



Governor Moses Wisner Mansion (ca. 1845)

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Operations Coordinator Appointed By Society

Ron Fisher has been named Operations Coordinator for the Society according to **Mike Willis**, President.



New Society Operations Coordinator, Ron Fisher, in the trenches!

Born down river in Wyandotte and raised in West Bloomfield, Fisher holds a B.A degree in Business Administration from the University of Michigan where he majored in Business, Sociology and Psychology. Upon graduation he served three years with the U.S. Navy Air Force flying surveillance assignments in the Arctic Circle.

Fisher's first business experience came as a University of Michigan Co-op student at G.M.C. Truck. Over the past 15 years he has served several corporations as a supply chain consulting professional in Logistics/Materials management.

Moving from the automotive sector to the private non-profit organization is not a stretch, Fisher believes. "There is no question in my mind as to the relevancy of history in any workplace," he said. "At the Oakland County Historical Society the business is history."

In Memoriam

The course of an organization can be measured in great part by the caliber of its members. Over the years we have been blessed by the active participation of many caring and talented individuals. When they pass, their deeds should be recognized as a reflection of their character. In this way by imitation we can continue to better preserve the past for the enrichment of the future.



The late Pam Gosik (right) looks over library materials with Fran Wilson.

Pam Gosik, Society Librarian and Board Member, displayed the professional knowledge, kindness, and integrity that made her an outstanding individual. After retirement Pam came to us from the Royal Oak Public Library where she had served for over 31 years. She died suddenly March 17, 2004.

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Society Makes Headway With Plans For GM Grant

Plans for long sought improvements in public accommodations at Pine Grove under a \$30,000 grant are taking shape, says **Keith Bennett**, first vice-president for the Society. Bennett explained the multi-purpose facility will be handicap accessible, offer a small kitchen/pantry area, bathrooms, meeting room, and extra storage. It will be a short distance west of the nineteenth-century schoolhouse near the present entrance to the Society's grounds.

A conceptual layout for this structure has been completed by a builder's representative, Bennett noted. "We have made some changes in these documents and will now engage an architect and civil engineer to make more detailed drawings and prepare a site plan. Once completed the Society can initiate a fund raising effort to obtain the necessary monies to proceed with the project," he explained. "It is our intention to build this facility entirely with grant money if possible." Bennett also praised AG Construction who furnished the manpower for the preliminary studies at no cost to the Society.

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Gift Shop News

The Society has a wonderful assortment of quality items available in its gift shop (mansion) and in the research library (carriage house). Among the printed works are:

Asylum: Pontiac's Grand Monument from the Gilded Age by Bruce Annett, Jr., \$24.95

Song of the Heron: Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield by Charles H. Martinez, \$25.00

Pontiac, Michigan, A Postcard Album by Dr. Gottfried Brieger, \$18.99

Them Was The Days! Edgar Rice Burroughs and the History of the Michigan Military Academy by Brian J. Bohnett, \$20.00

Pontiac: The Making of a U.S. Automobile Capital 1818 to 1950 by Esmo Woods, \$18.00

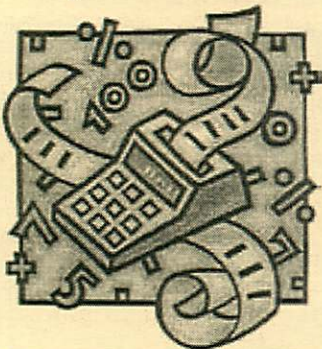
The 22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Civil War by Charles "Lee" Stewart, \$5.00

Hammering Out The Past: Prehistoric Stone Artifacts Found In Oakland County by Charles H. Martinez, \$5.00

Tarzan - Edgar Rice Burroughs Collectors' Treasury by Brian J. Bohnett, \$20.00

Victorian Etiquette, \$8.95

Family Tree Charts, \$6.00

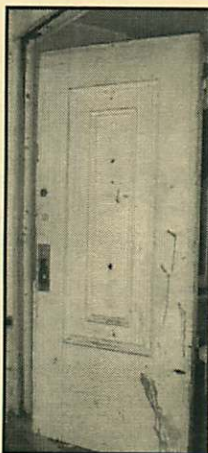


Also on the shelves are:
OCPHS Mugs, \$2.00;
Pine Grove Tee Shirts, \$10.00;
and an assortment of handsome birdhouses, \$10.00, made by "Big Bird" himself, Keith Bennett.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear OCPHS,
My name is Ron Gay, I am a member. I have a front entry door, Circa 1850, from the Horatio Howard House in Pontiac, that needs a home. The door's dimensions are: 2 1/8 x 36 x 82 inches. There is no cost to whoever wants it. I will even deliver, within reasonable distance.

Ron Gay



Accessions for 2004

The following list includes the names of donors and their gifts to the Society during the past year.

Gaylor Forman --- Autograph book and photo from the Harmon family who settled in Southfield. Also included is a book entitled "Images of Holly."

Fran Wilson ---Copies of correspondence from the author Laura Ingalls Wilder to a teacher and her class; photos of this author, her family and home; Detroit Free Press article about the author; and two books written in tribute to Wilder.

Evelyn R. Herald --- Framed and loose photos of the Forman and German families, as well as a marriage certificate of Emmanuel German and Olive Nott.

Diane O'Rourke Bennett --- Drop-leaf table linked to the Beaudette House in Pontiac.

Kathy Taylor --- Pontiac City Lines Trolley token and post card of Pontiac's Roosevelt Hotel (interior view).

Mark Evans --- Letters and envelope from the Sheriff of Antrim County to Christopher S. Voorheis of Pontiac, "a brother officer."

David R. Walls --- Abstract of Title for the Davis/Walls Davisburg farm.

Miriam Foxman --- Ten Souvenir Programs of the 32nd Division Veteran Association, 15 Red Arrow Newsletters, booklet on the "New Guinea Campaign," and an illustration entitled the "Red Arrow At War."

Pam Gosik ---Three history books on Detroit, Oak Park, and Madison Heights, as well as Woodward Avenue Address Change List dated July 23, 1997.

Ruth Wood Spadafor --- Wooden cane owned by Attorney James Bateman which was inscribed in 1879 with the names of U of M law students. Mr. Bateman practiced law in Walled Lake. .

Charles Martinez --- Book entitled "The Wars of our Generation," published by the Birmingham Senior Men's Club.

Robert Ross Tenney and Karen L. Tenney --- Family photos, photo of a Fitch Four Drive Tractor and a photo post card of Pontiac's Wilson School (1926).

Rick Zurel ---Ledger dated 1829 from the community of Flemington in New York State.

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The Library Corner

Since the last Gazette the library staff has completed indexing our many maps and is now doing the same for township books. We are also working on obituaries and organizing our huge clipping collection. In performing these tasks our volunteer research librarians bring to the table varied backgrounds and skills. Five of the present staff are noted in this issue.

Joan Miller, Waterford resident, has served as a tour guide, display arranger, and coordinator of volunteers at the Port Huron Science & Art Museum. She has also worked in the collections department of Cranbrook Institute of Science, and as a tour guide at the Birmingham Historical Museum.

Donna Mallonen, Pontiac resident, is a recent graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a master's degree in Historic Preservation. Her final degree project was the preparation of a National Register nomination for the Luther Boyden farmstead in Webster Township, Washtenaw County.

Joan Hayes, Bloomfield resident, attended Oakland Community College and is a charter member of Phi Theta Kappa. Joan belongs to the Oakland County Genealogical Society and is first vice-president of the Daughters of the British Empire. An avid gardener she was the proprietor of Joan's Broms for 12 years, selling perennial plants at the Farmers Market.

Diane J. Walker, Waterford resident, was born and raised in Pontiac. Before retiring in 1995 Diane was employed by the Oakland County Department of Social Services for 20 years. She came to our Society at the urging of her daughter, **Amy Annett**, our Treasurer. Diane's hobbies include: reading, dancing, and serving as an anti-cruelty to animals advocate.

The research library is located in the Carriage House at the rear of the Wisner property and is open from 11:00-4:00 Tuesday through Thursday. There is no research fee for Society members, but for non-members the cost is \$5 per day of research. Librarians are available to help Tuesday-Thursday.

LaVon DeLisle, Oxford resident, has raised a family of four. She was employed by General Motors for 12 years. Now self-employed she has worked as a seamstress and designer of wedding gowns for 20 years. LaVon came to us 15 years ago and has served the Society on the Crafts Committee and as Membership Secretary.

Our librarians are sometimes asked for materials that we don't have, so the Society is asking our members for help.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR.....

1. Pictures of the Huron Theater in Waterford
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, and 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 \$30.00)

Society Entrusted with Chamber Time Capsule

Packed with tributes from all sectors of the community it serves, a time capsule marking the Centennial Observance of the Greater Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce has been turned over to this Society for safekeeping. The transfer was made following the 100th Anniversary Celebration & Annual Awards Luncheon hosted by Goldner Walsh Nursery and Greenhouse on Orchard Lake Road. The capsule, currently on display in the Pine Grove Library, will be opened with an appropriate ceremony by the Chamber in 2054.

Society member **Rosemary Gallardo**, who has served as executive director of the Chamber for eight years, was praised at the Awards Luncheon for her charisma and energy in leading that organization. Gallardo has also received a Certificate of Appreciation from our Society for her work as Board Member in helping secure a grant from General Motors and in serving as events volunteer since 2002.

Grant Writer's Services Retained by Society

The services of **Sarah Swanson** of Swanson Consulting of Detroit have been retained by the Society to address its growing need for grant writing and fund raising.

Her initial focus will be on writing grants to fund operating expenses, but her scope of services could eventually involve the creation of a fund raising plan with specific targets, and the institution of a public relations/marketing strategy. All prospective grant sources and approaches would be approved by the Society in advance.



Muralist Captures 19th Century Life In Historic Groveland Residence

By Charles H. Martinez

A charming panorama of early Groveland Township decorates the upper hallway of a home built by Thomas Terwilliger in the 1840s and now owned by Karen and Ron Prater. Karen recently commissioned Marjorie St. Onge, an artist from Bloomfield Township, to create a mural in the style of Rufus Porter, a nineteenth-century itinerant New England painter.

The mural depicts a rural setting sprinkled with twenty-two early Groveland Township homes, the town center of Austin Corners, the neighboring village of Davisburg, Hadley Cemetery, and the fondly remembered Terwilliger Tavern. In the Porter tradition St. Onge dotted the landscape with animals and people engaged in early nineteenth-century activities. Large trees and foreground foliage frame each doorway and window in the upper hallway. Even the domed huts of Native Americans who lived on the outskirts of Austin Corners to seasonally trade with the white settlers are portrayed.

Prater, who has a strong interest in architectural history, was able to furnish St. Onge with copies of photographs and drawings of old homes from the surrounding area. Much of this material

came from the Pine Grove library here. The Society takes pride in its outstanding collection of nineteenth and twentieth-century images and background data on Oakland County residences.

To learn more about Porter's mural techniques, St. Onge studied *Rufus Porter, Yankee Pioneer*, a biography by Jean Lipman (1968). Porter's murals usually had a background of gentle hills, woodlands, marshes or seascapes. Over this hand painted setting he would stencil houses, villages, boats, lighthouses and other forms. The artist made extensive use of stencils, primarily because they allowed him to complete murals more quickly.

Rufus Porter was born May 1, 1792 in West Boxford, Massachusetts. Considered a genius by many, Porter was known as an artist, musician, teacher, promoter, inventor, and founder of *Scientific American* magazine in 1845. *Time* described him as 'A Yankee DaVinci' with a 'grasshopperish interest' (September 7, 1970, p. 45). He is credited with many inventions, among them: a revolving almanac, cord-making machine, steam carriage, corn sheller, and fire alarm. Some sources claim he sold his rights to a revolving rifle for one hundred dollars to Col. Samuel Colt in 1844. However, the date and the suggestion that this firearm was the antecedent of the famous Colt revolver are inaccurate as will be shown in the future issue



Terwilliger house, now the residence of Karen and Ron Prater, features the mural of Marjorie St. Onge.

of the *Oakland Gazette* as this weapon was involved in the death of a prominent Oakland County politician.

As for Karen and Ron Prater's home at 10345 Oak Hill Road, its original owner, Thomas H. Terwilliger (spelled variously) had a busy life as well. He was born in 1815 and left New York City in 1836 with his wife and settled in section 26 Groveland Township. He subsequently acquired a portion of the SE 1/4 section 34 in the same township where the present house stands.

A short distance to the west, Terwilliger built a tavern in 1839 which became popularly known as the "Groveland House." During the 1840s he served the community as overseer of the poor, overseer of highways, justice of the peace and briefly as postmaster of Austin. His farm of some one hundred acres, mostly improved, had a land value of six thousand dollars in 1870. Terwilliger died on the Fourth of July 1871 and was buried in the family plot in Mount Bethel Cemetery, Groveland.

With so many memories of the past, the Praters and Marjorie St. Onge along with visitors to the Terwilliger home agree the mural honors this history and illuminates the soul of this fortunate residence.



St. Onge mural in the upper hallway of the old Terwilliger house.

Faking It: Stone Projectile Point Replications

By Dan Dybowski

Editor's Preface

From the beginning of recorded time, man with his base instincts has endeavored to deceive his peers, to reset the clock as it were, and change the course of human evolution. His motives have varied: turn a profit, undermine an enemy's economy, fool an expert, bolster a religious belief, encourage a spirit of nationalism.

The last century has produced some classic examples from the Charles Dawson "Piltdown Man" hoax to Clifford Irving's swindle involving a fake "authorized" biography of billionaire Howard Hughes. Today, the action is less sensational but pervasive as exemplified by the counterfeiting of such brand-name goods as those produced by Chanel, Dior, Rolex, Cartier, and Adidas.

Archaeology has also been a fertile field for such illicit activity. While the sale of fake Native American pottery from both sides of the Rio Grande is commonplace, lithic objects - particularly bogus projectile points - are gaining in popularity and price.

In 2004 the Society received a monograph by Daniel Dybowski, president of the Oakland University Anthropology Club, entitled, "Stone Projectile Replications: Research on Fakes and Authentics." It has been excerpted here for space considerations.

Introduction

"As many people know, prehistoric Indian artifacts have increased greatly in value over the last few years. There has also been a corresponding rise in



A Clovis projectile point (c. 10,000 BC - 9,000 BC), a highly prized find and now subject to expert replication.

the number of reproductive artifacts, modern pieces, and these have created major problems. When the new artifacts are passed as old and authentic, they become fakes." (Hothem, 2001:354).

These major "problems" mentioned are problems for our current understanding of the archaeological record. However, I believe there are safeguards against this modern manipulation of our understanding of the past.

If one was interested in doing research on fakes, they might find it quite challenging. There just isn't enough information out there for the average person to be aware of the potential hazards that accompany the

phenomenon of identifying fakes. It is quite possible the reasons people have been reproducing antiquities, are the direct result of our fascination with ancient cultures, and for potentially duping people by providing evidence for justification of certain beliefs. (Stamps, 2001:234).

Some will say that replicating stone tools can eventually "muddle" collections held by museums and possibly interrupt our understanding of them over time. Some argue that selling replications will decrease the necessity for raiding artifacts from known sites. The rationale here is if someone can purchase a projectile point that is made even better than the initial artisans did, then why not buy the newer over the authentic one? I realize older points retain higher values, but it is in the best interest of the academic world to profess the value in reproductions as well. I personally see no problem with this approach. I would stress the need,

however, to engrave the reproductions with the maker's name, date, and material, or tools used. This can be done with either black felt permanent marker (fine tipped), or India ink with a clear coat of nail polish over it. Perhaps a diamond tipped engraver or even a carbon tipped engraver can be used usually at the point's base. However, the base can be chipped away further by retouch. I have seen Dr. Michael Stafford [formerly director of Cranbrook Institute of Science] engrave his pieces with a diamond tipped engraver in the very middle portion, which is the most inaccessible area, and still proves to be aesthetically pleasing.

Unfortunately, as much as we encourage people to take part in this practice, it doesn't necessarily mean they will. As John C. Whittaker has said, "We can offer no real cure for the problems. The market for antiquities, fakes, modern knapping, replicas and art lithics are all strong and growing. The number of knappers also is increasing. As knappers who also participate in knap-ins, we try to encourage others to mark their points and present them proudly as modern work, conserve material, properly dispose of debitage (waste flakage), and avoid damage to prehistoric sites." (Whittaker, 1999:212).

Safeguard Suggestions

I have grown to believe that the only way one can really verify whether or not the projectile point in question is fake or not, is to work on archaeological excavations under trained supervisors and actually become accustomed to "the feel of the genuine article" over time (Waldorf, 1993:6,7). This experience I have had with projectile points leads me to believe that they do have the ability to be authenticated. This concept

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In Memoriam *Continued*

June Kath was the wife of **Vernon Kath** whose family worked as caretakers of the Wisner property before the Society acquired the land in 1945. Much of our knowledge of Pine Grove in the first half of the twentieth century is the debt we owe the Kath family.

Clarke Kimball, former Second Vice President and Board Member, will long be remembered for his gardening talents practiced on our grounds. His efforts in beautifying the landscape here won several city awards for the Society. He also served as Publicist keeping this organization's activities in the press. Clarke passed away November 25, 2004 at the age of 97.

Joe Gallardo, Research Librarian, was a retired Pontiac police officer. At Pine Grove he worked as a model of quiet efficiency, taking on the most tedious recording tasks and performing them flawlessly. His widow Rosemary is a former Board Member whose energy helped strengthen our bonds with the Greater Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce over the past few years. Joe died October 24, 2004.

Elizabeth "Betty" Quarton Hoard, long-time Society member and frequent donor to its library and vintage clothing collection, had ancestral ties to **Scriba Blakeslee**, who acquired much property in Bloomfield Township, **Wilkes Durkee**, who took up land in Franklin, and **Thomas Quarton** who settled in Birmingham. "Betty" passed away February 18, 2005.

Dan Murphy, former Oakland County Executive and Life Member of the Society, is regarded as one of the County's founding fathers. He managed this municipality for nearly 20 years, laying a strong foundation which helped its population and economy boom. Dan died February 16, 2005 in Tucson, Arizona.

John Riley, known as "Mr. Pontiac," was a Society Board Member and the subject of a front page biographical article in this publication which appeared in the summer of 1990. John died January 27, 2005 at the age of 92.

Ruth Wall, Pontiac resident and Society Guide Chairperson, was the epitome of kindness and understanding. She joined our organization in 1987 and continued volunteering here into the late 1990s when health considerations forced her to relinquish her duties. Some of us remember Ruth walking up Oakland Avenue to Pine Grove with a shawl on her shoulders and a smile on her lips, ready to confront a touring group of third graders and inspire them with her love of history.

Dorcas D. Wolf, Waterford resident, was a schoolteacher for over 42 years. After retirement she instructed genealogy classes in her community and at Pine Grove. In late 2004 the Society learned of a \$6,000 bequest left to us by Dorcas. Her generosity helped get the Society off to a good start financially in 2005.

Accessions for 2004 *Continued*

Dorothy Fossy --- Collection of school photos from the first two decades of the twentieth century, a fraternal group photo, and a post card showing Pontiac factory employees.

Nola DeBrabant --- "Register of Deaths" from the Eastern Michigan Asylum covering the periods from 1909 to 1911.

Mike Fraser --- Abstract of Lot 210, Modern Housing Corp., Pontiac.

Karen Boardman Moore --- Lake Orion Dragon yearbooks 1953, 1957.

Julie Skene --- Book entitled "Centennial Farm" by Frank Lassiter.

Waterford Historical Society --- Snapshots of the German and Durkee families (identified), list of pupils at School District No.1 Farmington Twp., and a picture of the Sashabaw United Presbyterian Church.

Orion Neighborhood T.V. --- Two videotapes of the Lake Orion Marine mail service.

Frances L. Ryden --- U.S. Army World War II uniform and U.S. Air Force (post war) uniform complete with accessories. Also Honorable Military Discharge for Wesley M. Ryden, Keego Harbor.

Not accessioned at this time are some 200 pictorial and commemorative souvenir ceramics from the turn of the last century. The Oakland County donor's name, history of the collection, and its significance will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Oakland Gazette.

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Contributions and bequests to the Society, including memorials, assure the continuing restoration of the Society's properties and the promotion of Oakland County's irreplaceable historical heritage. As donations, such contributions allow the donor to take income tax deductions.

is not unique, and it opens the door to various authentication businesses that can be found in the back of virtually every Antiquities Identification and Value Guide.

Summary

After conducting this research, I have come up with a list of issues pertaining to the purchasing of projectile points. This is a relic hunters' "buyer beware" list, if you will.

1. If you are a collector of Indian relics, take the time to research a particular piece that interests you before purchasing it.
2. Surface finds are fine to collect in farm fields (with permission of course). Because of their possibility of being out of context, document as much information about the find as possible, which will further lend credibility to its value.
3. If a site is not recorded however, do what is right. Notify your local university, or related anthropological association. A reward of this magnitude is far

more beneficial than any selfish desire.

4. Unfortunately, there are no free authentication services but I'm sure your local anthropological association or related academic groups might be interested in assisting you.
5. If the price of a projectile point is too good to be true (real), then it probably isn't (real).
6. Always assume a projectile point isn't real, until you can be absolutely sure it is, through scientific study. This should be of value to students learning about projectile points but lacking proper provenience data on them.
7. Reinforce the ethics in experimental archaeology, by signing each point after its completion. This will decrease the potential for "muddling" the archaeological record, and increase the value of the artisan's work.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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