

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello:

Spring has sprung, and nowhere is that more evident than at Pine Grove, where the daffodils are blooming and tours are in full swing! We have already hosted several elementary school classes, and adults are visiting as well, including one group from as far away as Russia! Our House Committee has worked tirelessly keeping the Wisner Home clean and organized, our Grounds and Garden Committees are overseeing landscaping, including donated services from Goldner Walsh, the Pontiac Garden Club, and the Pontiac branch of Women's National Farm and Garden, and you'll soon see completion of the fence, shed renovation, and driveway work made possible by General Motors' financial support and our Site Improvement Committee. The pleasure of showing our grounds and buildings to our members and friends falls to our wonderful docents, who are doing double-duty keeping up with demand! If you are interested in learning to guide, please call our office. Our docents agree that the work is entertaining, enriching, and a great way to serve the community while helping to preserve Pine Grove, truly one of Pontiac's jewels. Come on out—for a visit, or a new avocation! Happy Spring!

Amy Annett

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EVENT CANCELLED

It has been necessary to cancel the birthday party for Gov. Moses Wisner that was planned for the first weekend in June. No volunteers have come forward to work on the planning of the 2-day celebration. We will focus on partnering with outside organizations and hosting tours.

SPRING CLEANING

The Clean-up/Clean-out committee is hard at work, sorting through years of accumulation of furniture, clothing, household goods and accessories. We have a major piece of furniture that is in need of a new home.

This sideboard is late Victorian 1880 – 1910 of quarter-sawn oak with carved decorations and original brass pulls. It measures 54" long, 24" deep and 74" high. We offer it for \$1200.



This item is in the library of the carriage house and may be viewed when the library is open.

We have extra copies of *The Quiver*, yearbook for Pontiac and Pontiac Central High Schools, for the years 1918 (2 copies), 1920, 1938, 1939, 1940. Also, *The Falcon* yearbook for Rochester High School for 1945, 1946, 1947. Each book is \$20.



We still have a large variety of picture frames available. Some would be distinctive pieces with the addition of mirrors. Each frame is individually priced and all are

in the gift shop.

Another item that needs a new home is a 1923 photo of what appears to be the entire student body of Olivet College. It is framed and measures 8 ½" high and 45 ½" long. It is available for \$100.

All items have been deaccessioned and approved for sale by the Board of Directors. Call our office to be sure we are open before coming in to see any of these items. 248.338.6732.

UPCOMING 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 bjpate30@aol.com or call our office and send a flyer as soon as possible.

NORTHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

248-348-1845

- Plant Swap May 26, 2007 – 8 am to noon
- All Village buildings will be open on Sundays, starting June 10, 2007 – 1 – 4pm
- Garage Sale June 13 – 15 9 am – 9 pm
- Garden Walk, Country Garden Club July 11 – all day

WIXOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

248-624-4557

- Ice Cream Social May 20 1 – 4 pm
- Tours of Wire House Museum May 20 1 – 4 pm

ORION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

248-693-4154

- Arts, Autos & Architecture September 21-23, 2007
Also Scripps Mansion Tours

SOUTH LYON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

248-437-9929

- Cemetery Tour June 19, 2007

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

248-685-7308

- Granny's Attic Sale July 13-14, 2007

GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

248-682-2279

- Apple Island Tours May 19, 20, 2007

OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

248-338-6732

- Annual Meeting Saturday, May 19, 2007
Auburn Hills Public Library 10 am
- Arts, Beats & Eats Labor Day week-end
- Archaeology Day October 13, 2007
location to be announced
- Tours of Wisner Mansion available for schoolchildren and adult groups by appointment

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to introduce the members of the Board of Directors of this Society. These profiles will acquaint you with the people who volunteer so much of their time keeping this organization going. The first three in this series are Rex Lamoreaux, Bruce Annett, Jr. and Fran Wilson.

Rex Lamoreaux lives in Pontiac and has a very large collection of regional art.



His great-grandparents came to Michigan after the Erie Canal was built in 1825. He grew up on a farm in Ortonville and moved to Hadley farm in 1923. He attended schools in Pontiac from 3rd grade through 12 - and walked to all schools - they didn't have buses for schoolchildren! He started classes at Detroit Technical College in 1941, but the National Guard called him for service in the Air Force from March 1943 to January 1946. After his discharge he earned a BFA degree at Wayne State University. He worked at Wayne State for 25 years as a commercial artist in Mass Communication and Display.

His mother was mostly English. His paternal ancestor, Capt. Pieter Lamoreaux was born near Bordeaux, France, but was forced to move to Holland when he was 15, and subsequently moved to Bristol, England. Later he immigrated to upstate New York, and moved to Oakland County about 1832. Rex claims three known ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War.

He is a collector of antiques and art. He belongs to Wayne State Alumni Society; Anthony Wayne Society, and other Wayne State groups; also, Detroit Artist Market and Scarab Artist Society.

Rex joined OCGS about 1969 when a membership cost \$1.00. He has served on various committees over the years: Chairman of the Acquisition committee for 8 years; Library committee for 10 years; Master Plan committee for 8 years; and, currently serves on the Finance committee.

He was recently honored by Wayne State for his donation of a large collection of art to their museum.

Rex is in the process of renovating an historic house in the Pontiac area.

We value his expertise on antique furniture and paintings, and thank him for his long service to OCPHS.

Bruce J. Annett, Jr. is a native of Pontiac. His grandfather, Roy was a realtor in Pontiac and active in many community organizations. His father, also Bruce,



would take him, as a small boy, to City Council meetings, school board sessions, Chamber of Commerce meetings, and others, which probably instilled in him a commitment to public service. Bruce

remembers going to the City Club, which was in the Waldron Hotel, with his father where business leaders would discuss the issues of the day. As a young man Bruce worked at maintaining many of the buildings the firm owned in downtown Pontiac, either their own office buildings or others they were trying to sell. Downtown Pontiac was a dynamic and busy place. Bruce remembers the carillon bells on top of the Community National Bank would toll the hours and play music at noon. Prominent stores were *Kresge's "The Dimestore"*, *Simms*, *WKC*, *Wiggs Home Furnishings*. And always, *Osmuns* for clothes.

Bruce attended Waterford Mott High School, Albion College and Michigan State University. He now works at Lawrence Technological University in University Advancement, Publications and Advertising.

His wife is Amy, daughters are Katherine and Emily, and they live on a lake in Waterford.

He joined OCPHS about 1976 because of his interest in local history. While a teenager he drew the floor plan of the Wisner House as part of the community project required to become an Eagle Scout. He has served on several committees for the society: Public Relations, Elections, Policies and Procedures, Building, and others. He volunteers at most major events.

Bruce's other commitments are: Historical Society of Michigan, American Association for State and Local History, Newcomen Society, Algonquin Club, Council for Advancement of Support of Education, Engineering Society of Detroit.

He is one of our famous local authors. His publication, *Asylum: Pontiac's Grand Monument from the Gilded Age* is an award-winning book. It just happens to be for sale in our library.

Fran Wilson was born in Pontiac, attended Pontiac high school, Albion College and received her Masters degree as Media



Specialist/Librarian at Wayne State University. She worked in the Bloomfield Hills school system as a media specialist until her retirement. She remembers growing up in Pontiac at a time when life was leisurely.

She and friends would take long bicycle rides through the country and played on the grounds of Pontiac State hospital, known as "The Asylum" – it was farmland with dairy cows and a bakery – and at the end of her street. They played baseball in vacant lots, basketball on dirt courts near garages, hide and seek. She remembers collecting newspapers for the school paper drives.

About 1991 she joined the Pioneer Society and began work in the library and has used her expertise to organize the materials and train volunteers to assist visitors who come in to research, whether it is houses or families. She is liaison with the Pontiac Garden Club and with Oakland County Historical Resources (libraries group). She was instrumental in forming the round-table of Oakland County historical societies which is working to coordinate activities and resources so all organizations will be able to share information with each other.

Fran currently is 2nd Vice President of OCPHS.

She is a member of the Oakland County Genealogical Society, and currently President of local alumnae association of Kappa Delta Sorority.

She is an avid gardener and genealogist. She also enjoys traveling, needlework, weaving and ceramics.

Fran lives in Bloomfield with her husband, Tom, a retired attorney. They are parents of four sons: Christopher, Michael (deceased), Peter, Andrew; and grandparents of five.

Fran's interest in the history of Pontiac and Oakland County led her to this society, and her dedication to the library has benefited the entire organization and the community as well.

VOLUNTEERS KEEP US ALIVE

Over 9800 hours were recorded by approximately 77 volunteers for 2006. This includes Boot Camp workers who worked in the yard and helped with setup and takedown for special events. A local Boy Scout Group

donated time as well. Then we had guides for house tours, library staffing and research, writing of Gazette, mailings and distribution of materials, public relations, board and operations meetings, lawn and garden maintenance, house maintenance, upkeep of costumes, membership contacts and paperwork, secretarial duties including telephone, computer and related projects, cleaning of attics and basements, financial transactions and bookkeeping, planning and staffing events. In addition we had approximately 1000 visitors during the year and about 200 requests for research.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If the previous paragraph doesn't give you an opportunity to volunteer, perhaps one of the following committees would interest you:

- Clean-up/Clean-out
- Historical research
- Membership assistance
- House
- Publicity/Publications
- Gift Shop
- Costumes
- Guides
- Exhibits
- Schoolhouse/Education
- Library
- Clothing/Textiles

Call our office for further information.

NEW MEMBERS

Maureen Esther of Rochester Hills
 Barbara Bakewell of Northville
 Chuck Magill of Waterford
 Donald Harvey of Linden
 Gen. Richardson Camp No. 2 of Troy
 Michael Carmichael of Bloomfield Hills
 Mike & Helen West of Bloomfield Hills
 Mary Connell of Commerce Twp.

Welcome!

TERRIFIC TRIVIA FROM AN ANNUAL REPORT

In 1910 Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society had over 3000 members – and \$1.83 in the Treasury. That same year, the Society received the first grant from Oakland County: \$100.00

Editor's note: OCPHS received operating grants from Oakland County from 1910 through 2002.

CONSIDER A CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

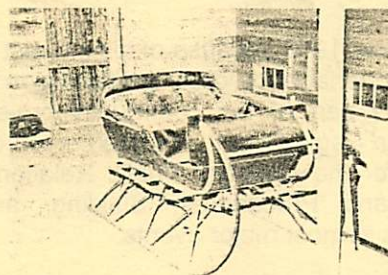
Our Pine Grove complex is a destination of interest in Oakland County. The Gov. Moses Wisner Home and grounds are important to the history of the city of Pontiac, county of Oakland and state of Michigan. We encourage businesses in Pontiac and the surrounding county to contribute to the care, upkeep and improvement of our buildings and grounds. As we are sure you know, older buildings require a great deal of care and repair and the maintenance of gardens and grounds is constant and costly.

We invite your yearly sponsorship of \$500.00 to benefit the Wisner legacy. Each new sponsorship will have a business-size card announcement in the next issue of *The Gazette*, and a mention in each of the next three newsletters to be published.

You may send your check and a business card to our office, and make an appointment to tour our buildings and grounds.

OUR SLEIGH HAS A NEW HOME

The Charter Township of Oakland Historic District Commission held a ceremony on Saturday, May 12, 2007 to dedicate a plaque recognizing the reconstruction of the Carriage Barn at Cranberry Lake Farm. The sleigh that had been stored in our shed had been donated to the township and was restored by their volunteers. At the dedication ceremony, the restored sleigh was properly displayed in its new home with a plaque indicating that it was a gift from our society.



FRIENDS OF OCPHS

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.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE MEN?

These two large portraits were found in our attic. The only identifying information is hand-written on the back of the frames and both say: Oakland County Probate Judge.

This first painting may be Jas. A. Jacokes, attorney-at-law, born 1834 in New York; admitted to the bar in 1861. He resided in Pontiac in 1856 and has filled the office of circuit court

commissioner, city attorney and judge of probate. Can anyone confirm this?

This second painting is unidentified except for the notation on the back of the frame. The canvas is damaged. Can anyone identify this gentleman?



might held lead the horse past the car was told that the horse was alright but please lead my wife past as she was the most frightened."

A Girl Named Florence, by Florence Seely Selden "One of the spring duties was to remove the tacks from the carpeting, gather up the almost pulverized straw which had served as padding, and replace it with fresh straw."

The Story of My Life from the Time I Was Born Until Now, by Winford R. Hamlin. "In the winter we would have to go to the lake and cut holes in the ice every morning and late after noon. That was so the cows and horses could get a drink."

The Pocket Diary of Robert Warner 1866 "Tuesday [June] 5 Rainy wether (sic) makes dull times sow (sic) I have done nothing to day but go from plase (sic) to plase went to Wm Ellises and got my tules (sic) and made a bee hive and that is all"

Mary Austin Wallace: Her Diary, 1862 "Sept. 3 I went to Coldwater got me a pair of shoes one dollar fifty cents....Johnnie a pair of shoes sixty two cents over five yards of calico fifty cents Lucina a pair of shoes one dollar fifty cents come home"

LIBRARY HOLDINGS

The OCPHS library holds many specialized publications. This is a partial listing of small biographical books in the collection, with a quote from each:

The Brewers of Addison Township "There is no farm in northern Oakland from which has graduated a more prominent family than the Peter Brewer farm in Addison."

Woman's Work: The Story of Martha Baldwin. "There were many students in Birmingham who remembered their teacher 'Mattie'."

Letters from 1860: The Howards of Farmington. "Dear Brother: I am glad our father's family can furnish at least one Soldier to fight for our country."

The Little Red Schoolhouse, by Helen Ives Lyon. "By morning my face and eyes were swollen, and I was really sick, and my unsophisticated mind had concluded that I had come in contact with poison ivy. But at the breakfast table the head of the house remarked, 'Guess de bedbugs bite you, Mees Ives'."

What O.B. Judson Saw and Did During His Life "The woods were very heavy; many large trees and thick underbrush, which made it very hard to get through....many trees were notched on the side towards the house for a guide."

To My Friends, by James Parkhill "A driver once told me the story that upon meeting a horse and buggy the lady rider jumped from her seat and upon asking if he

OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER WOMEN

In the *History of Oakland County, Michigan* by Thaddeus D. Seeley, Volume I, page 101, Mr. Seeley included the following:

"In closing these remarks, it would be unjust not to make mention of the pioneer women who have done so much to place the society in its present promising condition. On the 22nd of each February, the following ladies – Mrs. Henry M. Jackson, Mrs. Homer Colvin, Mrs. B. Ellwood, Mrs. William H. Dawson, Mrs. J.L. Sibly, Mrs. J. R. Taylor, Mrs. Mary Clark, Mrs. George Hicks, Mrs. E. Kelly, Mrs. George Williams, Mrs. Edwin Phelps, Miss Kate Leggett, Miss A.. Jewell and many others – have supervised a sumptuous banquet where all meet, eat, drink and make merry.

"But let us not forget that these land-marks and links that connect the past with the present are dropping off, one by one. Let us not forget the strength and heroism that they showed in laying deep the foundations of the institution and privileges that we now enjoy."

The following were the first officers of the Pioneer and Historical Society:

1874 – Thomas J. Drake, Pres.

1875 – Clark Beardsley, Pres.

1876 – 1877 – Henry Waldron

1877 – 1878 – Henry Waldron



Judge Donald E. Adams

1912 – 2007

DON ADAMS – HIS LEGACY:

KINDNESS AND HONESTY

By Charles H. Martinez

On January 30, 2007 Donald E. Adams, retired Oakland County Probate Judge, World War II veteran, avid outdoorsman, and devoted member of this Society passed away. He was ninety-four. His wife of seventy years Elizabeth (Betty) was at his side.

Don was born in 1912 to Jayno Whitmore and Blanche Walker Adams. The parents resided in Waterford where his father was township supervisor and his mother, a teacher, home-schooled Don during his early childhood.

The many highlights of Don's long life were traced by Rev. Michael O'Berski of Lansing who gave the memorial address at the Sparks-Griffin Funeral Home in Pontiac. Rev. O'Berski said:

Don's legacy was not necessarily made of brick and mortar, fame or fortune but....
of the altogether human stuff: everyday conversations, memories, laughter and tears.....

He spoke of Don's high school sweetheart Elizabeth Sparks whom he married in 1936. That same year he graduated from the University of Michigan Law School and was admitted to the Michigan Bar. In 1937 Don was elected Waterford Justice of the Peace. His budding legal career, however, was put on hold with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Don enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve as an Ensign and was released from active duty in 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He reopened his law office and was reelected Justice of the Peace. In 1960 Don was elected Oakland County Judge of Probate, a post he held until his retirement from the Bench in 1977.

Judge Adams took great pleasure in helping develop Children's Village for troubled youth, and in his efforts as a long-time member of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Services Board. He was also a past president and board member of this Society.

Don died at the Mendelson assisted living apartments on the Lourdes campus in Waterford. From the front lawn of this campus Don could look north across Loon and Silver lakes to his family's property in sections 11 and 12 of the old Township. It was within this setting of clustered lakes and timbered openings that he fondly recalled those stories handed down by his ancestors. They told of the Native Americans who hunted, fished, picked berries and buried their dead in this area. With an appreciation of history and science Don donated a collection of Indian lithic objects to this Society in 1993. They had been uncovered by his grandfather Oliver Clark Earl and his father Jayno W. Adams while working their farm land.

Along with this artifact assemblage Don included reference material covering such prominent area pioneers as Oliver Williams whose farm was on the opposite shore of Silver Lake from the Adams' holdings. He mentioned too the celebrated Chief Sashabaw who kindly treated the white pioneers, and upon whose death, was tenderly interred on the Williams property.

In 1984 the Judge authored a poignant article in the Gazette. It told of the courtship of his grandfather Jayno C. Adams and the beautiful Helen M. Ellis, who pursued her intended across a continent. The couple was ultimately married in 1860, and after an exciting life in California and Oregon, returned to Michigan to settle on a Groveland Township farm in 1868.

In addition to his wife, Judge Adams is survived by son David Adams of Bonita Springs, Florida. His older brother, Clark, a Michigan Supreme Court Justice, pre-deceased him.

Fittingly, Judge Adams was laid to rest in Sashabaw Plains Cemetery, a state registered historical site in Independence Township. Both he and his brother once served as members of its governing Cemetery Association Board.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS.....

The Pontiac Courier – December 19, 1936

RAN AWAY

From the subscriber on or about the 11th of Sept. George Parish, an indented apprentice. I hereby forbid all persons harboring or trusting him on any account as I shall pay no debts of his contracting. A reward of three merino potatoes is offered for the above boy. Calvin Eaton, of Milford.

The Pontiac Courier – August 15, 1836

NOTICE

Whereas my wife Susan has left my bed and board without any just cause or provocation and refuses to return – this is therefore to forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on account, as I shall pay no debts of her contracting after this date. Sylvanus Young of Troy.

STRAYED OR STOLEN

On or about the 17th, one yoke of red steers, one a deep red, the other a light red a little staggy horned. Whoever will return said cattle to the subscriber, or give information where they may be found, shall receive \$5. reward and all reasonable charges paid. James Walter, Atlas, Lapeer County.

Hillsdale Whig Standard – May 18, 1847

We learn that a young man by name of Timothy M. Allen, son of Harry Allen, of Orion, in this county, on the 5th inst. In attempting to unhitch a yoke of oxen from a wagon was instantly killed. The oxen started, and throwing him between one of the wheels and a stump, torn one side of his head nearly off. We have heard no further particulars. [Oakland Gazette]

Hillsdale Standard – July 28, 1868

On Monday the 13th inst., Mr. Ezra Burroughs, a well-to-do farmer living one mile south of Rochester, Oakland County started for his home about six o'clock in the evening, and being under the influence of whiskey, wandered into a field by the roadside, laid down and died. He was not found until Tuesday night at 11 o'clock and then quite black.

Grand Traverse Herald – Traverse City – July 20, 1871

Thos. H. Terwilliger, who settled in Groveland, Oakland county, 31 years ago, where he cleared up a farm, built a hotel, and always led an active life, died in Holly a few days since.

Herald Press – St. Joseph, MI – February 7, 1946

(Grand Rapids) Acting Police Chief Albert F. Scheiern said today that Alexander Giliva, 30, has been accused by his common-law wife of the slaying of Arba Hawley, an Oakland county real estate dealer, last Nov. 9

Grand Traverse Herald – September 16, 1859

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS IN MICHIGAN – The following is a list of the Revolutionary soldiers in Michigan, with their ages:

Francis D. Long, Van Buren county, 100 years
Hooper Bishop, Oakland county, 96 years
Ahira Brooks, St. Joseph county, 99 years
Howard Brooks, Macomb county, 94 years
Giles Norton, Livingston county, 93 years

Daily Free Democrat – Milwaukee, WI – March 3, 1851

We regret to learn that Rev. Mr. Neil, lately from Philadelphia, and now settled at Franklin, in Oakland County, was recently bitten by a rabid dog, and that his physicians entertain no hopes of his recovery [Detroit Free Press, Feb. 10th]

Hillsdale Standard – August 18, 1868

On the 30th ult., John Cook, of Novi, Oakland county, committed suicide by drowning in a pond by his house.

THE YEAR WAS 1906....

The average life expectancy was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

Non-Profit Org.
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Phone: 248.338.6732
Fax: 248.338.6731
E-mail: office@ocphs.org

**PRESERVATION OF THE PAST
FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF
FUTURE GENERATIONS**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Name _____
Street _____ Apt No. _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ E-mail _____

- ☐ Check here if gift membership
☐ from _____

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR ONE YEAR

- ☐ Student.....\$15.
☐ Senior (65 & over).....\$15.
☐ Individual.....\$20.
☐ Couple.....\$35.
☐ Family (Parents & Children).....\$50.
☐ Non-Profit Organization.....\$20.
☐ Patron.....\$75.
☐ Benefactor.....\$150.
☐ 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**



Decorating the west wall of the Pine Grove mansion's family room is this historic engraving of John Knox administering the first Protestant sacrament in 1547.

Looking down from the west wall of the Wisner mansion's family room is a pictorial scene that illuminates a pivotal moment in the destiny of a man and his nation. The young man, a preacher, is John Knox who is shown administering communion for the first time in 1547 according to the reformed faith in Scotland. He is in the midst of his Protestant followers, refugees within the walls of St. Andrews Castle shortly to be besieged by a French fleet serving its Catholic King, Henry II.¹

The scene was originally painted by William Bonner (1800-1855) of Edinburgh who worked in oils or watercolors while executing primarily historic and genre scenes. The work in

question is a print of the same subject by H. T. Ryall, so identified along its border as an "Engraver in Ordinary to her Majesty Queen Victoria, May 1, 1849." This engraving was a gift to the Society, one of many such by Mary Ingamells of Waterford in 1972. The etched surface measures approximately 31 inches wide by 24 1/2 inches high.

In describing the images, John Knox stands left center with arms outstretched looking down at two seated young ladies, one of whom holds a communion chalice. Directly behind Knox is positioned his assistant near a table supporting additional chalices and decanters. Toward the lower right of the engraving is an elderly man seated with two

younger companions, one of whom has his head bowed as if overcome by emotion. Behind them are men in armor, some wearing helmets, others carrying swords or halberds - all looking on thoughtfully - if not sternly. They may represent those responsible for the murder of Cardinal David Beaton, Chancellor of Scotland in May 1546, who occupied the Archepiscopal Castle of St. Andrews. He was assassinated for his involvement in the execution three months before of George Wishart, the leading Protestant preacher of the day and mentor of John Knox.²

While the likenesses of those in the foreground are well-defined, possibly for identification by Victorian scholars and



JOHN KNOX

Most, if not all, images of Knox are not accurate according to historians. This portrait was done from memory by the Flemish painter, Adrian Vaensoun, and published in 1580.

dilettantes, those in the background are so crammed together that only their heads and shoulders are visible. In this area, the work suffers artistically from the viewpoint of composition and perspective.

One small symbol on the very left margin of the print has its own pathos. It is an hourglass resting on the pulpit rail that seems to auger the gravity of this moment in time which marks the rise of Protestantism in Scotland.

Such images of faith as this engraving were commonplace across nineteenth-century America in the homes of those with strong religious, ethnic, and ancestral bonds. Presbyterianism arrived early during Michigan's Territorial period in the presence of Reverend John Monteith who came to Detroit at the request of Governor Lewis Cass.³ His first sermon was given in that town's Council House in late June of 1816. Two years later Monteith was a leading member of an expedition that discovered the beauties and economic

potential of future Oakland County. This gave impetus to the Governor's formally laying out this "Promised Land" on January 12, 1819. Part of the region's charm was its chain of lakes which received prompt attention from such Scotch settlers as William Dow, John Coates, and Colin Campbell, all of whom successively staked a claim to Apple Island on the bosom of Orchard Lake in old West Bloomfield Township.⁴

Knox ultimately established the Reformed faith, better known as Presbyterianism, in Scotland in 1560. Three decades later it became the authorized religion of that land. He also had a great impact on the Church of England, specifically on its Book of Common Prayer. In this work he had inserted the famous "black rubric" which rejected the Roman Catholic doctrine that during the Consecration portion of the Mass bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ without affecting the appearance of the former substances.⁵ He also contended that no adoration is therefore intended or ought to be done. This is why the subject engraving shows all present in the St. Andrews Castle chapel sitting not kneeling.

John Knox died on Nov. 24, 1572 in Edinburgh and was buried in the Kirkyard of St. Giles.

Notes

1. Jasper Ridley, John Knox (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1968), 60-65.
2. The New Encyclopedia Britannica (Micropedia), V.6, s.v. "Knox, John."
3. F. Clever Bald, Michigan In Four Centuries (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1961), 179.
4. Charles H. Martinez, Song Of The Heron - Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield (Orchard Lake, Mich.: Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, 2004), 85-96.
5. New Catholic Encyclopedia, V. 14, 2, s.v. "Transubstantiation."