



Oakland County's Archaeological Resources

"Oakland County's Archeological Resources" was the topic of a presentation made at the Annual Meeting by Society member, Dr. Richard Stamps. Dr. Stamps is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Chinese Studies at Oakland University, and has been involved in a variety of archeological projects in Michigan and Oakland County. Dr. Stamps gave a very interesting presentation that was enjoyed by all members who attended the meeting. He praised the Society for the fantastic job we have done in collecting Oakland County's heritage, and he encouraged us all to continue to preserve our past and donate our time and resources to such an



Dr. Richard Stamps

important goal. Dr. Stamps believes "service is the price we pay for the space we occupy on earth". We thank Dr. Stamps for a most enlightening look at our county's archeological resources.

Victorian Christmas Open House

On December 12th, Pine Grove was bustling with activity as over 300 visitors came to enjoy the festivities. Each of the buildings were festooned with Christmas trees and decorations, and once again, the schoolhouse had homemade decorations by fourth graders from Waterford Elementary. Sounds of Christmas music filled the air as children performed in the schoolhouse, and the Wisner parlor enjoyed piano, flute and dulcimer music. The summer kitchen was once again filled with the aroma of homemade baked goods, and the butter churning was one of the most enjoyed events of the day. The Carriage House was home to the Christmas tea, and an exhibit of artifacts representing the Pioneer Settlers of

Oakland County was displayed on the Dawson Brown furniture. The gift shop was bustling with activity, and brought in over \$700 in sales, thanks to the hard work of the gift shop committee. Many thanks go out to all who donated their time to making this a wonderful and highly successful event!

Letter from the President

Michael Willis

The new year is upon us and I would like to begin by thanking all of you for electing the same panel of officers to serve the society in 2000. I firmly believe that officers and board members have chosen a very good direction in the goals of the Society. Already since the new library opened, we are seeing a usage increase that should double or triple past annual demands. We have also begun to see new interests in general membership starting to rise. We must continue the positive growth, develop new programs, and continually improve our service levels to our patrons if we are to be successful.

However, to reach these goals we must continue to ask and recruit the most important asset we have at the Society, the "volunteers". Keep in mind that you don't have to be a board member to serve on a committee or volunteer to work in one of the many areas of the organization. Please check your calendars and see if there are a few hours or a couple of days per month you can give to help in the preservation of our history. We hope you can help us in the future - remember if you give us a call, we never say no!

Michael Willis

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Library News and Views

From the Director

The library has seen an incredible amount of usage since reopening after the Christmas holiday. In a six week period, we saw a total of 48 researchers in the library, up from 14 in the same period last year. In addition, we have answered 15 research requests, mostly via email queries, up from only 4 mail requests during the same period last year. This is due in part to increased publicity, including our web page at <http://wwnet.net/~ocphs/index.html>, and the service we are providing researchers. Organization of published materials and access to the manuscript collections has greatly assisted researchers. For those researching by mail or email, we respond within ten days. However, due to the increase, we would welcome any volunteers who would be interested in the working in the library. Please call the office if you are interested.

We have two graduate students from Wayne State University working on processing manuscript collections for us. When they are finished, we will have descriptive finding aids to assist researchers in utilizing the collections. In addition, our WSU volunteer, Mark Gnaster, is working on creating a finding aid for the Pontiac Fire Department records that were donated back in 1990.

The manuscript storage are is nearing completion. Manuscript chairperson Virginia Clohset donated the funds to have drywall installed, and WAM volunteers came on March 12th to paint. In addition the manuscript storage area is going to be receiving proper shelving, thanks in part to a donation from Judge and Mrs. Donald Adams, and some monies from the Marion Roush fund. The shelving will complete the storage space and allow us to bring over the rest of the manuscript

collections from the house. It will also house the large volumes of The Daily Tribune (Royal Oak 1924-1942), and will give us additional space for growth of our manuscript collections. Thanks to all who have contributed to making this collection more accessible!

Welcome New Members

Bruce Benter
Seba Bodden
Nelson Haynes
Marguerite Johnson
Donna Miller
Alyce Myers
Carol Pedersen
Ed Pedersen
Nancy Swanson
Fran Wilson

In Memoriam

Elsie Grace Patterson was born 10 Mar 1911, and grew up in Canton, Ohio, where she graduated from McKinley High School. She passed away 8 Dec 1999 in Waterford. She was a member of Four Towns United Methodist Church, the Questers, and Alpha Chi Omega Sorority. She and her late husband, Calvin, were both active in the Society for many years. Elsie served in many capacities, including tour guide, and most recently, as a member of the Board of Directors.

friend of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Kimball. In fact, Clarke was the reason Art got involved in the Society. Art was a gardener and used to come help Clarke with special grounds projects, and eventually became a member, even serving on the Board of Directors. He was also very interested in the construction of the addition to the Carriage House.

The Society's Treasurer, Dan Carmichael passed away on 8 Mar 2000 at his home on Ottawa Avenue in Pontiac. Dan was an extremely dedicated member of the Society, serving as Treasurer since January

1994. He came to the Society almost every day, and was always a cheerful man, always with a smile on his face. Dan was also very interested in computers, and taught himself how to use spreadsheet software to bring the Treasurer's record-keeping systems into the 20th century. At the age of 84, Dan also enjoyed exercise and went to aerobics classes twice a week. He is survived by his wife Mildred and two sons. Dan was a vital part of this Society and will be dearly missed by all who knew him. If you would like to send a sympathy card to the family to contribute to a memorial fund in Dan's name, please contact the office at (248) 338-6732.

Arthur Buehre passed away in December 1999. He was a longtime GM employee, and was a good

Former Glory: the Hinman Estate

by Leslie S. Edwards

The Hinman Family

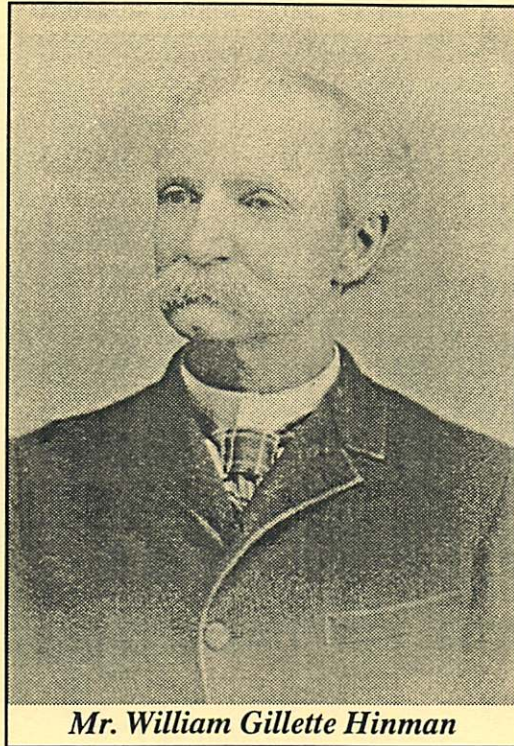
William Gillette Hinman was born 12 Jul 1834 in Clarendon, Orleans, NY, the son of William P. and Keziah (Gillespie) Hinman. He left home at age eighteen and removed to Oxford, Oakland County where he attended school during the winter months. At an early age, Hinman had a interest in land, for in the spring of 1853, he began work surveying lands with the U.S. Government Surveyor Judge William R. Burt, working in the northern part of the state for about a year. He subsequently took a job with the Sault Ste. Marie Ship Canal Land Company, where he worked for about three years, locating and surveying lands.

Returning to Oxford, in 1857 Hinman married Almyra H. Glaspie, the daughter of William and Deborah Glaspie. During this time, Hinman apparently worked for George S. Frost of Detroit, again locating and surveying railroad lands throughout the state. Around 1870, the family removed to Grand Rapids, and resided on Spring St. As early as 1872, Hinman began work as a land salesman for the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad.¹ In 1874, the Hinmans had a daughter Elizabeth B., known as "Libbie". On 14 Aug 1876, Almyra died and was brought home to be buried in the Oxford Township Cemetery in a lot owned by her father.

Working as a land salesman for the railroad gave Hinman the opportunity to buy and sell land, and he made good investments. He was one of the largest stockholders in The Osterhout and Fox Lumber Company of Grand Rapids, and was a partner in the Osterhout and Hughart Lumber Company of Duluth, Minnesota. He owned numerous pine lands in Michigan and Minnesota, and was even

interested in land in California. He was also a stockholder in the First National Bank of Grand Rapids, and with others, formed a company for the "purpose of shipping thoroughbred cattle and horses to Buenos Ayres, South America".²

Following the death of his first wife, Almyra, and having a young daughter to raise, Hinman married second, Cornelia M. Bailey of Appleton, Wisconsin. It is not known where they met or married, but they



Mr. William Gillette Hinman

resided in Grand Rapids until at least 1882. In 1881, Hinman returned to Oakland County and purchased 20 acres of land in Pontiac Township from Jane K. Norris. The deed, recorded in Liber 130 at the Oakland County Register of Deeds, states that on 9 Feb 1881, "William Hinman of the City of Grand Rapids" purchased 20 acres of property in Section 31 on Orchard Lake Rd. The property was bounded by that of Charles Dawson, and was located directly across from the Toll Gate at the intersection of Voorheis Rd. It appears as though the Hinmans resided on this property for a short time, for in the *Pontiac*

City and Oakland County Directory of 1886, Wm. J. Hinman is listed as a farmer residing on Orchard Lake Ave near the Toll Gate. Even in this early day, the Hinmans lived a comfortable life, and even had a telephone connection.

Upon returning to Oakland County, Hinman continued his interest in real estate, and purchased several parcels of land in Pontiac and West Bloomfield Townships. William became a prominent and well-respected citizen, and was active in the community in a variety of ways, belonging to clubs such as the Michigan Club of Oakland County. A corporation called the "Pontiac and Cass Lake Aquatic Association", was formed in April 1884, with Hinman as president. "The objects for which it is organized are Yachting, Hunting, Boating, Fishing and Rowing."³ Each active member was required to be a resident of Oakland County, be elected at a regular meeting, and was entitled to one share of the stock in the corporation. Even though membership was limited to 100 members, the initial list of members in 1884 read like a Who's Who of Oakland County, and included 100 of the county's most influential citizens.

Although Hinman was not particularly interested in public office, in April of 1889, he was elected mayor over Arthur R. Tripp. Shortly after the election, on 22 Apr 1889, Hinman purchased from Nancy M. Petrie 7 acres in the SE quarter of Section 29 in Pontiac Township for the sum of \$10,000, an incredible amount of money in that day. The land encompassed an entire city block on both sides of the Clinton River, and was bordered by Front St., W. Pike St., the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad, and Orchard Lake Avenue, the portion being known at that time as Andrews St.⁴

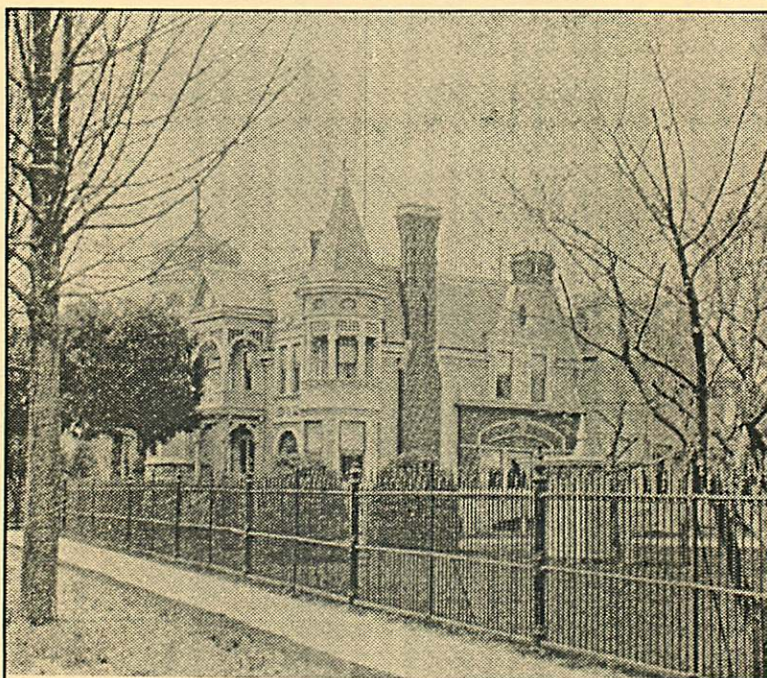
(continued on page 4)

The Hinman home was one of the show places of the city, and was situated in the southeast corner of the property, east of the river, surrounded by beautiful lawns and gardens. A bridge led across the Clinton River to the orchards and pasture, and there were stables facing Front St. The house had four turrets, one in each corner of the building, each possessing a copper covered dome. The west end tower had a stairway that ascended to the top of the tower. There were eight fireplaces in the house, one which had a stained glass window in the chimney, and throughout the house, hand-carved oak trim and fireplace mantles could be seen. Apparently, in 1893, the oak railing on the stairway to the second floor of the house was displayed at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago and "received First Prize for unusual hand carving of two eagle heads."⁵ The house was also equipped with modern conveniences including telephone service, electricity and sanitary plumbing.

Even though Hinman had a rocky start in public office due to his lack of experience, he was well-liked and respected as mayor. On 8 June 1889, Mayor Hinman issued a proclamation to the citizens of Pontiac, calling upon them to donate funds to assist the citizens of Johnstown, Pennsylvania following a natural disaster there. Generously, Hinman himself donated \$25.00, the largest sum by an individual. On 20 June, Hinman received a letter from Governor Beaver of Pennsylvania thanking the "kind-hearted citizens of Pontiac for the contributions for the Johnstown flood victims."⁶ Decisions of the council proceedings published in the newspaper show

that during Hinman's stay in office, the types of ordinances that were passed were to establish sidewalks in Pontiac, regulate the storage of Petroleum oil in the city limits, and regulate bathing and swimming in the Clinton River.

In addition to his mayoral responsibilities, Hinman was involved in a variety of business pursuits. In March 1889, Hinman and Seymour Pratt established the limited partnership of S.A Pratt & Co., becoming the proprietors of the Pontiac Steam Laundry, a modern equipped laundry that serviced merchants and manufacturers.



The Hinman Estate in 1899

Hinman was a "special partner", contributing \$2500 to the common stock of the firm. In January 1891, Hinman was elected President of the Pontiac National Bank. Interested in the improvement of Pontiac, on 1 May 1891, Hinman and eleven other prominent and "monied" businessmen established the Pontiac Land and Improvement Company. John D. Norton was elected President, with Hinman as Vice President, Samuel E. Beach Treasurer and J.E. Sawyer Secretary. The company's primary goal was in advertising the development and advantages of

Pontiac as a growing suburb of Detroit. As an organization, the company was also responsible for securing better train service between Detroit and Pontiac, and extension of the electric street car system was also planned. On 16 May, the company purchased the tract of land known as the Sanderson and Johnson Addition, located in the northwest section of Pontiac and bounded by Asylum Avenue on the west, the railroad on the east, and Johnson Avenue on the northwest. The property was immediately graded and divided into nearly 300 city lots, most of which measured 50 x 150

feet. On 15 Jun 1891, a public auction was held at which 168 lots were sold at prices ranging between \$50 and \$300 per lot. The company's main desire was to demonstrate the benefits of living in Pontiac, and the Improvement Company even brought several free excursion trains from Detroit.

As part of the advertising plan, the Pontiac Land and Improvement Company spotlighted the proximity of Oakland County's many lakes. The "Pontiac Club" or "Cass Lake Club" was formed, and a club house

was built at the foot of the lake where many of the men owned property. Adjoining the club house to the south was a plot of six acres called Cass Park. In June 1891, fifteen of "Pontiac's most enterprising citizens" organized the formation of the Cass Park Association, of which Hinman was again elected President. Summer cottages were built by such esteemed citizens as Hinman, B.S. Tregent, J.D. Norton, J.S. Stockwell, Col. S.S. Matthews, and J. Allen Bigelow.

Throughout the 1890s, Hinman continued to purchase lands in

Pontiac and West Bloomfield, including Lot 97 on S. Saginaw next to the Hodges House, and parcels on Franklin Boulevard. The Hinman estate was at one time considered to be the center of the city's social life, with Mrs. Hinman as one of the city's social leaders. However, in 1895, tragedy struck the Hinman family when daughter Libbie died on 3 February. Her obituary states that she died at home at the age of 21 of "heart failure, superinduced by typhoid fever."⁷ Elizabeth was buried next to her mother in the Oxford Township Cemetery.

In 1896, in large part due to his successes as mayor, Hinman was appointed by Governor Rich to become chairman of the State Relief Committee. Hinman's primary responsibilities were to organize and distribute funds and supplies raised for the "cyclone sufferers" of Oakland County. However, in 1897, Hinman became ill and in 1898, at age 64, Hinman died at his home. In his obituary, he is described as a "man of broad views, always liberal and open handed, of a jovial and pleasant manner, every one who knew him was his friend."⁸

Hinman's death left his wife Cornelia a widow with a large estate, which she could not possibly manage on her own. As early as 1899, Mrs. Hinman began to look for a buyer for the property, but it was not until 1911 that the property was sold to the Elks Lodge. In 1902, Cornelia still resided in the mansion at 102 Orchard Lake Ave, but by 1907, she had moved to the house on the NE corner of the property, listed as 124 Orchard Lake Avenue. By 1910, Mrs. Hinman began selling off the Hinman properties in Pontiac and West Bloomfield. By 1912, Cornelia had removed to 49 N. Williams.

In 1928, Cornelia M. Hinman, age 82 years, died at her residence at 79 Norton Ave. Since her husband's

death, she spent much of her time in Florida and California. She was survived by a daughter, Mrs. Carleton Stowe of Orlando, Florida, and two sisters, Miss Frank Bailey of Appleton [Wisconsin] and Miss Emma Bailey of Pontiac. She was buried in the Glaspie plot in Oxford Cemetery with the rest of the Hinman family.

The Elks Lodge

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks became a formally organized fraternity on 16 February 1868 in New York City. The Elks are non-sectarian, non-political, and the primary object of the fraternity is to practice benevolence, community and patriotic service. The Pontiac Elks Lodge began in 1902. Three lodge brothers, Harry Larr, Jack Oliver and Dell Van Camp, who were from lodges in Detroit, Flint and Jackson, received a special dispensation from the Grand Lodge to form a new lodge in Pontiac. The Detroit Lodge No. 34 was to be the sponsoring lodge. A charter was drawn up, and in November 1902, the Pontiac B.P.O.E No. 810 was official, with 58 charter members. At first, for \$10 a month, the lodge rented space in Maccabees Hall, which was located at 12 N. Saginaw Street above Carhart's Jewelry Store. In 1905, the lodge moved to a building at the corner of W. Huron and W. Alley. By early 1911, the Elks Lodge began to look for a permanent site, one of which was the Hinman property at 114 Orchard Lake Ave. The property was, of course, very attractive to the Elks, being situated along the Clinton River, amidst a park of large oak and elm trees. There was a large barn on Front Street that could provide excellent storage for extra tables and chairs, and "plenty of space among the trees for the hitching of horses and parking of automobiles."⁹ In September 1911, the Elks purchased

the Hinman estate except for a small lot and house at the NE corner of Front Street and Orchard Lake Avenue. On 9 November, the first meeting was held in the new building. In 1912, the Elks blocked off a portion of the Clinton River to be used for a skating rink, and in the summer, concerts by the Pontiac Commercial Band were played on the grounds.

In 1913, finances of the Elks Lodge were low, so the decision was made to sell off part of the property to the Standard Oil company for \$5000 to be used for a bulk oil plant. This portion of the property was on the east side of the river along the railroad tracks. At the same time, the park was sub-divided and subsequently sold for residential lots north and west of the main building.

In 1915, as Pontiac grew with the influx of the automobile industry, so did the membership of the Elks Lodge. Members began requesting that larger quarters be built, and almost immediately, rooms were enlarged for lodge purposes. In 1924, a building committee was appointed to create plans for a new building to be erected that would connect to the old building, and contain "a large lodge room, with bowling alleys and gymnasium in the basement".¹⁰ According to the street file at the Pontiac City Planning Department, the Elks began renovation, building an "Elks Temple as per plans", and in the spring of 1925, the cornerstone of the new building was laid. Through the years, many more alterations were made to the building. In August of 1937, the Elks received a permit to repair and remodel the interior of the temple, and by 1952, the only turret remaining from the original house was located on the southwest corner of the building. In 1957, the house located at the corner of Front and Orchard Lake, known as 136 Orchard Lake Ave., was torn down,
(continued on page 7)

From Our Collections . . .

James P. Tregent

James Tregent was born in Birmingham, England 15 Oct 1817. He married there, Susan Shaw, on 15 Mar 1851. They emigrated to Detroit 29 Oct 1852 where James was employed by the Great Western Railway, and worked in Chatham, Ontario for two years. In 1855, the family moved to Pontiac, where they lived at the corner of Garland and Pike. James spent most of his life working for the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee Railroad in Pontiac, although he did own a produce business in Pontiac called Smith and Tregent for a few years. The Tregents were members of the Zion Episcopal Church. James died at home on 23 Jun 1895 and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.



J Tregent 1833

The sketches are part of a collection of *Tregent Family Papers*, Acc.#86.19, #84.51, donated by Norman Windiate of Orchard Lake. There are fourteen pencil sketches of British landscapes all done by James Tregent in 1833.

Certificate of Marriage

The State of Michigan
County of Oakland

This is to Certify,

That on the *Seventeenth* day of *February* A.D. 1870 at the *House of Mr. Robinson* in the County aforesaid, I [?] *Brittan, Minister of the Gospel*

Joined in Marriage

Eugene Brooks of *Troy Oakland County* in the State of *Michigan*, aged *Twenty six* years, born at *Troy Oakland Co.*, and occupation a *Farmer* and *Martha Jane Robinson* of *Troy Oakland County* in the State of *Michigan*, aged *Seventeen* years, born at *Troy Oakland County*; that the parties did then and there solemnly declare that they took each other as

Husband and Wife

and that there were present as witnesses *Ell Brooks* of *Troy Oakland Co.*, and *Ana Eliza Parks* of *Troy Oakland Co.*, Dated at *Bloomfield* this *7th* day of *March* A.D. 1870

[?] *Brittan Minister*

Small Manuscripts Collection: Brooks, Eugene

... From Our Collections

Muster Certificate

Head-Quarters 1st Mich Colored Volunteers
Detroit, January 12, 1864

I certify, on honor, that *James Walton* was legally enlisted into the First Regiment Michigan Colored Volunteers, on *Sept 29 1863* and that he has been mustered into the service of the United States, and is accredited on his enlistment papers to the *Township West Bloomfield, County of Oakland State of Michigan*

Jas. A. McKnight
Acting Adjutant

H. Barns
Col. Commanding 1st Mich,
Col'd Vol's

May Rockwell Howlett Collection, Box 19, Folder 2

Snippets

The Pontiac Gazette, Friday, April 2, 1875

"H.M. Lanabury, with his characteristic enterprise, is the first to offer the healthful and delicious beverage of root beer from his soda fountain. The first draught was drawn on Thursday."

The Daily Tribune, Royal Oak, Tue, Sept 5, 1939

Wins Bugling Title

William Bevan, 415 West Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, a member of the Fort Dearborn post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, won a national championship for bugling at the convention in Boston. He is now in New York City attending the World's fair.

Hinman Estate

continued from page 5

and in 1967, a 20 x 76 foot addition was added to the existing Elks building.

In 1988, Oakland Family Services purchased the property from the Elks Lodge, and the Elks built a new facility on Scott Lake Road in Waterford Township. Today the former Hinman estate is the home of a yellow brick building and a parking lot, and one would never know that there was once a spectacular Victorian mansion on acres of wooded land on the banks of the Clinton River.

with 867,000 acres of land. In 1869, William A. Howard was appointed land commissioner of the GR & I.

² Cyclopedia of Michigan: Historical and Biographical, p. 320.

³ Articles of Association and By-Laws of the Pontiac and Cass Lake Aquatic Association, p. 6.

⁴ It is likely that the Petries resided on the property, although it is not known how large the house might have been. The Pontiac and Oakland County Directory 1886 lists the Petries as residing on the west side of Andrew (now Orchard Lake Ave.), east of Front St. On 26 Apr 1889, the Pontiac Gazette reports that "architects are already on the ground making plans for rearranging the Petrie residence of Mayor Hinman".

⁵ The Golden Jubilee, p. 141.

⁶ The Pontiac Gazette, 1889.

⁷ Obituary, The Pontiac Gazette, 1895.

⁸ Obituary, The Pontiac Gazette, 1898.

⁹ The Golden Jubilee, p. 141.

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 143.

Endnotes

¹ The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad began in 1855 for the purpose of building a rail line north from the Indiana state line to Grand Rapids. The GR & I was a land grant railroad,

Board of Directors

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Pat Fisher

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Now Available at the Society

1999 Annual Report

All members are welcome to call the office and we will be happy to mail you a copy, or stop in during office hours and pick one up.

Pathfinder: Researching the History of Your House is a flyer outlining the steps you need to follow when researching your old house. This research tool compiled by Leslie Edwards also details many of the resources we have at the library to help you with your research.

Membership Renewal

Is your membership past due? If so, we would appreciate your remittance as soon as possible.



405 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342

*Preservation of the
Past for the Enrichment
of Future Generations.*

Calendar of Events

April 15	Board Meeting	10 am
May 20	Board Meeting	10 am
June 17	Board Meeting	10 am
July 19	Board Meeting	9:30 am
July 30	Annual Ice Cream Social	12 pm

All members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. They are held the third week of the month, usually alternating Wednesdays and Saturdays.

More Snippets

The Pontiac Gazette, Friday, February 8, 1895

"Grace Allen, of Franklin, a 12-year old girl who attends school at Wing Lake, Dist. No. 8, has a record of three years without being absent or tardy, walking two miles night and morning, winter and summer, ending Feb. 1, 1895."

Advertisement in the 1844 Oakland Gazette

Grist-Mill

Citizens of West Bloomfield and vicinity are informed that the Grist Mill, known as "*Sabins Mill*", has undergone a thorough repair, and is now in first rate order for doing custom work, with a new Superfine Bolt &c. It is supplied with an accommodating *Miller* who will at all times consult the convenience of customers.

Internet address: <http://wwnet.net/~ocphs/index.html>

Email: ocphs@wwnet.net

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