez remembers. Another panel bore the Latin inscription, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," above the popular Victorian mortuary motif of carved clasped hands. The translation, "Glory to God in the Highest," suggested the decedent was a Roman Catholic – a distinct minority in early Farmington.

Back at Society headquarters Walt Mathews, our GM Job Bank employee, began a search of library records for a family with the suspected name of "Dohany." His efforts were rewarded with extensive biographical data on husband William and wife Catherine Dohany, Catholics who ran a large and prosperous farm precisely where the marker was discovered. Catherine's death date remained unclear as historical sources disagreed as to whether the event occurred in 1881, 82, or 83. In contrast, Mathews found that William had a lengthy obituary in *The Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster* with his date of demise given as January 31, 1876. The newspaper account concluded with the statement that "funeral services were held at the Catholic church in Redford, Wayne County, and the remains interred in the cemetery near the church."

Subsequent research by Martinez showed that this parish cemetery was closed in 1926 with the bodies removed to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery at Ten Mile and Beech in Southfield. A visit to Holy Sepulchre by Martinez, Karen King and her mother, Phyllis, led to the reinterment plot in section 10. "William and Catherine rest side by side beneath granite headstones that appear to have been made in this century rather than in the last," Martinez noted.

During the investigation C. Hugh Dohany, Oakland County Treasurer, was contacted and found to be a great-grandson of William Dohany. He visited the farm in the 1930s but never saw a tombstone.

So the mystery remains as to why the monument is there. "Obviously it was replaced, possibly more than once," Martinez says. The nineteenth-century history of the Redford church contains accounts of vandalism and arson by suspected anti-Catholic elements, as well as prolonged neglect by its own parishioners. He believes such conditions may have influenced the family to keep the monument on the farm. It is equally possible, he continues, that the tombstone could have been damaged in shipment, contained a material flaw, or a misspelled word that would have made the Dohanys reluctant to install it in the cemetery but not on the farm. There it could stand as a cenotaph – a tribute to the departed, Martinez feels.

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(L. to R.) Phyllis King and her daughter, Karen, stand before the Dohany tombstone in Bridle Hills subdivision, Farmington.

Calendar 1992

Spring Lecture Series
March 22nd, April 26th, May 17th
Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

•
Ice Cream Social
August 9th

•
Victorian Christmas
December 13th

At the Annual Dinner...



(Left) Clarke Kimball Vice President with wife Marion, (right) Ruth Priestley, Program Chairperson.



(Left to right) Susan Metzdorf, House Chairperson and Lillian Paull, Librarian.

(Left to right) Charlie Martinez, Operations Manager; Judy Dorchock, Treasurer; Kitty Daggy, Vice President, and Don Daggy, Maintenance Chairperson.



(Left to right) Pauline Harrison, Clothing Chairperson; Rosamond Haerberle, President-elect; Library Architect Robert Powell and wife.



Elsie Patterson, Guide, and Gaylor Forman, Schoolhouse Co-Chairperson.



Bruce Annett, Library Com., and Marion Roush, President 1990 & '91.



Guide Chairpersons Jean Milton and Frank Gallardo.

SCHOOL TOURS ... One of our reasons for "Being"

It is almost Spring again, and with it, the popular time for tours at Pine Grove. Featured here are visiting 3rd grade students from the Oakland Christian School in Auburn Hills. Mrs. Kristin Lashar, their teacher, took these pictures last Spring and was kind enough to share them with us. She tells us it was their favorite trip of the year, which seems evident from their interested and happy faces.



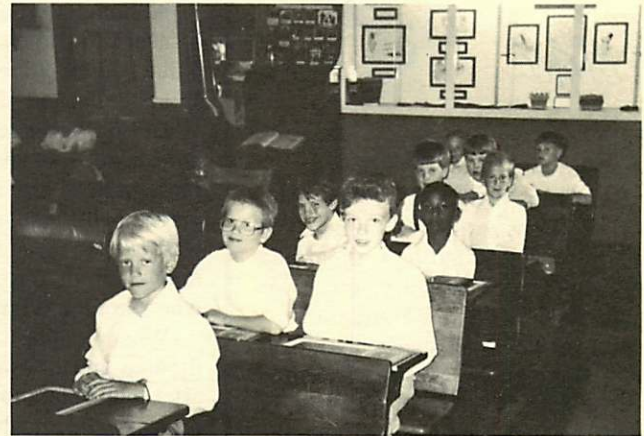
Lunching at the schoolhouse grounds.



Visiting the herb garden with Guide Jean Milton.



Playing "Red Rover".



Attending "Class" in the old Drayton Plains Schoolhouse.

TOUR NEWS, 1991

Guide Chairpersons Jean Milton and Frank Gallardo have worked diligently toward making tours both interesting and enjoyable this past year. Their 1991 Annual Report shows School Tours totaling 31, persons registered for group tours 1,316, total income from tours \$2,194.25. "Drop-In" tours are not included in this figure.

Whether you choose to "drop-in" or "register-in" you are all most welcome to bring your friends or groups to visit our historical complex and our ever interesting and changing exhibits.

Book Review F.Y.I.

(Wisner Library)

Michigan Cemetery Atlas, 1991

Produced by - Library of Michigan (122 pages)

This statewide Michigan Cemetery Atlas locates and indexes over 3,800 Michigan cemeteries, graves, and cemetery sites. The data used to compile this atlas came from the *U.S. Geographical Survey Topographical Map Series*, 19th and early 20th century county plat maps, and from genealogical and historical societies throughout the state.

This compilation will be of lasting value to historical researchers, genealogists and individuals interested in tracing their own genealogy.

Many of the cemeteries listed are on private property so visitors are urged to inquire locally about hours of access before visiting these cemeteries. Users of the ATLAS who know of cemeteries not listed are asked to notify the Library of Michigan for data base placement at P.O. Box 30007, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Because of the large numbers of cemetery sites within Oakland County (119), OCPHS Operations Manager, Charles Martinez is working on a system to provide greater visual clarity on this particular map by seeking out more specific information on site locals in order to identify more readily the various sites. This information will be made available for purchase in the near future.

— Pauline Harrison

MAIL



February 28, 1992

Dear Mr. Martinez,

Our Birmingham Estates Garden Club enjoyed our Tuesday at Pine Grove. The program on costumes and hats, mourning hats, dresses, purses, jewelry, etc., was beautifully done by Pauline Harrison.

The tour of Moses Wisner's home was outstanding with guide Jean Milton telling us history of the Wisner family, style of living in their day, and facts about the furnishings.

Please tell them how much we appreciated all their efforts, and thank you so much for the arrangements you made.

Sincerely,

Pat Smith, Secretary
Birmingham Estates Garden Club

WISNER LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Traveling Through Time - Guide to Historical Markers
Beneath the Island Sea - Halsey
Michigan Soldiers in the Civic War - Williams
When the Railroad was King - Elliott
Michigan White Pine Era - Maybee
Pathways to Michigan Black Heritage
Michigan Historical Review Magazine - Fall 1991
Pontiac - Esmo Woods
The Hodges Site - Martinez
Robinson - Frye Photographs - 1920's & 1930's
Michigan Cemetery Atlas - Library of Michigan
Detroit and Its Banks

Mastodone and Mammoths of Michigan - Skeels
Michigan Animal Life in the Ice Age
Michigan's Fossil Vertebrates - Holmes
The Bloomfield Hills Mastodon - Stanley
Knowing Your Trees - Brush
American Dolls - Scripps Collection
Negroes in American History - Green
Michigan Women in the Civil War
Help for the Small Museum
Birmingham Estates Subdivision, 1915-1990
Two Aerial Maps (Including Pine Grove Property)
One Photostat Map of Pontiac, 1907
Bela Hubbard Twp. Map Series, 1835-1850

Another bookcase has been added.

Excerpts from the Oral History Collections – The Vinegar Works ... and the Entrepreneurs

When Jack Harris went into retail business he was following the example of his father, Chauncey. It was before the start of WWI in Oakland County where a surge of small industries was springing up. Chauncey Harris cast about for a new business idea, and shrewdly decided on a product that promised a slow but steady demand. He opened a vinegar works on Paddock Street just below the McConnell School. It looked much like the cider mills seen today. A power-driven apple press was installed on the first floor, and in the basement below this, apple juice sluiced from the press into a juice tank where the distilling process began and then was siphoned into containers. Housewives would buy it by the quart, and merchants bought it by the hogshead. This was a slow way to market the product so Chauncey began to make deliveries himself.

It was an exciting scene around the vinegar works in the fall and farmers along with their families came to sell wagon loads of apples and buy their supply of vinegar at the same time. Market-wise Chauncey gave away some cider as a good will gesture to his customers.

Although the business flourished, it was limited to certain seasons and confined to the local area. In time Chauncey rented the building to the fledgling Baldwin Rubber Co., and today both building and company are gone. As for Chauncey, he bought a furniture store, and later became sheriff of Oakland County.

During the depression of the 1930's Jack's uncle, Archie Parker wanted Jack to join him in his wallpaper and paint store but he had to wait until one of his staff of ten died before Jack could be hired. The time came and he was paid \$13.00 per week to drive a delivery wagon before moving to a sales position. In this era of coal and oil stoves, wallpapering was done to clean up as well as just to redecorate. The first paint and paper used in the renovation of Wisner House came from this store which was called "Brown Brothers", who were the original owners.

When Pontiac State Bank was built, this store was one of many that had to move from the area, and they went to North Saginaw at Pike Street. The business was sold in the 1950's after their final move to West Huron Street.

Jack went into the brokerage business where he still remains active. He served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Oakland County Historical Society.

— Connie L. Scafe

Gathering oral history is a tradition in the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society. We hope to present abstracts of these interviews in each Gazette from our Oral History collections as compiled by Co-Chairpersons Connie Lektzian-Scafe and Miriam Foxman.

— The Editor

...Looking Ahead to 1992

Message From President Rosamond Haerberle, 1992

I wish to send greetings to all the members of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. You will hear from our officers and chairpersons in later issues. You, the members, are urged to participate and become involved in our activities. Let us strive to make this an outstanding year by working together for the betterment of our Society.

Rosamond Haerberle

Committee Chairpersons – 1992

MASTER PLAN & POLICY - Officers, Past Presidents
ACCESSIONS - Rex Lamoreaux, Susan Metzdorf
LIBRARY - Lillian Paull
MANUSCRIPTS - Virginia Clohset
ORAL HISTORY - Connie Scafe
CLOTHING - Pauline Harrison
BY-LAWS - Betty Adams
FINANCE & BUDGET - Kitty Daggy
MEMBERSHIP - Kitty Daggy
NOMINATING - Ruth Priestley
PERSONNEL - Executive Committee
RESIDENT AGENT & LEGAL - Ed Adler
CRAFTS - Susan Metzdorf, LaVon DeLisle
EDUCATION - Irma McMillen
FARM MUSEUM - Jack Moore, Bob Reynnells

GUIDES - Jean Milton, Frank Gallardo
GIFT SHOP - Margaret Greer
HOUSE & SUMMER KITCHEN - Priscilla Gayton
MAINTENANCE & GROUNDS - Don Daggy, Clarke Kimball
PROGRAM - Ruth Priestley
PROPERTY RECORDS & LOCATIONS - Jack Moore
PUBLICITY & PUBLICATIONS - Ross Callaway, Pauline Harrison
SCHOOLHOUSE - Muriel Crossman, Gaylor Forman
EXHIBITS - Priscilla Gayton



ANNUAL DINNER (1993) - Judy Huttenlocher, Charles Martinez
ICE CREAM SOCIAL (1992) - Don Daggy, Kitty Daggy
VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS (1992) - To be announced

...Looking Back on 1991

Message From President Marion Roush, 1991

My thanks to the Board of Directors, past presidents, committee chairpersons and our faithful group of volunteers for your support. It has been a banner year!



FROM ANNUAL REPORTS

- Financially speaking, Kitty Daggy reports for 1991 that the profits from our Ice Cream Social totalled \$2,285 as compared to 1990's \$2,541.58. Profit from the Victorian Christmas as \$1,567.08. Our total income for 1991 was \$48,666.36 and expenses amounted to \$48,230.56.
- Accessions Chairperson Rex Lamoreaux lists donated items, a variety of interesting photographs, an oil portrait, historic bottles, photography items, a framed lithograph of Washington and troops, many items from Geraldine Haynes, and a spoon collection from Don and Betty Adams.
- Librarian Lillian Paull lists additions to our library as 51 books, 58 pamphlets, 10 maps, and 9 photos. She has compiled a Gulf War scrapbook. We have been visited by 172 researchers. Forty-seven were from out of state.
- The Clothing Committee reports a collection of 32 clothing items. Many of these items were donated by Society member Orpha Williams. Chairperson Pauline Harrison is interested in collecting more clothing from the Roaring 20's.
- Connie Scafe and Miriam Foxman from the Oral History Committee have completed tapings of Betty Adams, Margaret Greer, Daniel Murphy, Virginia Rogers, Mildred Chadwick Schmidt, and are interested in interviewing people who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. They are also interested in area immigrants who came to this country since WWII.
- Projects initiated by Operations Manager Charles Martinez were: (1) Survey of the Moses Wisner private library, (2) Compilation of names, ranks, branches of service, and hometowns for those Oakland County men and women engaged in "Operation Desert Storm", (3) Inventory of those Oakland County cemeteries which have been abandoned and forgotten. Martinez has also attended six conferences this year considered to be beneficial to the Society, and was invited to address three groups in Oakland County on history-related subjects.
- Membership Secretary Gretchen Adler for the year 1991 reports 12 new Life Members, and new Business Members.

We regret to report the death of the following members: John Taylor, Clarence Ellis, Bernice Peterson, John Hahn, H. Malcom Kahn, Kenneth Andrew Sutton, Gladys Mills Losee, Gilbert Davis, and Mrs. Maurice Hammond.

PROFILES...From our Members

PROFILE: EVELYN MacGREGOR ALLEN – 1-28-07

BIRTHPLACE: Highland, Michigan

CAREER: Started teaching in Rochester, MI, then to Lincoln Junior High School, Pontiac, completing 25 years with a 10-year break living in South Bend, Indiana.

MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES: When a freshman in Pontiac High School, I entered a contest; submitted a documentary on "Name Places in Oakland County." It tied for first place with another freshman. Supposedly, it is in the Michigan Historical files at Lansing. Visiting pioneers with my Dad - Claud A. MacGregor - was so rewarding it started my interest in history which became my minor at Michigan State Normal College – now Eastern Michigan University at Ypsilanti.

FAVORITE BOOKS: "The Everyday Bible" (Guideposts). "Serendipity New Testament for Groups."

HOBBIES: Active participation in the following until I moved to Delaware: Flower Shows - 24 years - mostly staged in "The Pontiac Mall" now "Summit Place," Waterford Township. Waterford Branch Women's National Farm and Garden Association and a WNF&G Flower Show Judge. Volunteer for 15 years at Meadow Brook Hall (Rochester) arranging flowers. Various offices at Pontiac Central United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women. In South Bend, Indiana, at First Methodist Church as Supt. of Primary Dept. in the Sunday School. Presently united with Hockessin United Methodist Church in Delaware. Still keep informed by mail what U.S. Congress is and is not doing for the betterment of our Nation..

INTEREST IN O.C.P.H.S.: Vernon Kath was in one of my first home rooms at Lincoln Junior. His personal connection with Wisner Home intrigued me. It made delightful excursions for history classes to see history first hand and walking distance from Lincoln.

MARITAL STATUS: Married Ray L. Allen of Pontiac in Detroit September 15, 1934. Janet Elaine born September 29, 1936. Cancer took her January 9, 1986. October 9, 1987, Ray had a fatal heart attack which completed 53 years as an attorney specializing as Claims Adjuster and Mediation.

PHILOSOPHY: "Make you a better world because you have lived in it." (Edward Bok's grandmother's advice when he left the Netherlands as a boy for USA.) His legacy is at Lake Wales – the highest spot in Florida – a pink Marble Singing Tower surrounded by a peaceful sanctuary of natural beauty.

PRESENT HOME: After 70 years living in Oakland Co., a sad Evelyn left October 8, 1990, for a Delaware Methodist Retirement Home to be near her son-in-law, Carl Theorin, and grandson, Craig Theorin. Carol Theorin Kossler with husband Bob and baby Patrick reside in San Francisco, California. Older grandson, Kurt Theorin with wife Cris live in Cary, North Carolina.

Evelyn Allen - 726 Loveville Road, Cokesbury Village, Apt. 215, Hockessin, DE 19707

OFFICERS – 1992

President Rosamond Haeberle
 First Vice President Clarke Kimball
 Second Vice President Kitty Daggy
 Secretary Miriam Foxman
 Treasurer Judy Dorchock

Editorial Staff

Pauline Harrison, Editor
 Ross Callaway, Assoc. Editor
 Staff: Charles Martinez

Photography: Harry Harrison, Jack Moore

Quote – "The best antique
 is an old friend."

PROFILE...our library at Pine Grove. Its past, its present, and future as told by Gretchen Adler, Chairperson, New Library Committee.

When this Society was founded in 1874, its original purpose was "to gather up and preserve facts and incidents of the early settlement and history of the county." The Master Plan of the Society states as one of its purposes, "to collect manuscript and printed materials relating to the people, institutions and organizations within the County of Oakland and its environs and make them available to its membership and to qualified researchers."

In the 118 year history of this Society, we have done just that but perhaps done it too well. Our Library is bursting at the seams. We are currently housing hundreds of linear feet of manuscripts, books, early newspapers, maps, genealogical records and photographs. We preserve and maintain irreplaceable oral histories, business journals, diaries and letters of the pioneers of Oakland County. In addition, we are visited by hundreds of researchers and scholars who recognize the Society's archival library as a primary source for Oakland County history.

All of this is housed in a small c. 1840 portion of the Governor Moses Wisner Historic House and must share that space with the office of the Society. To say we are cramped is putting it mildly.

In order to continue to maintain this precious resource and to continue to accommodate further donations of archival materials, we must accept the fact that we need a new facility that would house the archival collections in a fire safe and environmentally safe facility.

When Betty Dawson Brown died and left a substantial bequest to the Society, the seed money for this much needed building became a reality. After countless hours of research and discussion on the part of the committee, we have in the past year, commissioned a site survey of our property, selected the site, selected an architect and have a site plan, a building design and a model of the proposed library.

To have accomplished this much in a single year has been no small feat. Now we know what we need, what we want, what we think we can afford and where we want it. The next step is to raise the money. We will solicit foundations, corporations, businesses and private individuals as well as Society members and governmental granting agencies. This too will be no small achievement and may take several years but it is a worthwhile goal, one that is greatly needed and one for which we should all be striving.