



Governor Moses Wisner Mansion (ca. 1845)

Vol. 37, No. 2

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

Autumn 2004

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT....

Fellow members, we are fast approaching the holidays and the end of another year. This has been a challenging year for our Society. We have had several successful events, and I hope you have been able to participate in them: the wonderful 130th Anniversary, Arts, Beats & Eats, and the Appraisal Fair. The Vice-President, Charles Martinez, received a Merit Award from the Historical Society of Michigan for his history of West Bloomfield, and he is working on another book. If you have not yet purchased his book, you are missing out. We have copies for sale at the Society office.

The Society has been able to secure funds from Oakland County to hire a collection manager whom we hope to hire soon. We are also making progress using the GM grant funds for a new structure that will provide a comfort station, more meeting space, exhibit area and a kitchen. A design for this building is being developed by a local company.

The election committee is now putting together the nominations for the officers and Board members for this next year. If you know of anyone that would like to serve on the Board, or is interested in running for one of the elected offices, please notify Guy Duffield, the committee chair. As you are well aware, we always need new members and, of course, some younger ones, to help keep the Society alive. Board members must be able to donate some working time to promote the activities of the organization.

It is impossible to tell you how much this Society means, not only to me, but to all the Board members. We want all members to feel the same commitment and to offer your help.

May everyone have a safe and happy holiday season.

TIME CAPSULE....

The Greater Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating their 100th Anniversary on Friday, November 19, 2004 at Goldner Walsh Nursery & Greenhouse, 559 Orchard Lake Road, "in Pontiac's Historic District". This organization has been in service for 100 years offering support in helping local businesses grow. In celebrating this milestone, they are collecting memorabilia and sealing it in a time capsule to be housed at the **Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society** and to be opened in 50 years. We urge all members of OCPHS to attend the luncheon, at 11:30 am and support this event. The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Rosemary Gallardo, is also a member of the Board of Directors of OCPHS. Call Mina Beaumont at 248.335.9600 x 13, for further information.

SOCIETY NOTES....

- The Board of Directors will meet Saturday, November 13, 2004 at 9:30 am. The date of the December meeting will be discussed at the November meeting. Please note the changes from the original schedule.
- The annual meeting of the Society will be held January 2005 in the Carriage House at Pine Grove. All members are encouraged to attend. Details will follow.
- Letters will be mailed to all OCPHS members reminding them of the election of officers that takes place in December. If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board of Directors, keep in mind that you must have been a member for at least one full year; be prepared to serve on at least one committee, and be aware that attendance at four Board meetings a year is required.

IN CASE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN....

Memorial contributions may be made to Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Memorial cards will be available at funeral homes if requested, and are available at our office at any time.

TOURS FOR ADULTS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN....

Letters will soon go out to elementary school teachers inviting classes to visit Wisner House and the one-room Drayton Plains Schoolhouse. Although we don't have tours during the winter months, it is not too early to arrange for spring groups.

We also invite adult groups to tour our facilities. Genealogical and historical associations, service and social organizations, senior groups and church societies - all would find a day at Pine Grove a new and interesting program venue. The fee is \$5.00 per adult. Call our office for further information and to arrange a tour after April 1. We already have 2 tours scheduled for the spring!

LIBRARY UPDATE.....

Our library is not fully staffed during the winter, so we suggest that you call before coming in to research. You can always write or e-mail your research request.

We need volunteers to help organize and up-date our notebook collection. We are almost hopelessly behind in clipping, copying, and filing articles in the township binders. We have many maps that need to be sorted and indexed. Our librarian is usually in on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, so if you can spare a couple of hours, we will give you a 'township' to organize, or a box of maps to sort. On Wednesday mornings LeVon DeLisle works on membership and obituary files, and Diane Walker does proof-reading and filing. We also need someone who likes to index (on a computer).

Most of all, we desperately need some people with library experience to assist with research. Our ideal is 8 researchers so our library can be open 4 days a week with 2 people each day. This would also allow for back-up people when there is illness or vacation-time.

Everyone's life is an interesting story, and our Oral History program is designed to record these stories. We have a list of people with an historical connection to Oakland County whom we think should be interviewed. We need a committee to interview, record, and transcribe these personal experiences and observations.

MORE AWARDS....

Charles H. Martinez has been honored with an Award of Merit from The Historical Society of Michigan for his *Song of the Heron - Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield*. He accepted the award in St. Joseph, Michigan on October 16, 2004. Charlie is a long-time and devoted member of OCPHS and is currently Vice-President of the Society. He has worked tirelessly for the preservation of Oakland County artifacts and history.

The following is a news release from Lawrence Technological University:

A book by Bruce J. Annett, Jr., Executive Director of Marketing and Public Affairs at Lawrence Technological University and a director of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society has received the American Association for State and Local History's (AASLH) highest honor recognizing achievement in preserving and interpreting local history. His book, *Asylum: Pontiac's Grand Monument from the Gilded Age* was recognized September 30 during the AASLH's 2004 annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph W. Gallardo, passed away October 24, 2004 at the age of 63. Joe was husband of Rosemary (Spadafore) Gallardo, a member of the Board of Directors of OCPHS. Joe served as a police officer with the Pontiac Police Department for over 32 years. During his career he was awarded two citations for Bravery, numerous Meritorious Service citations and was honored as Police Officer of the Year before retiring in 1992. He devoted some of his retirement time as a volunteer in the Pioneer Society Library. He also was an artist, showing his works in a variety of galleries and festivals. He founded "Mi Hermano", a Hispanic Literature Collection at the Pontiac library. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rosemary and her family in this difficult time.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carmen Martinez - Waterford
Wanda Elliott - Pontiac
Joan Miller - Waterford
Robert Turner - Lake Orion
Bob & Christine Bommarito - Pontiac
Shirley Tenuta - Pontiac
Richard Ren - St. Clair Shores
Gerald Gravlin - Waterford
Robert & Nanette Coyle - Waterford
Cara & Lawrence Kazanowski - Orchard Lake
David Tomezak - Galesburg
Duane Getzmeyer - Oxford
Janine Saputo - Oakland
Francis Kopp - Pontiac
Julie Hutchins Gillmore - Clarkston
Charles R. Dewey - Pontiac
Ingrid & Mathew Quigley
Gloria Newman Robb - White Lake
Dan Dewey - Orion
Carole Thompson - Waterford
Carolee Chrisman - Waterford
James & Maxine Crawford, N. Hollywood, CA
Shawna Rodabaugh of Pixley Funeral Home -
Keego Harbor
Joan Hayes - Bloomfield

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WHY? DO YOURSELF A FAVOR - AND
OCPHS - AND RENEW NOW. A
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THE BACK OF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL.

THE 130th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WAS A GRAND SUCCESS

Over 350 people came to Pine Grove to celebrate the 130 years since the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society was founded. Admission and tours of the Wisner Mansion were free; and visitors to the one-room schoolhouse were greeted by our schoolmarm, Miriam Foxman. There were crafts and face-painting for children. There were mini-lectures by Charlie Martinez, a photo preservation workshop by Bruce Annett. Lee Stewart presented a program on Michigan's 22nd Infantry and a Civil War reenactment team patrolled the grounds. There was a spinner hard at work on the front porch of the house. There were book-signings from 5 local authors: Bruce Annett, Goeff Brieger, Charlie Martinez, Lee Stewart, and Elmo Woods. We even had a surprise visit from Abraham Lincoln! The gift shop and the White Elephant Sale were popular stops. The Pioneer Museum had many visitors, and the library was of interest to several researchers. There was food and music and an impressive number of cakes and cookies on the Bake Sale tables.

Our sponsors were generous with their support and we had a profit at the end of the 2 days.

Sunday afternoon we honored the past presidents of OCPHS with a cake and a few speeches. The past presidents in attendance were: Kathryn Daggy, Ruth Priestley, Betty Adams and Judge Donald Adams. OCPHS President, Mike Willis, outlined the contributions of these dedicated members as we celebrated this milestone event.

These former presidents gave so much to this organization, that we want to share their achievements with you.



Kathryn Daggy - Ruth Priestley - Betty Adams - Judge Donald E. Adams - Michael Willis

Betty Adams - became member 1949 - Life Member -
President 1970 - 1976

She is responsible for obtaining the Wisner property, a place to maintain the society's outstanding collection of documents, newspapers and books. Over the years artifacts and historical records have been added. She spearheaded projects such as restoration of the root-cellar, the moving of the Drayton Plains one-room schoolhouse, and calls for items needed to present a governor's home with furnishings of the period. Betty was instrumental in seeing that Pine Grove was recognized as both a State and National Historic site. Annual dinners, annual meetings, Victorian Christmas, a

potpourri shop and Ice Cream Socials have become a part of our activities each year through Betty's leadership. Educational service letters were first sent out to the schools in 1973, which necessitated a call for more and more guides. The summer kitchen project was completed during Betty's tenure. The Oral History program as well as a Quilting Guild were established. A remarkable lady, indeed.

Donald E. Adams - became member 1949 - Life Member - President 1951 - 1952

If there is one family to which this Society owes a debt of gratitude for its influence, it is this Adams family. Jayno Adms, Don's father, was president of our Society from 1941 to 1947. Prominent in the civic life of his township and county, he was supervisor of Waterford Township from 1902 to 1913, and President of the Waterford Township Board of Education. Donald E. Adams was sworn in as probate Judge in 1972. He has been very supportive of our Society. His family has donated a large collection of native American lithic objects which were discovered on the family farm in Waterford. He and his wife, Betty, continue to support our Society.

Gretchen Adler - became member 1980 - Life Member - President 1979-1982 / 1987-1989 / 1994-1996

10 years in all! She took on the task of the reconstruction of the Summer Kitchen/Wash house along with her husband in 1972. She Became Vice President and then served as President for 10 years, interrupted every 3 or 4 years as another took the helm. She upgraded policies and procedures and completed our Master plan and The Guide Manual. Candlelight Musicales, genealogy workshops, lecture series, and Madrigals at Christmas were all her innovations. She began the work of repair and restoration of the 1857 Oakland County map, and the cleaning and restoration of the oil paintings in the parlour by the Detroit Institute of Arts. The Carriage House Sesquicentennial project was completed; two thousand tulip bulbs were planted by our master gardener, Clarke Kimball. Lace making demonstrations in 1988 and our Ice Cream Social had 600 in attendance. The Guardian Angel was placed at the Wisner grave site with the help of Cora Bradshaw and the Historical Marker dedicated at Oak Hill Cemetery. Our library plans began. The gift shop moved to the Carriage house. A new logo for OCPHS was designed by Gil Haven, and a new column in the Gazette was called Member Profile. Important long-term innovations by this dedicated volunteer.

Kathryn M. Daggy - became member 1981 - President 1997 - 1998

Kitty introduced mannequins for garment displays. The painting of the one-room schoolhouse was completed by Tom and Michael Kamlay under her supervision. Our gardens and flower beds received the City of Pride and Beautification Award through the efforts of Clarke and Marion Kimball. A program of July Bells Across American using the Pontiac Central School Bell was offered. She created a new outreach program, "We Are Coming Father Abraham" by Charles H. Martinez, with a slide lecture on Oakland County's participation in the

Civil War. The back of the Carriage House was expanded and the research materials were moved there, with archives and manuscripts in the lower level. A party of four Board members journeyed to Hagerstown, Maryland to return to the proper Confederate Cemetery the jaw bone of a Confederate Soldier that had somehow found its way into the OCPHS collection of Civil War memorabilia. This amazing lady is still dedicated to this Society and now serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Rosamond Haeberle - became member 1975 - Life Member - President 1992 - 1993

Rosamond continued the lecture series and annual dinner programs, and appointed chairpersons to various committees. The Sunday Lecture Series was started, and she conducted a walking tour of Pontiac's Historic Franklin Boulevard. Under her leadership, an archaeological dig unearthed the foundation wall of the original Wisner greenhouse. Member profiles continued in the Gazette, and excerpts from the Oral History Collection were printed and shared with the membership.

Ruth Priestley - became member 1973 - Life Member - President 1983 - 1984

Ruth extensively researched and wrote about the Wisner Family. She began the Spring Lecture Series, with such topics as *The Revitalization of Main Street; Auto History in Miniature; Hardtack and Coffee, The Shakers*. She began craft workshops in candlewicking, chair caning, Easter egg decoration and stenciling, and classes in genealogical research. Under her leadership fieldstones were collected for completing the authentic outer surfaces of the Carriage House basement; the Central School Bell was dedicated and the roof of the Wisner Mansion was restored. The first Harvest of Crafts was held in 1983 with 33 artisans representing 25 early American crafts giving demonstrations. The lower level of the Carriage House began its Farm Tool exhibit, and bricks were collected for bordering our flowerbeds and gardens.

Don't forget!



The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their generous support of our 130th Anniversary Celebration:

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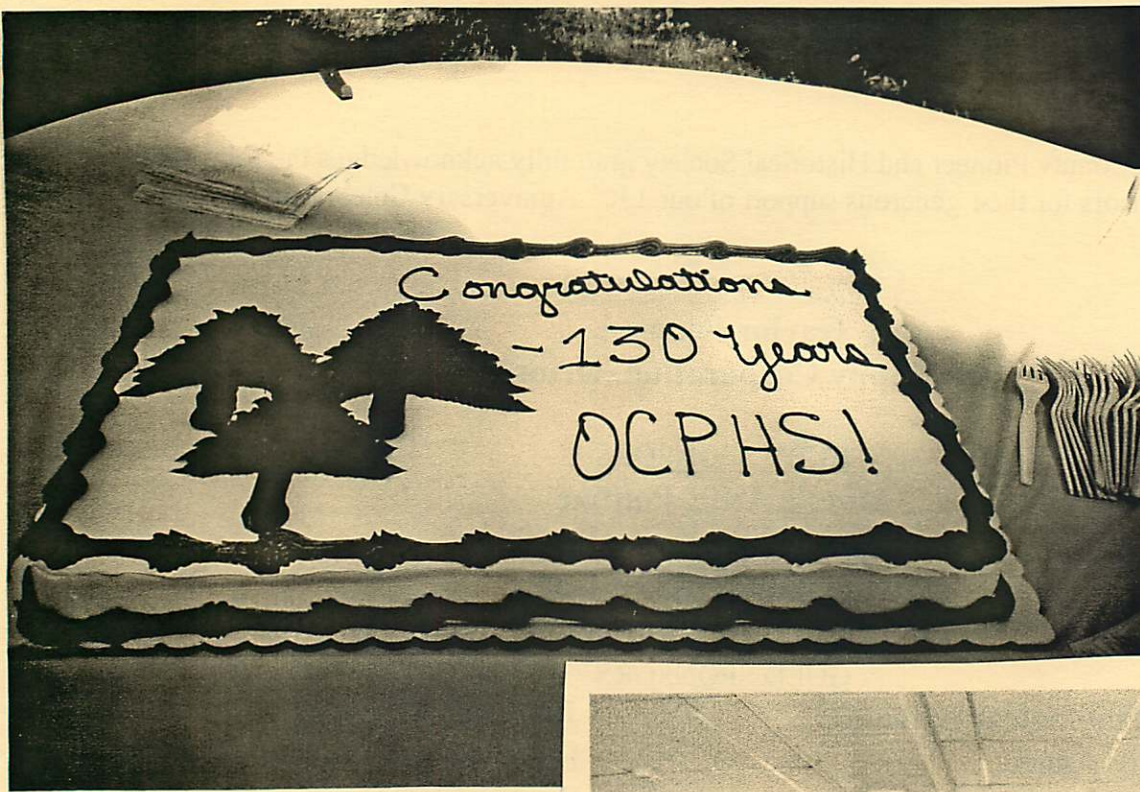
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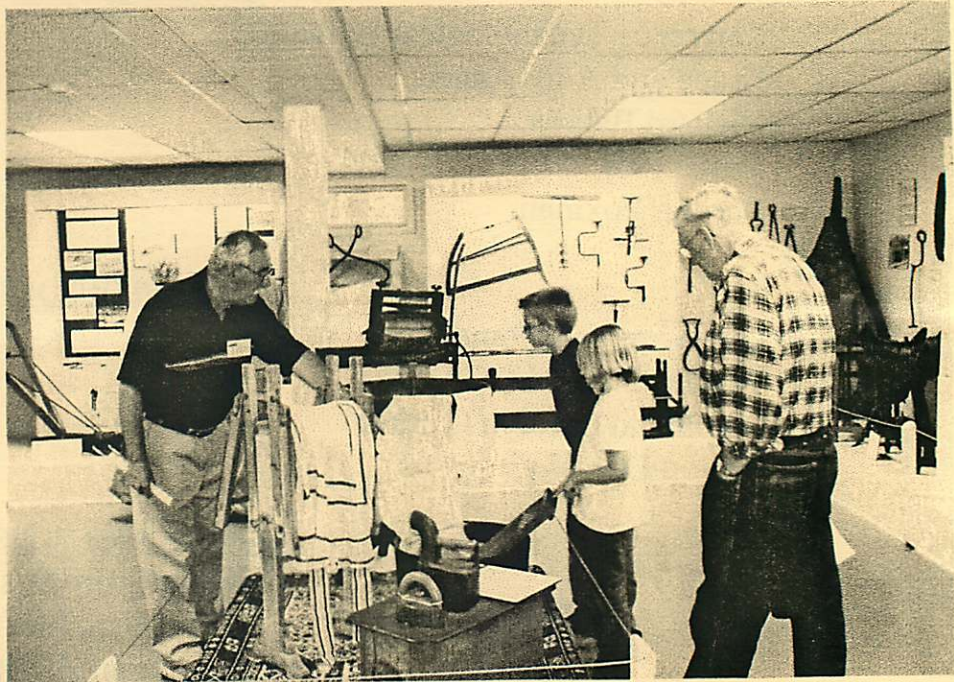
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Oakland Co. Sheriff's Dept. Boot Camp	Oak Hill Cemetery
Oakland Co. WAM Program	



Anniversary Cake

Rodger Zeller & guests in Farm Museum



Michigan 22nd Infantry Reenactors with Lee Stewart (on the right)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society

405 Cesar Chavez Avenue - Pontiac, Michigan 48342 - 248-338-6732

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

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

Memberships are for one year.

- Student \$15.00
- Senior (65 & Over) \$15.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Couple \$35.00
- Family (Parents & Children) \$50.00
- Non-Profit Organization \$20.00
- Patron \$75.00
- Benefactor \$150.00
- 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 resotation 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.

GIFT SHOP NEWS....

Just in time for Christmas shopping, we have available in the Library of the Carriage House, a few of the items that are usually only for sale in the Country Store. Among the new gifts are hand-made bird houses for \$10. each, made by Keith Bennett. Some small toys, candles, and a changing variety of merchandise will be displayed. Don't forget we have several books for sale, including Charlie Martinez's *Song of the Heron* and Bruce Annett's *Asylum: Pontiac Grand Monument*.

Song of the Heron - Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield - \$25.00

Asylum: Pontiac's Grand Monument from the Gilded Age - \$25.00

Pontiac, Michigan: A Postcard Album, by Gottfried Brieger - \$19.00

The Essential Handbook of Victorian Etiquette, by Thomas E. Hill - \$9.00

There are other books available, as well.

Come by, and buy.

Remember, we are open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 - 4.

ARTS, BEATS & EATS UPDATE....

An impressive number of members and friends worked together for 4 days to man a booth selling beer at the annual Arts, Beats & Eats on Labor Day week-end. Our Society realized over \$2000. for the hard work put in by these volunteers. **Cheers** to them all:

Sylvia Adams	June Bell & sister, Rose
Virginia Rogers	Shirley Tenuta
Christine Bommarito	Brian Mengini
Mike & Gail Willis & granddaughter Amy and friend, John	
Gale Scafe	David Hackett
Jim Bowie	John & Greta Cohassey
Richard Stamps	Frank Edwards
Jeff Barnes	Tom Puffield
Annalee Kennedy	Mary Crocker
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MUSEUM AND LIBRARY HOURS

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

11 am - 4 pm

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by appointment

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CALL FOR INFORMATION

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IN THIS ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
SOCIETY NEWS	1
MEMORIAL CARDS	1
TOURS FOR ADULTS-CHILDREN	1
TIME CAPSULE	1
LIBRARY UPDATE	2
MORE AWARDS	2
IN MEMORIAM	2
NEW MEMBERS	2
MEMBERSHIP REMINDER	2
130TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE	3
EVENT SPONSORS	5
PHOTOS OF EVENT	6
GIFT SHOP NEWS	7
ARTS, BEATS & EATS UPDATE	7
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	7