**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear Friends –

Here we are closing in on the end of another year and it seems to have passed so quickly. I remember as a youngster always thinking every day passed too slowly, and then when I passed 50, I often wish the days would slow down. In the past few days we have lost two very dedicated members of the society, the first loss came in the person of Elizabeth "Betty" Adams, a past President and long time board member and mainstay of the historical community. The second loss was Rex Lamoreaux, dedicated board member and supporter of the society. Both will be missed by the members of the society and we send our condolences to their families.

I would like to thank Judy Hudalla for her hard work this year in putting together the work crew for Arts, Beats and Eats.

Be sure to pick up a 2008 calendar – a first for us, and thanks to Jo, Fran and Julia.

We are still looking for an events chairperson to plan programs and events such as ice cream social, fall harvest and Victorian Christmas. These are the events that raise funds to keep this society operating. You don't have to be a board member to chair a committee; nor do you have to be on the board to volunteer to work on any committee. We especially need guides for our tours for children and adults. Training classes will be available for new volunteers. Please step forward and share your talents with us.

As we approach the holiday season we want to wish you and yours the very best for the holiday season and a healthy new year.

Michael E. Willis

A TREASURE FOR THE NEW YEAR!

We have produced an exclusive 2008 calendar featuring historic photographs of Pontiac and Oakland County from our collection. Most of the photos have not been available before, and we are pleased to have them presented in this format. They show life and times in the late 19th and early 20th century. The price is \$20 per calendar if you buy at our carriage house. If you want

one (or more) mailed, the price is \$22 each which covers postage and handling. All proceeds will directly benefit the operation and preservation of the Pine Grove center. Supply is limited so pick up your calendars soon.

We are delighted to have had Julia Bauder with us since early summer as a volunteer in the library. She is finishing her master's degree in library science at Wayne State University, and is getting practical experience by working in our library. She is responsible for the preparation and editing of all the photographs used in the calendar. We have a quality publication because of her expertise. Thank you Julia – it is a joy to work with you.

TRAINING CLASSES FOR GUIDES

Three one-hour classes have been held for people who wish to volunteer as guides (docents) for our Pine Grove center visitors. The enthusiastic remarks indicate that they are ready to go. The up-coming tours will benefit from new people in the lead and will take some of the pressure off the rest of the guides. Another training session will be held in the spring for all who are interested. We plan to expand our list of tours to include more adult groups, such as church fellowship groups, historical societies, social clubs and service organizations. Call our office to have your name added to the list for upcoming classes.

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IN MEMORIAM
Elizabeth Sparks Adams
died October 11, 2007

Betty Adams, of Waterford, widow of Judge Donald E. Adams, died October 11, 2007 at the age of 95. She attended Pontiac High School and received an B.A. from Eastern Michigan University in 1934. She assisted in establishing the University of Michigan archives and the Michigan Historical Collections. In Oakland County she served on the Waterford Township Board of Education, Oakland County Historical Commission, Pontiac Historical Commission, Waterford Historical Society, past president of Historical Society of Michigan, Pontiac Y.W.C.A., Oakland County Historical Foundation, and president of Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Many other charitable organizations benefited from her expertise. She was listed in the first edition of "Who's Who in American Women".

Betty was active in the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society for many years, and continued her support until her death. She is survived by her son David E Adams, and several nieces and nephews.

We extend our condolences to her family.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT PINE GROVE

We had a visit from a fifth generation niece of Moses Wisner – Ann Johnson and her son, Ryan, from Manistique. She was duly impressed by the Wisner House and pleased with her results of researching in our library. We welcome her as a new member.

Kimberly and Jan Bell have been hard at work in the Wisner House – cleaning and rearranging items for upcoming tours. They have received donated antique lace from LaVon DeLisle and silk flowers, lanterns, vintage adult and children's clothing from Barbara Irwin. These gifts are very much appreciated and will be used in various house and clothing displays.

Jan and Kimberly have a wish list for other items for the Wisner house exhibits and it includes calling cards, stereoscopic cards, vintage plant stands, ladies' gloves and purses. If you can contribute any of these items, please call our office.

Several trees have been removed from our grounds because of wind damage and overgrowth around buildings. Much needed tree trimming was completed this summer.

The glass display case windows in the Wisner house have been reglazed by member Ron Gay.

IN MEMORIAM

Rex Lamoreaux
died October 12, 2007

Rex died peacefully after several days of hospitalization. He had been a member of Oakland County Pioneer and Historical society since 1969, when a membership cost \$1.00. He had served on several committees including Acquisitions, Library, Master Plan and Finance.

He worked at Wayne State University for 25 years as a commercial artist in Mass Communication and Display.

Rex was a collector of antiques and art and was restoring an historic house in Pontiac.

He is survived by a niece.

At his request, there were no funeral services.

Repairs have been made to the Wisner house, and repainting of the columns, porch floor, all of the shutters and some of the shingle siding has been completed..

The ramp to the carriage house will be repaired and resurfaced with pavers which will be safer to walk on and will improve the appearance of the entrance.

CONGRATULATIONS

Todd Hunt, an OCPHS member was honored at a Pontiac Kiwanis Club luncheon as one of two who were named outstanding officers of the Pontiac Police Department for 2007. Todd has used our library resources to research several unsolved Pontiac murders. We will feature two of his research projects in future issues of the *Oakland Gazette*.

TOURS – TOURS – TOURS

Six hundred letters have gone out to public and private schools offering tours of our grounds and buildings this year. This is an on-going opportunity for school children to see how families lived and worked in the 19th century and to experience the discipline and study-habits in a one-room schoolhouse.

ARTS BEATS & EATS

This annual event is held in Pontiac on Labor Day weekend, and non-profit organizations contribute their volunteers' time to operating a booth of some sort; in return, a portion of the profits are contributed to the participating organization. This year our efforts were at a beverage booth. It was hard work, but also fun for the 25 people who contributed their time for four days.

Judy Hudalla chaired this fund-raising event and her team included Scott Tupper, Rodger Zeller, Sylvia Adams, Amy Annett, Jeff Barnes, John and Gretta Cohassey, Kitty Daggy, Guy, Nancy and Tom Duffield, Bob and Joan Hayes, Brian Menghini, Chuck and Cindy Merz, Nick Merz, Eileen Pease, Jim Slezinski, Mike and Gayle Willis, Erin Zettle, Danny and Pash Proctor. Thank you to all the people who worked on this event, and a special thanks to Judy for organizing it all.

VICTORIAN HOUSE PLANTS

October 18, 2007 was the date of this event co-sponsored by Goldner Walsh Nursery and the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. The program was presented by Julia Hofley of Goldner Walsh at their garden center. About 40 people attended the program at which Julia talked about the history of the indoor plants used in the Victorian era with examples of palms and ferns and other plants that were used to enhance their parlors. Their garden shop was open for shoppers following the talk. The proceeds from the ticket sales will be used for operation and preservation of the Pine Grove complex.



NEW MEMBERS

Regie Doyan of Pontiac
William Koughton of White Lake
Todd W. Coe of West Bloomfield
James W. Wilson of Clarkston
Dennis Nelson of Overland Park, KS
Jan Vettrano of West Bloomfield
David Wortman of Linden
Tom Pierson of Waterford
Daniel S. Terry of Williamston

NEW PATRON SPONSORS

Clarkston State Bank
6600 Highland Rd., Suite 2
Waterford, MI 48327 248.922.6925

Pontiac Regional Chamber
402 N. Telegraph Rd.
Pontiac, MI 48341 248.335.9600

FRIENDS OF OCPHS

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

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

CORPORATE SPONSOR



Judie Erwin
Manager

5105 Highland Rd
Waterford MI 48327
Office: (248)674-1380
Fax: (248)674-1807
judie_erwin@flagstar.com
www.flagstar.com

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

We have many special organizations that contribute a great deal of time and energy to supporting this organization. Three of them are:

GOLDNER WALSH NURSERY, INC. has generously planted gardens, trimmed trees and bushes, weeded, designed landscape plans for our grounds, donated flowers and shrubbery and has been instrumental in removing inappropriate plants and relocating others.

THE PONTIAC GARDEN CLUB has taken on the task of maintaining some of our gardens, replanting when necessary, and keeping them attractive in all seasons. The street-side rose hedge and Lillian Paull memorial garden have all benefited from their attention.

PONTIAC COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION has generously provided funds to improve our public accommodations. These include fencing our large parking lot, redoing the ramp to the carriage house, improving the kitchenette in the carriage house, painting and repairs of Wisner house, adding doors and floor in an existing storage shed, tree trimming and removal, purchasing tables and chairs to be used for public outdoor events. Their donations have also enabled Morgan-Heller Associates to design our proposed new building. Thank you from all of us.

UP-COMING OAKLAND COUNTY EVENTS

The Wixom Historical Society will hold a **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** on Saturday, November 17, 2007 from 10 am to 4 pm at Wixom City Hall, Pontiac Trail at Wixom Road. The public is invited.

Archaeology Day in Oakland County, November 10, 2007, 9 am to 12 noon, in the Gold Rooms, Oakland Center on the campus of Oakland University. Focus of program will be recent "digs" in Oakland County.

Oakland Township program **"Images of America: Lake Orion"** presented by Jim Ingram November 7, 2007 at Paint Creek United Methodist Church, 4420 Collins Road.

Oakland Township program "Early Kerosene Lighting" presented by Dick Russell December 5, 2007, also at the Paint Creek Methodist Church. For further information call JoAnn Kelly Bourez 248.651.7526.

We are pleased to announce up-coming events of historical organizations in Oakland County. Please send announcements as soon as dates are finalized for inclusion in *Oakland Gazette*. Send to OCPHS, c/o Jo Pate, 405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac, MI 48342.

JO PATE RECEIVES STATE HONOR

By Bruce J. Annett, Jr.

The Michigan Genealogical Council has presented OCPHS First Vice President Joan "Jo" Pate with its Lucy Mary Kellogg Award for significant contributions to advancing genealogy and local history. Nominated by the Oakland County Genealogical society, Jo was selected from among candidates from throughout the state for the annual award, presented September 13 at the Library of Michigan in Lansing.

At OCPHS, Jo is also the membership chair, *Oakland Gazette* editor, and serves on several committees.

Additionally, she has led and is active with the Oakland County Genealogical Society. Jo has a particular interest in enhancing access to genealogical and historical records through her work transcribing and indexing funeral home records, census data, letters, and patient rosters, and in seeking ways in which organizations may work together for mutual benefit.

MEET THREE MEMBERS OF OCPHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathryn M. Daggy is one of the hardest working women you will ever meet.



She is a first generation Italian American – her family came from Trapani, Sicily in the early 1900's. Her father was a merchant with a hardware store and her mother, a homemaker.

She grew up in Detroit and attended Detroit public schools and Wayne State University. When five years old, she had her first dancing lessons and her love of dance has continued since then: tap, acrobatics, ballroom. At Wayne State she majored in physical education as dancing was involved, including folk dancing and modern dance.

She taught in the Detroit and Lamphere school systems, and on her retirement in 1978, she investigated the large house on Oakland Avenue (Wisner House), as she was interested in antiques. She has been with us ever since.

She has worked at everything: guide (docent), volunteer typist, various committees, member of the Operation Committee and Board of Directors. She has been Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Recording Secretary of Board.

She still loves working with children. She developed and still directs the educational program at our Wisner House and one-room school house. Over 600 schools are invited each year to bring their classes to our one-room schoolhouse for a unique educational experience.

Kitty is also involved with the Order of Sons of Italy Lodge 336 Metro Detroit and is a Past President; AAUW of Waterford; and Tuesday Musicales of which she was Vice President in 1994.

Although Kitty did not grow up in Oakland County, she has put her heart and energy in promoting the Pine Grove center. She is one of our greatest boosters and we would be lost without her.

The Rev. **C. Corydon Randall** is a newcomer to the Board of Directors as he was elected in 2006 for a three year term.



He grew up in Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo, but has strong roots in Oakland County. His ancestors include the Leggetts, Stewarts, Ives, Johnsons, Randalls, Whittemores, McConnells, and Pierces.

Mortimer Leggett, an ancestor, was on the OCPHS Board of Directors at one time. The Leggett Middle School in Waterford was named for his great great grandmother, Eliza Seaman Leggett. "The Willows" in Drayton Plains was the family home.

Cory attended University of Michigan, Berkeley Divinity at Yale, Hebrew Union College and is ordained in the Episcopal Church. His parishes have included Cincinnati, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Del Mar, California. He instigated the restoration of Trinity Episcopal Church in Ft. Wayne and contributed his expertise in the expansion of St. Peters in Del Mar. He has recently retired and now serves as Theologian-in-Residence at Christ Church Cranbrook.

Cory is the historian and registrar for Mayflower Society in Michigan; past president for Oakland County Genealogical society; and past president of Detroit Society for Genealogical Research. He is a member of University of Michigan's Lettermans' Club, and in 1981 he received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from University of Michigan. He is also busy with various activities at Cranbrook.

His wife, Marian is a graduate of Cornell and attended graduate school at University of Cincinnati, and she has

taught school in every area of the country in which they have lived. Their children are Sarah, Liz and Rebekah.

Cory's interests include his own family, researching his and Marian's family, and a fierce loyalty to University of Michigan athletic teams.

With roots in Oakland County and an early OCPHS board member in his family, he felt he would like to contribute something to this organization. We are pleased to have him with us.

Amy Annett is a whirlwind. In addition to the time involved in raising two daughters (Katie is a teenager, Emily is almost there), she spends an inordinate amount of time with OCPHS business, whether with her official position as Treasurer, or in dealing with many of the administrative responsibilities that need attention.

Amy was born in Pontiac, and also has a long line of Oakland County ancestors. Mark and Deborah Adams are cited in Durant's History of Oakland County as original members of the Congregational Church in Rochester; and Charles and Sarah Anderson of Pontiac are noted for Charles being the superintendent of construction at Eastern Michigan Asylum from 1879 until his death in 1911.



She attended Donelson, Crary and Mott schools in Waterford and received a BS degree from Oakland University in 1981 and a Masters degree from Walsh College in 1990.

She worked at DMB&B Advertising in Bloomfield Hills until her "retirement" to raise her daughters. She is married to Bruce, also on our Board of Directors.

Bruce had served on the Board for many years and he knew the society was looking for someone to take over as Treasurer, so Amy ran for the board, won, and the rest is history. This is her opportunity for volunteer service which allows the flexibility needed for her family.

Amy has served on operations, finance and publicity committees; has worked on 130th Anniversary event committee as well as one year as President of the society.

She is also involved with her neighborhood association and the Michigan Fingerstyle Guitar society.

With her love and talent for the guitar, she is already planning her next career: lounge act.

FROM THE SCRAPBOOKS...

The following is an extraction from a paper read by S.B. McCracken before the Oakland County Pioneer Society at their annual meeting in Pontiac, February 22, 1887. "Some of the Contrasts of Life with References to Family and Local History" in OCPHS Scrapbook 1876 - 1891, page 110.

"Let us glance briefly at some of the contrasts of life afforded by the two periods (fifty years ago and now)... Fifty years ago the children of the pioneers studied their few books either by the fire-light from the open fire place, or by an open lamp made by placing some grease and a cloth wick in a broken saucer, or at best by the light of a tallow candle. Now, we have the kerosene lamp, the gas jet, and the electric light. Then, friction matches were unknown. Fire was produced by the flint and steel, and when the fire went out on the hearth, those who were without this device, had to send to the neighbors for a coal or a brand. The present generation knows nothing of the pleasure of watching the burning logs in the fire-place and noting the shifting panorama of warrior-winged, chariots, camels, and rampant lions. Nickel plated stoves or the furnace in the basement supple the warmth without the pictures. The modern youth who treads on carpets or on marble tiles, hardly realizes that his grandfather's floor was very likely made of basswood logs split through the center. Our cooking utensils then consisted of a frying pan, bake kettle, dish kettle and dinner pot, and the teakettle, that no longer sings the song that it used to sing. Those who were the better able, sometimes had a brick fireplace and a crane on which their cooking utensils were hung over the fire. Generally, however, the "lug-pole", with some hooks attached, served the purpose. The bread was baked in a round iron kettle, shaped very much like a large cheese, with a cover, the kettle being placed on coals drawn out on the hearth, with live coals on top - and good bread they made, too. Our spareribs and turkies (sic) were suspended by a tow string before the fire for roasting, and there are those who will say that no such roasts ever came from an oven. Every well regulated family kept a hutch of tow, which was indispensable not only to good housekeeping, but to good husbandry. I don't believe there is a young man of twenty today, with all the learning of our modern schools, who knows how to make a tow string. We had neither silver nor cut glass goblets in those days, and always tin cups or dippers, the "noggin" or gourd suppling (sic) their place. Our carriages were ox sled. Fifty years ago were was probably not a threshing machine in Oakland county, all grain being threshed with the flail, or tread out by horses on the barn floor. Of course there were no reapers, mowers, wheat drills or cultivators. There were few fanning mills. Grain was separated from the chaff by holding up a shovel full in a stiff breeze and sifting it off by shaking the shovel....

This article includes information on toys, schools, and many other things. There is also an account of the Morman visitation of 1832.

TREASURES FROM THE ATTIC

Included in our collection is a composite picture of the members of the Comrades of Heber LaFavor Post No. 181, Milford, Dept. of Michigan G.A.R. Each photo is numbered and the names are listed in numerical order at the bottom. The names and military units are listed below:

- #1 John L. Roberts, Co. I, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #2 Geo. B. Ormsbee, Co. I, 24th Mich. Inf.
- #3 Wm. E. Burns, Co. B, 26th Mich. Inf.
- #4 D.C. McGuire, Co. K, 1st Mich. Eng. & Mech.
- #5 Jas. W. Lockwood, Co. G, 1st Mich. Lt. Art.
- #6 Henry H. Dingman, Co. D, 11th Mich. Inf.
- #7 Friend Horton, Co. D, 17th Ill. Cav.
- #8 C.E. Everts, Co. C, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #9 Alex McCall, Co. A, 1st Michigan Lt. Art.
- #10 Chas. Beebenhiser, Co. D, 10th New Jersey Inf.
- #11 Wm. Stiles, Co. H, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #12 Allen H. Curtis, Co. G, 4th Mich. Inf.
- #13 Wm. S. Horton, Co. H, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #14 Rev. Lewis J. Whitcomb, Chaplain, 13th Mich. Inf.
- #15 H.C. Sebring, Co. K, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #16 Geo. B. Osborn, Co. A, 2nd Mich. Cav.
- #17 Norm. G. Clark, Co. K, 11th Mich. Inf.
- #18 W.G. Beaumont, Co. L, 1st Mich. Cav.
- #19 John Woods, Co. B, 15th Mich. Inf.
- #20 Andrew Muir, Co. A, 23rd Ill. Inf.;
Co. E, 1st U.S. Reg. Cav.
- #21 Chas. King, Co. G, 4th Mich. Inf.
- #22 N.B. Babcock, Co. H, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #23 Jas. D. Rowe, Co. C, 1st Mich. Cav.
- #24 C.A. Teeter, Co. A, 32nd N.Y. Inf.; Co. G 15 N.Y.
Cav.
- #25 Benj. Hubbard, Co. F, 29th Mich. Inf.
- #26 Walter H. Nichols, Co. A, 1st Lieut. 10th Mich. Inf.
- #27 Joseph W. Long, Co. F, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #28 Lyman Cate, Co. I, 5th Mich. Inf.; Co. I, 11th Mich.
Cav.
- #29 Alonzo Goss, Co. I, 3rd Mich. Inf.
- #30 Wm. H. Merithew, Co. I, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #31 Earl K. Childs, 1st Mich. Eng. & Mech.
- #32 Judson Fielden, Co. A, 140th N.Y. Inf.
- #33 Robt. Malcom, Co. A, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #34 John Luce, Co. H, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #35 Frederic Prior, Co. F, 7th Mich. Inf.
- #36 J.R. Duckering, Co. H, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #37 Wm. H. Schench, Co. C, 9th Mich. Cav.
- #38 Willis I. Smith, Co. H, 5th Mich. Inf.
- #39 Rev. H. S. White, Chaplain, 5th R.I. Art.
- #40 Spencer D. Lee, Co. G, 1st Mich. Cav.
- #41 A.V. Austin, Co. E, 185th N.Y. Inf.
- #42 Edward Martin, Co. F, 17th N.Y. Lt. Art.
- #43 Thos. Birdsell, Co. K, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #44 Justin Beebe, Co. G, 8th Mich. Inf.
- #45 Silas Bullard, Co. E, 4th Mich. Cav.
- #46 Dr. R. Johnston, Asst. Surgeon, 100th O Inf.
- #47 H.A. Stephens, Co. H, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #48 Alonzo Dean, Co. G, 1st Mich. Lt. Art.
- #48 ½ Rev. Henry King, Co. G, 3rd Mich. Inf.
- #49 H. Franklin, Co. H, 1st Mich. Lt. Art.

- #50 S. McCartney, Co. H, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #51 Thomas Cole, Co. I, 24th N.Y. Cav.
- #52 David Smith, Co. I, 3rd Mich. Cav.
- #53 Anthony Palmer, Co. F, 10th Mich. Inf.
- #54 Geo. McCrossen, Co. H, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #55 J. Minahan, Co. A, 7th Mich. Inf.
- #56 Wendell Willis, Co. I, 3rd Mich. Inf.
- #57 Thos. Ward, Co. I, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #58 Alfred Soulby, Co. I, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #59 Jno. Grierson, Co. K, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #60 Wm. T. Allen, Co. F, 2nd Mich. Inf.
- #61 R.F. Potts, Co. A, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #62 Wm. M. Lee, Co. B, 2nd Mich. Inf.
- #63 Jas. Taylor, Co. E, 3rd Mich. Cav.
- #64 Frank Eaton, Co. H, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #65 Jas. Allen, Co. I, 16th Mich. Inf.
- #66 Platt Lockwood, Co. D, 23rd Mich. Inf.
- #67 A. E. Matthews, Capt. Co. H, 1st Mich. Cav.
- #68 Geo. A. Clarkson, Co. H, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #69 Henry C. Andrus, Bat. H, 1st Mich. Lt. Art.
- #70 E.L. Furgeson, Co. G, 6th N.Y. Heavy Art.
- #71 Wm. E. Lockwood, Co. H, 1st Mich. Lt. Art.
- #72 Decatur Childs, Co. K, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #73 John Bush, Co. H, 7th U.S. Inf.
- #74 A. S. Richardson, Co. C, 9th Mich. Cav.
- #75 Geo. T. Bennett, Co. B, Hall's Ind. Sharpshooters
- #76 A.T. Phillips, Co. H, 1st Mich. Lt. Art.
- #77 A.E. Mills, Co. H, 14th U.S. Inf.; Co. A, 179th N.Y.
Inf.
- #78 Geo. W. Downs, Co. H, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #79 Seth Noble, Co. I, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #80 J.T. Beaumont, Co. A, 3rd Mich. Vol. Cav.
- #81 Wm. Downs, Co. H, 26th Mich. Inf.
- #82 Fred E. Tower, Co. K, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #83 Larkin Baker, Co. H, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #84 Bela Ormsby, Co. G, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #85 Henry C. Vowles, Co. H, 3rd Mich. Cav.
- #86 T.J. Russell, Co. H, 5th Mich. Cav.
- #87 Lewis Stickney, Co. A, 4th Mich. Cav.
- #88 Rev. T. Haggerty, Co. I, 74th Ind. Inf.
- #89 Jno. Ellenwood, Co. B, 2nd Mich. Inf.
- #90 Chas. Banks, Co. F, 16th Mich. Inf.;
Co. B, 1st Mich. Lancers
- #91 David Stephens, Co. H, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #92 Thos. Graham, Co. I, 3rd Mich. Cav.
- #93 Sam. McCall, Co. A, 1st Mich. Lt. Art.
- #94 J.W. Stephens, Co. E, 3rd Mich. Cav.
- #95 Windham Hewitt, Co. H, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #96 Jas. Smith, Co. C, 150th Ind. Inf.
- #97 S.M. Gage, Co. H, 20th Mich. Inf.
- #98 Martin Ott, Co. H, 116th N.Y. Inf.
- #99 Geo. Ingersoll, Co. A, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #100 John Joslyn, Lieut. 6th Mich. Cav.
- #101 James Carey, Co. A, 30th Mich. Inf.
- #102 John Davis, Co. D, 20th Mich. Inf.
- #103 John Hanna, Co. B, 84th N.Y. Inf.
- #104 Robt. Taylor, Co. M, 8th Mich. Cav.
- #105 Wm. E. Seaver, Co. I, 22nd Mich. Inf.
- #106 Asa Prior, Co. I, 22nd Mich. Inf.

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR TEACHERS

Many Years Ago

1. Teachers must have legal qualifications.
2. They must keep the schoolroom neat and clean: sweep the floor at least once daily; clean the blackboards each day; scrub the floors and toilets at least once a month.
3. Ring the school bell promptly at 9 o'clock.
4. Raise the flag before the opening of school.
5. Start the fire early enough to have the room warm by 9 a.m.
6. Keep the school in session until 4 p.m.
7. Prepare and present a Christmas program for the community.
8. Observe Arbor Day, to beautify the grounds.
9. Women teachers may not dress in bright colors.
10. Dresses must be of appropriate length.
11. Bobbed hair is forbidden. If hair is cut short, a switch must be worn in the classroom.
12. Married teachers will not be hired.
13. Good conduct must be kept in school, to warrant a renewal of a contract.
14. Teachers who engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
15. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, will give good reason to suspect his worth.
16. The length of the school term is stated in the contract. (8 or 9 months)
17. Palatable water must be available in the building each day.
18. The teacher's instruction must prepare the 8th grade students to pass the county examination which will qualify them for high school entrance.

(This was an insert in an old hand-written cookbook.)

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS....

The Pontiac Gazette August 8, 1879 page 4:

Birmingham. Wanted: the people of Birmingham to know that W. H. Brummitt has commenced photography again at his old stand and will be glad to see all his old friends and customers, and he will try and make them pictures which will be a credit to himself and a satisfaction to them all.

May 16, 1879 page 5:

Mr. Allen of Pontiac, and Maggie Schwesinger were married in Detroit about 2 weeks since. He ought to be a happy man who has Maggie for a wife, for she was a good girl.

A warrant was issued by Justice Fitzpatrick on Tuesday night for sundry of the Carmichael family for being more hilarious than the law allows.

The Pontiac Gazette June 6, 1879 page 5:

Charles Keonig, sick and tired of his bachelorhood (sic) last week quietly slipped down to "Boston to take him a wife." "Ya, dat is goot."

Pontiac Daily Press July 9, 1901 page 1:

Daniel W. Elwood, who has been ill for the past eight months, died Saturday at his home on Perry street. Mr. Elwood was 63 years old and leaves a wife and two children, Mrs. William Beal, and William C. Elwood, by his first wife. The funeral services will be held from the home, Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Married at the home of the bride, last evening, Arthur P. Pierson and Mary A. Lucas, Rev. George W. Jennings officiating.

To the business men and people of Pontiac: On and after July 15th the free delivery of freight and express will be discontinued. All freight and express will be delivered from the old Sylvan Lake power house at the foot of Sanderson avenue.

The Pontiac Gazette February 1892:

Asylum Notes

Mr. George Eaton, whose fingers were frozen while he was at work on the roof, was not so badly injured as at first supposed, and did not have to lay off.

The work of reconstructing the Administration Building has already commenced, and the masons are putting in new basement walls and rebuilding those which were injured by falling timbers and iron pipes.

The training school for nurses has resumed its regular semi-weekly sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Mrs. Geddes, wife of Hon. Norman Geddes, of Adrian, a former trustee of the Eastern Michigan Asylum, died at the family residence in Adrian on Friday, January 29th. Mrs. C.B. Burr attended the funeral.

The Pontiac Gazette Aug 15, 1879:

A barn belonging to Mr. Hoover, on the John Parker place, north of the Asylum, was struck by lightning during the storm on Wednesday evening, and with its contents, was destroyed.

C. H. Going, boot and shoe dealer, has just returned from the eastern markets, after purchasing a large and varied stock of boots and shoes. He will take great pride in their exhibition and sale.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER &
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Michael Crofoot: Pontiac's Kindly Sentinel

by Charles H. Martinez

Supplement to the Oakland Gazette

Vol. 40, No. 4

It was a delicious Spring morning in Pontiac on Sunday, May 11, 1884. At eight o'clock under a cloudless sky a chorus of church bells rang out across the city stirring even the most lethargic into some tour de force. Many had already sat down to breakfast: others were on their way to Sabbath services. This new day's cheerful energy quickly dissipated, however, at the doorstep of an Italian-style villa set in one of the town's wealthiest sections. There neighbors and passers-by glimpsed the drawn curtains, the crepe decorated entrance, and whispered "The Judge must be dead." After four years of intense suffering, Judge Crofoot, jurist par excellence, humanitarian, and community leader was indeed mercifully dead.

Michael E. Crofoot was born March 14, 1822 in the tiny hamlet of Florida, Montgomery County, New York, near the banks of the Mohawk River. That location is some ten miles west northwest of Schenectady, a more recognizable name which later biographers conveniently assigned as his place of nativity. Around 1829 his parents Charles and Louisa Crofoot pulled up stakes and moved to Constableville, Lewis County, New York, where the family remained for some years.¹

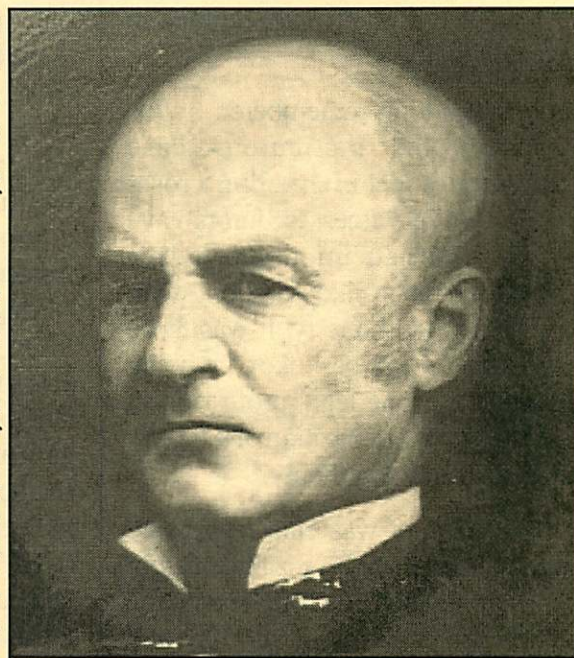
Like young Lincoln, Michael held no aspirations to toil as a farmer. Spurred on by exposure to public schools he became an eager scholar with a particular taste for reading. So good was he that Crofoot considered becoming a teacher to support himself. This goal he eventually realized with assignments in Rome, Geneseo, Gates, and Rochester—all in New York State. At the last location a friend suggested that this youthful educator change his life's direction to the more lucrative practice of law. With an admittedly bleak monetary future Crofoot agreed and became a law student in the firm of General H. L. Stevens, a highly successful Rochester, New York attorney. Stevens treated Crofoot like a son, and the student reciprocated by

diligently learning the practice from the ground up. When the General moved to Pontiac, Michigan, Crofoot soon followed. In 1846 he was admitted to the Michigan Bar, the long journey to the pinnacle of his profession had begun.²

To a stranger like Crofoot the village of Pontiac had the outward appearance of being brand new. And indeed it was having been rebuilt after the "Great Fire of 1840" incinerated its commercial core. It was this resiliency and potential that drew settlers to its bosom. Sitting astride the old Saginaw Trail and serving as a railroad terminus from Detroit, Pontiac was watered daily by the Clinton River which supplied

power to its lumber and flouring mills. With a growing population of over one thousand souls the town's future seemed bright and its title of county seat both logical and secure.

One major flaw sullied Pontiac's image, however. The combined county courthouse and jail was an eyesore. Its dilapidated state was considered a disgrace to the county and the subject of frequent derogatory articles in the local newspapers.³ Ironically, it was to be in this very courthouse that Michael Crofoot, the new boy in town, was to establish his reputation as a very skillful yet occasionally brash defense attorney. The crime that captured Michigan's attention and brought Crofoot celebrity status came to trial in 1846. The defendant was the young handsome Dr. James G. Russell who had lately arrived in Pontiac from Rochester, New York, and was serving his internship in the office of the highly respected Dr. Isaac Paddock. The victim was Russell's lovely wife, Harriet, whom he allegedly poisoned with arsenic over a period of some eight days. Upon her demise Russell quickly left for Cleveland, amid rumors that Harriet's death from a stomach complaint was suspicious.



Michael E. Crofoot (1822-1884)
Unfinished portrait owned by OCPHS

Armed with a court order the county coroner and prosecuting attorney had the body exhumed. Subsequent analysis of the stomach contents by a chemistry professor at the University of Michigan showed the presence of arsenic. To everyone's surprise Crofoot, a defense team member, had himself called as an "expert witness" in the science of chemistry! Crofoot's testimony on the properties of arsenic and bismuth, the latter prescribed for the deceased by Doctors Russell and Paddock, thoroughly befuddled the jury which returned a verdict of "not guilty."⁴

Some of the townsfolk were so upset by this turn of events that they burnt Dr. Russell in effigy, the physician having wisely decided to put some distance between himself and Pontiac for a second time. Years later a story circulated that while in Texas Russell had been shot for trifling with a young lady's affections.⁵ Whether true or not many Oakland County residents believed that justice had been finally served.

Interestingly, history remains silent on whether attorney Crofoot and client Dr. Russell, both recent arrivals from Rochester, New York, had known each

other back East. Interesting coincidence perhaps. Nonetheless, the "Bismuth Murder Case," as it was called, became the trial of the nineteenth century in Oakland County.

Crofoot was long remembered by his peers for his meticulous case preparation and his grueling cross-examination of witnesses. Jurors gave him their rapt attention and judges admired his rapier-like wit along with his integrity and honesty. It was those very qualities Crofoot spoke of as being the bedrock of the legal profession in his address at the dedication of the 1858 Oakland County courthouse.⁶

In 1848 Crofoot was elected probate judge, holding that office a total of eight years. During the Civil War he won the election for prosecuting attorney and served that post for four years. His private practice in downtown Pontiac was always busy. The offices were on the southeast corner of Pike and Saginaw directly opposite the landmark hostelry, the Hodges House. As his reputation grew he opened another office in Detroit.

Crofoot married the pretty Annie E. Fitch of Bloomfield, New York in October 1849.⁷ They were to be the parents of seven children: four sons and three daughters. Two of the sons became attorneys and the third, Charles M. along with his partner David C. Lewis, ran a well-patronized drug and grocery store at 164 Saginaw just up the street from his father's law office.

Civic responsibility was a Crofoot hallmark. Because of his struggle to obtain an education, the young attorney felt compelled to help those with a similar need. Shortly after arriving here Crofoot helped draft the constitution of the Pontiac Educational Society. He also served on the city's school board for many years. One of the most striking floral tributes at his funeral came from the Pontiac Board of Education. Crofoot school was dedicated in his honor in August 1906.⁸ Its successor is now located on W. Pike just north of where the Crofoot mansion once stood.

During the 1870s the Judge was a member of the first board of trustees of the Michigan Military Academy on the east shore of Orchard Lake. He also lent his name and prestige to the positions of building commissioner and trustee for the Eastern Michigan Insane Asylum, later Pontiac State Hospital, and finally Clinton Valley Center. Crofoot served as well as an Oakland County fund raiser for the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument in Detroit's Campus Martius Park.⁹ This Civil War memorial was unveiled and dedicated in 1872. Crofoot spent time too as an officer of the Oakland County Agricultural Society.

The Judge retired from private practice in 1879. Health issues made this decision imperative. For some years preceding his death the agony of arthritis had so badly stiffened his joints Crofoot could barely walk.¹⁰ His mind and will remained strong until nearly the end. The family was at his bedside when he drew his last breath including son Louis who traveled all the way from his law office in the Dakota Territory to pay his last respects to his father.

Services were held at the family home on the west side of Williams between West Pike and what is now Orchard Lake Road. The neighborhood was definitely upscale; Crofoot had done well by the legal profession, no doubt of that. His west property line abutted the David Ward land. Ward (1822-1900) was "Michigan's foremost timber king," a multimillionaire who was acknowledged to be one of the richest men in the state during the nineteenth century.¹¹

Entry to the Italianate-style Crofoot residence was obtained by traversing a four hundred foot gravel drive guarded by ornate plantings. The throng of mourners who made this approach was immense; their carriages blocked Williams and spilled out onto side streets.



The old Crofoot Block in downtown Pontiac now remodeled as an entertainment venue by owner Blair McGowan.

The Michigan Bar was well represented of course, many having come from Detroit by special train. Rev. Lawrence Stevens, rector of the Zion Episcopal Church (now All Saints Episcopal), officiated. Interment followed at Pontiac's Oak Hill Cemetery. His polished granite tombstone bears no epitaph. As for his many friends and associates Michael Crofoot would always be remembered as a kindly giant who guided and guarded the community he loved.

Notes

1. *The Pontiac Gazette*, 16 May 1884, 4.
2. *The Pontiac Bill Poster*, 14 May 1884, 5.
3. "Broke Jail," *Oakland Gazette*, 29 April 1846, 2.
4. *Ibid.*, 5 August 1846, 2; 25 Nov. 1846, 2; 2 Dec. 1846, 2.
5. OCPHS scrapbook, "*Historical Clippings 1900-1918*," 189.
6. Thaddeus D. Seeley, *History of Oakland County Michigan*, Vol. 1 (Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1912), 180.
7. Chapman Bros., *Portrait and Biographical Album of Oakland County Michigan*. Chicago, 1891, 821.
8. OCPHS binder, "Crofoot," [2]
9. Seeley, 274.
10. *Ibid.*, 177.
11. Rolland H. Maybee, "David Ward Timber King," *Michigan History Magazine* 32, 1 (1948): 14.