**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

In this issue, you'll find a call for candidates for our board of directors. Although our bylaws give general requirements for directorship, I'd like to expand upon the role of a director and the commitment needed to fulfill that responsibility. Both active directors *and* active volunteers who are not on the board are vital to our success.

**What is a director's role?** Directors govern the Society and oversee its resources. Major responsibilities include forming and fulfilling our mission, setting and reviewing policy, strategic planning, oversight and evaluation of our programs, stewardship of our resources, raising funds, acting as ambassadors for the organization, and committee service to achieve desired goals.

In considering whether to seek a seat on the board of directors, ask yourself these questions:

**Am I interested in OCPHS's mission?**

**Am I willing to devote my time, financial resources, or both?**

**Do I have time to attend and participate in board meetings, committee service, and events?**

**Can I work cooperatively with others? Can I give and receive constructive criticism?**

**Do I bring special skills to the board? What is my experience? What have I done lately?**

**Am I prepared to actively consider and contribute to mission, policy, and strategic decisions?**

**Am I prepared to actively raise funds for the organization, or to recommend contacts, act as an ambassador, and cultivate relationships that may result in future support?**

**Do I have contacts with other people or organizations that could benefit OCPHS?**

**Do I want to be a director, or may I be kept informed and serve in other ways just as effectively?**

volunteer, to serve on committees, or to support the organization financially or with time and talent. If you'd like to do those things without the other responsibilities of board service, then consider becoming or remaining an active volunteer without running for the board—your service is important!

But if you genuinely desire to actively participate in governance, to head a committee, to set goals for yourself and committee members and to work cooperatively to achieve them, to report results, to promote the organization, to bring OCPHS to the attention of your business and personal contacts, and you have the necessary time and stamina to devote to helping us move forward, then do submit your name to the nominating committee for consideration in this year's election.

Remember that we need both directors *and* active volunteers who do not serve on the board. Carefully consider which role is most appropriate for you at OCPHS—we need everyone to offer their talents in the way that best serves his or her own situation and the Society as a whole.

*Amy Annett*

**In This Issue**

<i>President's letter</i>	1
<i>Friends of OCPHS</i>	2
<i>Additional Supporters</i>	2
<i>Nominations for Board of Directors</i>	2
<i>In Memoriam</i>	2
<i>Fencing Project</i>	3
<i>New Board member</i>	3
<i>New Members</i>	3
<i>County Events</i>	3
<i>Moses Wisner Birthday Party</i>	3
<i>Oakland County Historical Round Table</i>	3
<i>Corporate Sponsors</i>	4
<i>Memorial Donations</i>	4
<i>Help with Publicity</i>	4
<i>New Publication: 22<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Infantry</i>	4
<i>Tracy Leaving – New Office Coordinator</i>	4
<i>Guidelines for Collections</i>	4
<i>Out of State Death Notices</i>	5
<i>From the Newspapers</i>	5

It is not necessary to be a director to attend board meetings, to receive copies of board minutes, to



## **FRIENDS OF OCPHS**

Our appeal for members of newly formed FRIENDS OF OCPHS sponsorship is yielding early results. Our current Friends are:

Amy and Bruce Annett, Jr.  
Barbara and Keith Bennett  
Nancy and Guy Duffield  
Gaylor Forman  
Rex Lamoreaux  
Jo and Larry Pate

Anyone is welcome to join our supporters with a donation of \$500. or more in unrestricted funds.

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS**

Fran and Tom Wilson made a generous donation to the Society for the extended roadside hedge of roses, in memory of her parents, Milton and F. Lucille Young. Both were teachers in the Pontiac system: Milton taught science at Eastern Junior High and Lucille taught English and Math at Lincoln Junior High.

Miriam Foxman makes monthly donations to OCPHS to assist with various on-going expenses of the society.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Those members of OCPHS who wish to be considered candidates for nomination for Board of Directors for the term of office beginning in May 2007 should submit a letter of interest to the Nominating Committee by March 1, 2007. An applicant must be in good standing, which means your dues must be paid to date. Also, you must be a member of OCPHS at least one year before applying for nomination.

Our bylaws state that the number of directors shall be equal to approximately 10% of the annual general membership. With 272 members at the end of December 2006, we have room for a total board of 27, with 6 of those to be elected by the members present at the annual meeting May 19, 2007.

The openings are for a 3-year term of office. Board members are expected to attend at least 4 of the 11 meetings a year; work on at least one committee, volunteer at society events, and whenever possible, chair at least one committee. Applicants should also consider the role and commitment of a Director, as outlined in the President's letter on page 1 of this newsletter.

Letters of interest must be postmarked by March 1. Address your letter to: The Nominating Committee and send to the society address. The Nominating Committee will send further application materials, with required deadlines, to qualified applicants as part of its review of prospective candidates.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Constance J. Lektzian Scafe  
died December 7, 2006

Connie was a long time member of OCPHS and a current member of the Board of Directors. She had been on the staff of the Independence Township Library, and for several years wrote a column "Another Time" for the Clarkston News. She served as a docent for the Wisner House, and her greatest pleasure was working in the summer kitchen. She is survived by her husband of 18 years, Gale Scafe and mother and step-mother of seven and grandmother of nine. She was well loved and will be missed by all who knew her. Our condolences to Gale and all her family and friends.

Judge Donald Adams  
died January 30, 2007

Donald was a life member of OCPHS. He was President of the Society from 1970 to 1972. A life-long resident of Pontiac, he was active in many organizations, including membership at First Presbyterian church since 1924. He served 40 years as a judge beginning in 1937. He was son of Jayno Whitmore Adams, a founder of OCPHS, and Blanche Walker Earl Adams. Donald is survived by his wife, Betty, and son David.

Margaret Rockwell Gregory  
died December 2, 2006

Margaret died at the age of 96, having been an enthusiastic supporter of OCPHS for many years. When she could no longer actively work at the Society's events, her daughter, Joan Mountford helped out – one year contributing a dozen cakes and almost 100 dozen cookies for a bake sale. In addition to Joan, Margaret is survived by daughters Carole King and Mary Warner and six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Virginia Catherine Clohset  
died December 2, 2006

Virginia died from complications of pneumonia. She had been active in OCPHS for many years, and at one time was Chairman of the Manuscript Committee, and a member of the Board of Directors. She had also been active in the Birmingham Historical Society, Friends of Baldwin Public Library, Lineage Research Chairman for the Piety Hill Chapter of the DAR, and several other organizations. She also co-authored "The Book of Birmingham". She is survived by three children and 2 grandsons, three step-grandsons and six great grandchildren.



## **FENCING PROJECT IS COMPLETE**

Through the generous donation of General Motors' Pontiac Community Relations Committee, we have completed a project long on our wish list: fencing the large parking area between Wisner stadium and our grounds. The existing fence that ran along our grounds, enclosing the Wisner House, summer kitchen, and carriage house, was not on our property line. There is about an acre adjacent to the north that we have used for parking for several years. However, those attending sporting events at Wisner Stadium also used this land for parking, often without our permission. We have been concerned with liability and security. To protect ourselves we felt it was necessary to have a fence from Cesar E. Chavez along the entire boundary line, connecting to the existing fence at the back of the property. In addition, new plastic-coated chain link fencing was installed across the front of the extra lot, which ties into the existing fence on the front property line. This fence has a gate for entering and exiting the parking area from Cesar E. Chavez. Finally, we added a new, larger gate near the Carriage House leading from our current driveway to the parking area. This allows a safer way for school buses and trucks unloading for events to exit through the parking area, rather having to turn around in the driveway to leave the site.

This spring, we will add a curb cut on Cesar E. Chavez, completing the project in time for Moses Wisner's Birthday Party on June 2-3, 2007.

Thank you, General Motors, for your generous support!

## **NEW OCPHS BOARD MEMBER**

Brian Golden has been appointed to OCPHS Board of Directors to fill a vacant position. Brian is currently President of the Farmington Historical Society and is active in historical research and preservation projects in Farmington Township. We are pleased to have him as a director and look forward to working with him during his term of office.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Quincy Stewart, of Pontiac  
David & Barbara Hendershot, of Waterford  
Paul & Cecilia Yee, of Bloomfield Hills  
Oakland Township Historical Society  
Knollwood Art Frames, of Bloomfield Hills  
John & Laurie Jelinek, of Bloomfield Hills  
Jim & Donna McFarland, of Waterford  
William Wisner, of Silver Springs, MD  
Joan Mountford, of Bloomfield Hills  
Richard Cronin, of Troy  
Tracy Thomas, of Pontiac

## **COUNTY EVENTS**

We will be pleased to publish times, dates, and places of events for Oakland County historical and genealogical societies, and museums. We invite such organizations to contact the Gazette editor, Jo Pate, at [bipate30@aol.com](mailto:bipate30@aol.com), or call our office and send a flyer as soon as possible.

**Oakland County Genealogical Society** will sponsor a week-long trip to Salt Lake City, Utah for research at the Family History Library, April 17 to 25. Contact Pam Epple at [pjepple@hotmail.com](mailto:pjepple@hotmail.com) for further information.

**Waterford Historical Society** will hold its annual LOG CABIN DAYS on June 23 – 24.

## **Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society Events:**

### **MOSES WISNER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY**

June 2 and 3, 2007 we will be celebrating Moses Wisner's birthday – he would have been 192 years old! A very good reason for a party, we think. See the enclosed flyer for preliminary information.

**Arts, Beats and Eats** is held Labor Day week-end and OCPHS operates a booth. We always need helpers for all days.

**Archaeology Day** will be held in our facility on October 13, 2007.

An event with **Goldner Walsh Nursery** will be held at their nursery sometime in fall. Time and subject will be announced soon.

## **OAKLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL ROUND TABLE**

In January of 2006 a letter was sent from OCPHS to all Oakland County Historical societies suggesting a meeting in April of that year to share ideas, interests, and work cooperatively to preserve the history of Oakland County. The persons responsible for this idea were Mike Sweeney of Orion Historical Society, Brian Golden of Farmington Historical Society, and Fran Wilson from OCPHS. The first get-together was at Pine Grove in the Drayton Plains Schoolhouse, and was enthusiastically attended by representatives of many of the historical societies in the county. Ideas and information were exchanged, a tour of the Wisner mansion, museum, and library was conducted. A second meeting was held in August at Waterford Township in their newly constructed General Store on the Village Green. After this meeting the group toured Waterford's historic restorations. This meeting generated new ideas about the topic of Membership. The sharing of problems and ideas was found to be a very positive outcome of these meetings. A third round table meeting was held in November, with the Franklin Historical Society



volunteering to be hosts. The topic this time was Funding---a subject in which all of us are most interested. Various ideas for events which raised funds and interest were shared. The Farmington group hosted a January get-together at the Farmington Library featuring grants and grant-writing and the use of the computer laboratory for this subject. The idea of sharing not only ideas, but also unneeded items from one society to another resulted in the moving of a sleigh, which OCPHS did not have a place to display, to the newly constructed Carriage House at the Oakland Township Historical Society. The sleigh will have a sign saying that it came from OCPHS. Preservation of historic items from our past is important, and the sharing of these items in order to preserve them is a part of the cooperation of the Round Table group. All Oakland County historical societies are welcome to send representatives to these round table discussions. If your society has not been notified of these meetings, please let us know at OCPHS, or e-mail [OCPHS1@aol.com](mailto:OCPHS1@aol.com) with contact information.

### **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

We are in need of corporate sponsors for our organization. For \$500.00 in unrestricted funds, a business, large or small, will have mention in the Gazette for four issues. The first publication after the donation is received will include a replica of a business-size card for the company. The following three issues will have the company mentioned in the Corporate Sponsor listing. We encourage our readers to let us know of small businesses who would like to promote the preservation of our historic community and receive publicity of their services at the same time. Call or write our office with your information.

### **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Donations in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person is another way to support OCPHS. These gifts can be in unrestricted funds, or for a special fund, such as preservation, landscaping, library. These old buildings need a lot of maintenance and upkeep, and your contributions always are welcome.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP US WITH PUBLICITY**

You, our readers, can help us spread the word about our Pine Grove community and what we have to offer. We would like to know the names of organizations, church fellowship groups, clubs, societies that would like to receive our Gazette, and/or who would be interested in knowing about special events and tours. In the spring and summer, meetings can be held in the schoolhouse with tours of the Wisner House, summer kitchen, farm museum and library.

### **NEW PUBLICATION OF MICHIGAN 22<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY**

OCPHS member, Douglas M. Casamer, has published a new book about the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry which was originally formed by Moses Wisner. *The History of the Michigan 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and the Men Who Served*, was published in December 2006 in CD format. It includes biographies, information from diaries, letters, and almost 500 pictures from over 150 sources. The CD is available now for \$45.00 and in book form later this year. Those who are interested in obtaining more information may contact the author at [w8dmc@yahoo.com](mailto:w8dmc@yahoo.com).

### **GOODBYE TRACY**

Tracy Thomas, our office coordinator has left our society for a full time position. She has been a joy to work with this past year, and made life easier for all our volunteers. We wish her well in her new career.

### **OFFICE COORDINATOR NEEDED**

....and now we need a new person in our office. This would be an ideal position for someone who wants part-time work, does not need health and medical benefits, works well with all ages, has clerical and computer skills, is available to work some Saturdays, and likes a variety of project assignments.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in more details, please contact the Society President, Amy Annett, at [awa16565@flash.net](mailto:awa16565@flash.net) or by phone: 248.338.6732. If you are telephoning, leave a message, as our office is not open every day.

### **GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTIONS**

Last summer we began a careful effort to evaluate the accumulated collection of materials that have filled our attics and basements since the Society's inception 132 years ago. Frames, furniture, typewriters, clothing, spinning wheels, bottles, photos, cupboards, books, artifacts, accessories, and much more. Every item has a unique history and must be thoughtfully considered. Some items had been accessioned (formally recorded) and some not. What should be retained, what donated, what sold, what discarded? There were no clear guidelines for what to collect and what was or was not appropriate to our mission. Keith Bennett, Chairman of the Policy and Procedure Committee, worked with the Accessions Committee, the Clean Up/Clean Out Committee, and the Board of Directors to develop new guidelines for presentation to the board. These guidelines, approved at our January meeting, include the following directives:

- 1) Any new items brought in by donors, must be evaluated by the Accession Committee before being accepted into the collection.
- 2) Donors are informed and agree that items which do not conform to our collection focus

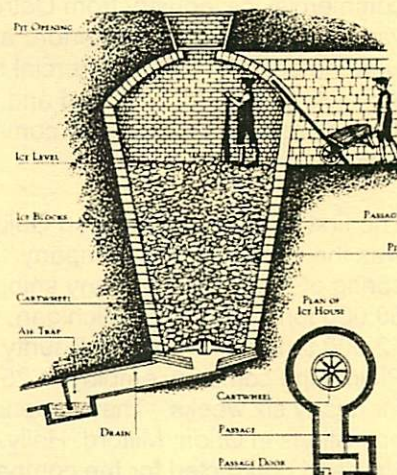


## Forgotten Harvest: Oakland County's Winter Gold

By Leslie S. Edwards (former Administrative Director of OCPHS and current Archivist at Cranbrook)

The use of ice and snow as a cooling method dates back to ancient people in many parts of the world - the Mesopotamians over 4,000 years ago, and the Greeks and Romans, who adapted the use of ice from them. The Chinese who have utilized cold storage for centuries, and, during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD), developed sophisticated methods of food preservation where ice and snow was kept in cellars insulated with grass and dirt. This practice was eventually implemented in many parts of the world.

When the first European settlers arrived in this country, they brought the practice of storing ice in pits and wells from the British Isles. As the settlers migrated westward, they adopted a variety of cold storage methods to keep dairy and meat products cool and fresh. Cellars and wells were common, as were "spring houses" where cool, running water from a stream trickled under or around crocks or pans. The Richardson homestead in Union Lake had a "deep freeze". Blocks of ice were lowered into a deep well and covered with straw. A steel drum was filled with meat and dairy and lowered into the well for cooling.



In Oakland County, local farmers and merchants began to build ice houses out of wood or masonry, and harvesting became a social event where many families joined together to put up large quantities of ice to be used in the summer months. A crop dependent on Mother Nature, ice was usually harvested in January or February. Timing of the harvest was paramount - ice twenty-two inches thick was best, but if harvesters waited too long for the ice to get thicker, they risked a warm spell and no harvest at all.



For decades, Oakland County farmers harvested ice from every local water source. Though clean, clear lakes were optimum for producing good quality ice, rivers and ponds across the county were also utilized. In Bloomfield Township, many residents enjoyed lake access. In the 1870s, three families – the Adams, Gardeners and McHenrys – owned all of the property surrounding Gilbert Lake. All three farms had ice houses on their properties. It is safe to say that neighbors without lake access traveled to the nearest lake to harvest ice. The Benedicts, who lived on the Saginaw Trail, traveled to what was known as Booth Lake at Cranbrook in order to harvest ice for their use.

Cranbrook estate had no less than three ice houses. The original farm, owned by Samuel Alexander, had a small, frame ice house built into the side of a hill along the south shore of the lake. It was used for a short time by the Booths. Cranbrook House, designed in 1908 by Albert Kahn included a large built-in ice box. In the northwest corner of the paved forecourt, there was a "filling" door for the ice box. The ice was cut from the lake, stored the ice house packed in sawdust, and transported to the ice box as needed. Some of the sawdust stuck to the blocks of ice so when the ice reached the court it was squirted clean with a hose before being put in the ice box. Neighbors, like the Barbours and Shaws, helped to harvest ice in the winter in turn for a share for their own use.

In 1905, the Booths had a second ice house constructed at the farm group on what is now Kingswood School. It was a one story frame building, 20'x26', made of pine and hemlock with a field stone base and red cedar shingle roofing. It had a louvered ventilator, six hinged doors and seventy-two linear feet of ice slides.

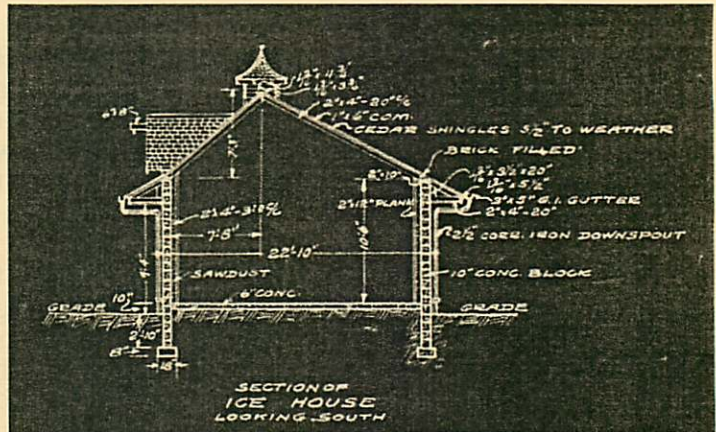


Thirty three cubic yards of sawdust filled the house. A third concrete block ice house was built for the second farm group at the site of what is now Cranbrook School.

## Commercial Harvests

By 1872, the railroad companies arrived in Oakland County and brought with them the commercial ice industry from Detroit and various cities in Ohio. Waterford and Orion were hotbeds for the commercial harvesters, while Holly, Milford, Highland and Oxford Townships also experienced commercial activity.

The first company to arrive in Oakland County was the Cincinnati Ice Company. During the spring of 1874, the company shipped over 50,000 tons of ice from Michigan, with over 12,000 tons from Oakland County. In Drayton Plains, the company employed 25-30 men at the rate of \$2 a day, and 12-15 teams of horses at \$4 per day for nearly six weeks. They expended \$50,000 in labor and \$80,000 in rail freight charges. They also set up operations in Orion, Milford, Holly and Highland Townships. In Milford, local lumber merchants Larkin and Howland contracted for the company, and harvested ice from the lower mill pond and nearby Austins Lake. In Highland Township, the company purchased land on Upper Pettibone Lake and commenced operations at Clyde. Frank S. Hubbell of Milford later operated the "Clyde Plant" at the same location and had seven large houses which held up to 13,000 tons of ice. Later, Pittmans and Dean took over the plant which operated into the late 1920s when fire destroyed the houses.



Architectural drawing of the icehouse at the Cranbrook Farm.  
Courtesy Cranbrook Archives.



The Cincinnati Ice Company was not the only commercial business to locate in Waterford. The Belle Isle Ice Company, also known as the "Detroit Ice Company", began harvesting ice from Loon Lake in Drayton Plains in 1873. They began with one large ice house, 50x90 feet, and by 1891, had a total of eleven ice houses along the Lake. In 1895, the company was purchased by Pittmans and Dean who operated in Drayton Plains until the early 1930s. The old ice houses were used for several years for growing mushrooms, and were purchased later by the Wolverine Lumbering and Wrecking company of Pontiac. The buildings were torn down in 1939 and until the late 1990s, the pilings could still be seen in the lake.

Another company to locate in Waterford Township was the People's Ice Company, which advertised "pure ice" harvested from what they considered to be one of the "purest spring water lakes in the world" - Mountain View Lake near Waterford Center. By 1908, the People's Ice Company owned 133 acres and two 30,000 ton ice houses in the area known as Mountain View Park.

Orion Township also profited from the arrival of the Cincinnati Ice Company who commenced work in Lake Orion in March 1874 with seventy men, one locomotive and fifteen cars. Before nightfall the day they arrived in town, they had ice piled high in the ice house. The company built five ice houses that year - each were 80x40x20 feet high. The Cleveland Ice Company also arrived in Orion in 1874, and built six ice houses which adjoined those of the Cincinnati Ice Company. Larger than those of their competition, each building was 100 feet long, 40 feet wide and 24 feet high. The buildings of the two companies formed a continuous line more than 400 feet in length along the shore of the lake. In July, the Cleveland Ice Company made fifty car loads of ice ready to ship while the Cincinnati Ice Company had a staggering 1,000 car loads to ship south. The Cleveland Ice Company was also known as the Bailey Lake Company and harvested the bulk of their ice from Bailey Lake in Oxford.



By the late 1880s, new companies were arriving in Orion and Oxford Townships to reap the bounty of the winter ice. A Detroit company, Houghten & French, began harvesting ice from Lake Orion in 1889. The Detroit Ice Company, also called the Dubois Detroit Ice Company, located on Long Lake in Orion Township and also on Bailey Lake in Oxford Township around 1892. Other companies in Orion included Hacker & Mackrohdtd (1911-1920) and the General Ice Company (1920-1928).

In December 1898, Pittmans and Dean secured the big Bailey Lake ice houses in Oxford Township. They built an elevator and the Bell Telephone company installed a telephone. By 1906, they had erected seven ice houses along the shores of Long Lake in Orion and increased their work force to ninety-five men and sixteen horses, divided evenly between the Long Lake and Bailey Lake ice plants. By 1922, the company had built fourteen huge ice houses at Long Lake and the plant yielded 50,000 tons of ice.

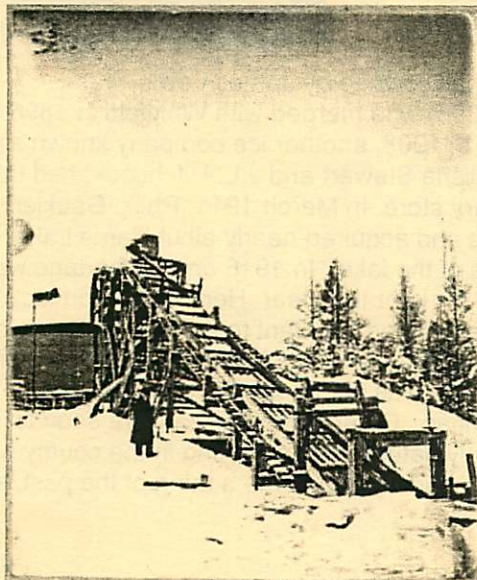
Pittmans and Dean did not cut ice at Long Lake after 1926. The buildings sat empty for four or five years, then were demolished by the Wolverine Wrecking Company, leaving a pile of hay and ice. By 1980, the stone foundations of the icehouses were still visible at Long Lake, and the pilings from the dock were still in the lake, covered with water.



The former site of Pittmans and Dean in Lake Orion. Note the railroad spur on the right – the company had it built in order to make loading the rail cars easier. Courtesy Orion Township Public Library.

### Merchants Needed Ice

Every town and village in Oakland County had merchants who needed ice – the meat markets, dairies, breweries, hotels and even undertakers. The Thorne and Converse Meat Market (1872-1882) in Birmingham, located on the northeast corner of what is now Old Woodward and Maple, had a wood frame ice house behind the store. The market carried fresh meat, butter, eggs, hides, and pelts. By 1885, it was known as Parks & Son, and Alexander Parks filled the ice house with ice harvested from Smith's mill pond (now Endicott Lake). In 1889, Parks built a modern brick business block and the new market had every modern appliance for the care of meats, including a larger ice house. The market expanded to handle pure ice, and delivered ice in a new covered ice wagon which, until that time, had been delivered in an open wagon, which resulted in considerable loss from the hot summer sun.



Harvesting ice in Milford. Courtesy Milford Historical Society.

Ice was also needed to keep dairy products cool and to make ice cream. In Brandon Township, the dairy business began as early as 1875 when butter and eggs were shipped from Ortonville and Thomas. Dairy farms dotted the county's rural landscape, particularly in the more southerly Townships such as Southfield, Royal Oak, Troy and Farmington. The 1880s saw an increase in the development of larger dairy farms, milk depots and creameries, and the use of ice in the industry was standard practice - to make butter, refrigeration was needed to chill the cream after pasteurization. Creameries in Clarkston and Ortonville took in 9,000 pounds of milk every other day. Almost every railroad line ran a refrigerator car over its line weekly for the shipment of butter and eggs, and dairy was even shipped to Detroit on the D.U.R. By 1915, artificial ice manufacturing was appearing, particularly in areas of the county that were not



populated with lakes. The towns of Royal Oak and Birmingham each boasted new creameries that were equipped with machinery to manufacture ice. By 1921, the Birmingham Creamery and Ice Manufacturing Company manufactured over six hundred gallons of ice cream and ten tons of ice every twenty-four hours.

## Vendors

The local merchants often harvested and stored their own ice, but most of the larger towns and communities had ice "vendors" – small, local companies who harvested ice for the local residents and merchants. The city of Pontiac with its large urban population, was ripe for ice delivery. David Swan and George Allen (the first known vendors) advertised in 1855 that in addition to selling imported foods like sardines, oysters, clams, and lobster, they also furnished ice during the summer months. In 1859, they sold the business to Joseph A. Clark and the business soon became Clark, Walker & Co. They advertised delivery of "pure Harris Lake ice" and had two teams that delivered to "every portion of the city". Harris Lake, which was spring fed, had a reputation of producing clean, clear ice and was a natural choice for ice vendors due to its close proximity to the city.

A second ice company, formed by A. J. Stanley and C. W. Williams, offered delivery service to citizens outside the city limits. In 1872, they consolidated with Clark's ice company and the firm name became Stanley, Williams & Clark. In February 1873, they filled three houses with 1,200 tons of superior quality ice - 16 inches thick. The company changed partners again – Clark's neighbor, Ezra Jewell (who later became secretary of OCPHS), joined him and they became the Pontiac Ice Company. Clark & Jewell remained partners until the mid 1880s.

Several vendors followed the Pontiac Ice Company – the Crystal Lake Ice Company (1894) originally owned by Elmer Stowell of Waterford and Alf. Webb of Pontiac, was taken over by Webb's son-in-law, Frank Whitfield. He built two ice houses 100 feet x 24 feet located right on the bank of Clinton River at the "old Weston brick and tile works" on Bagley Street. Whitfield cut the ice at Crystal Lake and floated it down the Clinton River in blocks to the ice houses.

## What About Ice

### This Winter ?



Haven't you wished during the hot days this past summer that you had a plentiful supply packed away? Haven't you said, "Next fall I'm certainly going to build an ice house."? In fact, it's time to build it right now while materials are to be had. Ask us for a suggestion. It's easy to build, costs little and will be a big help in the dairy and will certainly please your wife.

Visit Further North THIS YEAR! WILL BE  
CLOSED Wednesdays and Fridays

**CHAS. SPRAGUE**

Dealer in  
Lumber and Building Material.  
SOUTH LYON, MICHIGAN

Advertisement, South Lyon  
Herald, 1918

## Keep Cool.

## ICE, ICE, ICE, ICE, ICE.

The subscriber is prepared to furnish Ice to families and all persons wishing it, on short notice. Will deliver it to families on

### REASONABLE TERMS.

All orders left with Chas. Fosket. will be thankfully received and promptly executed. Ice may be obtained in small quantities at his Grocery Store at any time.

JOS. CLARK.

Pontiac, May 14, 1863.



The Harris Lake Ice company, originally owned by James Lewis, was operated by Philip Gaukler (1885-1896) who merged with Whitfield in 1896 to become the Pontiac Ice Company. In 1908, another ice company known as the Mountain View Ice Company (Elisha Stewart and J.L. Hitchcock) had their office at Barbour & Blaylock's grocery store. In March 1911, Philip Gaukler's son, Henry, purchased the business and acquired nearly all of Harris Lake and the ice plant on the south shore of the lake. In 1916 an ice shortage was clearly the impetus Gaukler needed for later that year, Henry built Pontiac's first artificial ice plant. In 1922, he expanded his plant to a thirty ton capacity, which grew to one hundred tons by 1928. Gaukler's business decision, along with the advent of modern refrigeration, was the beginning of the end of the natural ice industry in the city of Pontiac. Other communities were soon to follow, and by the late 1930s, the only natural ice harvesting in the county was by rural families. The once-booming business became a thing of the past, and is now a distant memory.



may be donated, sold, or otherwise disposed of at the Board's discretion.

- 3) Appointments must be made with the Accession Committee before items are brought in for evaluation.
- 4) In the events of duplication or inability to store or properly care for certain items, it may be in the best interest of the society to arrange an exchange or transfer to other non-profit organizations, or outright sale to an outside person or organization at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 5) In the case of some items that have been donated in the past which are not within the scope of the Society's collection, the Accession Committee may recommend the disposal of such items, by donation, exchange, or sale. All such dispositions shall be authorized by the Board of Directors.
- 6) These guidelines do not apply to disposal of items such as office furniture, computers or non-collectible items. Disposal of such items will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

This is a brief outline of the policy for collection and retention of artifacts of OCPHS. It also offers a safeguard to disposal of materials in the collection, as part of the stewardship duty of the Board of Directors. Our goal is to ensure that items retained by the Society have historic significance, in conformity with our mission. Every item recommended for deaccession, or removal from our collections, is evaluated by the Accession Committee and the Board of Directors, and every such decision is carefully considered.

#### **OUT OF STATE DEATH NOTICES**

Eleanor E. Borkenhagen of Huntington Beach, California has sent to this society a number of obituaries found in newspapers from the Orange County area of California that may be of interest to our readers. If any reader would like a copy of the newspaper notice, please contact our office. Thank you, Eleanor.

**NEWMAN, ANDREW KRAIG** was born in Pontiac September 29, 1960 to Russell and Elaine Newman. He died January 10, 2006 in Orange County, California

**MANDILK, GREGORY B.**, was born in Pontiac about 1959. He died December 30, 2005 at Clearwater, Florida.

**GOLDBERG, JUNE ARDYTHE** was a native of West Bloomfield. She died July 27, 2006 at Woodland Hills, California.

**IOSUE, THEDA IRENE**, formerly of Pontiac born Theda Irene Sjoblom. She died April 23, 2002 in Lancaster, California.

**DOUGHTY, JANE L.** was born October 2, 1921 in Ferndale to Richard Henry Lazenby and Eleanor Hortense Varran. She died February 22, 2006 in Santa Ana California.

**PORTER, SALLY GENUNG** was born in Birmingham, May 1924 to Arthur and Helen Genung. She died July 28, 2006 at Tustin, California

**LANG, LUCILLE HOOD** was born Lucille Elizabeth Simpson in Pontiac May 24, 1920. She died August 21, 2006 at Los Altos Hills, California.

#### **FROM THE NEWSPAPERS....**

*From The Daily Press, Pontiac, Saturday, February 21, 1903:*

*The Oakland Telephone company sees prospect of connections with Detroit, provided plans now on foot in Detroit materialize. That is the one thing needed to make the success of the independent movement here. Until a local company can give service in Detroit, it will never be an entire success.*

*Davisburg: Mark Frisby, who has been failing for some time was found dead in bed Wednesday morning.*

*Dr. Franklin B. Galbraith died at 11 o'clock this morning. He was born in Sanalac (sic) county December 26, 1840. He married Maria Smith, of Pontiac, in 1865. Their children were Dr. Stuart and Grace, now wife of James H. Harris. The funeral will be held from the home, Tuesday.*

*FOR RENT: Eight room houses, new and up to date. All improvements. Inquire at 58 Oakland avenue or of J.E. Sawyer.*

*A large number of people from out-side of town were in Pontiac today to attend the Pioneer society banquet at the Presbyterian church. About 200 people attended. The banquet was under the direction of Mrs. H.H. Colvin, Mrs. H.M. Jackson, Miss Addie Jewell, Mrs. E. J. Kelly and Mrs. Harriet Elwood.*

*George White of Ann Arbor is in Pontiac spending a few days with his parents on west Huron street.*



**MOSES WISNER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**SATURDAY JUNE 2, 2007**

**and**

**SUNDAY JUNE 3, 2007**

**WE WILL BE CELEBRATING GOVERNOR  
WISNER'S 192<sup>nd</sup> BIRTHDAY ON THESE  
DATES**

**SPONSORED BY THE  
OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue  
Pontiac, MI 48342**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**SIGN UP NOW FOR:  
PLANNING COMMITTEE  
TIME COMMITMENT ON BOTH DAYS  
GUIDING FOR ALL BUILDINGS  
SET-UP COMMITTEE  
CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE**

**WITHOUT HELP FROM MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD  
THIS EVENT!**

**DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

**OFFICE@OCPHS.ORG**

**248-338-6732**