

Letter From the President

The need for change is very important and is sometimes very difficult for many of us to accept in our later years. We have a tendency to believe that younger people don't have the knowledge, because they don't have the number of years of practical experience that we have. The real truth of the matter is that we fear letting go of the old ways because we are not sure we can adjust to the new ways. We have a great organization here that has withstood the test of time. However, we must realize with the average age of our board members that time is catching up with us. It is very important that we begin planning for the future and we must bring in a younger generation to pick up where we leave off. This younger generation will never join us if we are not willing to accept them and their ideas as equals.

The same thing is true of our operations. Many times I hear board members say that we need to get some of the grants that are available. We have available to us on staff, and also with staff contacts, people that can write the grant requests. However, we must first prove that we have the needs and types of programs, and more importantly, the certification and ability to administer these grants. It is a very strange statement to make that for an organization as old as ours, that we are just beginning to come of age. It is certainly not because we don't have the ability or the knowledge. It is because for a long time we worked only in the past and forgot to change with the times.

This year we began a new direction with such a simple thing as voting. I

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Society News and Notes



This year's annual meeting was held on January 17th at the new West Bloomfield Township Public Library. Our speaker was Jim Lehtola, Society member and Detective with the Sheriff's Department, Oakland County. Jim gave a fascinating talk on the formation of

the sheriff's department in Oakland County from "Wilderness to Statehood". Jim has been researching this topic for several years and has compiled data on every sheriff, which he hopes to publish in the near future.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Year ending December 2000)

Revenues	2000	1999
County Funds	20560.00	20420.00
Investment Income	10864.38	7942.83
Society Events	5767.48	6518.50
Annual Giving	5520.00	2365.00
Membership Dues	4025.00	2890.00
Donations/Memorials	4654.17	7203.17
Tours	2026.00	2575.00
Shoppe	1388.99	1288.01
Library	1200.79	1461.11
Grant Funds	427.00	0
Miscellaneous	1101.01	104.60
Total Revenues	57534.82	52768.22

Expenditures	2000	1999
Salaries & Benefits	30835.86	22680.87
Utilities	8796.53	6742.76
Office Expenses	6079.09	5448.84
Grounds/Maint.	4555.48	4156.59
Insurance	2396.00	3455.34
Society Events	1991.26	5017.41
Publications	1202.19	781.65
Library	702.56	832.31
Shoppe	528.08	1073.83
Fees/Dues	1860.85	1190.00
Miscellaneous	32.78	2140.50
Total Expenditures	58980.68	53520.10
Profit/Loss	(1445.86)	(751.88)

From the Director

"In today's hectic world, personal attention to all patrons remains the hallmark of enduring institutions."

Research Library

Libraries and archives collect materials, provide access to them, and preserve collections. In this, the information age, the Society is constantly faced with the challenge of increased public expectations for us to provide accurate and prompt information. Our job in the research library is to assist researchers in locating the ideas, information and materials that will meet their diverse interests.

In the year 2000, volunteers in the library made a concentrated effort to improve our level of assistance to researchers. Many hours were spent rearranging materials for easier access and descriptive tools were created to assist volunteers and users in locating pertinent information. Visitors to the library are greeted promptly and every effort was made to provide them with quality reference service. The increase in numbers of both on-site and off-site users helps to illustrate the confidence researchers have in our ability to assist them with their research.

Total Requests for Information 1999-2000

Requests	2000	1999	Increase%
External	205	91	225%
Internal	342	184	186%
Total	547	275	199%

If we do not have the answer researchers are looking for in our materials, we provide them with suggestions and resources on where to look next. This includes referrals to local libraries and historical societies, web pages, addresses for county courthouses, etc. We continue to answer off-site requests in our turn-around time of less than ten days. Thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped to make the library so successful.

Publicity

Publicity for the Society continues to be an important resource for us. As you all are aware, the popularity and use of the Internet increases daily. This, of

course, benefits the Society as well. We are listed on over 50 web pages relating to genealogical and local history resources, and museums and attractions in metro Detroit and the Midwest. This gives us a great amount of exposure to a much wider audience with over 1500 visitors to our web page in the year 2000. We also had a variety of articles published about the Society in local newspapers, including the Oakland Press, The Detroit News and Free Press, and U.S. Auto Scene. The Drayton Plains One-Room Schoolhouse was featured in a book published this year titled *Under One Roof: A traveler's guide to America's one-room schoolhouse museums*, and Geoff Brieger's publication *Pontiac, Michigan: A Postcard Album* acknowledges our photograph collection.

Collections Management

Collections management continues to be an important focus for us. Since reorganizing and purchasing the computer software, we have begun to catalog many of the artifacts, photographs, manuscripts and documents. It is a time consuming process, but one which will help us keep better control over our holdings. It will be easier to pull items for displays, and we can easily track the location of artifacts. We can also monitor items that may need restoration or repair, as well as keep a record of the provenance. One of the most exciting parts is our ability to digitally photograph artifacts and attach the digital photo to the cataloged record, giving us an image for identification and inventory purposes. **Kimberly Bell** has been a great help in taking inventory and helping to photograph and catalog many of our artifacts. To date, we have cataloged 74 artifacts, 32 archival materials and 146 photographs.

Volunteer Staff

We have been very fortunate this year to have such dedicated volunteers involved in this organization. Over 5000 hours were logged by volunteers,

not to mention the many hours that were spent by those assisting with our two Society events. We could not operate without your continued efforts. In addition, we had four graduate students from Wayne State University volunteer and work on semester projects here in the research library. They did an excellent job of processing manuscript collections, organizing library materials, and developing the Ice Harvesting Exhibit in the Pioneer Museum. WAM was here a total of 12 times this year, and were invaluable in completing the preparation and move into the manuscripts storage area. In addition, they, as well as community service volunteers, worked incredibly hard on maintaining the grounds. A special thank you must go out to the **Pontiac Area Michigan Farm and Garden** group for their upkeep of the herb garden, and to **Rosemary Gallardo** for donating perennials again this year.

It is impossible to thank all of you for your dedication and support. Know this: that your love for this Society and the work we do together does not go unnoticed, and it is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with many more of you in the coming year!

Board of Directors

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Research Librarians

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Fran Wilson

Victorian Christmas Open House



"One of our younger visitors at VOH"

The annual Victorian Christmas Open House was, once again, a success. The weather was cooperative and a fine day was had by all who

visited. Musical entertainment was provided by Christine Ballard and Maxine Carlisle on dulcimers, Melizza Cruz on flute, accompanied by Star Steward on the keyboard, Margaret Warczak on the celtic harp and Barbara Kremsky on violin. Guides, as always, provided visitors history about the Wisner family, the mansion and many of the artifacts. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success. We are already making plans to help make next year's event even more successful.



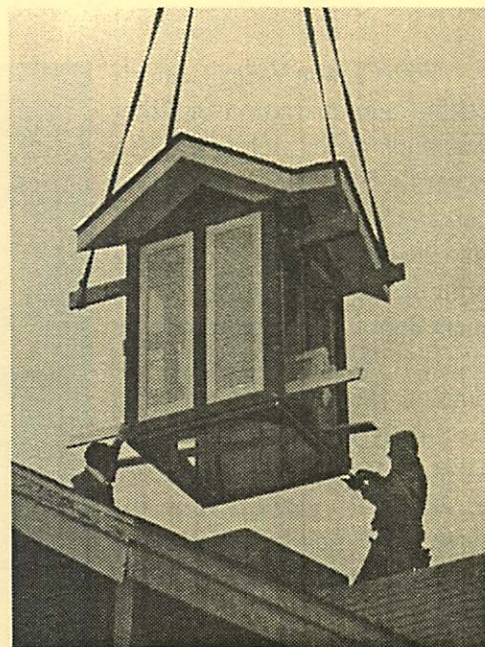
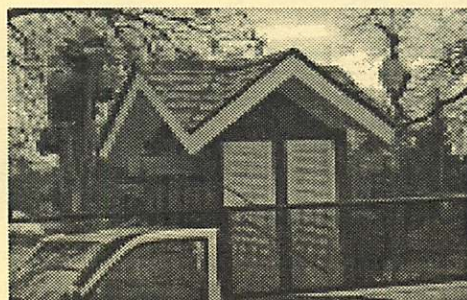
"President Santa Claus"

Craft Committee

The Society will be creating a new craft committee which will be totally in charge of craft-making items to be sold in the Gift Shoppe. The general public would like to see more craft items for sale and our mission statement supports this. If you are interested in becoming a crafter for the Society, please contact Leslie Edwards at the office at 248-338-6732.

The cupola finally arrives!

On a cold, windy day in December, our cupola for the Carriage House arrived in the back of a pick-up truck. Accompanying the truck was a crane, and after some tricky arrangements, the cupola was hoisted into the air and mounted on top of the Carriage House. The cupola was hand-crafted by Shell Homes Construction using



photographs of the cupola from the original Carriage House.

From the President

Continued

am very pleased to receive the letters and phone calls, and hear the many comments from our members, that they now feel like they are a part of this organization simply because they have a voice and the right to vote for the officers and directors of their society. Just look at the numbers. We had a higher percentage of our members voting (35%) than most governmental elections have, and we did not have any problems with our Florida votes.

Just to let you know about a little of the old business, thanks to your donations for Annual Giving, the goal has been reached, and we will now order the sign for our location. This winter has been hard on all of us, and especially the mansion; we had several of the old water pipes keep springing leaks in the joints, as well as some new ruptures. The problem was caused by a faulty motor burning out in the old furnace that heats the gift

shoppe area of the building, so we had no heat during the Christmas vacation. Both of these problems have now been repaired.

It is with sadness that I must report the resignation of one of our board members. **Ms. Ruth Wall**, who has been a long-time board member and dedicated volunteer, has stepped down because of health problems. Ms. Wall will remain a member of the society, and will help us when she can. I know that we all send our best wishes and thanks for her many years of service. We are going to miss her.

In closing, I say God bless and thank you all for being a part of our society, and remember that you are measured only in a small part by what you accomplish in life, and in large part by the way you accomplish it.

Feature Article: 'Neath the Fostering Care'

Second of a two-part article about Clinton Valley Center By Bruce J. Annett, Jr.

With Clinton Valley Center's central administration building was seen one of architect Elijah Myers's first uses of a grand ceremonial entrance arch inset into the projecting tower, adding prominence and majesty to the main doors. He is thought to be the first American architect to employ this device¹⁶, and it is frequently repeated in Myers's later works, exemplified especially 10 years later in the three story arch he designed to grace the entrance to the Texas capitol.

Durant's 1877 *History* reported a special rail spur was constructed to help bring building materials and coal for heating and power to the site. The Steam Age was here and the Machine Age was tantalizingly close, but Pontiac's massive hospital would be largely muscled into existence by laborers aided by little more than levers, winches, rollers, and teams of horses, mules, and oxen. The work could be dangerous and daunting. Steamfitter William H. Lang, 27, was crushed when a 3,000 lb. pump careened back down a ramp as it was being tugged into position.¹⁷

Sixty men, employed by Osmun & Gee of Pontiac, worked 12-hour days to use clay on the property to create the 11 million bricks required for the project.¹⁸ General contractors were Coots & Topping of Jackson. James McEwen & Co. of Detroit was low bidder for piping 975 gaslights and 20 stoves for "eatables, flatirons, etc."¹⁹ Steam radiators and warm forced air would heat the hospital. A Boston company installed the system, including two massive 8 by 26-foot steel boilers, clad in walnut and brass and claimed by Durant to be the largest in the country to that time.

Chicago-based plumbers installed 22 bathtubs, 48 marble-topped hand basins, 27 toilets, and 24 sinks.²⁰ These conveniences would be fed by five 10,000-gallon water storage tanks hidden in the attics. The tanks would be

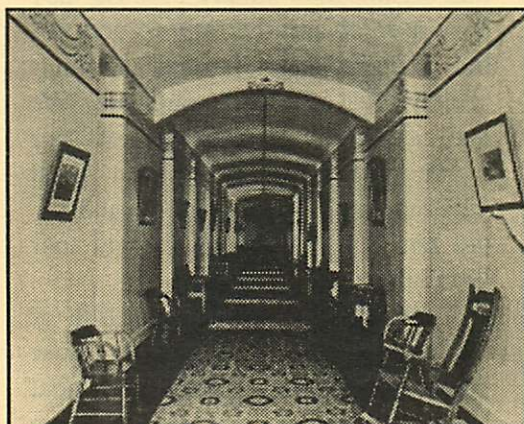


The central administration building stands proud in the 1930s, more than 40 years after being rebuilt following the devastating fire of 1891. Within a few years, the tower and upper floors would be removed and the building relegated to corridor status, connecting the Myers building to new wings added east of the former main entrance.

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trams.

By Oct. 1876, crews had largely finished the brick and stonework and framed the rafters. The slaters and tinnerns braved days of numbing cold to complete the roof before work finally halted for the winter on Jan. 20, 1877. Windows were installed and interior finishing began in the spring.²⁴ By the following winter, 1877-78, enough of the new heating plant was functioning to keep frost from ruining the freshly applied plaster.



Gas fixtures lit corridors in the patient wards, circa 1880. Gently arched ceilings of plaster-coated brick were designed by Myers to both suppress sound between floors and slow the spread of potential fire. Intersecting walls were rounded at corners to help prevent patient injuries. Many of the pictures on the walls were donated by Pontiac-area residents.

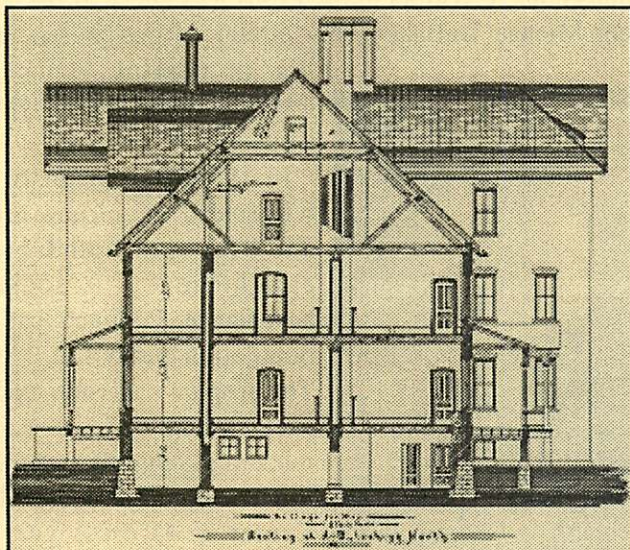
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completely drained through use in an average day.²¹ Soon after opening, the hospital's eight laundry staffers were washing, *line drying*, and ironing 5,000 articles per week. The laundry sinks sported four pipes — hot water, cold water, rainwater, and steam.²²

Myers designed special chutes so floor sweepings and laundry could drop directly to collection bins within a series of service tunnels running throughout the basement of the hospital. (These tunnels ultimately stretched nearly a mile by 1963²³ and connected to the complex's outlying buildings.) Railed trolleys delivered hot carts of food to dumbwaiters and elevators for delivery to the wards, and also transported laundry and supplies before being replaced in 1940 by electric

As construction at the new hospital wound down early in 1878, Pontiac newspaper readers were pondering U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes' withdrawal of federal troops occupying the former Confederacy. Articles reported on the Indian Wars still raging in the west, marveled at the exploits of explorer Henry Stanley in Africa, and predicted "electric light will within a few years be as commonly used in all public places...as gas is now."²⁵ However, the hottest debate in town was about the effect of all the hospital's sewage, which would soon be pouring into Pontiac Creek just upstream of the city's business and residential area.

Responding to a warning in the *Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster* that the state would likely face lawsuits if sewer lines were not extended, a correspondent optimistically reminded readers that “only” diluted liquid would enter the streams. The rest was “too valuable as a fertilizer to allow to run to waste.”²⁶ Pontiac



West Cottage, (later called Burr Cottage,) designed by Charles Anderson in 1887, reflected the goal of housing patients with similar afflictions in smaller, more homelike surroundings instead of the main hospital. Six such cottages would eventually dot the grounds.

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voters ultimately approved a \$2000 bond issue to fund completion.

In May, the commissioners added Hurd to their furnishings committee and hastened their purchases of furniture and supplies. The ward furniture was built by a Detroit supplier, and included ash bedsteads (\$2.75 each), wardrobes, bureaus, and washstands. Over 343 linear feet of ash dining room tables were purchased from a Pontiac supplier while a Northville company built chairs. Woven wire springs were topped with mattresses made of “pure South American horse hair.” Crockery, selected seconds, came from a New York supplier. Tinware, silverware engraved with the name of the asylum, blankets and bedding, towels, tablecloths, napkins, kettles, ovens, washing machines — all went to bid. From the dispensary to the ice house, the barns to the kitchens, the wood and blacksmith shops to the examining rooms — everything had to be in place as the first patients arrived.

Although furnishings and some equipment remained to be moved in, the general contractors concluded their work June 21. The *Bill Poster* observed, “the job is strictly first class, from beginning to end, and the contract finished to the letter.”²⁷

Charles M. Wells, the Board-appointed construction superintendent who had overseen the entire project, praised Myers. “He has succeeded admirably in clothing a ground plan designed with reference to utility only...so as to give an elegant and

imposing external appearance.”²⁸

Pontiac resident Julia A. Jackson was driven to verse by the wonder of it all,

*“We welcome thee – beautiful home of the suffering;
Where the fear’d and frenzied may safely remain;
’Neath the fostering care of the angel, Pity,
To sooth the troubled brow – cool the burning brain.”*²⁹

On Aug. 1, the first patient, a woman from Livingston County, was admitted without fanfare.

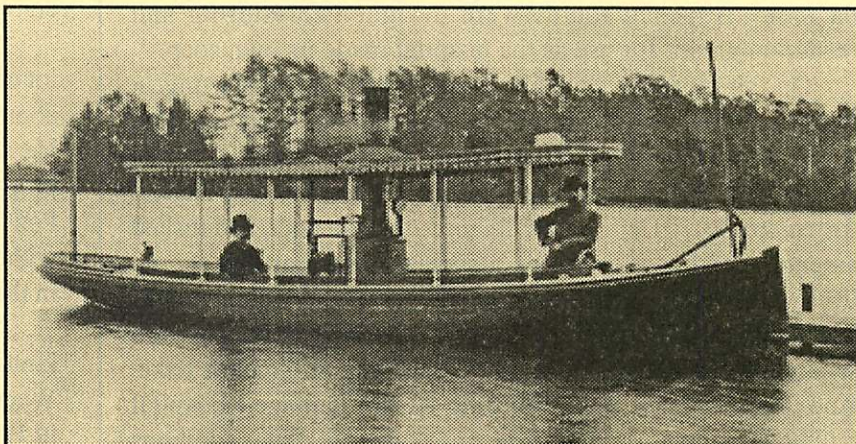
The building commissioners proudly pointed out the hospital came in on budget and, in contrast to numerous large public projects in other states mired in graft, without a hint of scandal.³⁰

“Another point worthy of notice,” they added, “The occupancy of the building has created no disturbance, revealed no serious defects, [and] overthrown no cherished schemes. The Asylum starts at once full grown...”³¹

Designed to house some 330 patients, the hospital was filled beyond capacity almost immediately.³²

Meanwhile, the sewage problem was yet to be solved. In October, a Detroit contractor began to extend the six-inch sewer line over a mile and a half, from the hospital to the Clinton River downstream from the city. (It would not be until 1894 that Pontiac would build a municipal waste treatment plant.) Though the contractor succeeded before the ground froze to lay most of the pipe, his plan to burrow a 300-foot-long tunnel 28 feet below Pontiac’s main thoroughfare, Saginaw St., was soon mired, literally, in quicksand and underground water. Cave-in after cave-in brought progress to a standstill as complaints mounted about sewage-laden Pontiac Creek meandering through the city.

On May 13, 1879, nine months after the hospital opened, contractor John Scott was hired to finish the dangerous underground work. Scott ultimately had to lay the pipe in an elaborately shored and timbered trench cutting 28 feet deep across Saginaw St. The trench also passed directly beneath the



This excursion steamboat for patients plied Watkins Lake in the 1880s and ’90s. A campground was leased on the lake’s shore. Recreation venues for patients also included a substantial log cottage in a grove on the hospital grounds.

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home of Joseph H. Voorheis, "from which he was driven by the fear of having his house thrown down."³³ Doubtless one of Pontiac's earliest victims of "progress," Voorheis received \$350 in damages for destruction of his home.

To solve overcrowding, the hospital's attics were fitted out for patient care on a temporary basis. It would fall on Charles Anderson, who succeeded Wells in 1880 as construction superintendent, to inaugurate and soon, expand Myers's master plan for development. Numerous additions and buildings were added in the years prior to the start of World War I, and then construction began anew again in the 1930s to 1970. Some 50 buildings would eventually dot the grounds, including infirmaries for male and female patients with contagious diseases, "cottages" with special privileges for residents, a greenhouse, and a substantial log cabin built for social events. A steamboat and picnic grounds at nearby Watkins Lake provided additional recreation.

The icehouse was expanded in 1890 to store 1,400 tons of ice, enough to last two summer seasons if a mild winter prevented cutting and gathering ice at nearby Sylvan or Harris Lakes. At about the same time, a new, larger meat processing facility was built, "in the hope of buying all meat on foot." Attached rooms were designed for storing and rendering grease for use as the hospital made its own soap.³⁴

On the morning after Christmas, 1891, a fire starting in the attic of the central administration building, soon engulfed it and adjacent patient wings before being contained by the asylum fire department, assisted by the Pontiac and Detroit fire companies.³⁵ Detroit, in little more than an hour, had rushed an engine and crew north on a special train. Fortunately, no lives were lost, but hospital operations were disrupted for months and temporary housing for patients included Pontiac's high school and the Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake. Anderson oversaw the rebuilding of the damaged hospital buildings to their original exterior appearances. Later additions between 1930-50 obliterated the mirror image symmetry of the Myers design.

At Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition, the hospital received a special award for "evidence of excellent fire protection, detached cottages for each sex, and a training school

for attendants (the latter being the first of its kind in Michigan.)"³⁶

In the early 1950s, the hospital again gained national recognition when social worker Alice Burlingame initiated horticultural therapy for patients and ultimately went on to found the American Horticultural Therapy Association. One of the hospitals notable visitors in the 1960s was famed Texas heart surgeon Michael DeBakey, who introduced area physicians to

his pioneering work on artificial hearts and bypass surgery.

In 1955, just prior to the widespread use of new drugs and treatments and more enlightened societal acceptance, Pontiac's patient population peaked at 3,100. The hospital's mission rapidly evolved from custodial care to modern psychiatric treatment. It was renamed Clinton Valley Center in 1973. A year of celebration commemorated the hospital's centennial in 1978, including dedication of a Michigan Historical Site marker. Paradoxically, it also highlighted the reality that many buildings were being shuttered due to the declining patient load and functional obsolescence. In 1985, four years after the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, a county commissioner called the site "ideal" for a factory for GM's



The Great Fire of Dec. 26, 1891 gutted the central administration building and also damaged many patient rooms. Hundreds of Pontiac citizens helped rescue patients and remove furniture, records, and personal effects before the advancing flames. To aid the relief effort, Pontiac bakeries that night baked 500 loaves of bread and butchers boiled 50 hams. Amazingly, no fatalities or serious injuries resulted from the fire, although hospital operations were disrupted for months and many patients had to be temporarily housed elsewhere, including at Pontiac's high school.

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then-planned Saturn subsidiary, with the hospital buildings converted into administrative offices or torn down.³⁷

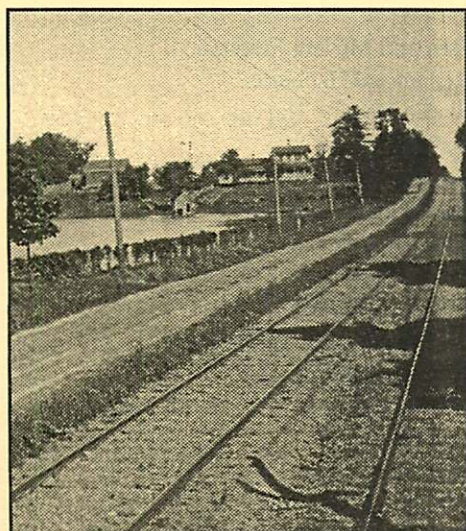
"What value do you place on history? I think you place a lot of value on it," said Owen Winnie, then-Pontiac's planning administrator in 1991, as adaptive reuse was being studied.³⁸ He said the "unique flavor of the old buildings makes the property valuable."

Pontiac's then-Mayor Wallace Holland was considering a "town within a town," with 7,000 to 10,000 people living and working in the buildings, surrounded by nature trails and a golf course.

"I don't think there's another parcel of property with that kind of potential this side of the East Coast," Winnie predicted. When city and county officials unveiled a more formalized plan in 1992, state officials panned the proposal saying, "there were no plans for any closure."³⁹ As state-operated mental health facilities were downsized, however, the hospital's fate appeared sealed. By 1997, with barely 200 patients remaining, Clinton Valley closed.⁴⁰ Three years passed as state, county, and a new

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From Our Collections: The Hadsell Collection (Asa and Albert) *By Leslie S. Edwards*



"Hadsell Pond & Hadsell residence. View toward north."

Asa B. Hadsell was born 31 Jan 1796 in Barkhamsted, Litchfield, Connecticut. The family moved west, settling in Vestal, Broome County, New York. In 1818, Asa set out for Michigan, and in August 1819, arrived in Pontiac, where he took employment with the Pontiac Company, working on the first dam and the saw and grist mills. Asa made his first land purchase 17 Sep 1821 with John Cochran, 160 acres being the southeast quarter of Section 3 in Bloomfield Township. He then traded that property on 17 Oct 1822, for 50 acres in part of the northeast quarter of Section 4 of Bloomfield Township owned by Luther and Polly Sowles.

On 4 Jul 1822, Asa married Elizabeth Todd, and they built a sturdy one-room log cabin on the south end of their land facing east. There, they raised two sons, Charles and Edmund until Elizabeth died 5 Nov 1846. On 18 Nov 1850, Asa married his second wife, Fanny E. Adams. Fanny also bore two children, Albert Gallatin, and a daughter, Addie Byron, and now the log cabin held a family of six. By April 1857, Hadsell was contracting with Johnson Prall, a well-known architect and builder, to build a larger house. In June, Asa purchased on contract seventy thousand bricks at \$5 per thousand for a total sum of \$350.00, and construction of the red brick house soon began.

Asa continued to increase his land holdings, purchasing property all over the county. He owned several parcels in Bloomfield and Pontiac Townships, including a "Store House" on Saginaw street in Pontiac, as well as parcels in Orion, Auburn Hills and even Lambton

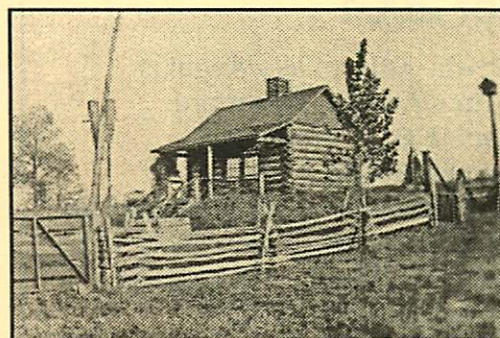
County, Ontario. He also continued to improve his homestead. In 1866, Asa received a "Farm Right" certifying that he purchased the right to "manufacture and use, on his Farm in E. Bloomfield and in no other place or places, the Farm Gate known as the "Harrah National Gate". By 1872, the Hadsell homestead consisted of 34 acres, and grew to include the "brick dwelling and frame barn...with the surrounding yards, orchards, garden", as well as "pasture fields known as the swamp lot and wood pasture".

Asa B. Hadsell died 28 Jun 1879 with an estimated value, both real and personal, of \$25,000. His bequeathed to his son Albert, the farm on Section 3 consisting of 149 acres, where Albert resided at the time. In addition, Albert was to receive all the tools, implements, horses, stock and other personal property which belonged to Asa at the time of his death, subject to the dower right of his "beloved widow", Fanny E. Hadsell. His son, Edmund, who resided in California was to receive \$1,000 and his grandson, Charles E. Hadsell \$500, with the remainder of his estate, both real and personal to his wife Fanny, whom he named executrix.



The Hadsell house with the "Harrah National Gate"

After Asa's death, Fanny resided in the Hadsell home until her death 3 Apr 1897. After her death, Albert and his family moved back to the homestead, making improvements, and in 1898, the "swamp lot" or bog, was cleared of dirt, and an artificial lake called Hadsell Pond was created. Albert eventually sold the acreage in Section 3, and by 1916, it had become the South Bloomfield Highlands Subdivision. When Albert died in 1917, a "Statement of Property" valued the 38 acre homestead at Bloomfield at \$15,000.



"Hadsell log cabin on south side of Hadsell pond. Artificial lake. Was a bog - took out loads of black dirt 1898."

The Hadsell house, was first built along the Saginaw Trail, which eventually became Woodward Avenue. Woodward began as a narrow 18-foot road with an interurban rail track running along the east side. By 1916, it had been paved all the way from Detroit to Pontiac, and in 1923, a measure was adopted to widen Woodward Avenue to make it the first "super highway". This would include creating four lanes, with provision for the interurban rail between two strips of concrete, measuring a total width of 204 feet. "When the widening of Woodward Avenue began many farms were being tilled along its distance between Pontiac and Birmingham and between Birmingham and Royal Oak. Today scarcely a farm remains along the entire 13 miles." The effect of Wider Woodward on the Hadsell farm as the loss of a large portion of land fronting Woodward, resulting in the removal of the fence and changing the entrance to the home.

The Hadsell house still stands today, just south of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, with the red brick painted white and a newer home where the barn used to stand. The intricate cornice brackets can still be seen underneath the roof, but the large Victorian porch and detailed front entrance is long gone. It is not known when the log cabin was destroyed, although a 1906 news clipping featured a photograph of the interior, and a 1916 atlas shows a building located on the south side of the pond. After Albert's death in 1917, the homestead was eventually sold off and subdivided. Today, the home sits on a hill overlooking the Hadsell Pond which remains as a silent reminder of the once rustic farm the Hadsell family called home for over 75 years.

Board of Directors for 2001

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Doris Smith, Pontiac
Richard Stamps, Rochester
Michael Willis, Pontiac
Ellen Zehnder, Clarkston
Michael Zehnder, Clarkston

*Pontiac Evening Press, Tuesday
March 10, 1896*

"If any person has knowledge of
 the present whereabouts of any of
 the records of the Oakland County
 Pioneer Society, information
 would be thankfully received by
 Ezra Jewell, the present secretary.
 It is within the possibilities that the
 late Mr. Walter loaned the book or
 books of record to some one who
 desired to secure certain data, who
 forgot to return the same."

Honor Roll of Donors 2000

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We have tried to acknowledge all those who
 have made financial contributions to the
 Society in the past year. We apologize in
 advance for any omissions. Please call us at
 (248) 338-6732 with any corrections. There
 are many more donors who have contrib-
 uted artifacts for our collections, or items to
 be used at our Ice Cream Social and
 Victorian Christmas Open House. We
 greatly appreciate *every* one of the
 donations we have received in the past year.
 Your support is invaluable.

Eastern Michigan Asylum *continued*

group of Pontiac officials wrangled about whether the site's redevelopment value was higher with or without the buildings.

Citing rising maintenance and security costs, the state allocated \$5 million to raze the hospital. Demolition began in Jan. 2000. "Some concern has been voiced regarding the historical significance of these buildings. However, it is the type of architecture that is cited as 'historical,' not the actual buildings," said Janet Phipps, director of Michigan's Department of Management and Budget, defending the action.⁴¹ By July, most of the buildings were rubble.

Myers died in Detroit in 1909. His obituary in the *Detroit News* noted, "An architect's best monument is the work that he leaves behind. Its artistic treatment and its enduring quality should show forth the manner of the man to future generations."

His 122-year-old hospital succumbed not to flaws in "artistic treatment" or "enduring quality," but to community indifference and political infighting.

Myers's grand gift from the Gilded Age — the economic engine of 19th Century Pontiac — wouldn't be saved to contribute to the city's 21st Century future.

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.

21 Hitchcock and Seale, pg. 280.

22 Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, Feb. 20, 1878.

23 Pontiac Weekly Gazette, Mar. 12, 1875 and Aug. 4, 1876. OCPHS Collection.

24 Samuel W. Durant, editor, 1817-1877 History of Oakland County, Michi-

gan. L.H. Everts & Co., Philadelphia, 1877, pg. 32.

25 Ibid, pg. 32.

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

27 "Mental Disease: The Discipline, Modes of Restraint, and Duties of Attendants at the Pontiac Asylum," Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, Jan. 8, 1879.

28 Gary Thorne, "Hospital Served by Tunnels," Pontiac Daily Press, Aug. 14, 1963.

29 W.M. McConnell, M.E. Crofoot, et.al., Report of the Board of Commissioners of the Eastern Michigan Asylum for the Years 1877-78, W.S. George & Co., State Printers and Binders, Lansing, 1878, pg. 3.

30 "The Light of the Future," Pontiac Gazette, July 12, 1878.

31 Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, April 24, 1878.

32 Ibid, June 28, 1878.

33 Ibid, pg. 28.

34 Pontiac Weekly Bill Poster, Dec. 11, 1878.

35 W.M. McConnell, et.al., pg. 17.

36 Ibid, pg. 19.

37 Hurd

38 W.M. McConnell et.al., "Final Report of the Board of Commissioners of the Eastern Michigan Asylum for the Insane at Pontiac, Michigan from Set. 30, 1879 to Dec. 31, 1879." W.S. George & Co., State Printers and Binders, Lansing, 1880, pgs 5-6.

39 W.G. Vinton et.al., "Report of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Michigan Asylum at Pontiac for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1892." Robert Smith & Co., State Printers and Binders, 1892, pg. 24.

40 C.B. Burr, "Eastern Michigan Asylum," The International, Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1892. OCPHS Collection.

41 Clinton Valley Center, Capsule History, 1878-1978.

42 "From an 'Insane Asylum' to Auto Plant?," Royal Oak Daily Tribune, Jan. 26, 1985.

43 Steve Spaulding, "Battle Begins to Preserve History: Future of CVC Buildings at Stake," Oakland Press, May 26, 1991, pg. E1.

44 Phil Ginotti, "CVC Development Slammed," The Oakland Press, Mar. 28, 1992.

45 Ibid, May 18, 1997.

46 Janet E. Phipps, "Pontiac Had Chance to Redevelop CVC," Letter to the Editor, The Oakland Press, Feb. 2, 2000, pg. K2.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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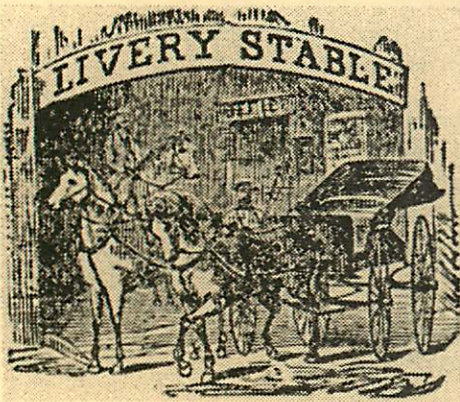
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405 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, Michigan 48342
(248) 338-6732

- ☐ Individual Member \$20.00
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- ☐ Senior Member (62 & over) \$15.00
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- ☐ Organization (Non-Profit) \$50.00
- ☐ Corporate Member/Sponsor \$150.00

Memberships, except life,
are for one year.



Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 17	Board Meeting	9:30am
Wednesday, March 21	Board Meeting	9:30am
Saturday, April 21	Board Meeting	9:30am
Wednesday, May 16	Board Meeting	9:30am
Saturday, June 16	Board Meeting	9:30am
Wednesday, July 18	Board Meeting	9:30am
Saturday, July 28	Ice Cream Social	1-5pm
Sunday, July 29	Ice Cream Social (Rain Date)	

NOTE: For convenience, all Board Meetings will now be held at 9:30am.

Historic Community News

The *Ortonville Community Historical Society* has received \$2500 through the Ortonville Chamber of Commerce, a Community Development Block Grant and a private donation to be used for renovation of their museum.

The *Milford Historic Society* is trying to raise \$500,000 to restore the old Ford Powerhouse, an Art Deco hydroelectric plant designed by architect Albert Kahn in 1939.

In Madison Heights, the *Kendall School Foundation* has been formed to raise funds to restore the Kendall One-Room Schoolhouse, built in 1914.



405 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342
(248) 338-6732
(248) 338-6731 Fax

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