



Pioneer Profile: Dr. James G. Rodgers of Commerce by Leslie S. Edwards

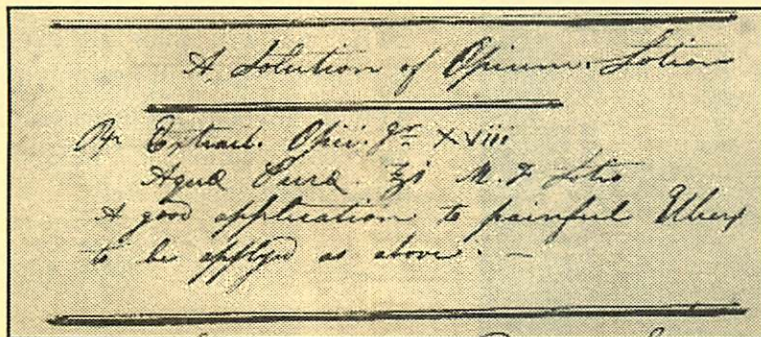
Even though most of Oakland County was settled primarily by New Englanders, there were also pockets of immigrant communities in our early history. Commerce Township was one such place, boasting a large number of Irish settlers. The James Rodgers family were part of this group of pioneers, arriving in Commerce Township in August 1837.

In October 1833, James was stationed aboard the *HMS Victory*, but in November, received a transfer. On 7 May 1834, James Rodgers joined the *HMS Isis* at the Cape of Good Hope. There is no mention in James' papers when he retired from the Royal Navy, but on 3 Jun 1836, he sold his house in Ireland and determined to emigrate to the United States. On 10 Mar 1837, he

long and 6 feet deep. After a little more than a month from their arrival in Commerce Township, the Rodgers family moved into their new home on 18 Sept 1837.

At age thirty-three, James was excited and enthusiastic about being a farmer, and describes in his letter how the new land had rich, black topsoil and vegetables that "grow to perfection here". He did not seem to have any regrets about leaving the medical profession, and in fact, rarely practiced medicine after moving to Michigan.

On 15 Sept 1871, James died of malaria, and is buried in Commerce cemetery. Ann lived on for sixteen years, passing away 24 Sept 1887 at the home of one her daughters in St. Louis, MO.



James Rodgers was born in 1804 in the townland¹ of Cavanacaw, Parish of Drumagh in County Tyrone to John and Ann Rodgers. In February 1826, James made an inquiry to the British Royal Navy about the requirements necessary for admission as a candidate for Assistant Surgeon. Qualifications included having a classical education with a competent knowledge of Latin, and a certificate from one of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of London, Edinburgh, or Dublin. In addition, the candidate had to be between the ages of 20 and 26 years old, undergo an examination before the Medical Commissioners, and have attended a hospital in a major British Isles city for at least one year. James Rodgers, having graduated from the University of Glasgo, Scotland, fulfilled all of these requirements, for on 25 October 1827, he was commissioned as Assistant Surgeon aboard the *HMS Revenge* until 1830. The *Revenge* was employed in the "Mediterranean Station" off the Dardanells²

drew up a list of articles that he had purchased "as an outfit for America", and by August 1st, he and his family had arrived in Michigan.

Ann Rodgers was also born in County Tyrone in 1811, but it is not known who her parents were. She and James were married in Ireland, for her obituary states that "with her husband", she came to Michigan and made a home in the "unbroken forest".

Immediately after arriving in Michigan, James purchased 80 acres of land in Section 4 of Commerce Township. After purchasing their land, the Rodgers lodged at A. W. Gates, about a half mile away, until they were able to build a house which they wasted no time in doing. In a letter from James written in April 1838, he describes how he had "forty men on the ground and we proceeded to work and at sunset we had the house square." The house was built of oak, with oak plank floors, measured 34 x 34 square feet, and was 16 feet tall with an upper floor. A cellar was dug that measured 18 feet wide x 28 feet

NOTE: The Society has a manuscript collection of the papers of James Rodgers, from which much of the information for this article came. It is available for research in the library.

1. A townland is the smallest division of land in Ireland.

2. The "Dardanells" is a strait of water that leads from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean between Turkey and Greece.

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Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Members,

Here we are with fall weather fast approaching, and the past several months have been very busy for the Society.

Many hours were spent planning the *Ice Cream Social*, and when the event was rained out on July 30th, much of it had to be planned a second time. The second time around proved to be a charm, and Mother Nature provided us with beautiful weather on August 12th, and we had a good turn-out of 244 people in attendance. This was due in large part to the publicity we received in the local news and on our web page, and the flyers that volunteers distributed in the local public libraries.



Charlotte Maybee (with President Mike Willis to the right) cutting the ribbon for the new research library. OCPHS Board of Directors in background.

Leslie and I would like to thank ALL of the volunteers who helped to make this year's event a success, from those who baked cakes to the ticket-takers and ice cream scoopers, and many others who donated their time and money. It would be impossible to list all of you here, however, a special thanks goes out to the committee chairs: **Bruce Annett** - Parking, **David Hackett** - Guides, **Pat Fisher** - Used Book Sale, **Annalee Kennedy** - Refreshments, **Connie Scafe** - White Elephant Sale, and **Ellen Zehnder** - Silent Auction. Behind the scenes, the House Committee, led by **Marguerite Johnson**, did a tremendous job in getting the house and summer kitchen ready, and our volunteers in the Gift Shoppe and the White Elephant Sale spent many hours pricing items. Also, all of you who stayed after the event to clean up made the job so much easier with so many helping hands.

Finally, a very special thanks goes out to my two co-chairpeople, **Kathryn Daggy**, Treasurer, and **Leslie Edwards**, Administrative Director. We were like ships passing in the night with so many things to do during this event. Without all of the volunteer help, this event could never have been such a success. It was wonderful to have the great displays of the Waterford Historical Society, the Orion Historical

Society, and the Pontiac Area Genealogical and Historical Society. We look forward to not only having continued participation at events with these groups, but growing participation from other area historical societies.

By the time you read this, we will have held our first summer picnic for the membership on the grounds. We hope you had the chance to attend, and get to know or visit with your fellow members. The next great event for us to plan is Victorian Christmas, and we will be looking for your volunteer help.

One good lesson learned this year by the weather delay - that starting with 2001, we will plan all events for a Saturday. This will not only provide us with the next day for the event should we have bad weather, but possibly give us better attendance as well.

Michael Willis

Board of Directors

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From the Director

Jessie S. Edwards

With Board approval, a digital camera has been purchased, and I have been learning how to operate it to photograph objects in our collection, as well as Society events. The photograph featured below was taken with the new camera. This camera will greatly assist us in adding digital images of our artifacts to the cataloged record on the computer. With a little practice, anyone



The Ice Harvesting Exhibit

who knows how to use a computer can learn how to enter the information into the database. So, if you have a couple of hours a week to help out with this project, please call me at the office!

Thanks to the following local historical societies for loaning us photographs to be used in the exhibit on ice harvesting: Berkley, Northeast Oakland and Waterford. The permanent exhibit is on display in the Pioneer Museum and can be visited during open office/library hours.

A special thanks to those volunteers who, under the guidance of **Kathryn Daggy**, helped with the *Greater Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce* mailing: **Ross Callaway, Gaylor Forman, Rosamond Haeberle, Pauline Harrison, Bob Reynnells, and Connie Scafe.**

Gift Shoppe Now Open

The Gift Shoppe committee, under the guidance of **Susan Metzdorf**, would like to announce that the Gift Shoppe will now be open on Wednesdays from 10 am - 2 pm.

Please come by to see what we have to offer!

The office and library receives an incredible amount of correspondence, and I thought I would take this opportunity to share a few recent letters with you.

July 2, 2000

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society Staff -

On 19 Apr 2000 my husband and I visited your museum to research his grandmother's family, the W.A. Kinney's who lived in the area. We were successful in finding some good information which we certainly couldn't have done without the aid of your knowledgeable staff.

Thank you for your help and for working hard to maintain such excellent resources.

*Joe & Judy O'Donnoghue
Kodiak, Alaska*

Letters from the Moses family of Waterford:

*"Thank you for the tickets for the ice cream social. The cake and ice cream were good. I looked forward to seeing the one-room schoolhouse. . . actually, I looked forward to the whole thing.
Rebecca Moses*

*"I like the Wisner home, especially seeing into the brick wall at the bottom of the steps. We saw some other homeschoolers there.
Stephen Moses*



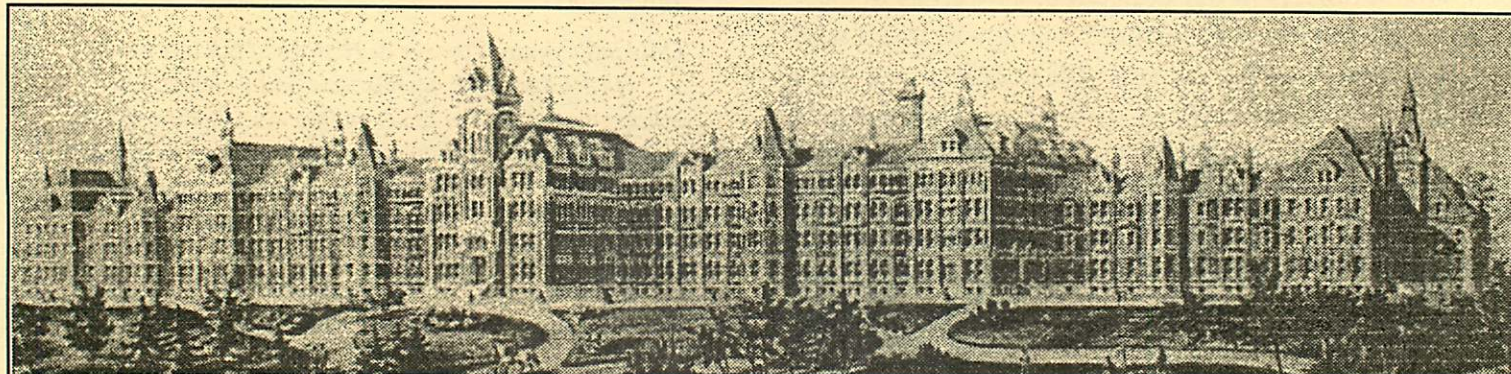
Drawing by Sarah Moses

Historic Community News

- Congratulations to Orion Township for their efforts in helping to preserve the Porritt Barn!
- On July 25th, the city of Pleasant Ridge dedicated the historic Pleasant Ridge Police Booth as a museum and archives for the city.

Feature Article: ‘ ‘Neath the Fostering Care’: the Eastern Michigan Asylum (Part One) *By Bruce J. Annett, Jr.*

A generation before Pontiac became synonymous with automobile manufacturing, snaring a huge state hospital would begin transforming the area from its rural roots. It was an architectural wonder, a grand gift from the Gilded Age. More recently known as the Clinton Valley Center, it was a city within a city, designed by one of the most prolific architects of the 19th century.



Architectural rendering by Elijah Myers. *Courtesy of Pontiac Public Library*

“It looks like one of those European palaces which Americans become acquainted with in the pictorial prints,” said a newspaper reporter in 1878, within weeks of the opening of the Clinton Valley Center.¹ “The first impression on the mind is that of magnitude and symmetry.”

To horseback and carriage riders journeying into the countryside a mile west of Pontiac’s main street, the giant hospital would indeed have seemed both foreign and awe-inspiring. The building’s façade, oriented to the rising sun in the east, stretched 1000 feet from its north end to its south.² Its central building towered five stories above the surrounding farms and pastureland in an era when, only rarely, a church steeple or smokestack might loom taller.³ In sheer size, the hospital dwarfed every other building in southeastern Michigan with the possible exception of Detroit’s Fort Wayne, and in cost it was one of the state’s largest and most ambitious publicly funded projects of the 19th Century.

Pontiac in 1878 was a rural trading center with only 4,000 people. Its claims to fame were its handsome high school and hosting the county fair. The Detroit & Milwaukee railway station in town was an important shipping point for the area’s considerable agricultural bounty. Oakland County, for which Pontiac was the county seat, topped the state’s counties in producing apples and potatoes, was second in butter and wool, third in wheat and sixth in corn. Samuel Durant’s 1877 *History of Oakland County* practically apologized for the area’s scarcity of manufacturers, “owing largely to her lack of heavy water-power,” but the city had several grist and lumber mills, and a knitting works employed 300, “principally women and girls” doing piece work. Portenders of things to come, a machine shop and two buggy and carriage works in town employed several dozen men.

In 1873, overcrowding at the Michigan Asylum in

Kalamazoo, the state’s first facility serving the mentally ill, led the state legislature to appropriate \$400,000 and appoint a board to select a site for a new second facility to serve 27 counties in the eastern half of the state. Nearly 50 sites received consideration.⁴ Detroit, the favored site, boasted superior rail service that could ease patient transit. However, on June 5, 1874, a Detroit citizen’s committee stunned the selection commission by announcing that it was impossible for them to raise funds to meet a key criteria: namely, that a “varied and attractive” site with water and sewer services be donated to the state. Because Pontiac’s site committee, led by Charles H. Palmer and Henry W. Lord, had already agreed to all conditions, the board then immediately declared Pontiac the winner.⁵

“The citizens of Pontiac donated 200 acres of land, eligibly located, and also guaranteed an ample water supply and the proper removal of the sewage and drainage,” said Henry M. Hurd, M.D., Clinton Valley’s first medical superintendent.⁶ “The amount of money required to carry into effect these guarantees exceeded \$30,000. It is rare that a state institution has received such substantial aid from any locality as was afforded by the citizens of Pontiac.”

As news of the selection spread, Pontiac erupted in celebration. “Not since General Lee surrendered his rebel army has Pontiac looked as smiling and joyful,” observed a reporter.⁷ By 9 a.m., nearly every building and home sprouted flags and banners. The streets were crowded with happy people. Cannons boomed in the courthouse square, and a band played “soul-stirring music” as prelude to evening speeches presided over by Michael W. Crofoot, another member of Pontiac’s site committee.

Gaining the new hospital would provide a substantial boost to the tiny city, first providing a flood of temporary construction jobs,⁸ and then creating a continuing need

for medical workers, attendants, food service and laundry staffers, maintenance personnel, provisioners,⁹ and more. Directly and indirectly, the hospital immediately became the city's largest employer. The advent of a new non-agricultural middle class would create new needs for in-town housing, goods and services, fire protection, schools, and transportation.

"The effect of this location will be immediately felt in the renewed confidence and courage of our citizens in prosecuting their business, [and] in inaugurating new enterprises," predicted the *Pontiac Gazette*. Pontiac, it envisioned "will become a center of trade and transportation."¹⁰ Detroiters, meanwhile, fumed. "Little Pontiac, the dullest, deadest place in the whole state – a very byword for lack of enterprise, is allowed to take it from under our very noses. We are disgusted," grumbled that city's *Evening News*.

On June 12, 1874, only a week after Pontiac's selection was announced, Palmer hosted Michigan Governor John J. Bagley and the Kalamazoo hospital's administrator, Dr. E.H. Van Deusen. With them were New Englander Dorothea Lynde Dix, the era's leading national crusader for the humane treatment of the mentally ill, and Elijah E. Myers, the architect chosen to design the hospital. "All expressed themselves well satisfied with the site," reported the *Bill Poster*.¹¹

A new board of commissioners appointed to oversee construction convened Nov. 13, 1874. In effect, the five commissioners were to be defacto owners during construction, representing the state's interests. Serving without compensation save for travel expenses, their charge was enormous – to complete the structure on budget and ready it for occupancy down to the last mattress, soup ladle, and salt shaker. Their work would require frequent meetings and daily or weekly visits to the construction site.

From Pontiac, Willard Morse McConnell and Michael E. Crofoot were appointed. McConnell was a business leader, one of the founders and later, president of the city's Second National Bank. He had been an early

convert to the fledgling Republican Party, served as a government administrator during the Civil War, and had been appointed by President Lincoln as one of two commissioners from the state for the Union Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Co. Crofoot, a Democrat, had in 1848 begun an 8-year tenure as a probate judge, and from

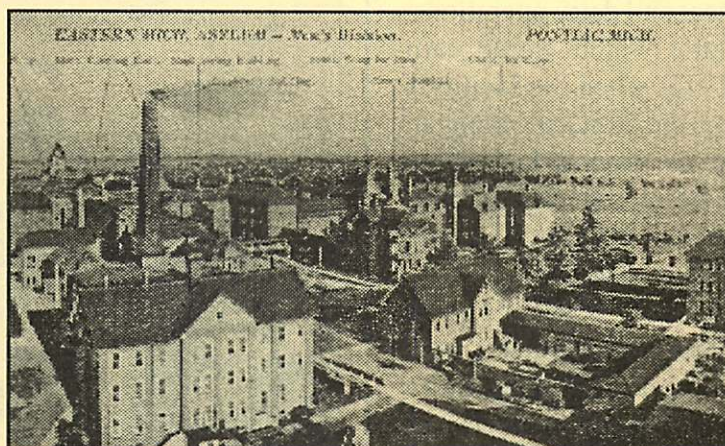
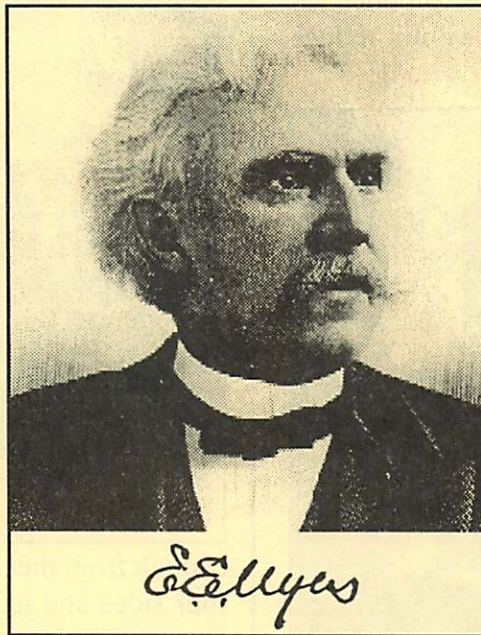
1862-66 had served as Oakland County prosecuting attorney. He had a thriving law practice and had served on Pontiac's site committee. The building commission was rounded out with appointees from Chelsea, Detroit, and South Haven.

Myers, the architect, was a talented, flamboyant designer, at ease in dealing with legislators and local officials. His business sense, affability, and "practical" design skills enabled Myers to secure some of the most important public commissions of his era.¹² Michigan's new state capitol was his first high profile project, and he balanced the final phases of its construction while simultaneously planning the Pontiac hospital.

Myers (1832-1909) went on to design more state capitols than any other architect,¹³ but because of an at-odds combination of his secrecy and his flair for self-promotion, and the scarcity of surviving documentation, biographers occasionally stumble in listing other of his major commissions. The torrent of work that followed his success with the Michigan capitol and Pontiac's hospital would soon include Detroit's Harper Hospital (1884), the Grand Rapids City Hall (1885), the Idaho territorial capitol building (1886), the Texas (1888) and Colorado (1890) state capitol buildings, and the Richmond, Virginia City Hall (1894). He also created homes, schools, churches, over 100 courthouses, and was a design finalist for new capitols for Indiana, Wyoming, and Georgia.¹⁴ He inspected the buildings for the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago on behalf of the U.S.

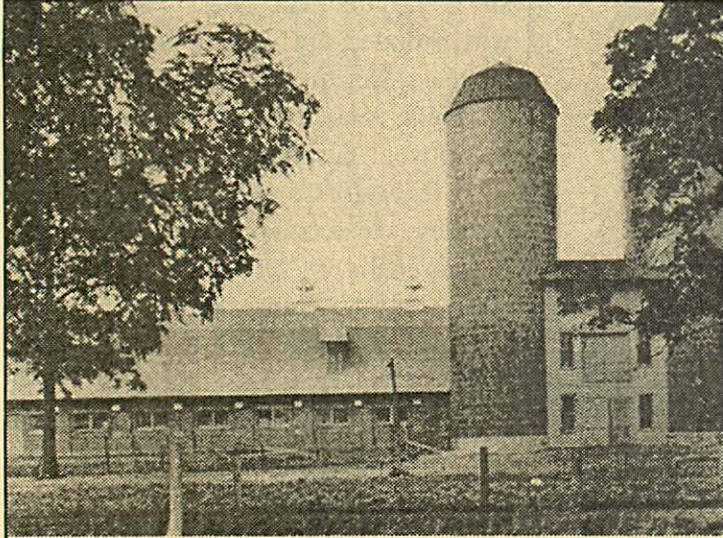
government, and may have provided plans for the remodeling of Brazil's parliament buildings in Rio de Janeiro at about the same time.

From his Detroit office, (where he had moved to from Springfield, Illinois, in 1871 after winning the commission for Michigan's capitol,) Myers would design



Postcard showing an aerial view of the hospital complex. Collection of Bruce Annett, Jr.

the Pontiac hospital to be, in many ways, a self-contained city. It had its own steam plant, water well and pumping station, staff housing, chapel, laundry, kitchens and bakeries, ice and coal houses, granaries, smithery, carpenter shops, lumberyard, barns, sheds, and fire department. Even a gas plant was planned until commissioners concluded that buying gas from a Pontiac supplier for illumination, cooking, and laundering would reduce construction expenses.



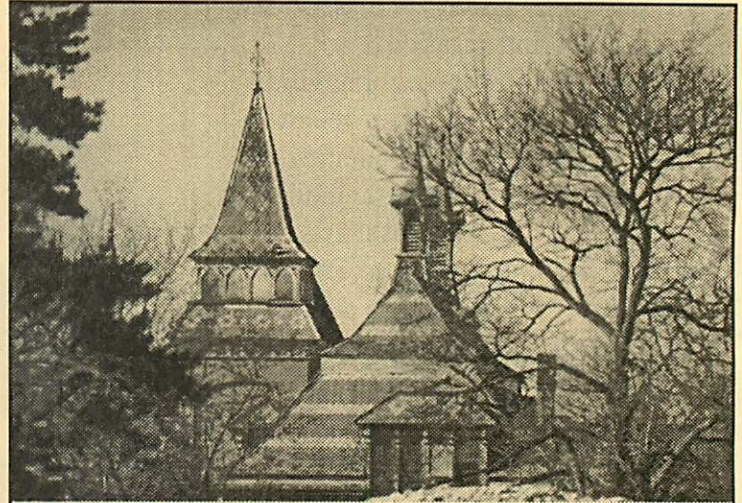
*Pictorial Description of Pontiac, Michigan and vicinity
Publ.: Board of Commerce*

Almost immediately, the state purchased 107 more acres, and added them to the original 200.¹⁵ Much of this land would be farmed by the hospital's patients as part of the occupational and work therapy pioneered by Hurd.¹⁶ The acreage allowed the hospital to be essentially self sustaining, feeding patients and staff through its own extensive crops, orchards, and meat and dairy operations, including herds of Holstein cattle which would earn national championships.¹⁷ (By 1911, when the facility's original name was changed from the Eastern Michigan Asylum to Pontiac State Hospital, the grounds had grown to 800 acres, stretching beyond the present day Summit Place Mall to the west, south to present day Huron St., and north nearly to the present county court house.)

Myers worked with Kalamazoo hospital's Van Deusen to model the general layout of Pontiac's new facility on the theories and innovations of Thomas Story Kirkbride, (1809-1883), medical superintendent of Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Hospital. Like Dix, Kirkbride was a reformer, and his quest for humane and compassionate treatment of patients called for a large "mega building" with linear wards just one corridor wide, offering outdoor views from every room.

Myers had with Michigan's capitol already honed his skills designing a multi-section building consisting of three large parallel rectangles connected by subsidiary elements.¹⁸ In Pontiac he would adapt a similar solution to

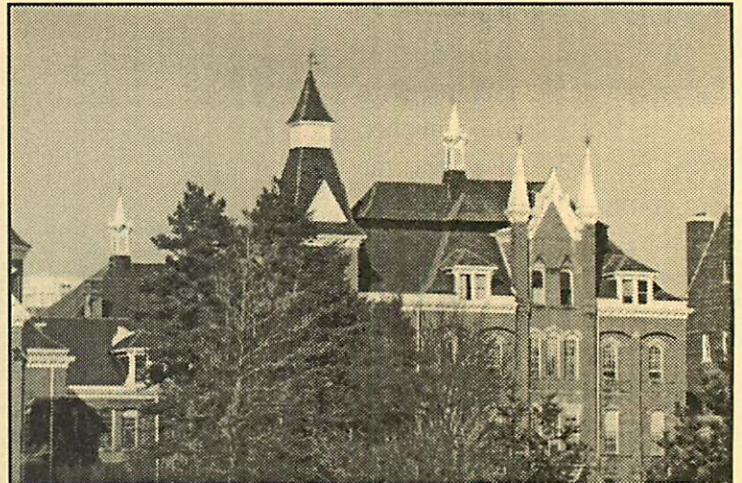
a building nearly three times as wide. Myers would wrap his Kirkbride-inspired ground plan with an imposing, high towered central building to be used for administration, flanked by a series of offset wings, separating patients by gender. Each ward was offset



Northern Buildings retain their highly ornamented 1876 slate roofs and ventilation upolas. *Photo by Bruce Annett, Jr.*

enough from the others to allow fresh air to enter from all four sides and to avoid seeing in from other wards. On Dec. 18, 1875, ads appeared in Michigan newspapers seeking construction bids and the following February, contracts were inked.

Generally referred to today as Victorian Gothic in architectural style, it was its exuberant detailing that endeared Myers's Pontiac building to so many. Above raised basements faced with gray cut stone, walls of site-made red brick rose as high as four stories, punctuated by



South Facade, updated in the late 1990's, still retained such original features as ornamental brick and stone work and iron cresting. *Photo by Bruce Annett, Jr.*

round topped, double-hung windows framed of iron for security but designed to mimic wood sash. Myers broke the planes of his building's imposing mass into smaller, human scale components. Towers, bays, and column bases projected from the walls. Masons were challenged

(continued on page 7)

Society News and Notes

The Grounds Committee of **Clarke Kimball, Gale Scafe** and **Ed Ling**, with the help of WAM volunteers, worked hard this summer to beautify the grounds. In fact, thanks to their hard work, we have just become the recipient of the 22nd *Annual City of Pontiac Beautification Award*.

We finally have all library and archival materials in one location! On Saturday 26th, under the supervision of **Pat Fisher** and **Marguerite Johnson**, WAM moved the rest of the manuscript materials from the house to the storage area in the Carriage House. With the help of **Pauline Harrison** and the Vintage Clothing Committee, WAM was instrumental in assisting us with rearranging the upstairs storage area of the Carriage House. This will enable us to have better work space for the clothing committee, as well as room for inventory and storage of the Society's collection of artifacts.

The **Society Picnic** was held on Saturday, September 9th on the grounds. The weather was perfect and thirty-eight members were in attendance with their

families. *Special Recognition Awards* were presented by President **Michael Willis** to members **Kathryn Daggy**, **Clarke Kimball** and **Gale Scafe** for their outstanding service as a volunteer in the past year.

The **Annual Meeting** for 2001 will be held on the third Wednesday in

January (the 17th) at 1pm. We will be sending an announcement to you regarding the meeting place and speaker, and as usual, there will be refreshments. There will be an election of officers for the upcoming year, as well as election of members for the Board of Directors. We are certainly looking forward to many more of you attending this year - don't forget, this is the time to have input into *your* Society. Your vote matters, so please try to attend!

Wanting All Guides

We know summer is over when we receive requests from schools and other interested parties to guide them through our treasured Pine Grove complex. We guides do this with pleasure because we'd like others to enjoy history as non-fiction stories in which all our ancestors played a part. If you would like to be a part of this interesting and satisfying activity, call **Dave Hackett** at 248-852-1111. We will schedule a convenient day for an orientation and training session.



The Gift Shoppe is now open!
See pg. 3

Eastern Michigan Asylum *continued*

to create recessed nooks and archways. Elaborate brick corbels, pilasters, and dentils cast a riot of light and shadow details. Accenting this visual cornucopia were cut stone lintels, keystones, crests, column caps and bases. The brick walls were crowned with heavily bracketed cornice and surmounted by horizontally patterned gabled roofs of green and gray slate shingles.

Finally, as if to crow that *nothing succeeds like excess*, the roofs and towers themselves sprouted dozens of ventilation cupolas, dormers, eyebrow vents, and secondary pediments, often sporting special slate patterning. Each was crowned with an iron weathervane, lighting rod, or cresting. The cupolas played an integral role in ventilating the building, the process of which began in the basement where a massive, steam-powered, 15-foot diameter fan forced 60,000 cubic feet of air per minute¹⁹ up through the rooms and then to special shafts to the roof. "Around the 1870s there was a real concern for fresh air," Detroit architect Ed Francis told the *Oakland Press* in 1997. Myers was "certainly up to date in the norms of that time."²⁰ (To Be Continued . . .)

1 "Insane Folks: How They are Treated, Fed, and Lodged at the State Insane Asylum in Pontiac," Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, Dec. 18, 1878. Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society (OCPHS) Collection.

2 Ibid.

3 W. Hawkins Ferry, *The Buildings of Detroit, A History*. Revised Edition, Wayne State University Press, 1980. pg. 79.

4 Report of the Commissioners Appointed to Select a Location and Site for the Eastern Asylum for the Insane, Sept. 30, 1874. W.S. George & Co., State Printers & Binders, Lansing, 1874. OCPHS Collection.

5 Ibid.

6 Henry M. Hurd, M.D., "A History of the Asylums for the Insane in Michigan." Collections and Researches Made by the Michigan Pioneer & Historical Society at the Annual Meeting of 1888. Dorius D. Thorp, State Printers and Binders, 1889, pgs. 291-293, 300-302. OCPHS Collection.

7 Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, June 10, 1874.

8 Ibid, Feb. 20, 1878.

9 Ibid, Oct. 4, 1878.

10 Pontiac Gazette, June 12, 1874. OCPHS Collection.

11 "Pontiac in a Nut Shell," Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, June 17, 1874.

12 Marlene Elizabeth Heck, "The Politics of Architecture in the Gilded Age: The Practice of Elijah E. Myers." Master's Thesis, University of Virginia School of Architecture, 1977, pgs. 18, 67.

13 William Seale, *Michigan's Capitol Construction and Restoration*. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1995, pg. 56.

14 Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale, *Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the USA*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York, 1976, pg. 178.

15 Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, Dec. 18, 1878.

16 Clinton Valley Center, *Capsule History, 1878-1978*. Hospital monograph. OCPHS Collection.

17 Ibid.

18 Hitchcock and Seale, pg. 176.

19 Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, Dec. 25, 1878.

20 Charles Crumm, "Practical Beauty," *The Oakland Press*, Feb. 24, 1997, pg. A3.

Bruce Annett has served as an OCPHS director since 1980 and works as Executive Director, marketing and public affairs, at Lawrence Technological University. Bruce's wife's great-great grandfather, Charles Anderson, was site foreman during CVC's original construction, 1875-78, and was architect and builder of many of the subsequent buildings.

From Our Collections: Rizal Day and the Filipino Elm Club

by Leslie S. Edwards

The Society has in its collection a 1929 program celebrating Rizal Day "held under the auspices of the *Filipino Elm Club*". Not much information is known about the *Filipino Elm Club*. It appears to have been a club organized by Filipino residents in the Pontiac area in the late 1920's. Cecil and Miguel Dumbrigue, brothers from the Philippines, both resided at 115 Elm St. in Pontiac, which in 1929, was the home of Santos Gamet, and by 1937, that of Samuel Riganan.¹

Rizal Day is a national holiday in the Philippines, honoring the life of Dr. Jose Rizal. In this 1929 celebration of *Rizal Day*, held at the Central Methodist Church in Pontiac, Cecil Dumbrigue was Master of Ceremonies, while a third Dumbrigue brother, Francis, gave the welcome address. Music was played by the *Filipino Orchestra*, and by Manuel Paguyo on banjo. Pontiac City Manager, Clifford Ham, was on hand to deliver the address.

Cecil Dumbrigue was born in 1902 near Manila, and came to the U.S. from the Philippines in 1924.



Cecil Dumbrigue, 1978

He eventually settled in Pontiac, where he worked at Fisher Body/GMC truck for 38 years. Cecil and his second wife, Bertha, were life members of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, and Cecil was a member of the Board of Directors in the early 1980's. Also, as a member of the Men's Garden Club, Cecil initiated the design and planting of the herb garden at Pine Grove², which is still maintained today by members of the Pontiac Branch of the

National Women's Farm and Garden Association.

NOTE: If anyone has any information on the *Filipino Elm Club* or the Filipino community in Oakland County, please contact the Society so we can update our records.

1 The club is not listed in any of the Pontiac City Directories, nor is any other Filipino organization.


2 Sources: Faye Donelson Obituary Files, Pontiac Scrapbook Vol. 5, 1978-1981, and the *Oakland Gazette*, Vol V, No. 2, July 1972.

The Life of Jose Rizal

Jose Rizal was born in 1861 in Calamba, Laguna, Philippines and was a scholar and historian, painter, sculptor, scientist, eye surgeon and writer. In 1891, he wrote two novels portraying the abuses of the Spanish colonial government against the Filipino people. Even though Rizal was a pacifist who advocated reform, in 1896 he was arrested, incarcerated and tried on charges of treason. Rizal was sentenced by a military court to die on 30 Dec 1896 before a firing squad. On the eve of his execution, Rizal wrote his famous poem *Mi Ultimo Adios* (My Last Farewell) dedicated to his family, the Filipino people and his country. For this, Rizal was hailed as a hero and martyr, inspiring the Filipino people to fight for their independence from Spain.

RIZAL DAY

DECEMBER 30, 1929



Dr. Jose Rizal y Mercado
Filipino Hero and Martyr

ANNUAL EXERCISES

HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
FILIPINO ELM CLUB

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30th, 8:00 P. M.
CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH
PONTIAC, MICH.

Rizal Day Program,
Carhart Collection

Membership

You have probably noticed the addition of a date to your mailing label. This date represents the day your membership is due. (NOTE: Labels for life members will show a random year of 2020 or higher). If your membership is *overdue*, please send in your payment with the membership form located below. Membership Secretary, **LaVon Delisle**, and I are working hard to update the membership records, and your help is appreciated. If you have any questions, please call LaVon at 248-969-5361.

New members are always welcome, and we encourage *Corporate Sponsorships*.

☆☆☆ Welcome New Members ☆☆☆

Kathleen Abby - Keego Harbor
 Geoff Brieger - Southfield
 Lee Burke - Bloomfield Hills
 Gary Cavell - Lincoln Park
 Steven Forester - Dearborn
 Janet Freeman - Lincoln, England
 David Friday - Ocala, Florida
 Pamela Gosik - Troy
 William Howard - Kerrville, Texas

Kathleen Keyes - Berkley
 Jean Kroger - Oakland
 Karen Moore - Oxford
 Joan Pate - Bloomfield Hills
 Muriel Versagi - Royal Oak
 Kathleen Zeisler - Alanson
 Adam Zielinski - Hazel Park
 Patricia Zipper - Okemos

Calendar of Events

Saturday, Oct. 21	<i>Board Meeting</i>	10:00 am
Wednesday, Nov. 15	<i>Board Meeting</i>	9:30 am
Wednesday, Dec. 6	<i>Hanging of the Greens</i>	9 - 3 pm
Sunday, Dec. 10	<i>Victorian Christmas</i>	12 - 4 pm
Friday, Dec. 15	<i>Dehanging of the Greens</i>	9 - 3 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 17	<i>Annual Meeting</i>	1 - 3 pm

The office and library will be *closed* from December 17, 2000 through January 1, 2001. We will re-open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2nd.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society

Yes, I'd like to ☐ join ☐ renew

Name _____

Street _____ Apt. No. _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Enclose check or money order made payable to:

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
 405 Oakland Avenue
 Pontiac, Michigan 48342
 (248) 338-6732



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The Charm: A News Magazine
 Vol. 2, No. 2, Feb 1933 (Milford)

**We Invite You To
 Become A Member**

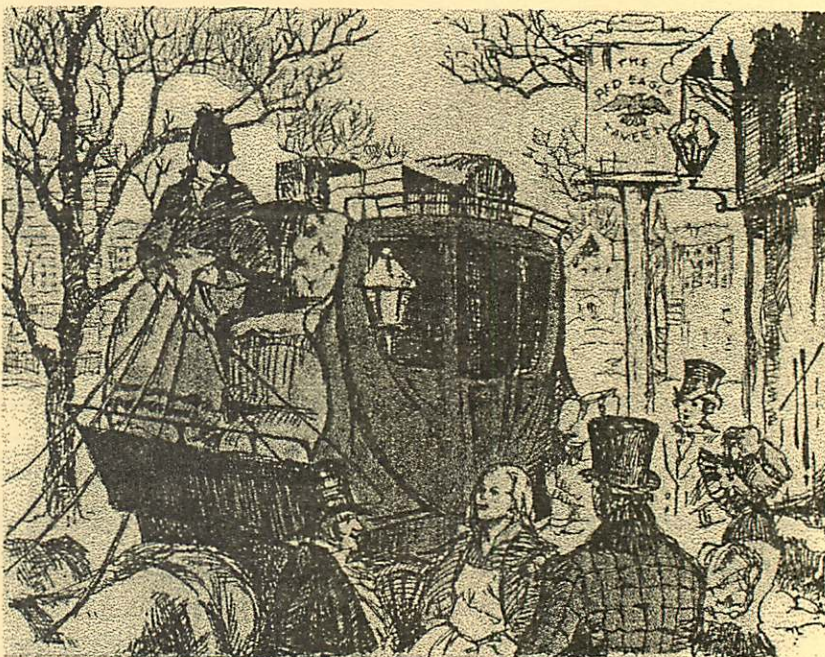
- ☐ Individual Member \$20.00
- ☐ Family \$50.00
- ☐ Senior Member (62 & over) \$15.00
- ☐ Student Member (18 & under) \$10.00
- ☐ Patron \$75.00
- ☐ Benefactor \$100.00
- ☐ Life Member \$200.00
- ☐ Life Couple \$300.00
- ☐ Organization (Non-Profit) \$50.00
- ☐ Corporate Member/Sponsor \$150.00

Memberships, except life,
 are for one year.

Victorian Christmas Open House

It's already time to start thinking about Victorian Christmas at Pine Grove. If you have some time and would like to contribute, we need chairpeople and volunteers for the following committees:

- * *Hanging of the Greens*
- * *Dehanging of the Greens*
- * *Christmas Tea & Cookies*
- * *Music*
- * *Schoolhouse Program Events*



Christmas Passengers

From Mr. & Mrs. Albert E. Quarton, 1929
Hadsell Collection



405 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342
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(248) 338-6731 Fax

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