

Governor Moses Wisner Mansion (ca. 1845)

The only publication dedicated to the history and heritage of Oakland County

Vol. 37, No. 1

Published by THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
405 CESAR CHAVEZ AVENUE, PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48342

Summer 2004

LIBRARY UP-DATE

The library now has a microfilm/fiche reader-printer. A memorial donation enabled the Society to purchase the reader, and an anonymous donation paid for the stand. We have some microfilm: Pioneer Scrapbooks; some early Pontiac City Directories; St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham, records of baptisms, marriages and funerals. We hope to have the Federal Census returns for Oakland County, and early newspapers. There are many original records from Oakland County that are on film, and they are all on our "Wish List". Each film is about \$40 and donations are welcome.

New books are available for sale at our Library. Charles Martinez has just published *Song of the Heron: Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield*. In the Forward he states: "In this effort I have attempted to define the earliest human presence here, relate the struggle of two colonial empires over the region, and trace succeeding migrations to this land enticed by the bounty of its soil and the beauty of its lakes." The book price is \$25.

Bruce J. Annett, Jr.'s publication *Asylum: Pontiac's Grand Monument from the Gilded Age* is also available. The book focuses primarily on the quest for and construction of the new state hospital in Pontiac. When the state hospital buildings named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, they were acclaimed "most architecturally distinguished High Victorian Gothic structures in Michigan". The price is \$25. Both books are available at our Library, located in the Carriage House.

The librarians are looking for.....

1. pictures of the Huron Theatre
2. pictures of downtown Pontiac before 1950
3. pictures of Oakland County houses, with addresses, before 1980
4. abstracts of Oakland County properties (these are no longer used, but are valuable for the history of a property)
5. Civil War letters to and from Oakland County residents - for a Society publication
6. World War I letters to and from Oakland County residents
7. copies of Pontiac City Directories for the years 1911, 1916, 1917, 1923, 1924
8. "Soldiers and Sailors of the Civil War" Volumes 11 through 21, volume 23
9. Family Histories from Oakland County residents - preferably before 1900
10. monetary donations for purchase of microfilm of Oakland County records (each film is about \$40)

OUR BEAUTIFUL WEDDING

We are so pleased to have hosted a reception for Ingrid Liimatta and Matthew Quigley's wedding on Saturday, June 26. Ingrid and her family have been our neighbors for many years, and, as a child, she used our grounds as her playground. When she asked to have her wedding reception here, we were delighted to help her celebrate in this way. The weather was pleasant, the grounds looked grand, and of course, the bride was beautiful. Almost 250 guests helped Ingrid and Matthew celebrate their marriage and we are privileged to be part of the festivities. Many guests took advantage of the tour of Governor Wisner's Mansion, School House, and Museum in the Carriage House. Guy Duffield drove his yellow 1975 Cheverlot Caprice convertible as the carriage of choice for the bride and groom from their wedding at Meadowbrook to our grounds. What a way to go!



VOLUNTEERS ARE HERE

Goldner and Walsh Nurseries, have generously donated their time and talents to assist with maintenance and up-grading of our grounds. Some gardens have been re-planted and mulched, and some shrubbery replaced. They are preparing a new landscape plan for us that will incorporate the memorial gardens we have and restore our grounds to the appropriate time period. Goldner and Walsh have just celebrated a 50th anniversary, and felt this was an opportunity to give something back to the community. We are so grateful for their interest and help.

Mary Crocker - a dedicated volunteer - has spent a great deal of time working the gardens around the Wisner Home this spring. She has removed truck-loads of weeds, freshened the flowers, and mulched the beds. A very big thank-you to her.

We are grateful for the workers from Oakland County's WAM program for their help in setting up tents and carrying furniture and moving desks. Also, the Boot Camp workers who have also help with spring clean-up.

Other volunteers have been busy also: Gale Scafe keeps the lawns cut and trimmed, and the equipment running; Guy Duffield can repair anything, and has been kept busy this year with plumbing problems, repairs to the House, fixing drawers, and correcting all the little things that go wrong. Sylvia Adams has worked in the gardens and organized the White Elephant Sale, among other things; Judy Hudalla keeps the Gift Shop in order, and helps with computer projects. Our volunteers are a vital part of this organization, and we would be lost without them.

HOW YOU CAN HELP.....

Volunteers are the Heart of Non-Profit Organizations. Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society is no exception. We can use volunteers in many capacities, and here are a few.

Guides: to educate the public on the rich history of the Wisner mansion and the Pine Grove Historical Museum and to conduct guided tours relating to the various historic buildings, furnishings and special collections found at Pine Grove. Guides are essential for our school tours.

Special Events: to provide organization, support and promotion of annual events such as our up-coming 130 Anniversary Event and Victorian Christmas Open House

Oral History: to obtain, record and preserve historical information regarding Oakland County.

The committee interviews, records and transcribes this information from the personal experiences and observations of individuals with a historical connection to Oakland County. Help is vitally needed in this area.

Library: to assist researchers with their investigations, maintain the smooth operation of the library and its collections and work on special library/manuscript projects. We would like to have 2 volunteers in the library each of the 3 days we are open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

This is the 130th year of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, and we are celebrating on Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15, 2004.

We are proud of our Society and know all our members are.

We need your support at this event - and can help us by:

- your attendance
- your volunteer time
- your financial assistance
- bringing your family and friends
- spreading the word about this event

Business and individual sponsors are needed for this event. Sponsors will be recognized at the Celebration and in the next issue of the Gazette. For more information call:



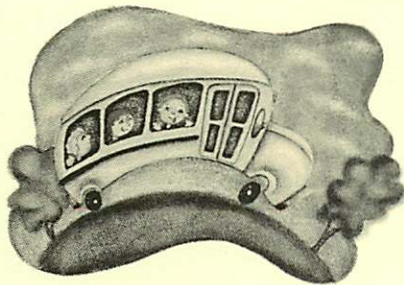
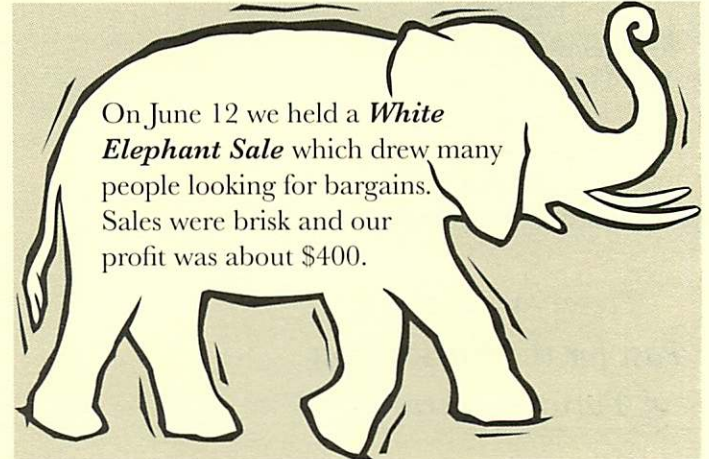
*David Hackett - Kathryn Daggy - Roger Zeller
Miriam Foxman - Constance Scafe*

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society	248-338-6732
Fran Wilson	248-642-8068
Jo Pate	248-645-1087

!!Please let us know how you will help us!!

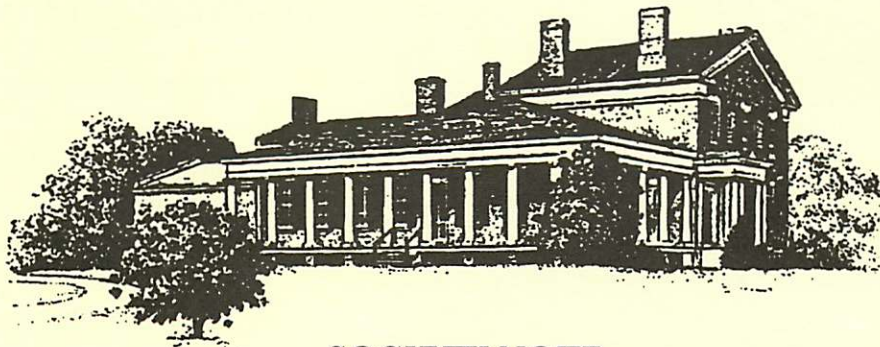
MONEY MAKERS

The Oakland County Genealogical Society had an evening meeting here on Tuesday, June 1. Over 50 members were present for a lesson in the schoolhouse by Miriam Foxman (a fearsome schoolmarm); tours of the Wisner House with guides Kitty Daggy, Dave Hackett, Nancy Duffield, Roger Zeller, Charlie Martinez and Connie Scafe; a walk-through of the museum in the lower level of the carriage house with Roger Zeller and Guy Duffield as guides. The library drew lots of attention and we finally had to ask some guests to leave, as it was time to close. The group donated \$250. to the Society.



School children always enjoy tours through the Wisner Home and lessons in the schoolhouse, and this year almost 340 elementary students visited us. Our second Saturday of the month tours of the Wisner House continue to be popular. New and up-graded items in the gift shop attract buyers, as well.

General Motors has given us two grants totaling \$30,000 to proceed with plans to build additional public accommodations on our grounds. We thank them for their generous support for our proposed project. We are in the process of defining our concept before going any further.



SOCIETY NOTE

These are challenging times for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. We have not had an administrator since August 2003, and the daily operations of our association have been performed by members of the Board of Directors. We also lost one of our librarians, Pam Gosik, who died unexpectedly in March 2004. In spite of these set-backs our Society is still afloat and making progress toward our long-term goals and plans.



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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our Society:

Paula Peck of Clarkston
Gloria Newman Robb of White Lake
Janine L. Saputo of Oakland
Donald M. Schwartz of Rochester Hills
Francis Kopp of Pontiac
Aletha Stepanovic of Warren
Shawna Rodabaugh of Keego Harbor
Dorothy Tyndell of Waterford
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Roeser of Clarkston
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Palermo of Sylvan Lake
Muriel Versagi of Royal Oak
Shirley Allen of Franklin
Charles R. Dewey of Pontiac
Julie Hitchins Gillmore of Clarkston
Honorary membership to Ingrid and Matthew Quigley.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY HOURS

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Please call before coming

WISNER HOUSE TOURS

2nd Saturday of each month

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

GROUPS WELCOME

CALL FOR INFORMATION

248-338-6732