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Published by THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Winter 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to one and all. I know that we are all looking forward to the warm days of spring if we can believe the groundhogs' predictions. We all know the weather people are like the news media – very seldom do they get anything right.

As we continue to move forward with the plans of the society to improve our level of service and the property here at Pinegrove, the membership will be kept notified through the Gazette. We, like everyone else, have suffered cutbacks because of the economy but with sound planning and the many volunteers, we continue to provide the excellent services to our members and the community. This past holiday season we celebrated a very good Victorian Open House and this success can only be attributed to the many hard working members who gave of their time.

The planning is well on the way for the new building and comfort station and I must say it looks very good and will be a great addition to the future of this organization. However, this will not happen until all of the funds have been raised to cover the costs of building. This is where the help of everyone comes in to assist the organization in the fund raising efforts. The fund raising can come from many different sources such as black tie dinners, golf outings, ice cream socials, corporation donations, and planned giving, which will be explained at a later date. Of course the key to success of any organization is the volunteers and growth of the volunteer groups, so let's all step forward in doing our part and also recruit more people to help. Remember, anything can be done if you set your mind to it and we all do our part.

As always, continued blessings to you and yours.

Mike Willis, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

At the annual meeting in early 2005, it was voted to hold the annual meeting in May of each year, instead of January, as in years past. With this change in procedure, nominations and elections of board members will be held in the spring with results announced at the May 20, 2006 annual meeting. Anyone who has been a Society member in good standing for at least one year may ask to be considered for nomination for Board of Directors. If you wish to be considered, please immediately return the survey recently mailed to you. These surveys must be returned to our office at once in order to prepare ballots to be mailed to our members early in April.

Members of the Board are expected to attend at least four of the 12 meetings a year. They are expected to serve on at least one committee, assist at large events, and, whenever possible, serve as a chair of a committee.

A sense of service and commitment are required as we move forward with our many plans and projects including preparation for our new building, fund raising, planning events and outreach programs, and developing short and long range plans for the Society. If you are prepared to devote some of your time and talents to strengthening this organization, please submit your survey.

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SAVE THE DATE

The annual meeting of OCPHS will be Saturday, May 20, 2006. All members are invited to attend. There will be an update on projects and events and a special program is being planned. New Board members will be introduced. You will receive an announcement of time and place.

DAVID HACKETT
Died November 3, 2005



David was a long-time member of our Society, a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Guide Committee.

David was the longest serving trustee of the Oakland Community College, having been appointed to the college's first board in June 1964. He served as board vice chairman from 1990 to 1994.

He was a school teacher in the inner city of Detroit and devoted his life to his belief and commitment to the field of education.

This commitment continued with his guiding of schoolchildren through the Wisner Mansion, one-room schoolhouse, and historic farm museum, and showing the root cellar and privy to the amusement of the children. To see him in his frock coat and tall beaver hat, leading a group of children from one venue to another, having the time of his life, was an inspiration to all of us.

David and his wife Marion, raised seven children of their own and had two foster children in their care. His last day was spent doing what was important to him: he went to see Rosa Parks lie in state, then to the Detroit Institute of Arts. After dinner he went to bed and did not wake up the next morning. A peaceful death for a peaceful man.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Marion and her family.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Our microfilm has arrived! We now have our old bound volumes of the Pontiac newspapers on microfilm...a much easier to use format for researchers. With our new microfilm reader/printer, a researcher can find and print out articles from the papers without donning white gloves and handling a cumbersome bound volume! Many thanks to Geoff Brieger, who has spurred on this project! In the next issue of the Gazette we will list the years covered in the films.

New metal library shelving has arrived and was installed by Guy Duffield. This will get all the rest of the books into order on the north wall. Computers will be in the work room portion, and will be networked using Past Perfect, a computer program designed for historical research libraries. Donna Mallonen, our library intern, with the help of volunteers, is busily getting our collection into the computer, making it easier to locate research materials.

NEEDED, WANTED, CAN USE: (check your attic)

1908 Oakland County Plat Book/Atlas
Michigan Soldiers and Sailors in the Civil War v. 11-22, V 23+ c. 1915
Pontiac City Directories, especially those from 1920s or earlier
Material on the history of various properties in the city of Pontiac or in Oakland County
Historical information about Oakland County businesses
Yearbooks from Oakland County High Schools, particularly from 1900 - 1960
Pictures of houses and early buildings in Pontiac

Our library is open for research on the days the Society is open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 11 - 4. There is no charge for members to research, but there is a \$5.00 charge for non-members. Our library staff will help you find material. We have a closed-stack research library, which means the library help will bring the material into the main area of the library for researchers to use. At this point, we do not have information on computer for patrons.

Fran Wilson, Librarian

NEW MEMBERS

Sheena Beltz, Waterford
Bingham Farms Village, Bingham Farms
Shannon Bradley, Pontiac
Jeffery C. Clark, Troy
Betty Cooke, Greenbush
Carol Bacak Egbo, Pontiac
Ray Henry, Rochester
Carol Hockenberry, Sevierville, TN
Robert Hunter, Hamtramck
Marsha Katerberg, Rockford
James Kelly, Rochester
Maurine Payne
Donald & Ann Stolberg, Farmington Hills
Mary & Sally Strait, Waterford

Welcome to all of you!

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY HOURS

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

11 am - 4 pm

Please call before coming

WISNER HOUSE TOURS

by appointment

**GROUPS WELCOME
CALL FOR INFORMATION
248-338-6732**

And Crown Thy Good With Brotherhood From Sea To Shining Sea!

America the Beautiful (1893)

By Katharine Lee Bates, 1859-1929

Supplement to the Oakland Gazette
Vol., 39, No. 1

Written by: Charles H. Martinez

In 1997 this writer composed two articles as supplements to the spring and autumn issues of the Oakland Gazette. They were published under the series title, "On the Cutting Edge." Both focused on this Society's collection

of military swords and bayonets. In contrast, the present study considers the history of one donated ceremonial sword and the role such implements played in the ritual of American secret and fraternal societies.

On a bookcase in Governor Wisner's Pine Grove office rests a curious object. It's a societal sword never unsheathed in battle and apparently never connected with the Wisner family. In point of fact this sword is a symbolic sidearm once owned by certain well-intentioned young gallants who sought companionship in their own vision of the brotherhood of man.

When this Society's last Victorian Open House was held in December, the mysterious sword was taken from the bookcase shelf and closely examined. Its decorative symbolism strongly suggested the object was associated with the Knights of Pythias, an organization with a fascinating background.

The Order Knights of Pythias came into being before the close of the Civil War as a secret society for government clerks in Washington, D.C. Over the years the KOP has grown to become an international, fraternal, benevolent, non-sectarian order with representation across the United States and Canada.

The sword in our possession was once worn by a member of the uniformed contingent of the KOP. Such pseudo-military groups are popular throughout fraternal organizations. Other examples are the Knights Templar in York Rite Freemasonry and the Patriarch Militant in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Uniform Rank, KOP evolved from drill units that had been set up in various lodges after the order was born. Such teams were often composed of Civil War veterans accustomed to a disciplined life and joined the KOP ranks in droves. By 1878 the Uniform Rank had obtained legal status as a separate but attached entity. Nevertheless, declining interest after World War I hastened its demise so that in the 1950s the Uniform Rank was removed as an official auxiliary of the KOP.

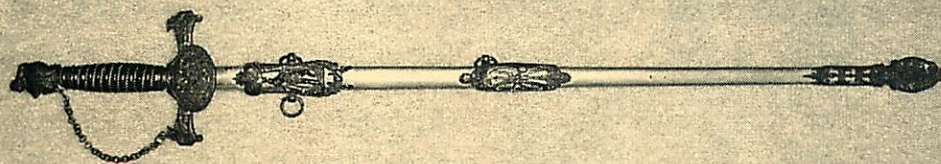
The Order's founder was Justus H. Rathbone who was born in Deerfield, Oneida County, N.Y. on Oct. 29, 1839. His father was a respected jurist and his mother a lineal descendant of Jonathan Edwards (1708-1758), a renowned American theologian. Rathbone has

been described as a restless, sensitive soul in love with music, the classics, and on occasion, even dabbling as an amateur playwright.

It was this fondness for drama, particularly the play "Damon and Pythias," that became the epiphany in Rathbone's life. The plot, based on the willingness of one friend to offer up his life for another, inspired him to formulate a fraternal order and its accompanying ritual. Six years would pass before he and several associates would found the Knights of Pythias on Feb. 19, 1864. The following Period of National Reconstruction was felt by Rathbone to offer a fertile field in which to plant the seeds of generosity, charity, and truth. He



Justus H. Rathbone at 48 years of age wearing Founder's Jewel



Knights of Pythias sword

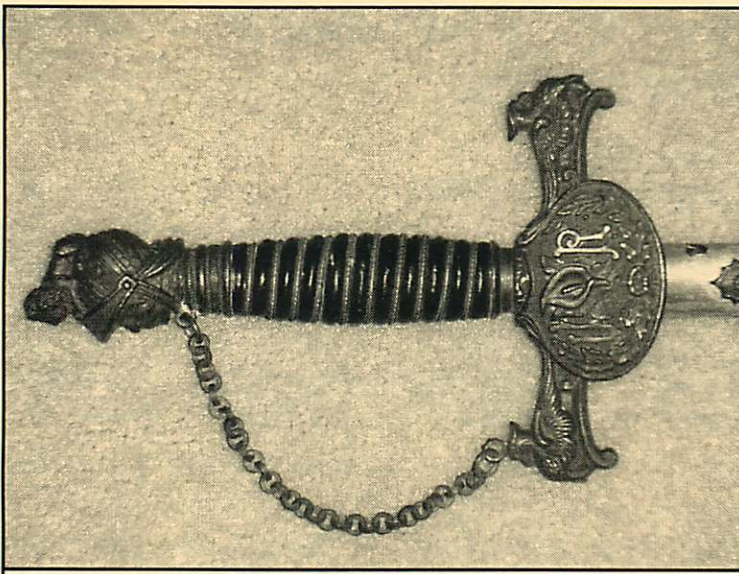
firmly believed the Knights of Pythias would “rekindle the brotherly sentiment which had been all but stamped out under the merciless heel of human passions....”

These aspirations of the founder together with much of the early KOP imagery are embodied in the Order’s sword. Our example has an overall length of 36 inches while its double-edge blade length measures 27 inches.

The pommel or top of the hilt features a knight’s head whose helmet is surmounted by a seated lion, signifying leadership. The grip is made of leather and decorated by a spiral of fine studded metal cord. The quillons or crosspiece is composed of seated falcons facing outwards. They represent vigilance. The knuckle guard is a simple decorated chain.

On one side of the crosspiece at its center is an oval cartouche displaying the initials UR which signify “Uniform Rank.” The initials are separated by a lily, the official flora of this rank. On the opposite crosspiece center are the initials FCB which stand for the cardinal principals of the Order, “Friendship, Charity, Benevolence.”

The sword blade is well decorated with etched scenes. In descending order on one side is a male figure with an upraised hand in chains suggesting Damon’s detention until the arrival of Pythias. Next is a crowd assembled in a town square to witness a public execution of either Damon or Pythias. Near the blade tip is an United States crest. On the other side of the blade is a cameo of Damon’s family in anguished embrace. This scene is followed by the name of the sword’s



Hilt of KOP Sword with “U R” initials at center of crosspiece

owner, “G. A. Webb.” Further down we find a pair of shields surrounded by edged weapons and topped by a plumed helmet. This headgear is surmounted by a crest with the familiar initials “FCB.”

The scabbard is accented with three heavily embossed elements attached to it by small screws. The first displays the figure of Samson, denoting strength, toppling the pillars of the temple which is capped by the “FCB” motto. The second element has heavily stylized initials



Scabbard element showing Sampson toppling the pillars of the Temple

(indecipherable to the writer) flanked by a pair of five-pointed stars. The third element, attached to the scabbard’s foot, consists of a heavy leaf and geometric pattern.

Alfred A. Saltzman, Supreme Secretary, Supreme Lodge KOP, informed this writer that “swords are still used in ritual and ceremonies but they are mainly owned by the subordinate lodges.” He said the long narrow sword

[apparently like ours] is used for parades and drills because it is easy to handle. “The short stubby type,” [modeled after the Roman gladius] he recounted, “is used whenever it has to be placed in a semi-permanent position, such as on the open Bible which is present at all Pythian gatherings.” Saltzman also mentioned that “swords ... are presented as tokens of esteem by friends and family, much as we would give an inscribed gavel, plaque or some other expensive gift.”

One of the more bizarre early KOP rituals involved a coffin positioned on two trestles and covered by a black pall. A pair of crossed swords rested on this burial container and on top of them was placed the open book of law. Of course inside the coffin was the obligatory human skeleton.

The KOP organized the Pontiac Lodge, No. 19 on March 13, 1889. The group met at the Castle Hall, Clinton Hall block on every Thursday. At this time the local units and their meeting places were called “Castles,” but later these groups were given the title, “Subordinate Lodges.” The next year the Uniform Rank joined them with the appointment of D.S. Howard as “Sir Knight Captain.” They



Pythian Knight dressed as a Roman Master at Arms

gathered every alternate Monday evening at the Armory, Pythian Castle, in the Clinton Hall block. Howard was a recognized Civil War hero who was wounded in the hip at the Battle of South Mountain, Maryland. His crutches were donated to our Society many years ago. An equally popular figure in civilian life Howard served three times as Mayor of Pontiac. By 1905 the KOP would have their own home in town at 16-20 Huron Street, north side, west of Saginaw Street. It is a three-story brick building erected in 1905 and now part of the Pontiac Commercial District.

The owner of the sword was quite possibly Giles A. Webb, the son of Alfred Webb who owned a meat market at 51-53 South Saginaw. Giles' name and that of the family

appear in Pontiac City directories during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Unfortunately local KOP membership records for that period have been lost so positive linkage in this respect cannot be firmly established.

Giles A. Webb may even have been a participant in the KOP Memorial Day observance held at Pontiac's Oak Hill Cemetery in 1891. The Uniformed Division resplendent in its regalia along with the city band, representatives of the Oxford and Romeo lodges, and a huge crowd trooped to the burial ground to witness the laying of floral tributes on the graves of KOP members.

Women's unconditional membership in fraternal organizations faced an uphill struggle from the git-go. Only auxiliary membership status and a male relative in the chosen society could pierce the portal to this masculine nirvana. So it was this path the Pythian Sisters took to found their group in 1888 in Concord, New Hampshire. Like the KOP there was early dissension in the ranks. One female faction sought exclusive women membership: the other wished men included along the lines of the order of the Eastern Star. The group that favored male membership split and in 1894 changed its name to the Rathbone Sisters.

This female auxiliary appears under the heading "Secret and Miscellaneous Societies" in the 1902 *Pontiac City Directory*. There it is entitled "Rathbone Sisters - Fannie E. Tompkins Temple, No. 41" which met on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Castle Hall. Mrs. E. P. Hill was the "MEC" or Most Excellent Chief that year. Subsequent Pontiac directories listed Miss Jennie E. Doyle as "Past Chief" and Mrs.

Minnie E. Brace as "MEC" in 1907, and Mrs. James R. Tay for that latter rank in 1912. The Rathbone Sisters of the World eventually became extinct. An all-female Supreme Temple Order remains.

Another splinter group was the Improved Order of Knights of Pythias. It sprang from a number of German-descendant members, particularly in the State of Pennsylvania. These Teutonic souls were rankled at being denied the right to print the order's ritual in German, or in fact, any language, except English. As a result they and their lodges seceded from the parent body and formed a new Order in June of 1895. The entrance of the United States into World War I in 1917, however, ignited a national patriotic fervor and anti-German sentiment that snuffed out the aspirations of the IOKP.



Founder's Jewel presented J. H. Rathbone by KOP

Like many visionaries Justus Rathbone's creation of KOP produced an early period of jealousy and bickering by those who envied his concept and sought to usurp his founder's role. Rathbone stepped aside rather than see the Order disintegrate. It wasn't until 1877 that his organization embarrassingly created a position for him – Supreme Lecturer of the Order. Broken in health and sorrowing over the death of his wife two years earlier, Rathbone passed away on Feb. 19, 1889 at Lima, Ohio. He was buried in Utica, New York with a proper monument to his spirit of fraternal love and comradeship.

In 1923 the KOP was said to have some 908,000 members. The Depression, however, thinned their ranks drastically, even as such political giants as Franklin D. Roosevelt was initiated into the Order in 1936. In 1994, the KOP had shrunk to 80,000 participants, a mere shadow of its former self. Today, in contrast, the computer search engines of Google and Yahoo list innumerable sites, demonstrating the renewed vitality of this Order. From an arcane birth complete with mystical medieval rites and ceremonies, KOP has emerged into the 21st century with a number of benevolent projects and a Junior Order to insure its continued existence.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This writer wishes to recognize the following for their assistance in the preparation of this article: Harvey Wollmen, Kalamazoo Lodge, KOP; Alfred A. Saltzman, Supreme Secretary, Supreme Lodge, KOP; Keith Bennett, First Vice-President, OCPHS; Chris Martinez, Technical Consultant; Mike Martinez, Weaponry Consultant; Adult

Services Dept., Bloomfield Township Library; the staff of the Pine Grove

Library, OCPHS, Pontiac; and Kathryn Daggy for her computer skills.

Headquarters Uniform Rank, K. of P.

Indianapolis, Ind. July 26. 1880-

TO THE SUPREME KEEPER OF RECORDS AND SEAL,
KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OF THE WORLD:

Sir: I have the honor to report that Pontiac Division,
No. 44, of Michigan Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias,
located at Pontiac, County of Oakland and State of
Michigan, was instituted on the 30 day of June
A. D. 1880, P. P. X X V I I with a membership of _____; and that
the following named members are the

FIRST OFFICERS OF THE DIVISION:

OFFICERS.	NAME.	POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.
Sir Knight Captain,	<u>R. S. Howard</u>	<u>Pontiac</u> <u>Mich.</u>
Sir Knight Lieutenant,	<u>H. E. Morgan</u>	
Sir Knight Herald,	<u>M. G. Elliott</u>	
Sir Knight Recorder,	<u>J. B. Weaver</u>	
Sir Knight Treasurer,	<u>H. G. North</u>	
Sir Knight Guard,		
Sir Knight Sentinel,		

Instituted by H. H. Loomis

Faternally,

James R. Canahan
Major-General U. R.

R. S. Howard

Sir Knight Captain Pontiac Division, No. 44 of Michigan U. R. K. P.

Knightly Sir:

The above is a copy of the report of the instituting of your Division, which has been forwarded from these Headquarters to the S. E. R. S., with instructions to send the seal for your Division to you. If there should be any delay in your receiving the seal, notify me.

Notice has also been given to Brigadier General H. F. Hastings commanding the Michigan Brigade, U. R. K. P., concerning your Division, and he will assign you to the proper regiment. When you receive orders assigning you to the regiment, report at once, by letter, to the Colonel of the regiment for duty.

Official,

Wm. J. McKee
Brigadier-General and Adjutant-General.

Faternally,

James R. Canahan
Major-General U. R. K. P.

Official notification of the establishment of the Pontiac Division No. 44, Uniform Rank on June 30, 1890.

ARCHITECTS HIRED FOR NEW BUILDING

Morgan-Heller Associates have been hired to design the new building project for our grounds. This building will be designed to eventually contain comfort facilities, exhibit/meeting room, kitchen area, and additional storage. The design will be in keeping with our historic buildings. An estimated cost of construction of each phase will be included.

We are in dire need of additional handicapped accessible comfort facilities if we are to continue to grow as a community attraction and meeting site. Our two restrooms have been overtaxed with large tour groups and special events. It is imperative that these facilities be in phase one of planning and construction.

Once the design is complete, the building construction committee will review the project, and present it to the Board of Directors for their approval. When all the various governmental approvals are factored into this project, we then enter the fund raising segment.

Because of the financial position of our Society, we will not start any construction until such time as we have all the costs committed or in hand. We will not incur debt to fund any part of this project.

We are forever grateful to General Motors for their generous support of this concept. We could not even dream of this structure becoming a reality without their enthusiastic support and financial contributions.

We will need the support of all our members as well as other organizations and businesses with this project. We will keep you informed of our progress.

*Keith Bennett,
Building Committee Chairman*

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PLAN

There is still time to buy a rosebush for the hedge along the front of OCPHS property. The plan has been expanded and more roses are need. If you order now, they can still be ordered from Goldner and Walsh for spring planting. The price is \$20.00 each.

The next step in this project will be the pavers for the walkways to the Mansion and schoolhouse. Prices are not yet determined, but you will be able to have these pavers engraved to honor someone special. We plan on having more details in the spring.

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Two unexpected and generous donations have been received by our Society.

Rex Lamoreaux has made a very generous contribution to the OCPHS Endowment Fund. The principal will remain intact in perpetuity while the interest on this investment will help fund the operating expenses of this Society. Rex has been an active member of this organization for many years, and currently serves on the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee. Long an advocate of the need to increase our Endowment, Rex has made a lasting contribution, both monetarily and by providing the catalyst for us to embark upon a program of planned giving in 2006. Thank you, Rex, for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Dorcas Wolf, a long-time member who is now deceased, remembered OCPHS in her will. We were recently notified that on settlement of her estate, another sum of money was designated for the Society. Miss Wolf's bequest has provided significant assistance with our operating expenses for this year and last.

OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President: Michael E. Willis

1st Vice President: Keith Bennett

2nd Vice President: Fran Wilson

Treasurer: Amy Annett

Recording Secretary: Kathryn Daggy

BOARD MEMBERS

Sylvia Adams, Bloomfield Hills

Amy Annett, Waterford

Bruce Annett, Waterford

Janice Bell, Waterford

Keith Bennett, Rochester Hills

Kathryn Daggy, Auburn Hills

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Rex Lamoreaux, Pontiac

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Jean Milton, Pontiac

Cynthia Motzenbecker, Royal Oak

Joan Pate, Bloomfield Hills

Connie Scafe, Clarkston

Gale Scafe, Clarkston

Richards Stamps, Rochester

Scott Tupper, Bloomfield Hills

Michael Willis, Pontiac

Fran Wilson, Bloomfield

Rodger Zeller, Waterford

VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE - A GRAND SUCCESS!
December 11, 2005

The Victorian Open House was welcomed back after a three year absence. Inside and outside, the house was beautifully decorated under the supervision and care of the VOH co-chairmen Kathryn Daggy and Nancy Duffield, with volunteers Jan and Kim Bell. The dining room was decorated by Joan Miller. The second grade class of Whitman Elementary School decorated the schoolhouse with their own handmade ornaments. Over 100 people attended the Open House and enjoyed the cider and home-made cookies. House tours were available throughout the week following the Open House and school groups were delighted with the old-fashioned decorations.

This year we were fortunate to enlist the assistance of the Society of Creative Anachronists. This group of young people have aided our fundraising endeavors many times during our summertime activities. This Christmas these talented artisans demonstrated their skills in almost every room in the Mansion and our other buildings. Grace Carafelly was weaving in the family sitting room, Artie Martin demonstrated bobbin lace making in the parlour, Ann Akin was weaving in the Wisner bedroom, Catherine Haynes was spinning in the schoolhouse and Heather Haynes demonstrated the drop spindle. In the Pioneer Museum Nelson Haynes demonstrated wood carving and George Martin carved bows for archery. Marlene Rodgers used her spinning wheel in the summer kitchen. Joan Miller displayed the skill of cutting six pointed snow flakes. Bonnie Brede cut silhouettes of both children and adults while Billy Martin demonstrated juggling and magic tricks to entertain the children.

The carriage house was filled with home-made cookies. LaVon DeLisle poured tea, and Annalee Kennedy poured coffee. Donna Mallonen dispensed mulled cider. Amy Annett provided beautiful guitar music while guests enjoyed their refreshments. Our other guides were: Sylvia Adams, Janice Bell, Jean Milton, Deloris Telisky, Vivian Eddy, Rosemary Gallardo, Jeffery Clark, Rodger Zeller, Barbara Irwin, Judy Hudalla, Kimberly Bell, Charles Martinez, Bruce Annett, Guy Duffield, Gaylor Forman, Keith Bennett, Ron Gay, Maureen Tossey, and Scott Tupper.

We are grateful to all our volunteers who donated time for guiding, baking, cleaning, decorating, serving, and clean-up after our week-long event.

PINEGROVE TOURS 2006

It is not too early to register for group tours for this spring. Groups of 10 or more can reserve a day and time. We prefer the days and hours when the museum and library are open; however, other times can be arranged if guides are available. Call for a registration form.

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their generous support of our Victorian Open House:

EMERALD SPONSOR

Forman, Gaylor

RUBY SPONSOR

Poole, Fred

GOLD SPONSORS

Balmer, Richard

Dey, Theda

Pate, Larry & Jo

Wilson, Tom & Fran

SILVER SPONSORS

Bennett, Keith & Barbara

Foxman, Miriam

Scafe, Gale & Connie

Scafe, Joyce

Slezinski, Jim

Wessels, Mary

BRONZE SPONSORS

Annett, Bruce & Amy

Berry, Andrew

Daggy, Kathryn

Dixon, Catherine-Jo

Eddy, Vivian

Gallardo, Rosemary

Gregory, Margaret

Haven, Gilbert & Flavian

Jackson, Margaret

Liimatta, Fred & Anne

Tewilliger, Gerald & Sally

Zehnder, Michael & Ellen

IN-KIND DONATIONS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Bell, Jan & Kim

Duffield, Guy & Nancy

Daggy, Kathryn

Lamoreaux, Rex

Wilson, Tom & Fran

All of our cookie bakers!

Volunteers & Friends of OCPHS

SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to work with our Oral History program. We have many tapes that need transcribing into a computer – a tedious task! There are many people in our community who have memories that should be recorded, and we need volunteers who know how to interview and ask the right questions. If this is one of your talents, give us a call: 248-338-6732

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS....

Pontiac Gazette December 28, 1877, page 5, column 2:

Through Jerry Thorpe we are in receipt from John L. (Thorpe), of Florida of some very fine oranges, the product of the latter's own groves. They are fresh and beautiful. Mr. Thorpe is a man of energy, pluck and enterprise and wherever he is, adapts himself to the business and climate of the section. When in Wisconsin he was a steamboatman and lumberman and when he went to Florida, 6 years ago, he was not long in reclaiming enough Florida wilderness to plant a splendid grove of orange trees and he has just commenced reaping his reward. Oranges are just like apples in variety and kind and Mr. Thorpe has selected the finest variety and set on new land and can now see his products year by year ripen into the golden GOLD – without any great anxiety as to the material future.

Pontiac Gazette October 30, 1891:

The two Birmingham women who made Pontiac a visit, Tuesday night, had better stay at home hereafter.

Pontiac Gazette September 25, 1891:

Murder is truly rampant in Michigan. The record of the past year shows a bloody campaign on human life. Statistics from the Attorney General's report for the year ending June 30, 1891 shows 53 murders with only 15 convictions. This showing is simply horrible and calls loudly for a more rigid enforcement of law with the restraining influence of capital punishment by hanging or electrocution.

Subject: GREAT TRUTHS

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

THESE WILL CURE ANYTHING!

For stiff joints: oil made by trying (sic) up common angle worms, is excellent to apply to sinews drawn up by sprains or disease.

To prevent skin from discoloring after a bruise: apply immediately a little dry starch or arrow-root, moistened with cold water, or rub over with common table butter.

Sleeplessness: wet a cloth in cold water and lay it on the back of the neck. Fold a towel smoothly over it and very often it will soothe the weary brain, and quiet the nerves better than an opiate.

For sore throat: A tea-cup of vinegar, add salt and cayenne pepper, making it as strong as can be taken, and gargle often with it.

Bite of insect: ammonia, applied freely.

For colds: drink hot pennyroyal tea. (Pennyroyal is an herb from Morocco.)

To stop bleeding: apply wet tea-leaves, or scrapings of sole-leather to a fresh cut, or apply a paste of flour and vinegar.

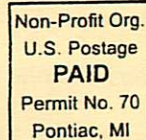
Cough: for a tight, hoarse cough, where phlegm is not raised, take *hot* water often, as hot as can be sipped. This will be found to give immediate and permanent relief.

For burns: common baking soda has been found to cure burns or scalds, affording immediate relief. For a dry burn, soda should be made into paste with water. For a scald or wet burned surface, the powdered soda (or borax) should be dusted on.

To relieve asthma: wet blotting-paper in strong solution of salt-petre (sic), dry it, and burn a piece three inches square on a plate in sleeping-room, and it will afford quick relief.

Bee stings: lean raw meat is most effective. It is said to cure the bite of a rattlesnake and relieve erysipelas.

Extracted from: "The Buckeye Cookery" published 1880 and dedicated to the "*plucky housewives who master their work instead of allowing it to master them.*"



405 CESAR CHAVEZ AVENUE
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48342

Phone: 248.338.6732
Fax: 248.338.6731

ocphs@wwnet.net

<http://wwnet.net/~ocphs/index.html>

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