



PRESERVATIONS OF THE PAST FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF THE FUTURE



SUMMER KITCHEN, BEFORE & AFTER

It's hard to believe the Summer Kitchen at Wisner House once looked like this (left). But such was the case before a federal grant of \$4,000 and local matching funds in 1972 helped the Society restore the structure to its present beauty (right).

FROM THE ARCHIVES AT
WISNER HOUSE ... Part II

Early Beginnings of Our Society

As noted in Part I of our previous *Gazette*, Ezra W. Jewell was responsible for collecting and mounting in scrapbooks the early published accounts of the Society. He was born in Ithaca, New York, on March 20, 1853, served as Secretary of the Society from 1896-1902. Jewell became President in 1909, one year after the Society became incorporated as the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society, and served until his resignation in 1913. He died on March 23rd of that year.

During his administration he personally asked for the appropriation voted to the Society by the Board of Supervisors to be used in establishing a collection of pioneer relics and kept in the County Court House's Probate office for exhibition there. In 1926 this collection was moved to the vault of the Commercial Savings Bank and the balcony of the Public Library which may have been located in Pontiac. Eventually the Society records came to the Wisner

House including the small envelope containing Ezra Jewell's key from the Probate office. It is a small thing yet it reminds us of Jewell and his dedication to the Society, especially his efforts to perpetuate the orderly collection and preservation of Oakland County's historical artifacts.

This Society appears to be the oldest continuous historical society in Michigan. Oakland County has been described as fortunate in securing Jewell's services in the collection and tabulations of data identifying the pioneers and recording the printed histories of their achievements, preserving them in scrapbooks, properly indexed, and making every effort to restore the records which had been lost.

Submitted by
Virginia Clohset,
Manuscript Chairperson
OCPHS

We are most fortunate in having Mr. Jewell's dedication being carried on very effectively by Virginia Clohset and our librarian, Lillian Paull.
— The Editor

GAZETTE
SUPPLEMENT DESCRIBES
FIRST OAKLAND MAP

Accompanying this issue of the *Oakland Gazette* is a supplement entitled "The First Printed Map of Oakland County" by LeRoy Barnett. Dr. Barnett, Reference Archivist at the State Archives of Michigan, has been with the Michigan History Bureau of the Department of State since 1974.

Dr. Barnett's interest in maps stems from his academic background in geography and the creation of a cartobibliography of Michigan maps which appeared as Volume 5 of the *Checklist of Printed Maps of the Middle West to 1900* edited by Robert W. Karrow, Jr. He decided to investigate the origins of the first Oakland County land ownership map because of its rarity and the obscurity of its creators. The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society has a copy of the map and is pleased to be able to publish this definitive article relating to it.

One of the original maps is on display in the Wisner Library.

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS PAST
A Return to Victorian Traditions
By Sunny O'Neil

This, the author's first book, is the culmination of years of research into the traditional decorations and celebrations of the Victorians.

Festive decorating first made fashionable in the Victorian period in America, this book invites us to recreate the spirit and charm of an old fashioned Christmas with how-to's of authentic tree and home decorations, traditional menus and recipes, along with party games, crafts and decorations.

— Pauline Harrison

MAIL BAG



From the Office of
the Pontiac Mayor

Dear Mr. Martinez:

Thank you for the complimentary tickets to the Annual Ice Cream Social. I regret that I was unable to attend and enjoy the fine fellowship at the Social. Pontiac's history reaches back past the birth of Oakland County and your Society is one of the main reasons it is available to our citizens in 1992. Keep up the good work.

Thanks again. Hope I will be able to attend next year. If I, or my staff, may be of assistance to you at any time, please call.

Sincerely,
Wallace E. Holland

Dear Mr. Martinez:

Just a note to thank Bob Reynnells and Jack Moore for displaying so beautifully the Plaques of Alice Slater Pardee in the Carriage House.

It was her mother's 1872 brown wedding dress worn at the Ice Cream Social by Jeanette Coad, my Granddaughter.

'Twas one of the nicest Socials. The house, gardens, and all were very lovely. Lots of work for few, but enjoyed by many.

Sincerely,
Annalee Kennedy

To the members of Pine Grove Museum & Historical Society-

Enclosed is a small gift to your Society. The nineteen women of Countryside relished their trip into yesteryear when they visited your Pine Grove Museum on June 12th. This amount was set aside as they paid for their lunches they enjoyed at the Carriage House.

Sincerely,
Marion L. Prete, Program Chairperson
"Countryside"



Come Join Us For Our
ANNUAL VICTORIAN
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
at Wisner House

For An Enchanting Christmas Showcase!
Sunday, December 13, 1992
12 noon - 4:00 p.m.

Brochures will arrive in separate mailing.

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME
TO PARTICIPATE IN:

"Hanging of the Greens"
Wednesday, December 9th,
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
"Dehanging of the Greens"
Monday, December 21st,
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(313) 338-48342



GUIDE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Connie Scafe has been conducting "Guide Refresher Sessions." President Rosamond Haeberle invites all who are interested to enroll. (313) 338-48342

CHRISTMAS CARD HISTORY, and . . .

Robin Redbreast!

*Why should the robin red-breast have become
such an instantly recognizable symbol of
Christmas? Why not a thrush or a swallow
or even a partridge in a pear tree?*

In the early Victorian era in England, Christmas cards featured beautiful summer flowers, bare landscapes, and family gatherings at the seaside. It wasn't until the latter half of the 1800's that the robin became popular as Christmas card birds. Why? . . . because of the color of the postman's uniform at that time. Cards were first delivered by carriers of the Post Office who looked most impressive in their smart cut-away scarlet frock coats and vivid red waistcoats. This colorful uniform led the public to call them "Robin Postmen" or "Redbreasts" and people waiting for the postman in the morning would ask "Has the Robin called yet?"

Artists of the early Christmas cards decided to depict Robin Postmen - but as real robin birds - delivering the Christmas mail. As the practice of sending Christmas cards through the post became more popular the robin was depicted doing some very spectacular and ingenious things. According to folk lore the robin tried to remove Christ's crown of thorns at the crucifixion and in so doing the robin scratched his own breast, causing bleeding and hence evolved his red breast.

The robin has never lost its popularity on the English Christmas cards and a single robin is all that's required for sending good wishes at Christmas.

Here in America the cardinal is used on our Christmas cards, and one might assume it is because of its beautiful red coloring in line with the season

*Based upon an article entitled, "A
Message of Goodwill" appearing in the
IN BRITAIN magazine by David Watkins,
December, 1991.*





- Grant approval was received by the Oakland Cultural Council for prehistoric lithics photography needed in an archeological project being worked upon by archeologist, Charles Martinez, here at Pine Grove.
- The smokehouse at Pine Grove now has a meat hook for hanging hams. Further restorations are being planned as well.
- The Society's rental property on Wisner Street is receiving some needed restorations, as reported by Don Daggy, Maintenance Chairperson.
- Guide Irma McMillan initiated a program for students to write letters on their visits to Pine Grove as a class project.
- Fees for Senior Tours have been raised from \$1.50 to \$2.00.
- A request has been received for having a wedding ceremony at Wisner House this November.
- Don Daggy who along with wife, Kitty, co-chaired the Ice Cream Social, wish to thank everyone who helped make it a success. *More people attended this year than in the past several years and the net profit reflected this.* A deaccessioned desk was presented for auction and sold for \$106.00.
- Our Victorian Christmas, which will take place on December 13th, will be chaired by Susan Metzdorf and Gretchen Adler.
- Barbara Poole and Pauline Harrison of the Vintage Clothing Committee will display our collections at a Spring Fashion Show hosted by the Grace Hospital Guild at the Ritz Carlton in Dearborn, on April 24th.
- Gretchen Adler presented downscaled plans for the new library designed to reduce costs.
- Membership report included new members: Merle Barnard, Mark Mastrangel, Lyn R. Sheartz, Anna Crawford, and Nancy Duffield. The Kiwanis Club made a generous donation in Memory of Norma Fauble. The Committee is considering perks for members, specifically, ordering 1993 calendars to be sent out to the membership.
- Charles Terry will be our new resident Security man.
- Doris Smith of the Metro Detroit Preservation League discussed the Historic Home Tour on Franklin Blvd. in Pontiac scheduled for October 18th. She asked for volunteer help, and six of the Board members answered the "call."

PINE GROVE ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG

The digs were completed August 24th. Several thousand artifacts were recovered. Ironstone china sherds c. 1847 were found. Foundation and wall of the greenhouse were reaffirmed.

Mike Denny from Oakland U. will be working at Pine Grove during the Fall and Spring to study our ceramic collection piece by piece. He will ascertain manufacturing time range and describe each piece. We are appreciative of Mike for volunteering his services in this endeavor.

'GOOD CITIZEN' HONORED IN PONTIAC

Society Board member and dedicated Tour Guide, Jean Milton, received the "Citizen of the Year" award from Ernest C. Browne, keynote speaker at a function on the steps of the Pontiac City Hall on a sunny, breezy day in September. Jean's many community activities include: Pontiac Planning Commission, Pontiac Pancake Shelter, Clinton River Watershed Council, and the Oakland County Personnel Appeals Board.

We who were there were proud of the lively acceptance speech made by our Society colleague.

DONATIONS

Our Many Thanks to the Following Contributors:

In memory of Edna Burke - St. Elizabeth Guild, Betty Hoard, Marion Kimball, Virginia Clohset, Gretchen Adler, Muriel Crossman, LaVon DeLisle, Betty Adams, Pat Maurer, Jean Giddings, Connie Ewalt. In memory of Linda Smith - Susan Metzdorf. New Library - Faye Donelson, Lee and Marion Roush in Memory of Floyd Roush, Present Library - Wm. Weddon, Adelaide Larson, Dorcas Wolf, Deborah Martin, Joseph Burley and Bob Vanderkloot. Guides' Dresses - Dan, Linda, and Keith Colby, and Jean Giddings. Non-designated donations - Patricia Beach, Frederick Poole, and Kiwanis Club of Pontiac. Ice Cream Social tents - Gretchen Adler. Certificate toward Ice Cream Social - Felice Family Market. In memory of James Owens - Frederick Poole, Millicent, Countryside Improvement Association. In memory of Frank Gallardo and James Owens - Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Foxmans. Environmental - Joe Swanson. Non-designated funds - Dawn Nakkula.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

PORT HURON - HOME OF THOMAS EDISON

Edison's boyhood home (from 1854-1863) remains standing in Port Huron. Young Tom's experimenting began here in his bedroom and later moved in the large basement area. As a newsboy on the Grand Trunk Railway, he soon began to print and sell his own newspaper, *The Weekly Herald*. By 1863 the enterprising young man had left Port Huron determined to make his name in the world. In March of 1979 the Port Huron City Council approved the purchase of the property from the Chessie System Railroad. This move assured the continuation of the archeological excavations which started in 1976.

EDISON CHRONOLOGY

1847	February 11 - born at Milan, Ohio Son of Samuel and Nancy Elliott Edison
1854	Edison family moved to Port Huron
1859	A newsboy and candy butcher on the new Grand Trunk Railway
1862	Printed <i>The Weekly Herald</i> , the first newspaper ever printed on a moving train
1868	His first patented invention - Electrical Vote Recorder
1871	Married Mary Stilwell
1877	Invented the phonograph in lab at Menlo Park, New Jersey
1879	Invented light bulb
1884	Wife Mary died
1886	Married Mina Miller
1888	Invented motion picture
1896	Developed the fluoroscope
1931	October 18 - Died at West Orange, New Jersey

SOME ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS FOUND

(Since 1976) (Total 200,000)

Printer's type
Iron door lock
Square cut nails
Window glass fragments
Ceramic dishes and doll part
Glas bottles
Tableware
Lamp chimneys
Child's clay marbles
Ceramic chamber pot
Tin box
Gun parts
Musket balls
Tobacco pipes
Buttons and buckles
Straight pins
Hinges and door latch hook
Harmonica reed
Clock key
Ax head

Archeological activity at the Edison Homesite is under the direction of Oakland University's professor of Anthropology, Dr. Richard B. Stamps. Recently Dr. Stamps voiced an interest in searching out historical evidence that could be related to buttons found in a dig at the Edison Homesite within our vintage clothing collection. The Clothing Chairperson was happy to comply with this request and found it to be an interesting and creative experience. Dr. Stamps and his associate, Bruce Hawkins, were impressed with the historic scope of our collection. We hope that we will have other working opportunities with this distinguished professor from our neighboring Oakland University.

— Pauline Harrison

(Charlie Martinez was active in the 1969 digs as Assistant Director)

OFFICERS - 1992

President	Rosamond Haerberle
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
Consultant: Charles Martinez
Photography: Harry Harrison, Jack Moore, Bob Reynnells

PROFILES ... From our Members

PROFILE: HEIDI BARNES

BIRTHPLACE: St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, MI

PRESENT HOME: Clarkston, MI

CAREER: I'm a bit young for a career, but I'd like to work on a farm.

EMBARRASSING MOMENT: When the upper part of my swim suit . . . well . . . flopped!

FAVORITE BOOK: Douglas Adam's Universe Trilogy

FAVORITE MOVIE: Cocoon

FAVORITE TV: "Life Goes On" and "Quantum Leap"

HOBBY: Playing my bagpipes, and showing my Mix (pup)

SATISFYING ASPECT OF OCPHS: It's historical, and I love history!

HISTORICAL INTERESTS: Anything that has to do with the middle to late 1800's.

PROFILE: VERNON W. KATH

BIRTHPLACE: Pontiac, MI

PRESENT HOME: Clarkston, MI

CAREER: Pontiac Motor Division, Finance Department, 40 years (retired)

MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE: My parents moved to the Wisner home in 1921 where I grew up. I left there in 1940 when I married June Cummings of Rochester, MI.

FOND MEMORIES: Florence Wallace gave my father full run of the estate as if it were his own. I have many memories of growing up there and after the home was sold (to OCPHS) and my parents left in the early 50's. For a long time it was very nostalgic to drive past the home and not turn into it after so many years.

If, at any time, I may be of assistance to answer questions I would be happy to do so.

(The Editor - your profiles are still most welcome for our files.)

Excerpts from the Oral History Collections

Connie L. Scafe, Committee Chairperson

AND TIME BROUGHT CHANGES...

Bill Cunningham led a life of varied careers along with ups, downs, and ultimate changes. At the age of 17 he joined the Salvation Army, and this remained a constant in his life.

He came to Michigan as an infant when his father couldn't find work in Stratford, Ontario. When he was twelve they were living on the shores of Loon Lake on the narrow gravel road that was Dixie Highway. It was a three mile walk down that road to the Drayton Plains School that now stands on the Wisner grounds, and is well visited by school children.

At the time Bill graduated from the eighth grade it was necessary to take the dreaded county tests. This was required to assure that the rural students were receiving schooling equal to that of the city students. As a reward for passing this test Bill and his buddy were invited to dinner by their teacher, Miss Smith.

His education completed, Bill went to work at MICHIGAN PRINTING in

the then lively, bustling Pontiac. When the depression closed in, Bill lost not only his job but the house he had bought. Along with the hundreds of men in the area, he joined the W.P.A. doing pick and shovel work on the county roads. After three years of this he obtained a job as driver for the Salvation Army at \$9.00 a week, which was a definite improvement over the W.P.A. Grim times are now remembered as days of kindness from neighbors and friends. Survival meant living with relatives, and raising chickens and vegetables in order to feed his young family.

In time Bill's career escalated including a phenomenal \$60.00 a week at Fisher Body, establishing an outpost for the Salvation Army, printing press work and, at age 82, he still worked four days a week. He enjoyed lunching at the old Knights of Pythius Building where he once worked and now owned, to meet with his lawyer son.

Bill Cunningham was interviewed for this Oral History Program in 1988 by Connie Scafe.

THE PLANE THAT MADE HISTORY

The "Spirit of Lawrence Tech" was designed and built by Lawrence Tech engineering students beginning in 1947, and is well known by experimental aircraft enthusiasts because of its unusual design. It seats a pilot only, and is a twin-tailed "pusher" type aircraft. It is so named because the rear mounted propeller pushes the plane forward.

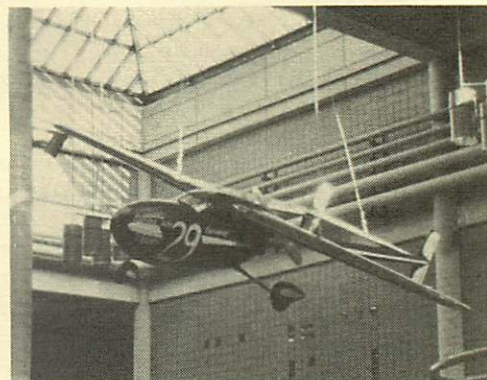
After a 30-year absence, in 1984 the plane was returned to the school of its origin when owner Charles Stephens of Grand Rapids (who had purchased it some years prior from Mississippi State U.) donated it back to its place of origin, Lawrence Tech. He contacted Bruce Annett, Lawrence Tech's Director of University Relations and Alumni Services, who accepted the plane on behalf of the University and then coordinated volunteer assistance from the students and other airplane enthusiasts.

The "Spirit of Lawrence Tech" was originally designed to compete in national air races and did so in 1949-51, where it was the first ever entered by a college. Speed was 128 mph, but dive speeds of 250-300 mph were recorded. In 1989 restoration was completed and it was decided to use the plane for display rather than flight because of prohibitive costs of liability insurance.

Bruce Annett is quoted as saying that the plane is an important part of Lawrence Tech's heritage and proves that the early students were just as eager as the current students to participate in projects that were on the "cutting edge" of technology.

Just as planned, this illustrious plane of yesteryear was placed on display in Lawrence Tech's Buell Building in 1989 complete with interpretive story boards and period photos below the plane giving a complete accounting of the plane's history and miraculous revival.

Bruce Annett is a Board member of the Oakland County Historical Society.



The "Spirit of Lawrence Tech," a circa-1947 experimental plane built by students, has gone on display in the University's Buell Building following a five-year restoration.

The First Printed Map of Oakland County

by LeRoy Barnett

Land and ownership maps are very popular items in any library or historical society. Genealogists, in particular, find them to be of great value in tracing the locations of their ancestors and determining the environment in which they lived. Researchers in general find them to be a fascinating picture of an area's development at a particular cross section through time.

This art form initially appeared shortly after the start of the nineteenth century. It began on the Atlantic coast of the United States and slowly moved west as nearly every county in the Northeast was mapped. Eventually, over 1,000 counties in this country had land ownership wall maps prepared of their territory. Of these, seven percent were finished before

The first land ownership map for a Michigan county was published for Wayne in 1855. This creation proved to be so well received that a similar work was planned for Oakland County. This fact was revealed through an advertisement in the *Pontiac Gazette* which first appeared on November 10, 1855. The announcement, under the title of "Map of Oakland County," said that E. Burhans and Jay Gould:

in rendering it both an ornament and an accurate source for reference. The map will be engraved upon a liberal scale, [and] plans of Pontiac and other villages will also be inserted.

Work on an enterprise of this nature and scope could not begin until the weather was conducive for field work. Consequently, not until the following spring did a crew appear on the scene. Their pending arrival was heralded by the

Pontiac Gazette of April 26, 1856 which wrote that:

We learn by a letter from Messrs. Burhans & Gould that the surveys preparatory to making a map of Oakland County are about to be commenced. The map will be on a large scale, exhibiting all the roads, creeks, rivers, lakes, marshes, dwellings, mills, churches, villages, and farms. Thus it will be a valuable source of reference to every citizen of the county. Such maps are becoming quite common in the older states, and are found to be of great service and a source of much convenience and satisfaction. We hope, therefore, that when these gentlemen complete their map the people will see that an abundant supply is procured. Every man ought



1841 twenty-four percent were completed between 1841 and 1860, thirty-eight percent were done between 1861 and 1880, and thirty-one percent were produced between 1881 and 1900.

The West Bloomfield portion of the 1857 map was singled out for its "attractive appearance."

...have in process of publication a new, full and complete map of Oakland County which will be executed upon the latest and most approved plan regardless of any expense that may accrue

Two months after this paragraph appeared, the promised specialist from the mapping firm arrived to commence his work. His appearance was noted in the *Pontiac Gazette*, which said that:

Colonel William Zawadill, a Hungarian, is now in Pontiac busily engaged at the Register's and Treasurer's offices taking notes preparatory to a survey of the county for the purpose [of making a land ownership map]. Our citizens may rely upon it, [as] he is thoroughly qualified for the task and we doubt not the map will be entirely reliable for accuracy in all its parts.

During the rest of the spring, summer and fall Colonel Zawadill apparently labored at his task of readying the map for engraving. His success in this endeavor was mentioned by the *Pontiac Gazette* on November 22, 1856. "Our readers will be pleased," said the newspaper:

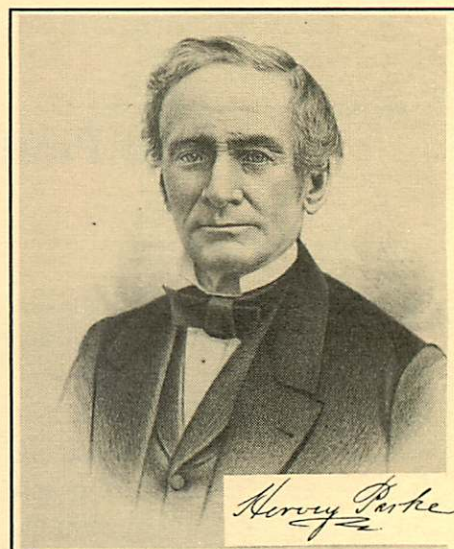
to learn that the preliminary surveys and other work preparatory to issuing a map of Oakland County are rapidly progressing and soon will be completed. Colonel Zawadill – who has been taking notes and drawing proofs of maps of each township with the farm lines, farm owners, etc., as he could from the public records in the county offices – has now completed that work and will at once commence his actual observations thru the county. From the work already done and the skill the Colonel exhibits as a draughtsman and surveyor, and from the energy exhibited by Mr. Bemiss under whose supervision the whole work of publishing the map is conducted, we hesitate not to say that the forthcoming map will be all that is promised by its projector. The maps which we have seen, the product of the same gentleman's labor, of some of the counties in New York, are elegant specimens of art and must be extremely useful to citizens of those counties. We trust that the people will freely subscribe for this map.

On the same day that the *Pontiac Gazette* published this update on the status of the Oakland County map project, it also carried an advertisement for the undertaking. This promotional piece described the product well, and read as follows:

A new complete topographical map of Oakland County, Michigan, by William Zawadill, surveyor and civil engineer, by actual measurement from original surveys throughout the whole county. The subscribers are preparing to publish a new and complete topographical map of Oakland County. The surveys are made by an experienced surveyor. All of the public roads, places of worship, post offices, school houses, country stores, hotels, mills, shops, etc., are to be marked showing also all the streams, lakes, and section, lot and farm lines. The names of property holders generally are to be inserted in their places. The map will also have an ornamental border of vignette views taken in the county. Maps of villages will also be inserted on the margin, together with an accurate table of distances to and from all the post offices in the county. The plan will be plotted to a suitable scale and will be executed upon the latest and most approved plan regardless of any expense that may accrue in rendering it both an ornament and accurate source of reference. It will be engraved by experienced engravers in Philadelphia and delivered to those who have ordered copies, handsomely colored and mounted for \$6.00 each.

Following this advertisement was an endorsement of the enterprise by fourteen Pontiac businessmen and personalities. Those individuals who helped to promote works of this nature were usually given a copy of the map free by the publisher in return for lending their name to his project. To earn their gratis copy of the map, the local luminaries said that:

we, the undersigned, having examined F.H. Bemiss & Company's surveys of Oakland County, take pleasure in recommending their map to the citizens of this county as being, in our opinion, a very accurate, reliable, and practical map, or a complete county directory, and well worthy of their liberal patronage considering the expense



Noted resident and County Surveyor, Hervey Parke, helped promote map sales.

attending it, procuring so accurately all the names, localities, section, farm and lot lines, and also distances, town plats, views, etc., and the limited scale it must necessarily meet with on account of its being entirely a local work, we think they offer it very reasonable. These maps will be sold exclusively by the publishers, and no variation in prices.

On December 5, 1856, the *Pontiac Jacksonian* was heard from regarding the merits of the proposed Oakland County map. "It is with unfeigned pleasure," said the publisher of the newspaper:

that we can announce that this map is progressing towards completion, and will be ready during the coming spring. This map is a public necessity, and the manner in which it is to be executed, and the ability of those employed in the preparation of the same, is a sufficient guarantee that it will be all wants of the people will require. Every business man in the county will be unable to dispense with it. Glancing at the map he can at once find any locality he may wish, and the most feasible way of approaching it. The price at which it is placed is as low as it can be afforded under the circumstances.

On the next day the other Pontiac weekly, the *Gazette*, had its say about the matter. Deciding to

report the news and promote it too, the newspaper said:

We have the pleasure to know that the publishers [of the map] are meeting with good encouragement in the county in receiving names of subscribers. The work is progressing rapidly, and promises to be a correct and faithful production. The certificate from Captain Parke which we publish is one that speaks well, as the captain is a man well qualified to judge of what he speaks on this subject. Read it, and let no man fail to subscribe for the forthcoming Map of Oakland County.

The "certificate" of recommendation referred to in the preceding statement was that by Hervey Parke, then Oakland County surveyor and one of the most respected men in Michigan. Parke had earlier served as a deputy federal surveyor, and had been responsible for laying out some of the original township and section lines in the Lower Peninsula. Obtaining the endorsement of a man of such stature was a major accomplishment for the publishers of the map, even if the words of support had to be purchased. With respect to the enterprise, Parke stated that:

The undersigned takes pleasure in announcing to the citizens of Oakland County that Colonel Zawadill is rapidly progressing with the proof maps of each town[ship], some of which will soon be in the hands of the engravers. And judging from frequent examinations of the work thus far completed, it cannot fail to please, as the Colonel certainly exhibits skill of the first order as a draughtsman. In addition to this he spares no pains to collect correct information as to farm boundaries, names of owners, the location of all roads, etc., as is also the case with Messrs. F.H. Bemiss & Company, publishers, who are going over the county and are desirous of seeing every land owner by which they will be able to gain correct information. These gentlemen are also

determined to spare no pains or expense in the execution of the work [so] that the map, when ready for delivery, will be fully equal to what is promised. A correct map of Oakland County is much needed, and will be found very useful to every citizen. And when a map of this description can be procured for six dollars [the subscription price] it seems to me that no person can hesitate, but at once subscribe for a copy, and I trust the subscription list will bear me out in the opinion.

Somewhat more than a month after the promotional piece appeared by Hervey Parke, the *Pontiac Gazette* updated its readers on the progress of the map. Writing in the January 17, 1857 issue, the editor of the newspaper observed that:

Our readers will be pleased to know that Messrs. Bemiss & Company are hastening the work on the new map of Oakland County with all possible dispatch. Messrs. Zawadill & Hess, engineers, are busily engaged on drafts preparatory to engraving. We have seen some of the townships as completed (except farms and owner's names) and we are highly pleased with the work. West Bloomfield, with its many beautiful lakes, makes a very attractive appearance. Oakland County, properly projected on a map with all her lakes, will make one of the most attractive ornaments besides being of great use to all classes of citizens, farmers, and businessmen.

About a month later the competing Pontiac newspaper, the *Jacksonian*, made its comments on the undertaking. In the edition of February 13, 1857, the publisher of the weekly noted that:

Some weeks since we called the attention of our readers to this work now in progress. It is nearly completed, and will be ready for delivery during the ensuing spring. We have had the pleasure of viewing the surveys, and from our knowledge of the county, its topography, etc., we believe them correct. The gentlemen having this map in charge are determined to make it as cor-

rect as possible, and they wish citizens of the county to call at their rooms at the Hodges House [Hotel] and inspect the work. Many suggestions might then be made, and people could see for themselves the care taken by the proprietors of this work to make it a credit to themselves, an honor to our county, and of inestimable value to our people.

Although the map was promised for delivery in the spring of 1857, no mention is made of it in the local newspapers until the end of the year. The reason for this can be found in the *Pontiac Gazette* for December 19, wherein the editor rejoices that:

This work is at last completed, and some of the maps have come to hand. We see by the advertisement of the publisher, Mr. S. H. Burhans, that the work of delivering the maps to subscribers is to be commenced without delay. The map is an excellent one, and answers our expectations fully. It will be a great convenience to everyone, and it ought to be in every house and business place in the county. The delay in the appearance of the map has been occasioned by misfortune of the lithographer, and not by any fault of the publisher. The first delay [was] occasioned by breaking the stone of the lithographer, just as he was ready to begin printing. Another delay was occasioned by the suspension of an extensive house that was to do the coloring and mounting. We hope no subscriber to the map will attempt to cause any trouble on account of the delay, for we are satisfied it was from causes beyond Mr. Burhans' control.

About 285 citizens of Oakland County subscribed for copies of the map before it was published. These individuals received their purchases as Christmas presents in 1857, as revealed by the *Pontiac Gazette* on December 19. In this edition S.H. Burhans told the public he:

has the pleasure to announce that the map of Oakland County, here-

tofore advertised, is now ready for distribution to subscribers. Myself, or one of my agents, will call on each subscriber to the map as soon as practicable. The work of distribution will be commenced without delay.

Those persons who had failed to indicate a willingness to buy the map before it was issued, could still acquire a copy from the publisher. These potential customers needed some stimulus to commit what was then nearly a week's pay for four sheets of paper mounted on a 5 x 6-foot piece of muslin. To encourage this kind of expenditure, Mr. Burhans once again resorted to the endorsements of respected locals. In the *Pontiac Gazette* of December 19, 1857, appeared the following remarks:

We, the undersigned, having examined the new Map of Oakland County, published by S.H. Burhans, certify that from a personal knowledge of the territory we have discovered nothing but that the surveys and locations are accurate, and in our opinion it is a reliable and practical map and a complete county directory, and considering the expense attending its publication we think it is offered very reasonable. It exceeds our expectations as to size and beauty, and we cheerfully recommend it to the patronage of all the citizens of the county.

This declaration was made by forty of Oakland County's most distinguished residents, including (where occupation is known) one farmer, two clergy, two educators, two judges, two physicians, two surveyors, five lawyers, five politicians, and seven merchants. Among those attesting to the map's

virtues was Moses Wisner, a man who would be Governor of Michigan in just two years.

Because of the delays in getting the Oakland County map printed, it became the fifth oldest land ownership map to be prepared of a Michigan county (following, in order, Wayne, Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Hillsdale). By the end of 1860, however, nearly every county in the southern Lower Peninsula had a land ownership map of its jurisdiction, none of which were created by the crew that did the job for Oakland. The publisher, Solomon Hasbrouck Burhans, produced maps of two Illinois counties in 1861 and 1862, then apparently left the business. The surveyor, Colonel William Zawadill, never appears again in the cartographic literature.

In addition to receiving \$6.00 for every map sold, the publishers got about \$40 for every one of the 22 vignettes that appear on the margins of the production. Assuming that around 400 maps were sold, the gross income for the project would be close to \$3,300. From this, however, would have to be deducted the costs of commissions, surveying, drafting, copying, engraving, paper, printing, hand coloring, mounting, varnishing, and shipping. With all of these expenses, the makers of the Oakland County sheet would have been doing well to break even.

This work was the first and last oversized land ownership wall map of Oakland County. These creations were large, unwieldy, dif-

ficult to store, hard to display, and easy to damage. Potential customers wanted something that was more convenient to keep and reference. A solution to the problem appeared in 1864, when the first county atlas was produced in the United States. Not until 1872 did this innovation reach Michigan, and then one of the first atlases prepared was the one for Oakland County.

Of all the copies of the 1857 Oakland County map that were produced, perhaps less than a dozen exist today. Of this number, only a few are in good repair. With such a low survival rate it is not surprising that maps of this nature are in demand on those rare occasions when one can be found for sale. For this reason, institutions that have large wall maps in their holdings are willing to spend as much as a thousand dollars to have some of them conserved. Since this investment is usually beyond the budget of the average household, anyone owning one of these Oakland County land ownership maps should consider donating it to a proper depository for safekeeping.

About the author:

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