

INTERESTING RE-ARRANGEMENTS AT PINE GROVE



Law office at Wisner House

WISNER HOUSE -

Sitting Room - Set up for family style fun circa 1918. "Victrola" by Victor Talking Machine Co. Center table flanked by comfortable Gentleman and Lady's chairs circa 1845-70.

Law Office - Formerly, Dawson Brown Memorial Room is now on second floor. Attention is focused on magnificent Wooten desk, circa 1874-1884. Hat rack for visitors, mostly male. Iron stove to ward off winter chills. Legend has it that this space served as bedroom before and after Wisner's term as governor.

Toy Display Room - Outstanding collection of antique dolls and carriages. Many belonged to Dr. Sarah Van Hoosen Jones of Rochester, Michigan.

Second floor - above the library area has been completely rejuvenated by Ron Voorheis and helped by President Adler. This has beautifully enhanced the area as a quiet working room with painting,



Carriage House

carpeting, lighting and built-in bookshelves.

Carriage House - Several lovely old pieces of Dawson Brown furniture have been placed there. A walnut dining table with five matching Eastlake chairs, circa 1890, an oak side-by-side secretary and bookcase, and an oak buffet, both late Victorian. Along with this is Victorian-look yellow print window valances and screen sewn by Kitty Daggy.

Summer Kitchen - This charming historic building has received a complete face lift. The pine cupboard is new to this room and houses the Society's Staffordshire collection.

From a report by Priscilla Gayton House and Summer Kitchen Committee

Thank you Ron!

...And thanks to this Committee for the entire project!

Be sure to come visit and enjoy the added character of the premises during Ice Cream Social.

HISTORIC HUMAN HAIR WREATHS

In the Victorian Age, art made from human hair was very popular, explains Leila Cohoon, owner and operator of the Independence College of Cosmetology. The College houses a museum devoted to this art form. A wreath from the late 1800's combines tresses of two sisters who shaved their heads before entering the convent.

Here at the Moses Wisner House, we have a beautiful example that was fashioned by Alice Hathaway of Waterford, Michigan from her own hair in 1876. This is framed and now hangs in what once was the Wisner daughter Jessica's room. The touring schoolchildren are always amazed at the wonder of it.

-Pauline Harrison

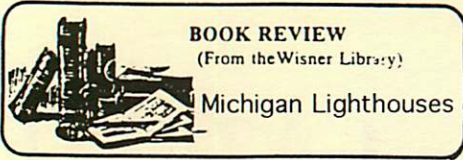
Ice Cream Social Features

Magician and Balloon Sculptor

Dr. Fiasco!

(Bill Congden)





by Bill & Laurie Penrose

This book was designed to act as a traveler's guide for the 116 Michigan lighthouses, complete with photographs. A direct quote from this book tells the story best:

The silent centinels make outstanding destinations. Their towers stand at the edge of precipitous bluffs, nestle in soft dunes, perch at the end of long piers, and rise up from isolated wave-swept shouls.

Spread around Michigan's 3,000 plus miles of Great Lakes coastline is America's largest and finest collection of beautiful historic lighthouses.
- Pauline Harrison

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Indian Shelf -

The Native Americans

Michigan Shelf -

- Michigan Lighthouses*
- Historic Bridges of Michigan*
- Pictorial History of the Great Lakes*
- The Stars & Stripes*
- Diaries Section -

About Face - (Autobiography, Odyssey)

ACCESSIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Item</u>
Gaylor Forman -	U.S. Bicentennial Flag
Jack Moore -	Four tramp art pegs
Jean Milton -	Linear land measure
Lillian Paull -	Books:
	<i>Michigan Lighthouses</i>
	<i>First Ladies of Michigan</i>

Gaylor Forman - Map:
Campaigns of Civil War

Bob Reynnells -
Record of 8th Mi. Infantry Civil War 1861-1865

Betty Adams - Books:
Our Community Heritage: Repair and Preservation of Records
Guide to Care & Adm. of Records
Guide to Care & Adm. of Manuscripts

Rex Lamoreaux - Books:
North American Indians, Birmingham H.S. Yearbooks 1946-48

Wilma Webb - Her manuscript:
This I Remember, (history of Cass Lake)
Clippings:
a collection reflecting Pontiac schools, churches, businesses, and Oakland County events (1970-89).

FINANCIAL DONATIONS FROM OUR BENEFACTORS -

- Woman's National Farm & Garden - Non designated fund
- Larry Mills (Researcher) - To library
- Lillian Paull - Purchase of Flower plants
- Vernon Kath - Non designated fund
- Memorial from - Alpha Delta Kappa In memory of Wm. McKnight, Board member, Susan Metzdorf's father.
- Barbara Poole (Board member) - In memory of her father.
- Charlie Martinez - Civil War Regimented Histories

- Don O'Brien - Large mailing envelopes
- Betty Adams - Pine Grove Garden Fund
- Rex Lamoreaux - Lattice screens below around front porch
- EMCON, Indianapolis - Library Fund

SUNBONNETS DONATION



Nineteen beautifully hand made bonnets were gratefully received by our Crafters from the retiring proprietors of the **COUNTRY GIFTS SHOP**, Charles & Mary Beyette of Waterford, MI.

The bonnets will be available at the Ice Cream Social on August 13th.

Our best wishes to the Beyettes on their retirement years.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Charlie Martinez was recently honored with the mention of two of his archaeological studies in *Vestiges of Morality & Rememberance* (1994) by Edward L. Bell. This book represents the first comprehensive bibliographic reference work on the historical archaeology of mortuary sites available to scholars.

The two reports authored by Martinez and selected for inclusion were: "Archaeological Investigation to Locate the Burial Site of John F. Elsen in St. Paul's Cemetary, Grosse Pointe Farms 1983), and "Analysis of the Christopher and John Rousby Crypt at Greenfield Village, Michigan (1988).



- The Society's Annual Dinner took place at the Rochester Community House on May 21st. It began with a Social Hour including punch, coffee and much in the way of warm fellowship. This was followed by a Potluck Buffet and a program of historic musings by some of our members in celebration of our historic years at the Moses Wisner House.

- Clarke Kimball announced a gift has been given to us by his son of 60 beach blankets, an "overage" from his business. They are valued at \$30.00 each and we will sell them for \$10.00 they will be available at the Ice Cream Social.

- Gretchen Adler introduced new Board member, John Riley at a recent Board meeting.

- Don O'Brien and Charles Martinez produced an interesting Gazette which featured articles of a historic nature rather than a newsletter-type issue. Our thanks to them for this fine endeavor!

- Jean Milton reported she and Pauline Harrison are now working with the Interactive Historical group at the Van Hoosen Home in Rochester, representing the OCPHS.

- Our Society participated in the Annual Local History conference at W.S.U. this past April.

- Faye Donelson was thanked for her work on indexing past copies of the Gazette. This has been turned over to Don O'Brien who continues to index in detail.

- Robert Reynnells presented the Pioneer Implement program at the Scotch School in West Bloomfield on May 23rd.

OTHER ITEMS

The Seal of the State of Michigan in the upstairs study of Wisner House is one of the earliest forms of Eglomese painting on glass (painting on the underside of the glass). Investigations are being made as to the best way to preserve the seal.

Charles Martinez reports that on February 2nd WQRS - FM it was announced that "Pine Grove Pete" our resident groundhog did not agree with the famous "Pauxatawaney Phil" prediction regarding the end of winter.

Ruth Wall, Guide Chairperson, invites all interested parties to share in the delightful experience in acting as Tour Guides for visiting adults and schoolchildren. The tourers are most appreciative of this service which is of the utmost of importance to our Society and one of our reasons for "being". Do come and try it - you might like it!

INTERNSHIP AT PINE GROVE

Kim Cooley, student from St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake spent the winter semester serving as an intern at the Oakland Pioneer & Historical Society under the able leadership of Charles Martinez.

Kim says she became involved with the Society because of her interest in local history in Michigan. While here she performed many administrative and office duties, helped with museum displays and learned how to research archives.

We enjoyed having Kim here for her internship and gained much from her services. She says she enjoyed her experiences here and hopes to stay active in the Society in the future. Kim graduated in May with a B.A. in Social Science. Charles speaks highly of Kim

as a most pleasant young lady and her high level of performance as an intern. We look forward to more such interns in the future.

- Pauline Harrison

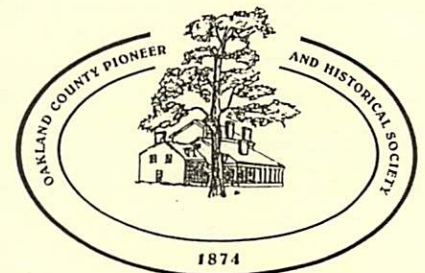
WISNER RENTAL PROPERTY

This Spring the Society sold the caretaker and rental house at 32-34 Wisner Street. The Board decision to sell this house was prompted by several factors:

- Maintenance was becoming a constant cost as well as headache,
- The liability exposure was becoming worrisome.

It was felt to be in the interest of the Society to divest ourselves of this property.

- Gretchen Adler



Logo designed by
- Gil Haven

OFFICERS, 1995

PresidentGretchen Adler
1st V.PKitty Daggy
2nd V.PClarke Kimball
SecretaryMiriam Foxman
TreasurerDan Carmichael
Resident Agent Ed Adler

EDITORIAL STAFF

Pauline Harrison, Editor
Charles Martinez, Co-Editor
Ross Callaway, Assoc. Editor
Don O'Brien, Assoc. Editor

MEMBER PROFILE:
Ruth Priestley



BIRTH PLACE:

Highland Township

PRESENT HOME:

Waterford Township

EMBARRASSING MOMENT:

Sliding down the staircase at school when a high school student, followed by the teacher calling on me to give the definition of "friction."

MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE:

Everything in life is an opportunity for a meaningful experience if you make it so. I enjoy being with my loving and caring family.

FAVORITE -

BOOK: Biographies relating to history.

MOVIE: none.

TV: Documentaries relating to nature, art and travels.

DISLIKE:

Anything mechanical that does not work right.

HOBBY:

Collect pitchers (ceramic), also stones from all the oceans and seas where I have been. Searching for information on all branches of my families and hopefully getting it printed.

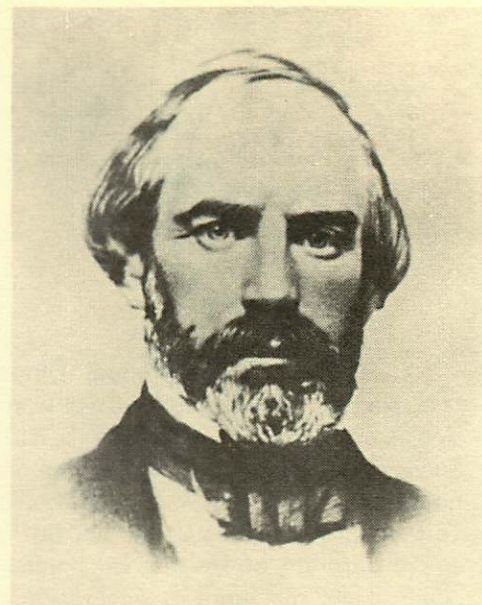
**In Commemoration of the
150th Year
Of the Wisner Home in Pontiac**

Oakland County's favorite son, Moses Wisner, was nominated for Governor in 1858. At that time, the fortunes of the Republican Party in the new state of Michigan were on the wane. In 1857 panic struck.

To meet the State's obligations taxes had been increased and tax payers were unhappy. The closing of the banks, extensive unemployment, failure of the counties to collect taxes and pay over to the state its share led Governor Bingham to report in a special session of the legislature in 1858 that the State Treasurer would be unable to meet current expenses. The result was a decrease in enthusiasm for the Republican Party.

Into this political furor stepped Moses Wisner, an Oakland County Lawyer, as Republican candidate for Governor. Unhappiness with the state's financial difficulties led many of the voters to stay away from the polls. In Oakland County, Wisner got only a 76 vote majority out of some 7,000 votes cast.

Money problems continued to plague state government, and Wisner, although not personally involved, may have decided not to run for re-election when the State Treasurer was found to have embezzled a large sum of money.



Another factor to have influenced his decision was a great concern over the state of the nation and his desire to do his "patriotic duty" in the event of conflict. (Civil War). In his exaugural message on January 1, 1861, he said:

This is no time for timid and vacillating counsels when the cry of treason and rebellion is ringing in our ears...

The Federal Constitution, and the rights of the States must and shall be preserved.

FROM: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DATED: September, 1994

**SUBJECT: ...Talbert & Leota Foundation Grant Makes Vital Record Indexes
More Available.**

Genealogists and other researchers can now use microfilm to begin searches for individuals recorded in Michigan death, marriage and divorce records.

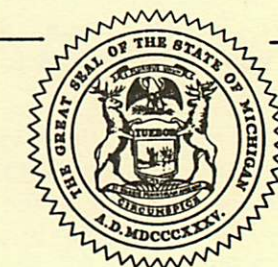
The Abrams Foundation provided the grant in June 1992 to the Michigan Historical Center Foundation to fulfill a cooperative effort between the Michigan Genealogical Council, the Department of Public Health's Office of the State Registrar, and the State Archives of Michigan, part of the Michigan Department of State.

The grant allowed microfilming of death indexes for 1867-1914, divorce

indexes for 1897-1969 and marriage indexes for 1867-1921 and 1950-1969.

It also allowed duplication of the microfilm, which is available to researchers in the State Archives of Michigan, the Library of Michigan and the Office of the State Registrar, all located in Lansing; and in the Upper Peninsula branch.

The indexes provide names, volumes and page numbers where the actual certificate or register of event can be found. The researcher can then request the certificate or register entry directly from the State

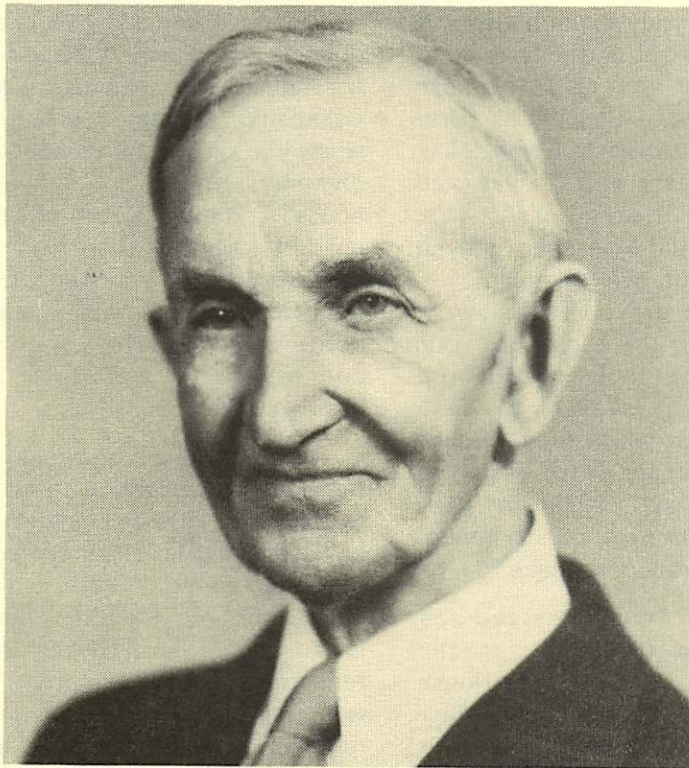


Registrar.

The project also ensures preservation of the original paper documents, now retired from active use and stored in a controlled environment at the State Archives.

Established in 1913, the State Archives of Michigan contains 80 million documents representing about 3 percent of all documents created by state government. The State Archives may be reached at Michigan Library and Historical Center, 717 W. Allegan St, Lansing, MI 48918-1837, telephone (517) 373-1408.

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society Seeks a New Home



Jayno Adams

Fifty years ago this spring the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society decided that the time had come to seek a permanent home. From its earliest days in the 1870's the Society had been collecting artifacts and documents relating to the history of Oakland County and they had been housed in the county court house after the "new" court house was dedicated in 1905. As county activities and offices multiplied, the Society's collection was moved here and there - wherever a space could be found.

On March 15, 1938 May Rockwell Howlett, historian of the Society, wrote a letter to me while I was working at the University of Michigan's

Michigan Historical Collections in which she said: "As to a depository for the collections of the Society there has been much talk and very little done . . . At present we are using the safety deposit box of the old Pontiac Commercial Bank, and for our bound material and card files, the new steel case at the City Library, purchased by the Society last year. As for the . . . antiques, the cases in the Court House, far from being dirt or burglar proof, are all we have."

The matter came to a head when the Society's collection of artifacts, previously housed in the court house, was moved to the Masonic Temple Building which had been taken over by

the county. The Society was grateful to have the space, but the unprotected condition of its collection caused additional concern. It became even more apparent that something needed to be done to assure a proper home for the Society.

At this time Florence Wallace, granddaughter of former Governor Moses Wisner, had reached the point where she had to give up the Moses Wisner home on Oakland Ave. [Her grandmother, Angeolina Hascall Wisner, had exacted a promise from the family not to let the house get out of the hands of the family - but the time had come when that was no longer possible.] Mrs. Wallace, a good friend of my parents, Garnet and Berenice Sparks, had discussed the problem with them. Jayno W. Adams, my father-in-law, was president of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society and it seemed a natural to him that the Society should seek to purchase this historic house. The question was - how to do it?

At the meeting of the Society in February 1945 President Jayno W. Adams appointed a committee to take steps to purchase the Governor Moses Wisner property, "to restore it, and preserve it for the perpetual use of the people of Oakland County." The committee consisted of Donald Patterson, chairman; R. C. Cummings, Morgan E. Siple, Conrad Church, and Judge Frank L. Doty.

At this time Don and I were in Florida where Don was serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve. On April 4, 1945 Dad Adams wrote us that he had met that day in Donald Patterson's office to close the deal for the purchase of the Wisner property. He wrote: "Everything went through as planned and Mrs. Wallace now has first payment of \$2500.00 and we the Oakland County Pioneer and Veterans Memorial [sic] Foundation are holding the bag. . . We have no interest to pay for a year. . . At the end of the year monthly payments and int. are provided for. . . So it is a very generous contract for a very excellent project. Here's hoping that you folks will be home to help us out before too long."

Subsequently, on September 5, 1945 he wrote:

"We have now moved. . . from ct House and are at last where I hope the nucleus may be for all time with all that the future may have in store for it. The County truck and men moved it with my help, of course. Nothing was broken or marred, but the whole day was spent last Friday in doing the job. It was quite a job to get co-ordination. After the 1st truck load was about on, the driver remarked it was getting so late - near 4:00 - he thought we had best plan to finish Saturday A.M. I simply told him the things were strung along the basement alley way and they had to be under lock and key before night. So nothing more was said only I helped them load [and] unload and we were done by 5:30. I had asked the house committee to be there at the house [and] help place things as they came

in, thinking as John Austin had promised, to have the first installment there by 10:30 anyway. We inventoried the personal stuff in the house and had lunch out on the lawn - and everyone got a litte more familiar with the place. Mrs. Wallace, Howlett, Going, Miss Jones Avery and Shelley and Mrs. Van Housen Jones. Mrs. Howlett and Miss Avery stayed till we got everything in . . . The men are a little slow in going into the campaign. Our 1st annual meeting [of the Foundation] will be on the 25th of Sept. at which time a Board of Directors etc. will be threshed out. I hope by that time to have quite a substantial financial report to make."

Dad Adams served as campaign chairman for the purchase of the Wisner House and, as he pointed out, they were a little slow getting into the money raising campaign. Over time the land contract was paid off. The Foundation which had been created to raise the funds was merged with the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, and today we enjoy the fruits of their labor and carry on with our program of preservation and restoration.

My own involvement with the Society began in the 1930's. Don was chauffeur for his family and part of his responsibility was driving his mother and father to the meetings of the Society. He took me along. From that time on both Don and I have been involved as officers or directors of the Society. Just as Dad suggested in his letter, there was a job waiting for Don and me when World War II ended. Almost as soon as we

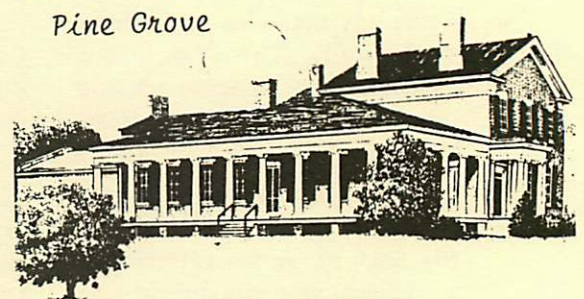
returned, I was elected to the Board of Directors. It has been a rewarding experience. In 1946 the roof leaked and considerable damage had been done to the plaster throughout the house; the chimneys were collapsing (a major problem when you count the number of chimneys there are on the house). The brickwork was in need of attention; there was no operating heating system; the electrical wiring was inadequate and unsafe; and of course, there was lots of painting to be done.

Few individuals or organizations like to contribute to such unromantic things as pointing up brick, bricking up chimneys and repairing wiring. Here, once again, the old faithfuls were called upon. Finally when the fundamental work was done it was possible to go ahead with re-decorating. Our aim was not just to redecorate but to restore and make the Wisner House the center for Oakland County history.

The work has continued throughout the past fifty years, and the challenge to carry on and do a first rate job continues today.

Elizabeth S. Adams

May 21, 1995



Headquarters of the
Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society