OAKLAND



GAZETTE

Governor Moses Wisner Mansion (ca. 1845)

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Autumn 2006

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Increasingly, OCPHS has sought partnerships within the community. Our relationship with the Pontiac Regional Chamber, for example, led not only to helping on each other's events, but it introduced us to General Motors, and ultimately to the funding that GM's Pontiac Community Relations Committee awarded for our planned new building.

Over the past few years, we've worked with Arts, Beats & Eats, Habitat for Humanity, Leadership Oakland, the Michigan Archaeology Society, the Oakland County Historical Commission, OLHSA, Goldner Walsh Nursery, the Pontiac Garden Club, Women's National Farm and Garden, various Oakland County departments, museums, and libraries, Canterbury Village, and the Clinton River Council. These affiliations have afforded us outreach, publicity, education, and financial support, and we in turn have provided our partners with labor, community service opportunities, and resources.

Most recently, we've joined the county's other historical societies for roundtable discussions of issues we all face, such as funding, programming, volunteerism, and membership. Through these discussions each group gains inspiration and ideas.

Finally, it's important to recognize that our volunteers and members are partners as well. Ideas, talent, and hard work from many, working together, produce abundant results.

We intend to continue partnering with other organizations and individuals to build a stronger organization. Thank you to our partners—past, present, and future.

Amy Annett

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AUTUMN FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 10

It's coming soon! Sunday, September 10 will be here before you know it, and we trust you have marked the date on your calendar to be here and take part in our activities.

We have music! On the grounds, we will have Celebration, a barbershop quartet, at noon, followed by the Church Street Singers at 2pm, and The Hipbone Connection band will entertain throughout the remainder of the afternoon. In the Wisner House Samantha Bogner will entertain with her violin, followed by an autoharp concert.

Our "fearsome" schoolmarm, Miriam Foxman will preside over the schoolhouse and children of all ages will have the experience, however brief, of school when discipline was enforced and learning was required!

The Society for Creative Anachronists will demonstrate how to use the strange cooking utensils in the summer kitchen, and will cook up an apple stew. Members will also demonstrate all sorts of handicrafts, such as spinning, tatting, weaving and woodcarving.

We will have a quilting demonstration and displays of the quilts owned by our Society. Our various spinning wheels and yarn winders will be displayed on the front porch.

A variety of items will be for sale: books published by our members; extra craft books, including many hard-cover quilting books; hand-made items from the gift shop, including birdhouses; and many duplicate antique items from our attics and basements that do not fit our collection focus.

The gift shop will be open, as well.

Games for children up to 100 years are offered. Croquet, horseshoes and a treasure hunt. Winners will receive prizes!

And, of course, there will be food. Hot dogs, chips, soda, lemonade, popcorn, ice cream treats, and home-baked cookies.

There is no admission charge, but there will be a nominal charge for food items.

Please support our event – bring your family, your relatives and your neighbors. Don't forget that this is also **Grandparents Day.** Bring your grandparents and show them around.

We still need volunteer assistance to man our tables, guide in the house, bake cookies, supervise games, staff the carriage house. A sign-up sheet is enclosed.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN APPOINTED

President Amy Annett has appointed chairmen of some of the committees required to run this organization. They are:

Standing Committees:

Master Plan Policy & Procedures: Keith Bennett

Finance: Kathryn Daggy

Accessions: Geoff Brieger/Charles Martinez

House: Kimberly Bell/Janice Bell

Library: Fran Wilson Gazette: Jo Pate Costumes: Jo Pate

Maintenance/Grounds: Guy Duffield

Gift Shop: Judy Hudalla

Guides: Kathryn Daggy, Interim Chair Clothing/Textiles: Jo Pate, Interim Chair

Ad Hoc Committees:

New Building: Keith Bennett

Arts, Beats, & Eats: Judy Hudalla/Sylvia Adams

Nominating: Charles Martinez/Jo Pate

CleanUp/Clean Out: Charles Martinez/Jo Pate Fall Fundraising Event: Kathryn Daggy/Jo Pate

Historical Research: Wally Szumny

Technology & Website Development: Amy Annett,

Interim Chair

Committees without Chairmen:

Membership
Exhibits
Schoolhouse/Education
Publicity/Publications
Grant Writing/Planned Giving Fundraising
Volunteer Training & Recruitment Coordination

Please let Tracy Thomas, in our office, know if you are interested in any of these committees.

NEW MEMBERS

Cavanaugh Family, Warren Henry Grix & Howard Israel, Bloomfield David Irwin, Bloomfield Robert Sowles, Clarkston Edith Sumner, Florida

Welcome!

ON-GOING HOUSE CLEANING

While continuing with the sorting and identifying of unused frames in the attic, we have found a large framed marriage record with pictures of the bride and groom and the following information:

A.H. Brewer of Addison and Sarah A. Bowlby of Oakland, married at Mayfield, Lapeer County 31 March 1880 by Rev. Lester Clark of Mayfield – witnesses: Roxy C. and Jason Clark.

Anyone who wishes to buy this framed certificate may do so with an appropriate donation to our society. Our society will retain a digitized image of the certificate.

VILLAGE WOMAN'S CLUB GRANT

We are pleased to have received a \$1000 grant from the Village Woman's Club to up-date and expand our costume collection for the docents. Emily and Katie Annett are modeling some of the costumes we were able to buy from Sutton's Costumes, in Waterford. We also have other new items, such as pantaloons, a small child's dress and a woman's dress and bonnet. We now have patterns for men's vests, and with the purchase of fabric for the vests, we will need seamstresses who would like to make one – or more – for our male guides.



Oh, yes, Emily will be wearing the new costume at our September 10 event, and Katie will exchange her Civil War garb for a more lady-like look during the afternoon. Look for them.

NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER

We are very proud to have received the recognition of a National Historic Site on July 8, 1970; however, we have not had a marker on our house until now!. The new bronze marker will be at the south entrance to the Wisner House within the next few days. Look for it when you enter the house for a tour. We are truly a "destination of interest".

OAKLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES TO BE REPRESENTED AT SEPTEMBER 10 EVENT.

We invite <u>all</u> Oakland County Historical and Genealogical Societies and Museums to be present at our Autumn Festival. Bring a table, chair, literature, and publications you wish to sell. There is no vendor fee. We encourage you to share your information with all our guests.

CALL TRACY THOMAS

Tracy is the amazing young woman who is running our office, and she is the one to call to volunteer for anything, make corrections, or ask questions. If she can't answer all your questions, she will find someone who can. 248-338-6732.

GRANT FROM LULA C. WILSON TRUST

The Society recently received a \$2,000 grant from the Lula C. Wilson Trust for general operating expenses. The Trust has awarded grant funding for a variety of needs in the past, including building repairs, professional consulting, staffing, and general operations. Lula Wilson died in 1961 at age 87. She was the wife of Charles Wilson, who with his brother D.R. Wilson ran the Wilson Foundry and Machine Corporation in Pontiac. We wish to thank the Trust for its continued support of our mission.

LIBRARY UPDATE

The library, under the direction of Fran Wilson, has purchased a series of microfilms that will benefit those researching farming families in Oakland County. The agricultural censuses for 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 are available for viewing and research. The library also has the 1850 industrial census for Oakland County, and films of early tax records and deeds. Films of Oakland County marriage records from 1837 are also available.

NEW E-MAIL AND WEB-SITE

Our new web-site is www.ocphs.org and new e-mail is office@ocphs.org. We are still working on the web-site, but be patient while we work out the bugs.

NEW MOSES WISNER BOOK

Joan Miller, an active member of the Society, has just published a book about Moses Wisner. It has been researched with a variety of sources, including our library collection. It may be of interest to anyone researching Michigan governors and the history of Michigan. This publication will be for sale at our September 10 event for \$12.00 and Joan will be available for signings. Congratulations, Joan.

GARDEN CLUB TOUR SUCCESSFUL

The Pontiac Garden Club included our grounds as a part of their tour on Saturday, July 22. We estimated that aout 40 guests stopped at our facility and had lemonade and cookies while here. We wish to thank the Pontiac Garden Club for including us in their garden tour and for their generous support of our landscaping efforts.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS....

From the Alton Telegraph and Democratic Review, Alton, Indiana December 6, 1845:

A bill of indictment was found, at the late term of Oakland county Court, Michigan, against Hubbard H. Dunclee, William M. Thompson, Moses Wisner, and Charles Draper, on the charge of having forged the celebrated Garland letter, which was circulated to the prejudice of Mr. Birney, just before the last Presidential election. Upon the filing of the indictment, some of the accused entered a plea of not guilty; and the others made oath that the bill had been found without lawful proof, which was admitted by the State. A motion was then made to quash the indictment on the above ground, which, after argument was reserved for the consideration of the Supreme Court. A libel suit moreover has been instituted against the Editors and publishers of the Detroit Free Press, for having stated in their paper that the acused were "the Birney forgers."

From the Appleton Crescent Appleton, Wisconsin August 15, 1863:

An exciting elopement has recently occurred from Auburn village, Oakland, Mich. The Pontiac Gazette says that "Rev. Mr. Brush, forgetful of the commandments, lately eloped with a grass widow of bewitching ways, of the same place. The reverend gentleman leaves a wife and an interesting family of children, and his beautiful paramour, having previously been deserted by her liege lord, also leaves children to the tender mercies of the public."





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PRESERVATION OF THE PAST FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nar	ne	HALL INDIGHT	
Street Apt No.		Apt No.	
City/State Zip		Zip	
TelephoneE-mail			
0	Check here if gift membership		
0	from		
MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR ONE YEAR			
0	Student		
0	Senior (65 & over)	\$15.	
0	Individual		
0	Couple	\$35.	
0	Family (Parents & Children)	\$50.	
0	Non-Profit Organization	\$20.	
0	Patron	\$75.	
0	Benefactor	\$150.	
0	Corporate Sponsor	\$500.	

Check desired category and enclose this application with check or money order made payable to: Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society and send to 405 Cesar Chavez Avenue, Pontiac, MI 48342

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY HOURS

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
11 AM – 4 PM
Please call before coming in

WISNER HOUSE TOURS
by appointment

GROUPS WELCOME Call for information 248-338-6732