



Pioneer Profile: Lorena "Grandma" Beebe of Oakland Township

by Leslie S. Edwards

In 1922, "Grandma's Creed for the Secret of Longevity" was published in the local news.¹

"Get up early in the morning
Always keep busy
Be optimistic no matter what happens
Eat red apples."

Lovingly known throughout the county as "Grandma", Lorena (Knowles) Beebe of Oakland Township lived to be nearly 108 years old. Born May 25, 1815 in Riga, Monroe County, New York, Lorena was one of eight children of Freeman and Aletha Knowles. According to Lorena, she started school at six years of age, but since she had "weak eyes", she did not stay in school long. However, she did learn to spin and "sold the first tow she spun to a storekeeper for wrapping twine. When she was 10 years of age she spun enough tow to weave a straw-tick."² Lorena also remembered that the first pair of shoes she received was when she about four years old. Her mother had sewn them out of red felt lined with green, and the soles were put on by a cobbler. Prior to that, Lorena had always worn moccasins.

In 1836, Lorena married Uriah Beebe, and in June 1845, they traveled to Michigan, first by ox teams to Buffalo, by steamer to Detroit, then driving the rest of the way to Oakland County. By 1857, Uriah Beebe owned 320 acres in sections 8 and 9 of Oakland Township, while Lorena's father, Freeman Knowles, had 167 acres in Section 18 of Oakland Township. Jointly, Uriah Beebe and Freeman Knowles purchased 40 acres in Sec 3 of Oxford Twp. The log house in which the Beebes lived was made of slabs, and plastered within. In 1917, Lorena



Lorena (Knowles) Beebe, age 98 1/2 years, Orion, MI
Source: Oakland County Pioneer Society Photo Album

remembered that the house had no flooring, there was a "chimney" of sorts made of sticks, and a fireplace with andirons, crane and hook on which they hung their kettles to cook food. "They climbed a ladder to go upstairs, and their lights were tallow candles."³ The only neighbors were Indians, except for the bears, deer and other wild creatures who were daily visitors at the farm. Grandma

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Society News & Views

Ice Cream Social

The Society's annual Ice Cream Social was held on Saturday, July 28th. Fortunately, we had a break in the hot weather, and the day was perfect with temperatures in the low 80s. Even though there was another event at the stadium, we had a good turnout of nearly 300 people, and the parking lot was full all day,



Refreshment Tent

secured by **Bruce Annett** with help from **Brian Webster**. Thanks also to Bruce for his donation of four new "Museum Only Parking" signs for our events. Pre-event publicity included information on our web page, sending out press releases, and placing flyers in many of the local libraries - thanks to all of you who

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Society News & Views

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helped spread the word. A special thanks to **Ross Callaway** for the excellent article he wrote for the *Oakland Press* about our event. In addition, several of the local historical societies mentioned the social in their membership newsletters, an article appeared in the *Spinal Column*, and short mention appeared in the *Detroit News and Free Press*. If you have seen news of the Society in any publications, please be sure to let us know or send us a copy!

Visitors enjoyed music by the Franklin Village Band and the very popular Ban-Joes of Michigan. Thanks to the donations of many of you, the cake table was full of delicious cakes. A huge thanks goes to **Jan and Kimberly Bell** for taking charge of the refreshment table and cleaning up afterwards! Helpers included **Margaret Ann Jackson, Opal Clark, and Marion Kimball**, and **Gale Scafe and Guy Duffield** as the ice cream scoopers. **Jim Bowie and Mike Zehnder**, along with members of the **Willis family**, took care of the hot dog stand.

The schoolhouse was nearly full for the presentation of "Dead Reckoning" by **Charlie Martinez and Gaylor Forman**. The Great Lakes Lace Group made their first appearance at our event, and put on a wonderful demonstration on the art of lace making. Several anachronists were on hand to demonstrate pioneer home arts, such as spinning, weaving, and rope-making. And, several of the local historical societies set up display tables illustrating what they are about and what they have to offer.

Thanks also to **Connie Scafe, Pauline Harrison, Sylvia Adams, Ann Irwin and Loma Tippin** for preparing and manning the White Elephant Tent. The Gift Shoppe was manned by **LaVon Delisle and Barbara Irwin**, and the Used Books Sale by **Pat Fisher, Jo Pate and Fran Wilson**. Several of our tour guides assisted Guide Chair, **Dave Hackett**, with tours of the mansion, including **Miriam Foxman, Vivian Eddy, Lauren Tossey, Rodger Zeller,**

John Riley and new guide **David Tenny**. **Marguerite Johnson** was also on hand to assist in answering questions about the house and the exhibits.

Three new exhibits were prepared for the Ice Cream Social. The Wisner mansion featured an exhibit upstairs titled "*Lace: the Elegant Web*" featuring samples of lace and lace making (to compliment the demonstration by the



Cheryl Cheger-Timm of Bay City demonstrating bobbin (or pillow) lace making.

Great Lakes Lace Group). The third exhibit, "*Book Larnin': Nineteenth Century Education in Michigan*" was put up in the schoolhouse. "*Dressed to Kill: Accoutrements of War*" featured downstairs in the house, is a display of our military artifacts ranging from pre-Civil War to World War I. Even though a similar exhibit was displayed in 1997, additional research has given us new



Vivian Eddy in the dining room.

information on some of the artifacts on display from our collection. All three exhibits took a tremendous amount of research and work to put together, both in locating the artifacts, researching the material for the text, and preparing the labels, text panels and brochures (not to mention designing the exhibit!) Thanks to Oakland University interns **Jamie Karl and Birgit Meyer**, Wayne State students **Teresa Ehinger and Ann Rock**, House Committee Chair, **Marguerite Johnson**, and Administrative Director, **Leslie Edwards**, for their many hours of work on these excellent exhibits. All three exhibits will be on display through December 2001.

Comments on the social:

"My compliments to you and your intern students on the job you did organizing the Ice Cream Social. The military display in the Wisner house was particularly well done."

"The Social was outstanding. People leaving the gate told us it was the best one yet."

Outreach

Member **Rodger Zeller** reports: On May 8 of this year, I was able to represent our historical society at the Springfield Plains Elementary School's annual Festival Day. This year their theme was *Celebrate Detroit* in honor of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Detroit. There were about thirty different workshops, presentations, and demonstrations on all aspects of the history of Detroit. Our workshop was titled "Detroit Grows". It was presented to one group of first and second graders, and two groups of third, fourth, and fifth graders. The students learned how the early pioneers used the old Indian trails to make their way from Detroit to Oakland County. These trails later became the backbone of many of our main highways. We then explored what pioneer life was like in early Oakland County using examples from their community of Clarkston. I was very impressed with the overall quality of the Festival Day program. It was well organized and quite

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From Our Collections

Serendipity or "What Happens When You Catalog Artifacts at OCPHS"

By Leslie S. Edwards

Collections management may seem boring to some, even tedious or tiresome, but to me, it is the most exciting part of museum and archival work. Just imagine discovering a priceless artifact or a document representing an immigrant's first steps onto American soil! After all these years, it may not seem like the collections of our Society can reveal such exciting discoveries, yet the processes of inventory, cataloging and interpretative exhibit design are doing just that. What follows is a brief example of how the combination of curiosity, tenacity and serendipity can reveal the extraordinary treasures hidden amongst our midst.

This is the account of an old, worn journal found tucked away in a box. When it was dusted off and brought out to be cataloged, the story of the once-forgotten settler who cherished it slowly came to light. One of the first tasks in cataloging archival and museum materials is to determine provenance. Who was the owner of the journal? When did he or she write it? What relationship did he or she have with Oakland County? And, finally, how did the journal end up as part of the collection of the Society?

My first step was to try to determine who wrote the journal, who donated it and if the two individuals were related. Usually, when a museum or archives maintains detailed record-keeping procedures, the accession record¹ or donor file will give the relationship between the donor and the author. Unfortunately, the accession record for the journal did not provide this information. By examining the journal, I discovered that it belonged to someone named Abram Dodge and began in 1834. Great - that should be easy - check our library materials on early settlers and find Abram Dodge. However, this was not as easy as I imagined - Abram did not appear in any cemetery, obituary, census, marriage or probate records, and was not located on any of the plat maps or atlases in our collection.

Returning to the journal for clues, I found a page listing what appeared to be Abram's family members. Maybe one of them would be listed in our records? Sure enough, after some searching, I located a Franklin Dodge (Abram's son) on the 1845 census in Commerce Township, and also in Commerce cemetery records. By piecing together Franklin's family, I discovered that Franklin's daughter, Harriet Dodge, married Andrew Wallace Bogie of White Lake in 1849. But what about Abram? How did he get to Oakland County and when, and why couldn't I find him in any records?

Once again, another clue was found in the journal, among several pages that appeared to be Abram's travel itinerary. Even in the 1830s, Abram frequently moved from place to place, and kept returning to somewhere named "Marcellus." A search of the Internet revealed that Marcellus is in Niagara County, New York. I went to the GenWeb page for New York to see if I could locate any mention of Abram, and on a message



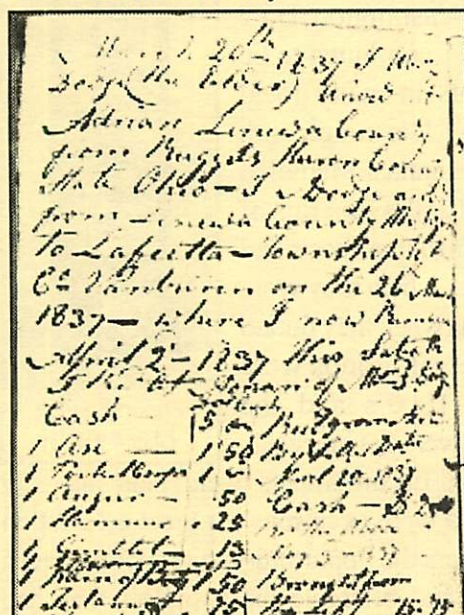
Andrew Wallace and Harriet (Dodge) Bogie
(Acc# 1987.006)

board there found that, low and behold, someone else was searching for the Dodge family! Excitedly, I sent a quick email, and received an even quicker reply, and the connection was made. Cynthia Rush, of Columbus, Ohio, is the proud owner of a diary of Calista Dodge, a granddaughter of Abram. Hardly able to contain our excitement and enthusiasm over this "chance encounter", Cynthia and I were able to piece together the story of the Dodge family and how Abram's journal likely came to rest in Oakland County, and ultimately, in the Society's possession.

Indeed, as it turns out, not only does the Society have Abram's journal in its collection, but also that of his grandson-in-law, Andrew Bogie, and one from Andrew's son, George Bogie. Even better, after further sleuthing, I discovered that the Society also has a double ambrotype of Harriet Dodge and Andrew Wallace Bogie! Thus, the "tedious" task of cataloging a seemingly unimportant journal of a seemingly unknown individual led to the discovery of a collection of artifacts on the Abram Dodge family, with ties in Ohio and New York.

What was this coincidence that brought Abram Dodge together again with his granddaughter Calista? Was it simply the innate curiosity of two researchers or could it be serendipity that enabled me to find Cynthia, compare notes and uncover part of the life of man named Abram Dodge?

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Abram Dodge Journal, (Acc# 804)

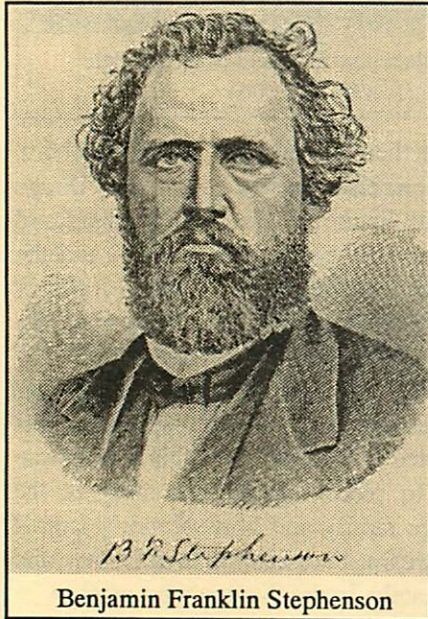
1"Accession" is a term referring to the legal transfer of ownership between a donor and an institution. Museum standards dictate that each collection of artifacts brought into the museum/archives be given an "accession number" for identification purposes. The donor file usually contains a set of documents that

includes the deed of gift, any correspondence between the donor and the institution, and details about the provenance or ownership of the materials that have been donated.

Feature Article: The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), Part One

By Leslie S. Edwards

"The parting of the [Civil War] veterans at their places of final discharge from the service inspired the desire that the friendships formed should be maintained through life..."¹ At the close of the war, there was shared sentiment among the veterans that they were special - comrades who had fought side by side and saved the Union - and, as such, were owed a debt that could never be repaid. They believed that future veterans, no matter how difficult their struggle, or how worthy their cause, could never equal their patriotic contribution.



With these thoughts in mind, in April 1866, the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was organized at Decatur, Illinois by Major Benjamin Franklin Stephenson as a patriotic association for Civil War veterans who had honorably served in the Union Army. The objectives of the G.A.R. were threefold: fraternity among Union veterans; charity for needy veterans, widows, and

orphans of veterans; and loyalty to the United States and its Constitution. The G.A.R. helped to provide veterans with a political voice, a social bond, and an opportunity to inculcate patriotism in future generations.

Unlike contemporary veterans groups, the criteria for admission was never widened after later conflicts. Membership in the national organization was defined by military service to the Union during the Civil War. There was one woman member of the G.A.R., Sarah Emma Edmonds, who had masqueraded as a man to serve in the Army, then returned to service later as a nurse. The G.A.R. was a national organization with state departments, districts at the county level, and local "posts". Veterans applied for membership through the local posts which voted on the admission of new members. Organization of the G.A.R. was patterned along the lines of branches of the military, with Commanders, Senior and Junior Vice-Commanders, Chaplains, Medical Directors, and Quartermasters, among others.

The first G.A.R. post was organized in April 1866. By July 1866, when a state convention was held in order to form the Department of Illinois, there were already 39 chartered posts. The first National Convention of the G.A.R. was held Oct 31st, in Indianapolis. The Michigan Department was first organized

at Detroit on Oct 1st, 1867, with Brevet Brigadier-General William Humphrey (of the 2nd Michigan Infantry) as the Provisional Commander. It was reorganized as a permanent Department at Grand Rapids in January 1879 with a total number of 397 posts and over 9,000 membership.

The purpose of the G.A.R. was to strengthen fellowship among its members and veterans in general, to honor those who died in the Civil War, and to care for the widows and children of Civil War veterans. Much of the work of the G.A.R. was directed at securing relief for indigent veterans and convincing Congress to grant them pensions. The G.A.R. also convinced both the federal and state governments to open Soldiers' Homes for care for the aged and infirm - many of these homes later became V.A. Hospitals. Even though the G.A.R. membership was often reminded that politics were not to be a part of the organization, politics was a major issue throughout its history, and in Michigan, the G.A.R. was a powerful political force.

During the active years of the G.A.R., the organization had a great influence on law, politics, and social areas throughout the country. In 1868, Major General John A. Logan, longtime Congressman and Commander in Chief of the G.A.R., called for a public holiday on May 30 called Decoration Day. He instructed G.A.R. posts to lead the public in decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. On 11 May 1870, an order established "Memorial Day" to be observed by members of the G.A.R., and was adopted as part of the rules and regulations at the National Encampment held in Washington, D.C. Members of the G.A.R. continued to be prominent participants in many local events throughout the late nineteenth century, particularly the annual Memorial Day celebrations and at the funerals of members. The members of most posts had elaborate funeral badges which they wore on the somber occasions when they buried their comrades. Fraternal groups were popular in the late 1800's and the practices of the G.A.R. were not unusual.

State and National Encampments were held annually around the country, and were occasions for great celebration giving the former soldiers the opportunity to reminisce, feel a sense of camaraderie, and celebrate the sacrifices they had made during the war. The National Encampments were held in different cities each year, and badges were made for the delegates. The first badge given to delegates was made in 1883 for the Denver National Encampment. Badges were made by the host city, with the approval of the National Commander.



The design of each badge reflects the host city and state, portraying prominent buildings, founding fathers, and other items of local interest. In addition to the State and National Encampments, the G.A.R. would periodically organize local or regional "campfire" meetings. In Michigan, these often coincided with the reunions of various regiments.

By the 1920s, as the old veterans diminished in number, the G.A.R. was unable to make more than a token appearance in Memorial Day parades, and the veterans of World War I assumed responsibility for the Memorial Day ceremonies. Local G.A.R. reunions drew only a handful of veterans, and the organization was finally dissolved in 1956, with the death of its last surviving member, Albert H. Woolston.

Soldiers and Sailors' Association



Another veterans association that was formed in 1866 was the Soldiers and Sailors' Association. In August, supporters of President Andrew Johnson (primarily democrat) met in Philadelphia to form a veterans group that included both Union and Confederate veterans. During the 1870s, when the G.A.R. was at its lowest ebb, the Soldiers and Sailors' Association was very popular in Michigan. In 1872, a lengthy notice was placed in the Pontiac newspapers advertising the National Convention to be held in Pittsburgh for those soldiers and sailors who "support the Grant and Wilson ticket." Arrangements were made with the various railroad and steamboat lines for tickets to be priced at half fare for those wishing to attend - \$10 for a round-trip ticket from Detroit to Pittsburgh.

Many counties or regional areas formed local branches of the Soldiers and Sailors' Association. In 1879, the Soldiers and Sailors' Association of Macomb and St. Clair held their first annual reunion. In August 1883, the Soldiers and Sailors' Association of Southwestern Michigan "passed a resolution urging Congress to establish" a state Soldiers and Sailors' Home.² The association then took the resolution to the annual G.A.R. encampment, where a committee was formed to introduce the bill to Congress. Much to the disappointment of the veterans, the bill was not passed and the committee then presented the bill to the Michigan legislature. In June 1885, Governor Alger, a Civil War veteran himself, signed into law Act 152, thereby establishing the Michigan Soldiers' home. The citizens of Grand Rapids then purchased 132

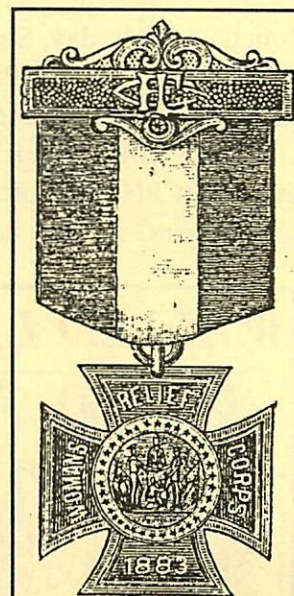
acres for \$16,500 which they presented to the state for the site of the home. The building was dedicated December 30, 1886 and was opened to "inmates" January 1, 1887.

During the late 1880s, the G.A.R. and the Soldiers and Sailors' Association began to merge. The local branches of the Association were invited to attend the annual encampments of the G.A.R., and in 1889, the two organizations worked together to have a successful G.A.R. National Encampment in Pontiac. The *Pontiac Gazette* stated that the President and Secretary of the Northeastern Soldiers and Sailors' Veterans Association (which represented sixteen counties) were in Pontiac to meet with the officers of the Oakland County Soldiers and Sailors' Association.³ Although initially there were political differences separating the G.A.R. and the Soldiers and Sailors' Association, there began to be a common goal among all veterans of the Civil War to work towards recognition, appreciation and the rights of veterans. Sometime after the turn of the century, groups such as the Soldiers and Sailors' Association died out, leaving the Grand Army of the Republic to carry out the patriotic tradition of the veterans.

Woman's Relief Corps

The Woman's Relief Corps was organized on July 25 and 26, 1883 in Denver, Colorado and voted the official auxiliary to the G.A.R. in 1883, and is still active in many areas of the country today. It is the only patriotic organization in existence founded solely on the basis of "loyal womanhood", without regard to lineage. The first Relief Corps was formed in Portland, Maine in 1869 as an auxiliary to the Bosworth Post of the G.A.R. In April 1879, the first state organization known as the "Woman's Relief Corps" was organized at Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It wasn't until 1881 that a National Encampment recognized and approved the work of the Woman's Corps, when the Corps was allowed to add "Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic" to their title.

The Corps was organized in a similar fashion to the G.A.R. There was a national organization known as the National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps, a state-level organization known as a "Department", and the local posts. According to the *Rules and Regulations* published in 1886, there were three basic objectives of the Relief Corps. The primary objective was to aid and assist the G.A.R. and "perpetuate the memory



Woman's Relief Corps
Badge, Rules and
Regulations, 1886
(Acc# 926)

Grand Army of the Republic

of their heroic dead". Second, to assist Union veterans and extend "needful aid" to widows and orphans. This included helping to find homes and employment. The third goal was to teach patriotism and love of country to children and in local communities. This included patriotic education, distribution of flags, rolling bandages, charitable work, and promotion of the work of the G.A.R.

Membership was open to all women of good moral character who had never given aid to the "enemies" of the Union. Application for membership had to be submitted in writing and presented at a regular meeting. It then had to be recommended by two members of the Corps who could vouch for the eligibility of the applicant. Finally, a committee of three investigated the application and then either recommended election or rejection at a meeting. Once a member was elected, she had to be initiated within 90 days of the notice of acceptance. An admission fee of not less than \$1 was required, for which the member received a copy of the *Rules and Regulations*. A membership badge was also required for an additional fee. Corps meetings were held at least once a month, and eight members were required for a quorum in order to conduct business.

Still in existence today, the National Woman's Relief Corps was incorporated by Act of the 87th Congress, September 7, 1962. Springfield, Illinois is the home of their permanent National Headquarters and a Museum that was erected as a living memorial to the G.A.R. The National Woman's Relief Corps continues to perpetuate the memory of the

Grand Army of the Republic, endeavoring to teach patriotism and duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and love and honor of the American flag.

1. *History of the Grand Army of the Republic*, p 11.
2. *Fulfilling a Sacred Trust*, p. 44.
3. *Pontiac Gazette*, July 19, 1889, p 1, col 8.

Part Two will feature the formation and activities of the local posts in Oakland County.

*Where'er he goes, they cheer him,
They salute him near and far,
For he wears the magic button
Of the honored G. A. R.*

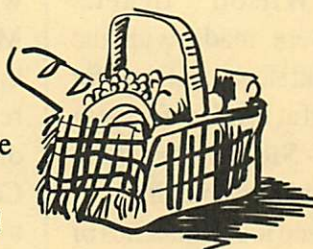
Postcard, 1911 (Acc# 1968.003)

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- Van Til, Reinder. "Fulfilling a Sacred Trust: The Michigan Veterans' Facility" in *Michigan History*, Vol. 70, No. 3, p. 44-48.
- Ward, William H. (ed) *Record of Members of the Grand Army of the Republic*. (1886) San Francisco: H.S. Crocker & Co.

Society Picnic

Join us on Saturday, September 29th from 12-3pm for the Society's Potluck Picnic. It will be held on the grounds, and all members are encouraged to attend and bring family and friends. There is no charge for the event. OCPHS will provide a barbecue, hot dogs and hamburgers. All you need to do is bring a dish to pass!



WALLED LAKE AMUSEMENT PARK
Open every day and evening
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RIDES
SWIMMING
ROLLER SKATING**
ALL PICNIC FACILITIES
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The Charme, June 1933 (Acc# 775)

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Pioneer Profile

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relates how "the Indians frightened her by always gazing in the window instead of knocking at the door",⁴ and her children were afraid when the "red man" built fires on the stumps of trees that had been cut down.

The Beebes had six children: Charles, Sarah, Aletha, Julia, Betsey and Cora (who died in infancy). After the death of Uriah (May 7, 1863, at age 53), Lorena lived in Lapeer for six years, before returning to live in Oakland Township. By the early 1900s, Lorena had moved to Orion, where she spent her last 16 years living in the home of her daughter, Aletha (Beebe) Shoemaker.

By the time she was 98 years old, Grandma could not see clearly and could not thread a needle, but was still able to piece together two quilts, and obviously, ride a horse. She had a habit of always wearing her white apron when guests were coming, and still walked to her neighbors' houses to chat. Lorena still had a clear memory and the strength to care for her room and to do small household tasks, which included removing the dust from under her stove. She was very interested in current events, styles of dress, and kept up with war news and activities.

On May 8, 1915, Grandma Beebe reached "The Hundredth Milestone". In honor of her 100th birthday, the Village of Orion proclaimed a civic holiday, and the Village council named six committees to plan the arrangements. On May 26th, all businesses were suspended, a big assembly was held and all social, fraternal and religious organizations were asked to partake in the event. The village was decorated and a program and dinner held at the M.E. church was attended by 500 people. Red roses were worn by most of the men as a "mark of honor", and Grandma was presented with a beautiful rocker as a gift of the town. Afterwards, Grandma received a ride on the lake in the boat "City of Orion", which had been recently rebuilt and christened the day before. The newspaper noted how it was quite a distinction to become an centenarian, and few people can reach



Farm owned (1953 - 1865) by Freeman Knowles in Oakland Township at 2525 Orion Road. Lorena's brother, Jesse, owned the farm until 1893.
Photo courtesy of the Oakland Township Historical Society.

achieve that "span of life" while retaining their physical and mental capabilities. "But there are still fewer who, having reached that point in life's journey, are further marked out by having the entire community in which they live declare a civic holiday, close the stores, hire bands, decorate the town and "whoop it up" in general, just because of the event."⁵

Even though by 1919, Grandma Beebe began to show signs of her advanced age, using a trumpet to aid in her hearing, she was still able to celebrate her birthday in style. At age 104, she was driven to the old family farm where she took a drink from the "old well whose waters had quenched her thirst long before those her accompanied her were born."⁶ In 1920, although she suffered a fractured hip from a fall, by the time of her 105th birthday in May, Lorena had recuperated and was ready for guests, appearing as always in her white apron. At age 105, she was the oldest living woman in Michigan. In 1922, Lorena registered for war service during the campaign of the woman's committee of the Council of National Defense. For her 107th birthday celebration, she rose early, made her bed as usual and made ready for her guests. Even though she was quite deaf and had failing eyesight, she recognized everyone she had known.

Lorena (Knowles) Beebe died 16 days before her 108th birthday on May 14,

1923. She had only been ill three days, and until her last breath, was mentally and physically alert. The funeral service was from the Shoemaker home, with Rev. F.R. Walker of Orion officiating. Lorena was buried next to her husband, and near her parents, in Paint Creek Cemetery in Oakland Township.

1 OCPHS Scrapbook No. 5, p.180.

2 Ibid, p. 145.

3 Ibid.

4 OCPHS Scrapbook: Historical Clippings No. 1, 1892-1930, p. 95.

5 OCPHS Scrapbook No. 4: 1893-1919, p. 118.

6 Historical Clippings No. 1, p. 144.

The young ladies of Pontiac who have organized a foot ball team wish to inform the public, who have interested themselves so in the matter, that the sole intention of their organizing was not to play or practice in public, not to play any other team whatever, not to adopt freakish costumes, or to create a sensation, and decidedly not to make their playground a scene of rough and pugilistic encounters; but for the exercise and recreation only. Any further interference or criticism will be considered an unwarranted impertinence.

*Pontiac Daily Gazette, p.1, col.1,
Monday, October 14, 1895*

Society News & Views

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thorough. I believe that the student's lives were enriched by these experiences and that they gained some insights into the history of their community and their county. Hopefully I talked to some of our future Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society members.

Pat Fisher, Janice Bell and Kimberly Bell attended Waterford Historical Society's *Log Cabin Days* on June 25th on behalf of the Society. They set up an informational table representing OCPHS, and included a small spinning wheel display. We have received many positive comments about our presence at this event.

On August 11th, Administrative Director **Leslie Edwards** spoke at "Them Was the Days: a Michigan Military Academy Symposium" held on the grounds of St. Mary's Preparatory in Orchard Lake. The symposium was a day-long event featuring speakers, a display of archival material and artifacts of the MMA, and a presentation of what it was like to be at the Academy in the late 1800s. The Society received a complimentary copy of "*Them Was the Days!*", a new publication written by Brian Bohnett of Holt, MI.

In November, **Charles Martinez** and **Gaylor Forman** will present "Dead Reckoning" at the Detroit Public Library for the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research. Also in November, **Leslie Edwards** will be speaking on a panel at the Michigan Library Association conference in Lansing.

Library

Thanks in part to a generous donation by new member and library volunteer, **Karen Krugman**, we now have a newer and faster computer. This gives us three computers, two of which can be used for cataloging, and the third for word processing and spreadsheets.

The following is from a worksheet left by one of the students from Roberts Elementary in Shelby Township and is a comparison between the Drayton Plains One-Room Schoolhouse and Roberts Elementary School.

<i>Roberts Elementary</i>	<i>One Room School</i>
several rooms	one room
600 kids	less kids
just pull map down	maps need to be pulled up
computers	none
paper	chalkboards
drinking fountain	water pump
bathroom	out house & tree

Special Projects

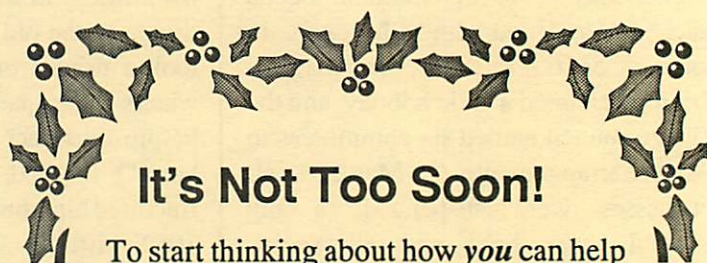
Microfilming Project. We have finally been able to arrange to have three of our oldest Society scrapbooks microfilmed. This was a collaboration with the **Oakland County Genealogical Society** who is funding the filming with monies from the *Ruth Kennedy Microfilm Fund*. Each society will receive two copies

of the microfilm - one for preservation and one for researchers to use. OCGS will use their copy to transcribe some of the names found in the obituaries and clippings. OCPHS will be able to retire the original scrapbooks to the manuscript storage area, while researchers will be able to freely access the microfilmed record, thus preserving our 125 year old originals. A huge thank you to OCGS for making this project possible!

Frame Survey. **Teresa Ehinger**, an art history student at Wayne State University, received an undergraduate research grant to survey the Society's collection of historic picture frames. Working with administrative director, **Leslie Edwards**, Teresa developed a survey form that corresponds with the Society's cataloging software. Using reference materials and accession records, she has begun to determine frame styles and time periods, as well as condition and maintenance notes for many of the frames in our collection. In addition, Teresa is taking photographs of each picture frame with the Society's digital camera, and each frame is then cataloged by intern, **Jamie Karl**.

Editor's Notes: The father of Vernon Kath was Walter, not Charles, as cited in the previous issue. Walter J. Kath of Pontiac married Carrie M.. Cetus of Cross Village.

You will notice a change to the header of the newsletter. We now have an ISSN number, registered with the Library of Congress. "The ISSN is a unique, internationally used identification number for serial publications." It is used in libraries for identifying titles, and for accurate citation of serials by scholars and researchers.



It's Not Too Soon!

To start thinking about how *you* can help with the Victorian Christmas Open House.

Come help decorate the mansion in true Victorian style on Friday, November 30th. Help serve cider and cookies, or be a guide the day of the event. Contact the office for more information, (248) 338-6732.



From Our Collections

Continued from page 3

Post Script from Columbus, Ohio By Cynthia Rush

When Leslie contacted me with her "find" we both were quite swept away, especially after she understood my story. I "inherited" a number of artifacts of unknown origin from my mother-in-law (still living) after she closed up her house. They were not in a neat, tidy pile all together - they were mixed in with heirlooms from her own family. Slowly I began to notice that these items did not relate to her family but did relate to each other. They included a full-sized woven coverlet with the date 1853 and people's names on it, a diary dated 1871, some old photographs, tintypes and daguerreotypes similar to the ones we had of her family members, and some other things. The diary tersely described the death of a woman's dream (her total disillusionment in her marriage to a local minister) in 1871. After much genealogical digging, I figured out that the diary-writer - whose

name was Calista - was the daughter-in-law of the coverlet-owner.

My fact-finding adventure took me to upstate New York where I met some descendants of the coverlet-owner and the diary-writer and was able to photograph pictures of Calista, her mother-in-law, and others in her family. It took quite a bit of digging to unravel the (lack of) familial connection between this family and that of my husband. The Dodges are no relation at all to my husband or his relatives, and yet we still own these important family heirlooms because so few descendants seemed interested. When we finally located Dodge relatives, we couldn't decide: to which ones might we give the items? Who should we leave out?

I now have enough material for a small book about this family's amazing history and my genealogical digging. If you would like to read more about Calista Dodge and her family, please visit my website at http://members.aol.com/keepersaga/the_book.htm. I may be contacted at Coffeyrush@aol.com (Please put DODGE in the subject line).



William Rockwell of California, great-nephew of John F. Beaumont of White Lake. William, on a recent visit to the library, is shown holding John's Civil War Model 1851 Union Eagle Sword Belt. (Acc # 605.002) John served in Co. A, Third Michigan Cavalry.

Welcome New Members

Sylvia Adams - Bloomfield Hills
Derek Blount - Royal Oak
Glen Brockenshaw - Clarkston
Frank & Dorie Burn - Auburn Hills
Gene Carleton - Dallas, TX

Brian Golden - Farmington
Blanche Howard - Royal Oak
Karen Krugman - Birmingham
Marilyn Perrin - Lapeer
Karen Prater - Rochester

Maureen Thalmann - Oakland
Pamela & David Walls - Holly
J. Faye Williams - White Lake
Greater Area Pontiac Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society

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

Yes, I'd/We'd like to join OCPHS!

Memberships are for one year.

Name _____
Street _____ Apt. No. _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email _____
☐ Check here if gift membership from _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Parents & Children)	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor	\$500.00

Check desired membership category and enclose this application with check or money order made payable to:

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society

(Send to the above address)

Contributions and bequests to the Society, including memorials, assure the continuing restoration of Society properties and promotion of Oakland County's irreplaceable historical heritage. As charitable donations, such contributions allow the donor to take income tax deductions.

Do you want to become more involved in the decision-making process of your Society?



We are nearing election time, and are looking for persons with vision interested in contributing ideas and creative solutions for the betterment of the Society. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, or running for office, please contact the office at 248-338-6732 for more information.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 19	Board Meeting	9:30 am
Saturday, September 29	Potluck Picnic.....	12 - 3 pm
Saturday, October 20	Board Meeting	9:30 am
Wednesday, November 21	Board Meeting	9:30 am
Saturday, December 8	Victorian Christmas	12 - 4 pm

We will be CLOSED on Thursday and Friday, November 22-23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will be CLOSED December 16-January 1st, 2002 for the holidays.

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

THE "O. K."

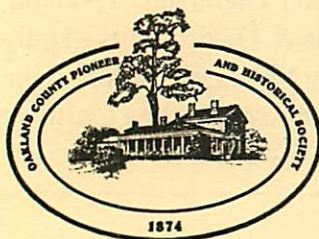


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