



SOCIETY ENJOYS PRODUCTIVE SUMMER

"But thy eternal summer shall not fade," Shakespeare wrote in Sonnet 18. To keep such a promise at Pine Grove a beautiful exterior finish has



Using an aerial scaffold Bill Moore preps the wood trim before painting.

been applied to the mansion's wood surfaces from a rich palette of colors. William Moore of Plumb Builders in Pontiac, one out of six contractors who bid on this job, completed the work in late July just ahead of the Ice Cream Social on August 4. The project was financed by an \$8,000 grant from the Lula C. Wilson Trust, which was administered by NBD in Bloomfield Hills. The color scheme employed a forest green for shutters, doors, and second-floor dormer, ivory white for trim and certain porch components, gray for the porch deck, and off-white with a touch of blue for the porch ceiling. Library patrons and tourists have been quick to praise the house's great appearance.

Through the generosity of Elizabeth S. Adams three strong doors with dead bolt locks have been

installed in the office - kitchen - library area. This increases our security and makes the staff feel more comfortable.

The efforts of Clarke Kimball and Gale Scafe to maintain the gardens and lawn have not gone unnoticed either. The lawn's well manicured look broken by colored splashes of bright flowers are a delight to the eye and enhance Pine Grove's curb appeal. Another focal point of interest, particularly for school tours, has been the herb garden. The National Farm and Garden Club (Pontiac Chapter) can take justifiable pride in its labors here during the course of the summer.



In a labor of love (L. to R.) Marion & Clarke Kimball work one of the garden areas at Pine Grove.

In its new attire Pine Grove welcomed a steady stream of visitors to its doors for the Ice Cream Social. Treasurer, Dan Carmichael, announced that the 1996 net profit for this event was the best in the past five years. Thanks go to the various committees and entertainers for their participation. Among the latter were the: Huron River String Band, Franklin Village Band, Anachronists who demonstrated skills of early American tradesmen, 2nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry reenactment group and their ladies, and pianist Colleen Finnegan. Co-chairpersons,

Gretchen Adler and Kathryn Daggy, are to be applauded for their direction of the overall program.

As we go to press the Society has learned that it is the recipient of the 19th Annual Pride & Beautification Award from the City of Pontiac. Congratulations, guys and gals.

LINCOLN MEMORIES



"Emancipation Proclamation Reading" as painted by F.B. Carpenter and engraved by A.H. Ritchie.

President Lincoln's signature on an 1862 document appointing Pontiac Lawyer, Thomas Drake, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court for the Utah Territory, became the historical centerpiece at the last Ice Cream Social. As the crowd filed past the display in the mansion's sitting room the mood was almost reverential. Some visitors recounted stories of their ancestors and Lincoln, or brought small keepsakes purporting to make such a connection. Others shared photos of various Lincoln artifacts from museums around the country. The personal magnetism of our nation's sixteenth President still grips the public 131 years after his death.

Knowing of our Lincoln document display, the Peyser family of Rochester Hills, Michigan recently gave us a color photo taken at the

Chicago Historical Society Museum of a small table at which Lincoln is said to have written the Emancipation Proclamation. That document, like the Drake appointment certificate, was prepared in 1862 and bore Lincoln's full name.

On July 22 of that year, after months of doubt and anguish, the President finally showed a draft of the decree to his cabinet. Secretary of State, William H. Seward successfully argued that an Union victory in the field was mandatory if the proclamation was to have teeth. The Battle of Antietam in September of 1862, while not a decisive victory, still fulfilled Seward's condition.

The dawn of New Year's Day, 1863, found Lincoln at his desk reading over the document that made all slaves in rebel states "forever



It is said that Lincoln used this table & chair when composing the Emancipation Proclamation. Items now in the Chicago Historical Society Museum. (Courtesy of Carolyn Peyser, Rochester Hills, MI)

free." After the traditional New Year's reception in the White House that morning, the exhausted President returned to his office to sign the decree in the presence of several cabinet members. His comment at the time: "If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act."

Lincoln's former White House office and cabinet room is today the "Lincoln bedroom," decorated with

American Victorian furnishings from 1850-70. President Harry Truman is credited with the idea for this transformation. Next to the mantle in this room hangs an engraving by A.H. Ritchie of Francis B. Carpenter's 1864 painting "First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation before Lincoln's Cabinet." Coincidentally, the Society has just taken possession of a copy of this engraving and two others as gifts from Edward Ling of Clarkston, Michigan. This engraving will hopefully serve as a backdrop for future Lincoln and Civil War displays.

PROFILE

Editor's Preface. The following brief biography was written by Beryl Cook, wife of the subject. Beryl joined us this year, working in the office every Wednesday as volunteer typist. Her life in Karachi and marriage to James during World War II have the makings of a fine novel or hit movie. After some reluctance Beryl agreed to share some of her thoughts with us regarding those years. She has given the Society her husband's uniform tunic, together with a shoulder patch worn by those who served with Gen. Joseph "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell in that theater of operations.

JAMES W. COOK 1921-1993

James W. Cook was born in the small mountain town of Fontana, North Carolina. His parents later bought land near the town of Robbinsville in Graham County, N.C., where James lived as a young man. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in September of 1942 and departed from Fort McClellan,

Alabama for overseas duty on October 31, 1942.



James W. Cook served in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II.

He was stationed in Karachi, (then part of India), Base Section No. 1 of the China-Burma-Indian theater of war, under the command of Gen. Joseph "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell. There he met and with some difficulty obtained permission to marry Beryl Dibnah, a member of the British community living in Karachi. They were married March 1, 1945, very soon after which James' wife sailed for the U.S., arriving in New York on August 2, 1945. James followed in September, and was honorably discharged November 3, 1945, returning to his hometown of Robbinsville, N.C.

It seemed natural to James to join the work force at the town's largest employer, Bemis Lumber Company; but he soon moved to Franklin, N.C., to equally hard and poorly paid employment with another lumber company. After struggling for some years he accepted a ride from a friend to seek employment in Michigan with the automobile manufacturers of Oakland County. He joined the work force at Pontiac Motor Division in Pontiac at the close of 1952. There he worked until his retirement after the last car rolled off the line at Plant 8, a sad day for the workers at that plant - August 6, 1982. James'

retirement became effective September 21, 1982.

James and his wife and two daughters lived in Pontiac for a few years, moving to Waterford Township in 1961. He and his wife travelled extensively in Europe and later in the United States in their motor home. He was generous with his time and skill in repairing all kinds of electrical and mechanical articles. His health began to fail in the early months of 1992 and in June 1993 after a stay in Ann Arbor's Medical Center he returned home where he spend his last days. He died June 25, 1993, being 72 years old.

ANGEOLINA'S KITCHEN

by Mary Wessels

Among the collection of cookbooks stored within the archives is TESTED RECEIPES compiled by The Ladies Aid Society of The Episcopal Church, Pontiac, Michigan in 1895. It was published by the *Oakland County Post* in Pontiac. On the page preceding the index is quoted this verse:

*"We may live without poetry, music and art;
We may live without conscience and live without heart;
We may live without friends; we may live without books;*

But civilized man cannot live without cooks."

This year tomatoes have been especially tasty and quoted below from pages 18 and 19 are three variations of tomato soup:

"TOMATO SOUP"

"Boil 1 qt. can or a dozen large tomatoes until well done, add 1/2 teaspoon of soda. Put in another sauce pan 1/2 teacup of butter; when melted add a large tablespoon of flour, and when this is cooked stir in 1 pt. of cream and 1 qt. of milk, or 3 pts. of milk, a little cayenne pepper, a little salt and a handful of cracker

crumbs. When this boils, add the tomatoes. The tomatoes may or may not be strained. - Mrs. D.C. Lewis"

"TOMATO SOUP"

"Boil up raw or canned tomatoes. In another dish boil milk and a little butter, add salt and pepper and a few rolled crackers. Just before adding tomatoes stir into them 1/4 teaspoon of soda, then add them to milk and boil up for two or three minutes. - Mrs. Geo. Thorpe"

"TOMATO SOUP"

"Stew 1 qt. of tomatoes in 1 qt. of water. Add one teaspoonful of soda and let it effervesce; add 1 qt. of boiling milk, salt, pepper and butter to taste, and a few rolled crackers. (One small onion, chopped fine, will be found a decided improvement.) Boil two or three minutes and serve very hot. - Mrs. LeBaron"

"SALADS & SALAD DRESSING"

p. 51

*"'Twould tempt the dying anchorite to eat;
Back to the world, he'd turn his weary soul.
And plunge his fingers in the salad bowl."*

If you would prefer tomato salad to tomato soup, you might try this recipe appearing on page 51:



"TOMATO SALAD"

"Slice some tomatoes in thin slices, adding a few slices of cucumbers, if liked, and sprinkle with salt, lightly. Put yolk of egg in bowl and beat with a silver fork; add a small teaspoonful of French mustard and 6 teaspoonfuls of oil, a few drops at a time, stirring constantly. To every sixth teaspoonful of oil, put 1 of lemon juice, and repeat until 1-1/2 gills has

been used. Flavor with a teaspoonful of cream. Pour the mixture over the tomatoes and place upon ice until required. This makes a large bowl of salad. Slices of boiled chicken may be considered an improvement. - N.Y.T."

ORAL HISTORY

WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

The Walled Lake Public Library will be the setting for an Oral History Workshop on Saturday, November 9 from 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Michigan Oral History Association, the presenters will be: Glenn Ruggles, Association editor and board member, and Geneva Wiskemann, MOHA secretary. The fee is \$25.00 which includes lunch, refreshments, and materials. Pre-registration is important as the meeting room is compact.

Contact Donna Rickabaugh, librarian, to register and learn further details. 1-810-624-3772.

REMEMBER WHEN AND WHY?

Advertised items in *The Pontiac News* July 11, 1946:

- P. 2 - Mark Davis Camera Mart
Gadget Bag Large Size \$20.60
Small Size \$7.60*
- P. 6 - The Pontiac Yardstick
Percale 49¢ per yard*
- P. 7 - Herbert... New Fall and Winter
Coats \$25.00 to 36.96*
- P. 23 - Ritter's Food Market
..... Fresh Creamery Butter, 79¢ lb.
..... Fancy California Carrots
2 bunches, 19¢
..... Iceberg New Large Lettuce, 15¢
..... Grade 'A' Eggs (1 dozen) 49¢
..... Ice Cold Watermelons, whole
or halves, as low as 95¢*

Editor's note: The above prices

offer only a vague suggestion as to the significant change that was taking place in our post-war economy. The joy at the end of World War II hid a powerful rival emotion: worry that the national economy would revert to the 17.2 percent unemployment rate of 1939. John O'Sullivan and Edward F. Keuchel address this fear and other aspects of our economic roller coaster ride in their fine work, *American Economic History: From Abundance to Constraint* (1989). As for the transition from Sherman tanks to shopping malls, the authors have this to say:

This fear proved largely groundless. The most pressing economic issue over the next several years involved curbing inflationary pressures rather than preventing a slide back into the economic doldrums of the 1930s. The pent-up demand for consumer products created by a wartime economy, fueled with large savings held by many two-income families, pressured American industry to reconvert as quickly as possible to profit from this enormous market.

SOMETHING LIKE THE MACARENA?

The Pontiac Jacksonian
June 4, 1863

Dangerous "Feminine" Amusement. —

A new amusement for women has been invented out in Winstead, Conn., as a sort of relief to the skating fever, when the ice is bad. They stick a penknife into a door about three feet from the ground and kick at it. They keep raising the knife until they miss. This was getting to be a favorite exercise, and a good many girls could kick pretty high; but the amusement has come to a sudden end through an accident to a young married lady of the place, who, at the first vigorous kick, went over backwards upon the floor, and injured herself severely.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

These are thoughts I'd like to share with you in an effort to make our membership information more detailed and more valuable. Most of our researchers and their requests have to do with the HISTORY of their families or property. At one time when we were known as the "Pioneer Society of Oakland County" we asked our members to supply names and relationship for close ancestors on their applications. Later, requests for such family information were dropped. I feel it would be a big asset to have this data again on file for research purposes.

Another idea of mine is based on the estimate that as many as eighty percent of family researchers never complete and publish their genealogies. Therefore, I would strongly urge these researchers to make copies of their studies available to our files since this would help justify the many tedious hours they have spent in such research, and be a great help to other genealogists. Remember too that the Society has oral history capabilities so we can record, play back, and transcribe your taped remembrances.

Rex Lamoreaux
Board Member

MEMBER O'BRIEN PUBLISHES

Member Donald C. O'Brien recently had an essay published "Training in the Workshop of Abner Reed" in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, 105, Part I (1995), 45-69. Abner Reed (1771-1866) was a pioneer in the field of American banknote engraving and trained many of the engravers who ultimately established the American Banknote Company in 1858.

Mr. O'Brien's paper was originally presented as a talk at a conference sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts on 30 April - 1 May 1993. The theme of the meeting was *The Cultivation of Artists in Nineteenth-Century America*.

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Mark your calendars now! The next Victorian Christmas Open House will be held Sunday, December 8, from noon till 4:00 p.m. Co-chairpersons are Susan Metzdorf and Priscilla Gaytan.

The historical complex, inside and out, will be decorated in keeping with Victorian Christmas tradition. Guides in period costume will be stationed throughout the buildings to greet the public and help interpret the significance of the various rooms and structures. Our talented Crafters will offer an array of fine articles reasonably priced for the harried shopper in our Carriage House Gift Shop. Coffee, hot or cold spiced cider and Christmas cookies will be served in the Carriage House too.

Susan and Priscilla will be in contact with the committees to review their duties. For those who are neither Board Members nor Officers, please contact the office (810) 338-6732 if you can volunteer your time. Let's make the 29th Annual Victorian Christmas a huge success.

OFFICERS, 1996

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Don O'Brien

TO APPRECIATE ART VISIT YOUR LOCAL CEMETERY

by Charles H. Martinez

To some it may seem curious or even morbid that municipal cemeteries are often the best locations for viewing fine sculpture or significant examples of architectural styles.

The logic is apparent if one recalls that the American attitude toward death, particularly the aspect of memorialization, has changed drastically from the nineteenth century when effusive grief was commonplace. At that time elaborate funeral rites and impressive cemetery monuments were the order of the day. In the latter regard Pontiac's Oak Hill Cemetery qualifies for inclusion in these select ranks.

Intended for burial purposes as early as 1822 but not established until 1839-41, Oak Hill is still one of the oldest extant cemeteries in the State. It is situated in the eastern portion of the City on the highest point of land which here rises to an elevation of some 960 feet above mean sea level. The earliest burials were made in an 11 acre area north of University Drive amid a cluster of oak trees from which the cemetery has derived its name. Technically, these "burials" were really reinterments as Col. Stephen Mack, his daughter Lovina, and a few Pontiac Company employees, who helped build the nascent community, were first laid to rest in the heart of town.

In addition to the Buckland Chapel mentioned by Elizabeth Adams in a companion article, Oak Hill has several mausoleums that typify key architectural styles in the last century. Perhaps the most distinctive is the Petrie mausoleum in block 4 along the Paddock Street



The Buckland Memorial Chapel in Oak Hill Cemetery is on the south side of University Drive, east of Douglas Street.
(Courtesy of Sharon Jensen)

side of the cemetery. It was designed in a hexagonal shape with a projecting front entry and arched door opening. The hipped roof has steep pitched dormer windows on each slope. Constructed of brick which has now been painted white the Petrie mausoleum is heavily indebted to the nineteenth century Gothic Revival style.

Victorians also had a great fondness for obelisks as mortuary monuments. There is almost a forest of them in Oak Hill. The tallest at some 30 feet belongs to the Lull family and is located in block 4, lot 374. The most artistic, however, is the one over the grave of Gov. Moses Wisner near the entrance drive to the oldest portion of the cemetery. The sides of the Wisner spire are decorated with bas-relief symbols associated with his life.

Oak Hill has a vast array of other monument types and styles executed in such materials as marble, granite, sandstone, concrete, or zinc. Among the more interesting examples are those made to represent either a standing tree trunk or a fallen one whose branches have been lopped. The Augustus C. Baldwin monument

in block 4, lot 527 represents the former while a few feet away the Ezra W. Jewell gravesite is marked by the other. Coincidentally, Mr. Jewell is credited with beginning the Society's library, manuscript, and general artifact collections. He served this organization as secretary (1896) and president (1909-1912).

The cemetery became a Michigan Registered Historic Site in 1987. On June 20 of 1989, the property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. For those interested in history, funerary art, or architecture, Oak Hill is certainly worth a visit.



Gov. Moses Wisner obelisk near entrance to Oak Hill Cemetery.

WHO WAS DON CARLOS BUCKLAND?

by Elizabeth S. Adams

The recent restoration of the Buckland Memorial Chapel in Pontiac's Oak Hill Cemetery brings to mind some interesting facets of Pontiac's early history. According to Thaddeus D. Seeley in his *History of Oakland County, Michigan*, the chapel "was completed November 4, 1898, and is a tasteful structure of Old English style built of Berea sandstone, with roof of German mottled tiling. Its windows are of opalescent glass, and set in the rear walls are three memorial tablets of solid bronze bearing inscriptions in memory of Don C. Buckland, Mrs. Sarah A. Buckland and Mrs. Harry G. Hamilton." Don Carlos Buckland was one of Oakland County's most colorful figures. A grandson of Stephen Mack, Pontiac's first settler, he came to Pontiac as a boy in 1825. Buckland was in and out of Pontiac for several years before settling more or less permanently in Oakland County.

During one of the periods when he was away from this area he formed a partnership with Vincent J. Scott. They purchased a varied stock of goods and opened a business at Carroll, Carroll County, Missouri. They sold much of their merchandise on credit and among their customers were a number of Mormons who had emigrated to Missouri and settled in the adjoining county of Caldwell.

In the Mormon colony, which numbered about 1200, was Temperance Mack, widow of Stephen Mack and grandmother of Don Carlos Buckland. Much hostility arose between the Mormons and their neighbors, and it became evident that the Missourians intended to drive the Mormons out. In the end, the Governor ordered the militia in to quell the disturbances and the

Mormons agreed to evacuate in 1839.

In their book, *The Pilgrimage of Temperance Mack*, John and Audrey Cumming describe the experience of Temperance Mack and her daughter, Almira Mack Covey, both loyal Mormons, this way: "Among the Missouri militia was a colonel named Don Carlos Buckland, a trader who accepted payment for his merchandise in corn which he shipped by river and sea to Boston for a generous profit. Buckland later claimed in his biography that he had been compelled by the governor to serve as colonel just because it was learned that he had cousins among the Mormons, and that he had to demonstrate his loyalty by accepting the commission and assisting in quelling the Mormon disturbance."

The Cummings quote a letter written by Almira Covey to her sister, Harriet Whittemore: "We have been requested in several letters to give a history of the proceedings of the mob in Missouri, but this is more than I can do to paint to you our feelings when surrounded by a wicked mob, not allowed to even go out of town to our farms without leave from that wicked crew. You can better judge what our feelings were than I can tell you when seeing my husband taken away to prison with about 50 others and for what? Nothing but our religion. He was left there three weeks and released as they could find nothing against him. Mother bore her trials very well. She said she never wished herself back in Michigan, and I can say for one that I have never repented of uniting myself to this persecuted people but feel willing to suffer for Christ's sake. But Harriet, it is no small trial to see your houses surrounded by a wicked mob threatening your lives and even killing some, and we not knowing when we laid ourselves down at night

but what we should be massacred before morning for this was the orders from the Governor of Missouri."

The Mormons, including Temperance Mack, moved on to Nauvoo, Illinois and later to Utah, where Temperance died in Salt Lake City on September 8, 1850.

As for Don Carlos Buckland? He closed up his business in Missouri and in 1840 returned to Pontiac where he opened a grocery store. Thereafter he engaged in various other business ventures, both in Pontiac and elsewhere. At age seventy he retired from active business to look after his investments in pine lands in northern Michigan and as a stockholder in Calumet and Hecla and other copper and iron mines. He died September 23, 1888.

Elizabeth S. Adams
July 10, 1996



Don Carlos Buckland's grave and the impressive family plot is in the oldest section of Oak Hill.

OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Founded 1874
405 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, Michigan 48342