## **OAKLAND**



# GAZETTE

Governor Moses Wisner Mansion (ca. 1845)

Vol. 34, No. 2

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Spring 2001

# Pioneer Profile: Horatio and David Wright of Groveland Township by Leslie S. Edwards

David Austin Wright was born 16 Jun 1813 in Granville, Washington County, New York, the eldest son of Derrick J. and Rodina (Austin) Wright. The Wrights had six children, and son Horatio was the third child, born 20 Feb 1818. In November 1824, the family relocated to Vernon, Oneida County, and in 1832 to Monroe County. There, David "worked at his trade of wagon making for 2 or more years" 1, and, in 1834, married Mary D. Campbell. Mary gave birth to two daughters, Susan and Sarah, but died, leaving David with two infants. By 1839, the Wright families had moved farther west to Genessee County.

In 1842, David and his younger brother, Horatio, made a inspection trip to Oakland County, deciding to purchase land in the north part of Springfield Township, close to the Groveland line. After purchasing the property, the brothers returned to New York to gather their families and relocate to a new life in the Michigan wilderness. While back in New York, Horatio married Mary's sister, Sarah M. Campbell, on 19 Nov 1842. In 1843, the entire Wright family set out for Michigan, most of the family traveling by wagon and team through Canada, arriving in Springfield in August 1843.





DAVID A. WRIGHT

MRS. HARRIET E. WRIGHT

Groveland Township was established in 1835 from a part of Pontiac Township, and until 1838, included what is now Holly Township. At that time, Groveland Township was "well-watered," with a post office, a population of 664, and an Indian village in the northwest corner of the township.<sup>2</sup> As early as 1820, the Detroit-Saginaw turnpike had been laid out and served as the main thoroughfare through the southwest corner of the township. Around 1837, a stage-line ran between Pontiac and Flint along this same route.<sup>3</sup>

The Wrights settled in Section 3 of Springfield Township, near the Detroit-Saginaw turnpike. Derrick soon established a good business as a wagonmaker, which continued until his death in 1850. Both David and Horatio had learned their father's trade, and worked for several years as wagonmakers. In 1845, the area commonly known as the "corners" was named Austin and established as a post office, with David Wright as the first postmaster, a job which he held for 25 years. Although never a large town, Austin "was an important part of an integrated, complete, pioneer community." There were twelve houses and families, two wagon shops, two shoemakers, one blacksmith shop, the post office, a tavern, a store, a school and a foundry.

In the spring of 1847, Horatio moved across the township line settling on 80 acres in Section 34 of Groveland Township. He and Sarah went on to have eight children, all of them born in Groveland. David remained in Springfield Township on land in Section 3, eventually accumulating 200 acres, which included parcels in Section 33 and 34 of Groveland Township. According to family tradition, both Wright brothers were Continued on page 6

### Letter From the President

Well - here we are - spring has finally arrived, and we are starting out the New Year just as we finished the last year. The numbers of patrons using our facility are already on the increase, and if this keeps up we will have another record year. This year we have been able to add some new documents to our collection that reflect local history. This has come about because of our outreach program, which has been very well accepted. Several local historical societies and others have begun donating these documents or copies of them for our collection and we thank them very much for this donation. The anticipated growth has surpassed my original goals and time tables, and makes me very proud of our excellent volunteers and staff who have made it all possible.

Now about our new addition to the site. While we had to risk the wrath of local government who gave us some problems about the installation we now have our new sign in place and it is just beautiful. I would like to thank all of the members and

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### Society News and Views

National Volunteer Week was April 22-28, 2001. To the Society's core group of volunteers, we thank you! We could not succeed without you. A volunteer gives time and expertise without expecting monetary compensation. For those of you who have yet to volunteer, give voice to your heart and bring your sense of humor, along with your enthusiastic spirit, and join us in fulfilling our goals. What you'll get back will be immeasurable!

#### Outreach

Our outreach program is growing! In April, our President, Michael Willis, spoke to the Pontiac Branch of the Michigan Farm and Garden Foundation. Our Director, Leslie Edwards, has been to all corners of the county including: Holly, Groveland, Farmington, Highland and Rochester representing our Society and sharing the history of our wonderful research facility. In April, she spoke on a panel at the Local History Conference in Detroit, and in May, Leslie will be presenting a photograph workshop with Holly Teasdle, Archivist at the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives in Bloomfield Hills.

Upcoming outreach programs include member Rodger Zeller, who will be taking part in Springfield Plains Elementary School's Workshop: Celebrating Detroit 300. Also in May, Charles Martinez and Gaylor Forman will be speaking at Mount Clemens Public Library on "Dead Reckoning". On June 2nd, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm Pauline Harrison will be serving Victorian Tea at Feasts of History. The event is part of the Detroit 300 and will be held at the First Congregational Church of Detroit. For more information call (248) 652-3002.

### Research Library

The library has received several large collections in the past few months. We would like to thank former President, Betty Adams, for her manuscript materials relating to the Society and the history of Oakland County. Charlotte Maybee graciously contributed over 100 years of family diaries from the Maybee and Cramer families in

Independence Township. In addition, the Van Hoosen Museum, in cooperation with the Rochester-Avon Historical Society, has offered OCPHS a large collection of issues of Rochester newspapers from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These will be accessioned and made available sometime in the summer. A special thanks goes to the Groveland Township staff, supervised by Robert DePalma, for their generous donation of early record books for Groveland Township in memory of Bill Brondige, long-term Treasurer and Trustee.

Please help to welcome our two student interns, Birgit Meyer and Jamie Karl, from Oakland University. Both are hard at work cataloging our holdings on the computer, and have worked with the House Committee to ready the house for tours. In the coming months, they will be learning additional aspects of operating OCPHS, such as exhibit interpretation and design, guiding, and planning social events. In addition, Wayne State University graduate students, Mark Gnaster and Andrea Spano, completed processing collections this past month, and new library volunteers Beverly Lancaster and Karen Krugman, have been busy indexing library materials for easier access.

#### Membership

Under the guidance of membership chair Pat Fisher, OCPHS is preparing to launch a membership drive starting in May, 2001. We hope that all members will support this effort by telling family and friends of the work that the Society does to preserve the history of Oakland County for present and future generations. You could suggest that they might enjoy being part of our society. Remember also, a gift membership could be the perfect present for that "hard to buy for" person! It is important that we continue to grow as we move into the 21st Century. This can only be done with the help and support of our members.

#### **Publications**

"Dead Reckoning" is Alive and Well! As a work in progress, the preparation of "Dead Reckoning: A Compendium of Oakland County Cemeteries" is on schedule. Only a few burial grounds remain to be surveyed this spring, according to Charles Martinez and Gaylor Forman, coauthors of the future book. The work will treat each cemetery in terms of location, size, age, ease of access, topography, and legibility of older markers. A section of the book will be devoted to the development of cemetery styles in the U.S., and the scientific advancements in the allied funeral trade that affect the way we treat and view death. Publication is anticipated next year.

Bruce Annett's "Neath the Fostering Care," will be printed later this year. The book, about what was most recently known as the Clinton Valley Center in Pontiac, goes into detail about the construction of the facility designed by architect, Elijah Myers.

#### Events

It is time to begin work on our Annual Ice Cream Social to be held Saturday, July 28th. Yes, after our experience with Mother Nature last summer, we have moved the date to a Saturday so that Sunday can be used as a rain date (if necessary - keep your fingers crossed!) Please start thinking how you can help to make our event even more successful than in previous years! Contact Leslie at the office at 248-338-6732 with your suggestions.

#### House

We would like to thank Marguerite Johnson and the House Committee for the tremendous job they have done in the last six months cleaning and reorganizing. The mansion nearly sparkles with clean drapes, windows and woodwork! Research has been done to obtain accurate information on many of the artifacts that are displayed. The committee has worked at a feverish pace and needs your help to maintain and preserve the Wisner mansion for future generations to enjoy. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested, please contact the office!

### From Our Collections

Postcard, 1907 Addressed to Miss Fay Maybee, Ann Arbor

"Dear Cousin.

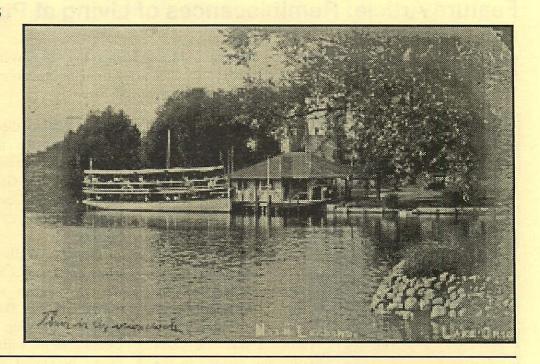
I am going to school every day.

George has got a girl now.

I hope I will see you next

summer. Papa is going to race his
horse today. he has beat every horse
so far. we are all well. we have got
hooping cough in town now.

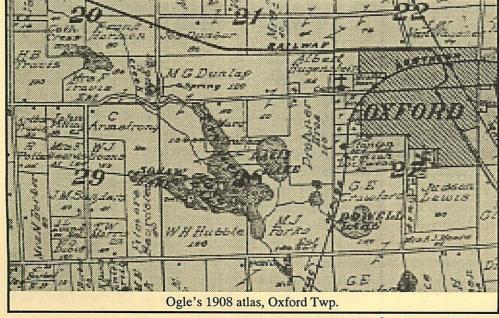
Send more postal cards I am
trying to get a lot. From Ada."





This is a photograph of William Patterson Hubble wearing a buffalo coat. The photograph was taken in 1922 at the Hubble Farm, which was located on the south end of Long Lake (see map below) in Oxford Township. William was the son of William Henry and Eliza Jane (Patterson) Hubble.

The coat and two photographs were donated to the Society in 1971 by Mrs. Charles Kath, from the estate of Hortense Hubble. The coat is currently on display in the office of the Wisner Mansion.



### Welcome New Members

Amy Annett - Waterford Kimberly Bell - Birmingham Lori Brown - Lake Orion Carole Donaldson - Traverse City Connie Donnellon - Clarkston Rosemary Gallardo - Pontiac Gary Gingras - Roseville Joy Glover - Mt. Clemens Tanya Hanf - Toledo, OH James Hopkins - Commerce Randy Keys - Warren Irvin Rabideau - Waterford Cory Randall - Bloomfield Hills Richard Selvala - Cross Village Ronald Shepard - Rochester Samuel Skousen - Warren Hartland Smith - Birmingham Thomas Stowell - Ortonville Sally Terwilliager - Waterford Sara Van Portfliet - Lake Orion Donald Youmans - Waterford

### Welcome Back

Louie Lawton - Orchard Lake
Bessie Weatherston - Orchard Lake

### Feature Article: Reminiscences of Living at Pine Grove

By Vernon W. Kath

Although there is much history recorded concerning Moses Wisner, the 12<sup>th</sup> Governor of Michigan (1859-1861), and his subsequent involvement in the Civil War, there is also much to tell from his procurement of the Pine Grove property in 1844. This all, of course, would overshadow any comments I may make here.



When Florence Wallace, great-granddaughter of Moses Wisner, placed an ad in the Pontiac Daily Press in the year 1921 for a caretaker for the Wisner estate and grounds, my father Charles Kath answered the ad and got the job. My family and I moved to the home when I was two years old, and resided in the west annex, a two-story building where the present Gift Shoppe is

now located. Having grown up from that early year, and through my adolescent teen years, until the year 1940 when I married, the home was a very dear part of my growing up life. My only brother, who was born in the downstairs front room which was a bedroom (now the "office"), stayed on at the home for a few years after his World War II navy service in the South Pacific. My mother and father stayed on until around 1948, when my father retired from General Motors and bought a small farm where my parents then moved to in Cross Village, Michigan.

When Dad answered the caretaker ad, he was working at the old Oakland Motor Car plant on Oakland Avenue, and then was transferred to the then new plant complex in 1927 to build the introduced Pontiac car. Dad continued to work at the factory along with his responsibilities of maintaining the home and grounds, as Florence Wallace gave him "full reins" to take charge of the entire estate as if it were his own. Our relationship with Florence Wallace was very strong and we were all an integral part of her life and she to ours. She was just like a mother to me. She had only one child, David Clark Wallace, who was known as "Clark" to us. He was quite a bit older than me and was a dear friend. Florence's husband, Edward B. Wallace, was a grocer - a business which his father started on Woodward Avenue close to the Detroit River. Edward and a brother, along with the father, operated the business which catered to mostly affluent Grosse Pointe clientele. Later, the store moved to a location on Cadieux Avenue in Grosse Pointe. The majority of the business was delivery with a fleet of trucks. In my late teens, I drove one of the delivery trucks during school week-ends.

1 See Oakland Gazette, Summer 2000 for an article on the Oakland Motor Car Company.

Edward Wallace died in 1944, about the time negotiations were under way to sell Pine Grove to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

Florence Wallace's father, Alpheus W. Clark, was a financier with offices in the David Whitney building in Detroit. In his suite of rooms, he would often stay nights, but he was always home on weekends. He was a brilliant businessman who had a



in a very nice stucco-sided building to the south (or left side) of the barn. Although it is now called the Carriage House, it was always referred to as the barn. Incidently, I never got used to the building being painted red after the restoration from the fire, as for all the years from coming to live there from the beginning, it was always painted green. Mr. Clark spent much of his week-end time in his woodshop. Occasionally, he would make toys for me and was very meticulous in his work. Alpheus Clark died in the downstairs front bedroom of the Wisner home in 1931.

I have so many fond memories of my growing up in the Wisner home, it would take much more time to tell. In relating a few, I remember the lawn mowing, when, in those days, it was accomplished with the old push type reel hand mowers. We had two Shetland ponies that Dad bought that he had shipped down by railroad freight from Mackinac Island. After a summer's use, a wealthy family that had the ponies for their children, had them for sale, including saddles, harnesses and a two-wheeled riding cart with seating on both sides which you entered from the rear. The estate acreage provided my brother and me a lot of room to ride around in the pony cart (which was usually full of neighbor kids), and then also to saddle up the ponies and ride around the property. In regard to the grass mowing, Dad rigged up three of the hand reel mowers in a fashion so that they overlapped some, fitting them together to have the ponies pull the mowers, resulting in a wide swath of mowing. This made the mowing faster, although it was a hard pull for the ponies, however, there was always the trimming with the push mowers to do. Of course, those were the days before power mowers became popular!

Dad was a very versatile person that could do most anything as a machinist, electrician, plumber, carpenter, etc. Of course, only being two years old, my recollection of the moving in was somewhat vague, however, I do remember Dad wiring some old gas light fixtures for electric lights, as electric lighting was quite limited at first in our home quarters.

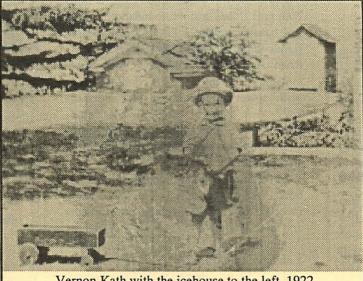
The front yard of the home contained many very large pine trees that Moses Wisner had planted from seedlings. In fact, there were so many trees that

part of the view from the house to the street was partially obscured. Over the years as these trees died, they were sawed up for firewood, and often times I was on the end of a two-man saw, which was very hard work. I have no recollection, of course, of the conservatory that extended along the south side of the house as this apparently was removed many years ago. The conservatory had served as a hobby for Moses Wisner in raising flowers and plants.

As I view the property today, there is a feature I miss which was the white board fence that stretched along the front of the property on Oakland Avenue. When the street was widened (I can't remember what year), several feet of the frontage property was lost, and during this time the fence

had to be removed, but it never was replaced. One of my jobs was to cut the grass under the fence with a hand sickle, a chore which I never really relished. The grove that is now cleared out was a densely wooded area with a lot of underbrush, although there was a roadway trail that Dad cut through on the south side of the property for a part of the pony cart run. I remember my mother strapping on a coffee can around her waist and picking

wild raspberries and blackberries in that area. There was a long chicken coop building just to the west side of the root cellar where Dad had chickens. In later years, Florence Wallace had a large chicken coop constructed just to the south side of Mr. Clark's shop.<sup>2</sup> There, she raised chickens mainly for commercial use, but Dad did most of the tending, along with myself and Florence's son, Clark. I remember playing in the upper barn loft (or Carriage House), where there was Civil War memorabilia of Governor Wisner - the saddle, bridle and harness equipment and such. I would sit on a saddle and pretend that I was riding off to war.



Vernon Kath with the icehouse to the left, 1922

There were two water well hand pumps on the property. One of the wells is still visible just to the west of the summer kitchen. The other was at the northeast corner of the Carriage House, which has long been covered up. I hope that in the future, a very important structure of the property can be restored, and that is the old ice house which stood just to the left of the existing smokehouse. This is surely a vital part of the whole estate complex.

I recall hearing that when the Wisner school was constructed

in 1911, the workmen first got water from the well next to the summer kitchen. For practically all the years I lived in the home, the estate's north property line extended to a line only several feet from the school building. After Florence Wallace donated this portion for school property, the north fence was brought back to where it now exists. When this property was part of the estate, there was a thick row of trees (mostly cedar) extending from the northeast corner of the summer kitchen to the north property line. From this tree barrier to the east to Oakland Avenue was an orchard that the Governor had planted. The trees, such as apple, pear, etc. were, of course, very old and from the very few that were left, never bore fruit due to their age. For a time, Mrs. Wallace

leased this orchard area, which was cleared out for a miniature golf course which were becoming popular at the time. To the west of this row of trees, Dad had a very large vegetable garden. He used the ponies to cultivate the garden, and much of the produce filled the old root cellar in the fall of the year.

and much of the produce filled the old root cellar in the fall of the year.

I used to spend a lot of time going up and sitting in the then kitchen off the dining room conversing with Mrs. Wallace.

Root cellar with the hen house in the background.

As I mentioned, she was almost like another mother to me. After the property was sold, I and my family visited her often when she moved to an old farmhouse on Lochhaven Road. Florence Wallace, who was born in 1884, died in 1974 at the age of ninety. She was certainly a wonderful part of my life and family, and fond memories of her will last forever.

Vernon W. Kath resides with his wife, June, in Clarkston. He was born in Pontiac in 1919, the son of German Lutheran parents. Vernon left Pine Grove when he married his wife in 1940, and was employed for forty years in the Finance Department of Pontiac Motor Division.

3 Editor's Note: even though the fence was moved, the northern property line remains only a few yards away from the Wisner school.

#### **Pioneer Profile**

Continued

profitable and prior to the Civil War, built brick homes and "hauled stone lintels, door sills and entrance platforms from Detroit". They "set up and burned two kilns of brick; the latter at the northwest corner of present M-10 and Oakhill Rd." David married his second wife, Harriet E. Gross, in 1853. Harriet was born in April 1830 in Enfield, Massachusetts; her family had relocated to Oakland County when she was just a year old, settling in Section 10 of Springfield Township. David and Harriet had five more children, and lived on the homestead on the Saginaw turnpike until their deaths in 1877 and 1893 respectively.

David Wright also built and operated the first foundry northwest of Bloomfield Township, where he manufactured stoves, kettles, and castings for plows. In addition the brothers also made cabinets, furniture and coffins, and acted as undertakers for the community. In 1865, Horatio writes in his diary that he "went to Pontiac with David for coffin trimmings for Mr. James Patterson coffin."7 Eventually, the Wright wagon shop was in a three story building, with the Masonic Lodge located on the third floor. As manufacturing of wagons and implements decreased, the basement and lower floor of the building was converted into a "cider mill, jelly and jam factory, the latter products having a boiled cider base."8

In February 1869, Horatio began plans for building a new frame house, and in May, "Andrew Hill commenced laying the cellar." Many entries in Horatio's diary of 1869 note work on the new house, including one in April where "we built a shanty on the E end of my house to use this [lumber] after moving addition." By September, Horatio commenced plastering the house, and at the end of October, moved the stove into the new house.

The house was wood frame construction with pine floors, a stone foundation, and a full basement with a dirt floor, and still stands today on what is known as Oakhill Road. A grain barn and wood shed were built in 1870, and a "10ft Nichols Wind Mill," tower and tank house were added in 1877 at a cost of \$243.00.10 A large gambrel-style barn with stone foundation and wood floors was built in 1881, and still stands today.11

Groveland Township records show that both Wright brothers were also very involved in early Groveland government and civic affairs. David was postmaster at Austin for nearly 25 years. In 1849, he was a member of the House of Representatives and in 1852, was elected to the State Senate as a representative of the Fifth District. He also served as School Director for Fractional District No. 10 for several years, and, at the time of his death was "Coroner of Oakland having been elected in 1876." 13

Early on, Horatio was on the "Committee to Select Library Books" for the township, and served as both a petit and grand juror. He served for several years as a highway commissioner, as Township Supervisor from 1853-1858 and 1876-1877, and spent twenty-four years as Justice of the Peace. Although he had no academic schooling in law, Horatio was also a lawyer, known locally as "Squire Wright". He "presided diligently and efficiently at the court in the Tavern at the Corners where he effected judgements and dispensed justice." 14

Both brothers remained active in the life of their community until their deaths. With their wives and children, the Wrights demonstrated pioneer fortitude, forging a life by clearing and tilling the land, raising crops for food and sale, and enduring the hardships of pioneer life. Successful as farmers and wagon makers, David and Horatio were active politicians responsible for helping to establish the early laws of Groveland Township, and particularly

Austin Corners. In the late 1880s, Horatio suffered from bouts of painful rheumatism, but continued writing daily in his diaries until just before his death on 27 Jan 1891. His wife, Sarah, died 12 Oct 1908. Many members of the Wright family are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Clarkston.



Residence of Horatio Wright, Esq. Groveland Twp.

- 1. Obituary, Diary of Horatio Wright, 19 Jan 1877
- 2. 1838 Michigan State Gazeteer.
- 3. Durant's History of Oakland County 1817-1877, p.180.
- 4. Michigan Place Names, 1856 Michigan State Gazeteer. Austin was named after the middle name of David Wright, who was influential in establishing the post office there. It was also the maiden name of David and Horatio's mother, Rodina (Austin) Wright.
- 5. Harold L. Wright, "A Former Austin Corner' Boy Remembers Austin and Holly!" (unpublished), p. 5.
- 6. Ibid, p.
- 7. Diary of Horatio Wright, 4 Jun 1865.
- 8. Ibid, p. 6.
- 9. Diary of Horatio Wright, 1869. See also: Michigan Rural Property Inventory (Groveland Township), WPA Project, 1938. (This ledger is located at the Groveland Township Hall).
- 10. Receipt, Diary of Horatio Wright, 1877.
- 11. David Wright also built a frame house prior to 1877. It is a large, two story "mansion" which sits atop a hill in Springfield Township where the Dixie Highway meets Holly Road. It is now a restaurant called the "Old House Inn," and many of the original elements of the house are still visible, including an 1846 pump organ which was played for funerals. When the brothers eventually tore down their brick houses, the brick was used to build the 1878 Austin Corners School located on Oakhill Road. 12. Obituary, Bill Poster, 6 Feb 1877. Note: this obituary was taken from one written by Horatio Wright in his diary, 19 Jan 1877.
- 13. Obituary, Diary of Horatio Wright.
- 14. Harold L. Wright, p. 5.

#### **Board of Directors**

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Jo Pate
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### **Volunteer Want Ads**

Please call the office if you can help!

#### OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED

to help with mailings, correspondence, and filing. Computer skills (word processing) a plus. Two to four hours a week.

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE

is looking for volunteers to help take inventory, create exhibits, clean the silver, polish furniture, clean and repair linens, or ready the Wisner Mansion for tours and events. One or two half days per month.

#### RESEARCH LIBRARY

needs volunteers to help assist researchers and work on library projects. One four to six hour shift per week required. Wed-Sat.

#### **GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

would like more volunteers who are willing to tend to the gardens by weeding, watering and planting. Tender-loving care required. Any number of hours you want to contribute would be appreciated.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

Volunteers are needed who love to plan and organize events. Good PR skills a must! We are looking for help with the Annual Ice Cream Social, July 28th.

#### **GUIDE OPPORTUNITIES**

- 1) Want to win a million dollar\$?
- 2) Want to be an "Outback Survivor"?
- 3) Want to promote history?
- 4) Want to feel good?

Well, I don't know about #1 and 2 but we, the volunteers of Pine Grove's Guide Committee, can help you with #3 and 4. HOW? Join us. We will show you how much fun you can have. Use your OCPHS knowledge to impart a latent love of stories from the past (History) to the coming generation! Call Dave Hackett, Guide Chairperson at (248) 852-1111 or e-mail treetown@webtv.com. Make it happen!

#### WISNER'S PINE TREE

#### HOW HE HAPPENED TO PLANT IT AMONGST THE GENTEEL APPLES AND PEARS

Those familiar with the property of the late Governor Wisner have noticed a large evergreen tree growing in the orchard. In conversation with Judge A.C. Baldwin yesterday a Press representative learned how this single evergreen happened to be setout in such genteel company among the cherries, apples and peaches which surround it. It appears that one day Judge Baldwin and Governor Wisner were walking through this orchard when the judge's eye fell upon a small evergreen, which had lately been set out there.

"What in the world have you set that evergreen out with such company?" asked the judge.

"Oh," said Wisner, "you see fifty years from now that tree will be a large one and when people go through this orchard they will ask: 'What d---- fool set that tree in this orchard? The answer will come back, 'Why, Moses Wisner,' and that will be monument enough for any man."

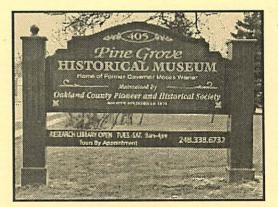
Thanks to Jim Lehtola for the above submission from The Post, May 9, 1901.

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Did you know that you can take tax deductions for mileage and supplies used while volunteering? Check with your tax preparer for details.

### From the President

Continued



contributors who answered my call and made this possible. Every contribution was important since the final cost for the project was almost \$7000.00. A very special thank you to our friends Ed and Gretchen Adler for a major contribution in memory of Paul Felice who was also a very good friend of this society.

We are now in the process of

putting things together for the ice cream social for this year, and we have some great entertainment planned, also presentations from other local historical societies, and much more. Remember it will be held on the last Saturday in July so be sure not to miss it. Once again I leave you with this final thought. It is wonderful what we can do when we work together as a team with a little direction, determination, and a little tender loving care. You should all be proud of yourselves.

-7----

### **Historic Community News**

The Ellis Barn in Springfield Township has been saved! In February, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to have the barn relocated to Springfield Oaks. The Ellis Barn is one of the earliest known gambrel style barns built in this country.

In Orion Township, Prospect School (one of the two surviving country school houses in the township) has also found a new home. With the help of the *Orion Historical Society*, the school will be moved to Canterbury Village where it will be restored and made available to the public.

Waterford Historical Society is building a turn-of-the century historic village, and hopes to break ground this spring. The first building will be Jacober's Store, which was originally built in 1854.

### Calendar of Events

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

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

#### Plundering of the Gov. Wisner Mansion.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. M. W. Bloomburg, having heard that Mrs. Gov. Wisner desired to rent her place on Saginaw Avenue, near Judge Baldwin's and supposing she was at home went there to see her. He went to the front door and found it ajar, and no one responded to the bell, he steped in to the hall, and was surprised at finding a trunk open and the contents scattered about the floor. Suspecting all was not right he went for Mr. Campbell, who has done the chores about the place, told him the condition of things. and together they went back to the house and a further examination confirmed his saspicions. The burglars had broken open the back door, to gain enterance, and finding the doors to the other rooms fastened had taken a piece of scantling and broken panels out of them, and thus gained access to the front and main portions of the house. The house had been ransacked from garret to cellar, every press, closet and trunk broken open and the contents had the appearance of having been assorted, what was valuable taken and the balance left in confusion. At this writing Mrs. Wisner had not come to town, and it is impossible to ascertain what, or amount of plunder was carried away. Later-Mrs. Gov. Wisner has returned, and although she finds the house and contents topsy turvy, has not as yet missed anything.

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