



GREENFIELD VILLAGE GENERAL STORE" Back in Business"- April 23, 1994

Maybe Someday One of Today's Super Markets Will End up in Greenfield Village Depicting Life in the Good Old Late 20th Century

This Waterford, Michigan store known as the J.R. Jones General Store was named after its owner. Jones was born January, 1858 and died July 27, 1933. He was the great uncle of long-time dedicated member of our Society, Marion Roush. She served for many years as the Society's secretary and as our illustrious president in 1990 and 1991. Her mother was a Mabee, and directly related to Mrs. R.J. Jones who was also a Mabee.

This past summer Roush contributed "Oral History" to the team of historical investigators at Greenfield Village along with two cousins, Isabel Stark, and Charlotte Mabee, fellow OCPHS members. They were guests at a dinner in their honor hosted by the Greenfield Village folks. (See picture of the General Store.) The store was formerly known as the Elias Brown General Store and had been closed to visitors at Greenfield Village since 1992, during which time research and conservation of the building took place along with the processing of 8,000 artifacts.



Celebrating completion of the J.R. Jones General Store Visitor program.. (L to R) Marion Roush, Isabel Stark, "Store Manager", Charlotte Mabee.

"The store's inventory was so eclectic, we weren't able to tell a clear story," said curator and project leader Donna Braden. "To confuse matters more, the building came from one place, the Elias Brown sign from another, and the stock from at least nine different stores."

The building itself came from Waterford and changed hands about nine times between the 1880's and 1927. Of all the storekeepers, James R. Jones, who ran the store from about 1882 - 1888, provided the most solid documentation.

"The 1850's were a pivotal time in the development of America's consumer culture," said Braden. "Factories were producing goods at unprecedented levels, railroads created wide-scale distribution networks and advertising both informed consumers, and created a demand for brand name products."

The store appears at Greenfield Village as it might have been in 1886, at a time when Mr. Jones had the only operating telephone in town. The shelves have been stocked with products of the time, from corsets and canned goods to cow-bells and Coe's Dyspepsia Cure. Information was gleaned from consensus records, newspaper accounts and business directories to suggest purchasing habits for each customer.

- Pauline Harrison

This article was based upon papers provided by Marion Roush.

Young Volunteer

Charlie Martinez tells us about eleven year-old Chris Winter, a budding "archeologist" from Clarkston who volunteered his services in last year's dig at Pine Grove. Again, this year, and still archeologically inspired, he assisted Charlie in following through with the tedious task of labeling and sorting out the artifacts recovered from last year's dig. He even attended one of last year's Sunday lectures at the Carriage House with his father, Brian Winter.

Charlie reports that, "Chris has been a delight to work with and a real asset in helping us with our inventory of collectables. I believe Chris is beginning to understand the importance of museum administration and how good organization can help focus your resources on the problems at hand."

Needless to say, Chris is always welcome at Pine Grove.

Join us in the celebration of
another
VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS
AT PINE GROVE
Sunday, December 11, 1994

This issue's supplement is,
"Furry Beasts Put Bite on
Pine Grove's Grounds"
By Charlie Martinez

MAIL BAG



To The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society:
September 6, 1994

Dear Mr. Martinez:

My sister, Mrs. Margaret Miller, and I thoroughly enjoyed your article, "Those Invisible Heroes" in the Summer Issue 1994.

Philo Durkee was, I believe, an uncle to our Grandmother, Florence Coonley Becker, thus making him our Great, Great Uncle. My wife and I, by the way, have a son named Jedediah after Philo's father. Lulu Becker Going, who was active in the Historical Society, was Mrs. Miller's and my Aunt.

We would very much like to have a proper stone and would certainly like to erect a monument at Oak Hill Cemetery to properly identify his service with the 22nd [Michigan Regiment] and death at Chickamauga.

Please advise what action we might take and, if more convenient, please call me collect.

Thank you very much for your help.

Very truly yours,
John T. Becker

August 14, 1994

TO: Don O'Brien (OCPHS Member)

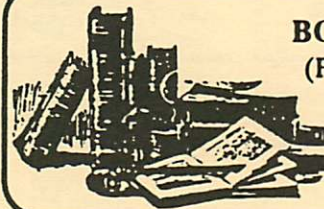
On behalf of the Society's library, I wish to thank you for purchasing a reprint copy of the *Alphabetical Index to the Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War 1861 - 1865* from John K. King Books in Detroit, at a cost of \$50.00.

This book will help quickly verify the identity of those men from Oakland County who served in the Civil War. We have many inquiries from researchers in this regard.

Sincerely,
Charles H. Martinez

BOOK REVIEW F.Y.I.

(From the Wisner Library)



OUR PERSONAL COLLECTION
By People From the OPC
Harriet Greene, Editor

A study in contrasts and similarities, *Our Personal Collection* intrigues the reader. Its authors are participants at the OPC (Older Persons Commission) in Rochester. Each has a story to tell much like an "Oral History" of everyday people who reminisce in their own way giving us insight of the time, the place and the thoughts of those who could be considered our peers.

As stated on the book jacket, "This book is a testament. It is a fitting affirmation of a generation."

Director Marye Miller provided the spark it took to take shape, and Editor Harriet Ann Greene has done a superb job of putting it all together.

Some of the stories in this book told of experiences that included well-known dignitaries from the annals of history such as this:

A TYCOON'S LUNCH

By Charlie Turner

From June, 1933 to January, 1935, I was a guide at Greenfield Village. My station was the Cotswald Cottage from England.

One morning Mr. Henry Ford walked in the back door and motioned me to follow him to the garden. He dug out two potatoes from the garden and said, "Don't tell Gus the gardener about this. He might not like it."

Fireplace ashes in the cottage were about 20" deep. He buried the potatoes in the hot ashes and said, "This will take about 45 minutes. Other guides saw Mr. Ford's car and sent visitors elsewhere. Mr. Ford returned and with fire tools in hand, removed the potatoes and said, "Charlie, here's your lunch."

We both enjoyed a delightful meal at the cottage.

#

This book is well worth the price of \$14.75, and is available at the OPC (810) 656-1403.



- The Pontiac City Council and the City's Pride & Beautification committee awarded our Society recognition as a winner of this award for the beauty of the lawns and gardens of Pine Grove. The award was dated August 30, 1994 and signed by Judy Storum, Legislative Administrator.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to our Maintenance & Grounds Committee.

- The Society's rental property on Wisner Street is going through a "face lift" of new siding, an important aspect of maintenance and beautification. Its beginning to look a lot like "beautiful".
- The office's file cabinet, so generously offered and delivered, will be put to good use. For this, many thanks to Elsie Patterson for her donation. We are still in need of a legal size four drawer file cabinet.
- In an attempt to save funds, President Gretchen Adler announced our list of subscriptions could be cut down if any member could bring in their "used" monthly historical-related periodicals for library use.
- Our Outreach Programs are alive and well. Bob Reynnells and Jack Moore are in demand for presenting their Pioneer Tools and historical know-how for a number of community groups. Miriam Foxman keeps busy as History Lady to the schools, and the Vintage Clothing presentations are also gaining momentum. We have even been videoed by Com Cast.
- Priscilla Gayton has been invited to "dress" the display cabinets at the beautiful new Rochester Hills Library for the month of December. The subject matter will, of course, be "Victorian Christmas". We encourage you to visit this display by our talented, creative board member.
- The Annual Victorian Christmas will take place on Sunday, December 11th at our historical Wisner complex at Pine Grove.
- Creative Arts Center, "Market Place" - invites you to their Annual Holiday Gift Show, November 6th through December 23rd at 47 Williams St., Pontiac [for handmade art, crafts, and collectibles.] (810) 333-7849.

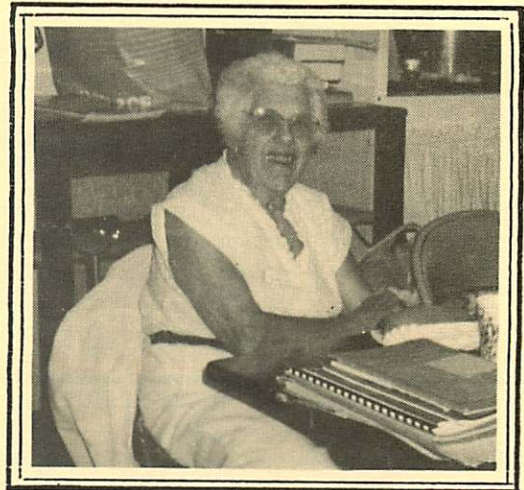
FROM OUR DONORS

ACCESSIONS:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>For</u>
Joyce Tenniswood	Manuscript Section
Pauline Harrison	Library
Anne Liimatta	Library
Herbert W. Williams	Library/Manuscript
Farmington Hills Library	Library
Oakland County Genealogical	Library
Lucille A. Tang Martin	Vintage Clothing
Margaret Gregory	Library/Vintage Clothing
Betty Adams	Library
Gretchen Adler	Artifact Section

MONETARY DONATIONS:

Elizabeth S. Adams	Designated donation for Wisner Street Property's "facelift"
Paint Creek Folklore Society	Non-designated donation
Brien and Pat Winter	Non-designated donation



Society's Board Member Honored

Faye M. Donelson, Society life member, was honored this September with a Community Service Award from the Pontiac Area Historical and Genealogical Society. Faye has been a tireless worker for that organization which meets at the Pontiac Public Library.

She became a member of OCPHS in 1967, served as its president from 1976 through 1978, and is currently a member of the Executive Committee as well as the Master Plan - Policy & Procedure Committees.

She has been long interested in archaeology, having participated in the Society's Carriage House "dig" in 1975-76. More recently Faye added to our prehistoric lithic collection with a Michigan barbed axe which was found on the family farm many years ago.

- Charlie Martinez



PROFILES . . . From Our Members

MEMBER PROFILE: Joseph Mastrangel
BIRTHPLACE: Southfield, MI, March, 1969
PRESENT HOME: Farmbrook - Southfield, MI
CAREER: Environmental Auditor/Consultant
MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE: Being the youngest of 13 children, I have encountered several meaningful experiences, but what I appreciate most is the moral and work ethic which my parents have given me.

FAVORITE BOOK: Charles Dickens - *A Christmas Carol*

MOVIE: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
TV: Discovery Channel
HOBBIES: Model Building, Cooking, Sports
MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF OAKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Thorough information on several aspects of Michigan History, combined with friendly help and conversation.

HISTORICAL INTERESTS: Land uses of early S E Michigan; Wars in which Michigan has been involved.

MEANINGFUL PHILOSOPHY: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

**MARY ELIZABETH MARCERO
 1912-1994**

Mary Elizabeth Marcero, a life-long area resident, passed away July 1, 1994 at the age of 81. She was the daughter of Joseph L. Marcero, who was the subject of an article in the supplement to the *Oakland Gazette* (Summer 1994), and Frances Thompson Marcero.

Miss Marcero graduated from Marygrove College in 1934 and then completed an internship as a dietitian at the Peter Brent Brigham Hospital in Boston. She worked at her profession for over ten years at hospitals in Toledo, Ohio, Detroit and Bay City, Michigan.

In 1945, she entered the family business, The Marcero Cigar and Candy Company as the firm's treasurer. This company was located on North Cass Avenue in Pontiac for over thirty years. She remained active in the firm until her retirement in 1968.

Miss Marcero was predeceased by a sister, Sister Marie Joseph (Ellen), I.H.M., the Reverend Thompson L. Marcero and Joseph L. Marcero, Jr. She is survived by a niece, Mary C. O'Brien of Auburn Hills and a nephew, Thomas L. Marcero of Waterford.

ARCHIVAL NOTES OF INTEREST

Reproduced letter from Charles Apfebaum, Rare Manuscript Collector, Valley Stream, New York:

Mr. Martinez:

Thank you for your interest in my collection of Civil War letters from a Pontiac, Michigan soldier. [a brief description of this collection follows:]

This is an extensive correspondence, written by Sgt. Thomas Vincent. It is an important archive, as it relates all the elements of the War Between the States: training for war, continuous marching and preparing for battle, facing the enemy in battle, being captured by the Rebels and dying in a Confederate prison.

Sgt. Thomas Vincent from Pontiac, Michigan, born in England in 1840, writes home from the Civil War, 1862-1863. He dies in a Confederate Prison at Chickamauga, Georgia, September 20, 1863. On October 2, 1863 writes in one of the letters in this collection, his last letter home, "...I am a prisoner of war in Richmond..."

He volunteered originally at Milford, Michigan, was in the 22nd Regiment, and later transferred to the 18th Ohio Battery as a bugler.

9/28/1862, Covington, KY: 'The boys burnt a Rebel house worth \$5000...the other night the Rebels took 61 of the Michigan 18th Regiment when they was on guard...'

He goes to Louisville, Ky, with Rebel prisoners...describes Frankfort and Louisville...says he sees 3 or 4 buried almost every day...his colonel died - we didn't like him...sees plenty of Negroes, one makes him a chicken pie...writes a poem...

3/12/1863, Lexington, KY: He is promoted to Sergeant and tells of chasing Rebels to Winchester and the battle there and at Slate Creek...

5/17/1863, Nashville, TN: Very good letter of his battle activities for the past weeks...building a hospital in Nashville...they shot a man sitting on his coffin (5/16/1863) and describes it...During May to September they are guarding Nashville...hung a man for a shooting...lots of prisoners...

(This interesting collection, although available for sale, unfortunately, is beyond our financial means at this time.)

OFFICERS - 1994

President	Gretchen Adler
1st V.P.	Clarke Kimball
2nd V.P.	Jack Moore
Secretary	Miriam Foxman
Treasurer	Dan Carmichael
Resident Agent	Ed Adler

EDITORIAL STAFF

Pauline Harrison, Editor
 Charles Martinez, Assoc. Editor
 Ross Callaway, Assoc. Editor
 Donald O'Brien, Assoc. Editor

FURRY BEASTS PUT BITE ON PINE GROVE GROUNDS

by Charles H. Martinez

In the Chinese calendar, 1994 was the "Year of the Dog;" at Pine Grove it was the "Year of the Woodchuck." At a time when randy deer ran amok in downtown Detroit and Canada geese decorated suburban lawns with their gooey droppings, Pine Grove's grounds became a salad bar for toothy woodchucks. In so doing these creatures joined the ranks of other small mammals such as squirrels, skunks, raccoons, opossums, and bats that have been known to frequent the old Wisner property. According to experts this often disturbing interface between man and beast, which has been intensified by the growth of metropolitan areas in the Lower Peninsula, has meant a modification of habitat for the animal.

The territorial dispute here had its beginnings in the autumn of 1993 when Mother woodchuck, with or without her mate's help, excavated a den beneath the handicap ramp at the rear of the one room schoolhouse. There this spring two little chucks were born and quickly introduced to a variety of leafy entrees unintentionally provided by volunteer gardeners, Clarke Kimball and Jim Tedesco. Missing blooms and gnawed stems among the many Pine Grove plantings quickly focused attention on the woodchucks. Some Society members, however, placed the blame on a feral rabbit that has roamed the grounds with impunity for some time. While its former owners benignly named the rabbit "Fluffers," distressed neighbors refer to it as the "Bunny from Hell" for its gigantic size and voracious appetite. But a woodchuck doesn't intimidate easily as a study of this hardy survivor shows.



Marmota Monax, Woodchuck.

The woodchuck's scientific title is *Marmota monax*. Said to be of Latin origin the generic term is actually two words, *mar* and *mota* which when combined translate roughly as "mountain rat." *Monax*, the specific name, is drawn from a native American expression meaning "good digger." The animal is a member of the *Sciuridea* family which makes it kin to squirrels, gophers, and chipmunks. But the woodchuck's size dwarfs these family members. An adult chuck may measure anywhere from 19 to more than 25 inches in length and weigh from five to 12 pounds. The massive head flows into an equally imposing body which is equipped with short, powerful limbs. The feet are tipped with curved claws making this rodent a powerful digging machine: a trait that has won it both great renown and resentment. The fur color of the adult observed at Pine Grove was grey-brown, while the youngsters appeared to have reddish-brown coats which may change with

age or represent a standard variation.

In the *Sciuridae* family tree the woodchuck can be found on one of four major branches leading from the trunk. Over time it developed from a common ancestor some 40 million years ago through two extinct genera to achieve the *Marmota* title in the Miocene epoch approximately 12 million years ago. And yes, from *Marmota*, the word marmot has been derived. That's what these furry mammals are called out West. But to the east of the Great Lakes they are known as groundhogs.

Precisely when these creatures came to Michigan is unclear. The earliest recorded occurrence found by this writer is circa 730 plus or minus 250 years before present. This date is derived from radiocarbon tests applied to a large number of fauna, including the species in question, that once roamed the Sleeping Bear Dune area in Leelanau County, Michigan. Such a date is quite recent when one considers the geologic age of the

Great Lakes region or the first appearance of man here. A mere tick of the clock so to speak. Most likely prehistoric people in their travels around Michigan came across woodchuck burrows and added the dark tender meat to their diet.

One of the earliest accounts of this creature in North America after contact between French and Indian is found in the *Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents* for 1634. Stationed in Quebec Father Paul Le Juene wrote his superiors in France of the strange animal the natives called *Ouinascou* that "whistles like a well taught Linnet." Naturalists have long recognized the unusual whistling sound made by a woodchuck when alarmed. Father Le Juene also revealed that the creature made excellent eating, excelling the hare in taste. Today, Ojibwa Indians from the Upper Peninsula fondly recall their tribe's legend of "aku ko'jeesh," the woodchuck, and its proliferation across the northern forests.

It was not until the Michigan pioneer began clearing the land, however, that the first serious confrontation with the woodchuck, as with so many other animals, took place. Farmers quickly found their gardens chewed to pieces and their pastures riddled with "chuckholes" that could cripple livestock. In retaliation, this threat was answered with township bounties on woodchuck scalps. Generations of farm children would henceforth hone their hunting skills and earn pocket change attempting to eradicate these pesky varmints.

Few nineteenth-century accounts of wild animals in Michigan failed to mention the woodchuck. John T. Blois, who authored the *Gazetteer of the State of Michigan* (1839), listed the chuck together with a dozen other species as being "principal and most abundant" at that time. Geologist and historian, Bela Hubbard, said in his *Memorials of a Half Century* (1887) that among the many four-footed inhabitants he encountered, the

woodchuck was "the only burrowing and hibernating animal" he could recall. Hubbard added "it was formerly numerous hereabouts." Hereabouts was old Springwells Township in Wayne County.

In the first quarter of this century, a wealth of such mammal sightings from across the State were collected and published by the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology. A 1923 distribution study by N.A. Wood and L.R. Dice found the woodchuck to be one of the most commonly reported mammals in the State after the porcupine and the cottontail.

As far as the farmer or homeowner is concerned, the woodchuck's least admirable trait is its digging. But, one still must respect its earthmoving ability as well as the complexity of its undertaking. Chucks have been known to excavate tunnels 45 feet in length and sometimes four to five feet in depth. These works have front and rear entrances with an occasional side entrance or two. The latter serve as sentinel posts or escape holes. Below ground the nest chamber may be lined with leaves or grasses. The woodchuck basement apartment at Pine Grove has an entrance diameter of approximately nine inches with a telltale backfill pile of sand and pebbles in front. Burrows associated with man-made features are commonplace. Joe Derek, Heritage Park Naturalist for Farmington Hills, says "build a deck, invite a woodchuck." Such a structure, he states, "gives these creatures a place to sun themselves in the afternoon or serves as their watchtower."

As for diet the woodchuck likes stems, buds, bark, and twigs of such plants as sumac, dogwood, cherry, and other fruit trees. Bonnie Arthur, DNR spokesperson, says "this animal's tastebuds are not all that selective — they are grazers who nibble on practically all vegetation. They seem to really crave clover, dandelions, and marigolds."

Oakland County has always been an ideal habitat for chucks. In earlier

times timber stands interspersed with grassy openings provided these animals with just the right balance of food and shelter. Has suburban spread changed this balance? Chucks are very adaptive creatures, according to Dean Martin of Critter Control. "They can sufficiently modify their behavior to suit a more artificial habitat," Martin says. "That is why we see more of them now. They are strong survivors." This is not to suggest, however, that we will soon be up to our patio doors in woodchucks. Local naturalists point out the numbers of road kills during mating season, along with the fact that females are receptive to mating only once each year, helps keep their population in check.

Biologists have long been interested in the woodchuck's unusually deep winter sleep. In this part of Michigan chucks generally begin hibernating between late October and mid-November, and emerge the following March. After dozing off the chuck reduces its heartbeat from 100 per minute down to around 15 per minute, and its body temperature from 95° to near 45° Fahrenheit. Its respiration drops remarkably too. Scientists say this state of lowered life process is critical if the animal is to live off the fat and other nutrients accumulated before beginning its hibernation. If the summer food supply is scarce, the woodchuck's sleep can be its last.

Whether woodchucks return to Pine Grove is anybody's guess. There is a certain ambivalence too among Society members as to the future of these animals here. Some see them as a threat to our landscaping; others view them as an added interpretive feature to our natural surroundings. A few have even expressed a restrained willingness to gather around their den on Groundhog Day to see if they might emerge. After all Pennsylvania has a Punxsutawney Phil. Why not a Pontiac Pete or Pine Grove Prunella? Think of the media coverage and the exposure. Think of the crowds and gate receipts. Isn't America folklore great? See you February 2nd.