



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring has finally arrived and not a bit too soon and we can now come out of hibernation. In this issue of the *Gazette* we can now tell you that the new improved sidewalks and ramps have been completed and they look great. There are many fine events planned for Pine Grove this year and I am sure that you will enjoy them, but to make them a success it will take many volunteers. Now is the time for you to be that person.

We have the Pontiac Garden Tour coming up in July, A Day at Pine Grove in August, Arts, Beats and Eats in September and a cemetery walk of Oak Hill Cemetery in October. All of these events will have something of interest for you so be sure to take advantage of them. We will be conducting tours of Pine Grove Center the second Saturday of each month starting in June in conjunction with Preservation Wayne. See the article in this issue with details.

There are many school tours coming up and guides are needed so please contact Kathryn Daggy and volunteer your time.

As you all know the life blood of our group is the volunteers who do all the work, as well as the funds raised from our events. To coin a phrase used in World War Two "WE NEED YOU - PLEASE GIVE".

I close with saying may you be blessed with good health and have a wonderful summer.

Mike Willis

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCPHS

June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, 2008

Second Saturday Tours 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

In conjunction with *Preservation Wayne* (see the article on *Preservation Wayne* in this issue).

Saturday, July 19, 2008 - 9 a.m.

The Pontiac Garden Club will sponsor their Sixth Annual **Garden Tour** with a stop at Pine Grove.

Tickets will be available in our office early in July.

Sunday, August 17, 2008 - 12 noon

A Day at Pine Grove

Plans include antique appraisals, cool cars, various musical groups, demonstrations of pioneer living and crafts. Desserts included with price of admission.

Special visit from Moses Wisner!

Sponsorships are available in \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100 and \$500 increments. (Volunteers are needed, too.)

Labor Day week-end - August 29 - September 1

Arts, Beats and Eats

Our volunteers man a beverage booth during this event. We could use your help.

October 2008

Cemetery Walk

A guided walking tour of historic Oak Hill Cemetery in cooperation with the Pontiac Garden Club.

CHANGE IN HOURS AT OCPHS

We have uncertain staffing in our library during the summer months, so, at least until autumn, it will be imperative that you call ahead for a time for research. We hope to have staff available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, but it will still be necessary to call ahead to save you time and possible disappointment if we are not open. For research purposes you can telephone or e-mail with your request, and our library staff will contact you.

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VANDALISM AT PINE GROVE

Last fall we had locks broken on the storage sheds, and vandals managed to remove a few feet of copper tubing from the air conditioning units outside the carriage house, causing several thousand dollars worth of damage to the equipment. They also broke into the storage sheds again, and took some chairs that were stored inside. Then, this past week, vandals threw rocks through two windows of the Wisner House so windows were required. This society has insurance, but we also have a high deductible, so these destructive incidents are another burden on our budget.

We are sharing this information in order to keep you informed about the state of our organization.

GOOD NEWS AT PINE GROVE

On a happier note, we have a new ramp to the carriage house and a walkway from the driveway to the Wisner House and another from the driveway to the schoolhouse. Now we have much safer and attractive alternatives to walking across the grass and tripping over pinecones and apples. The generous donations from General Motors have paid for these improvements, and again we thank them.



Mike Willis showing off our new ramp to the carriage house

PRESERVATION WAYNE – TOUR SCHOOL

Thanks to a grant from the National Byways Program and the Woodward Avenue Action Association, Preservation Wayne initiated the region's first ever "Tour School" program. With help from the world-renowned Chicago Architectural Foundation, Preservation Wayne worked with several groups along the Woodward Corridor to develop additional cultural tourism programming in areas not currently covered by Preservation Wayne's tours. **Pine Grove Center** is included in this tour program, and our buildings will be open for tours on the following Saturdays: June 14; July 12; August 9; and September 13, 2008, starting at 10 a.m. Our research library will also be available on those dates from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP

All memberships are now due July 1, 2008. This past year we pro-rated each membership so all expire on June 30. A renewal letter will be mailed early in June. A new feature for our new and renewing members – you can now pay your membership fees on line. Check the website for details.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society held its annual meeting on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Following an interesting program by Leslie Piclack, an election of members to the Board of Directors was held. The following members will serve the association for the coming year:

Amy Annett - Waterford
Bruce Annett, Jr. - Waterford
Kimberly Bell - Macomb
Keith Bennett - Rochester Hills
Kathryn Daggy – Auburn Hills
Guy Duffield – Waterford
Gaylor Forman – Bloomfield Hills
Miriam Foxman – Keego Harbor
Brian Golden - Farmington
Judith Hudalla - Waterford
Annalee Kennedy – Sylvan Lake
Charles Martinez – West Bloomfield
Jo Pate – Bloomfield Hills
Corydon Randall – Bloomfield Hills
James Slezinski – Lake Orion
Richard Stamps – Rochester Hills
Michael West – Bloomfield Hills
Michael Willis - Pontiac
Roger Zeller – Waterford

Elected Officers are:

President: Michael Willis
1st Vice President: Michael West
2nd Vice President: Guy Duffield
Secretary: Kathryn Daggy
Treasurer: Amy Annett

MORE COUNTY EVENTS FOR THIS YEAR

Saturday, June 7, 2008 – 11 a.m.

Dedication of the Veterans Memorial at Perry Mount Park Cemetery.

Jack Bressler will make presentation.

Saturday, Sunday, June 28, 29, 2008 – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Log Cabin Days

Sponsored by the Waterford Historical Society.

Contact: 248.683.2697

FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On the first Monday of the month, the Franklin Whittling Club meets at 7 p.m. at the gazebo on the village green in Franklin. The monthly dues are \$1 for Franklin residents and \$1.25 for non-residents. Call 248.538.0565 for further information.

SAVING THE BARTON FARMHOUSE

The Barton farmhouse on Long Lake Road is the oldest existing house in Bloomfield Hills. The developer of the historic land wants the house to be removed within three months or it will be demolished. The Committee to Save the Barton Farmhouse, an alliance of the City, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills Schools and the Bloomfield Historical Society are hoping to move the house to the Charles L. Bowers Farm on Square Lake Road. Those who want more information on how to assist with this project to save the 175-year old home, can contact Pat Hardy at 248.642.6923, e-mail: Pathardy@comcast.net You may also contact the president of the Bloomfield Hills Historical Society, Pam Carmichael at email: michaelcarmichael@sbcglobal.net or 248.626.1850.



Barton Farmhouse – Bloomfield Hills

OPERATING ESSENTIALS

As most of our readers know, our society is run entirely by volunteers. We have no paid staff. The following list is just to give you an idea of the essential duties for daily operations:

Phones, email, US mail, answering machine, calendar

Tours: Scheduling, securing guides, confirmations, guiding duties, gift shop

Library; staffing, handling research requests

Maintenance: housekeeping, routine repairs, preventive action, security checks, alarm call responses

Membership: postings, acknowledgements, renewal and reminder letters

Financial: deposits and payments, donation acknowledgements, account reconciliations/fund balances, reinvestments

Monthly reports

Meeting minutes, policies, master forms

Filing: all areas affected - records, retention, retrieval, disposition

Committee and board meetings.

All the above is accomplished by just a few volunteers. Anyone want to help?

PATRON SPONSORS

CLARKSTON STATE BANK
6800 Highland Rd. Suite 2
Waterford, MI 48327
Office: 248.886.0086
Fax: 248.886.1432

PONTIAC REGIONAL CHAMBER
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Pontiac, MI 48341
Office: 248.335.9600

Nancy D. Scott
Vivian Eddy
The Rev. C. Corydon & Marian Randall
Richard & Ann Irwin
Henry Grix & Howard Israel
Bob & Leigh Sowles
Neil Munro

BENEFACTORS

Mike & Helen West

FRIEND OF OCPHS

Frances M. Smith

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Nelson – Waterford
Betty Seymour – Waterford
Kevin Church – Lake Orion

BERKSHIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TOUR PINE GROVE CENTER

A special interest group of students toured Pine Grove in November 2007. Judith Kalter's Photography Mentorship Program at Birmingham's Berkshire Middle School had an opportunity to learn more about the history of photography while seeing some of the old equipment on display in our collections. Photographic historian and OCPHS member, Judith has been teaching this program in Detroit and Birmingham since 2003. This group of students has been focusing on learning to take better pictures with their digital cameras. The contrast between their cameras and the stereo slide viewer on the Wisner House's parlor table brought home the vast differences brought on by technology since 1870.

Accompanying the students were some of their parents and their teacher, Phyllis Jarvis. Even though Pine Grove is just north of their homes in Birmingham, they had not known about it. Several students remarked that they were looking forward to returning to show their parents. 7th grader, Emily, sent this email:

"THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! I don't know how many times I can say it!"

NEW LOOK FOR OCPHS WEBSITE!

Be sure to check out our redesigned website at www.ocphs.org. Julia Bauder has transformed the layout to a bright, user-friendly, "point and click" format for easy navigation. We've added **Pay Pal**, too, providing the convenience of credit card payment for dues, research requests, merchandise sales and soon, donations. And, we can now update the site ourselves, so be sure to visit often for the latest news! We're excited about the changes and look forward to better serving our members and friends through the website.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY

Do you have Oakland County ancestors? We would like to start a series of stories about our members who have ancestors who settled in this area. We have lots of information about the prominent people in the area, but there were many who did not make the history books or the newspapers. Share your stories with us. Call Jo Pate: 248.645.1087 or email: bjpate30@aol.com

WISH LIST

GUIDES are vital to our tours. Since we are expanding our focus to include adult groups who would like a different program, we need more guides to explain the history of the Wisner House, schoolhouse, farm museum, furnishings and various historic buildings. We need people to be able to assist with our program on an as-needed basis. Training classes will be available. Call the OCPHS for further information.

JUST FOR FUN.....

The following was found on the internet and is worth sharing with our readers:

MICHIGAN REMINISCENCE

From 1910 to 1920 Hamtramck, Michigan grew from 3,589 to 45,615 residents, leading the nation in growth for that period.

During the lumber boom era, the row of saloons that lined Water Street in Bay City was known as 'Hell's Half Mile'.

Bagley's Corner was the original name of Bloomfield Hills.

Hog's Hollow was the original name of Utica, Michigan.

In 1870 Detroit became the nation's first telephone customers to have phone numbers assigned to them.

The first soft drink, (Vernor's Ginger Ale) was introduced by a Detroit Pharmacist, James A. Vernor, in 1866. Note: There were several 'elixirs' on the market at that time, including what would later be called Coca Cola. These contained alcohol, whereas Vernor's didn't. Thus the name 'soft' drink.

The world's first shopping mall (Northland Mall) opened in Southfield in 1954.

The onion is Michigan's largest fresh-market vegetable crop.

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE....

The game *Scrabble* is unchanged since 1931

U.S. paper currency has been made by the same company since 1842.

The game *Parcheesi* is unchanged since 1870.

Candy corn has had the same recipe since about 1900

Source: World Features Syndicate

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS...

Pontiac Gazette Friday, August 17, 1883:

The annual reunion of the 22nd regiment of Michigan volunteers, will be held in this city September 4th. The regiment was mustered into service September 4th 1862, and this will be the 21st anniversary.

Dawson Brothers purchased and took into their mill in three days this week 2,700 bushels of wheat.

Clarkston Band captured first prize at the band tournament at Orion last week.

A veteran citizen of Royal Oak, Robert McBride, died August 4th 1883, aged 81 years.

Edgar M. Snover and Miss Agnes Good, of Pontiac, were married last Monday, Rev. L.S. Stevens officiating.

D.L. Davis has purchased and taken possession of the Gen. Richardson homestead in the Fourth Ward.

Dr. Egbert Burdick, an old practitioner and pioneer of Oxford, was stricken with paralysis on Sunday and died on Thursday morning.

Dogs are the pest of Orion sheep breeders. J.P. Kelly has lost several fine sheep.

The article on the following page has been reprinted with permission of Don Rush of the *Oxford Leader*.

Oxford company helped Lindbergh fly

By C.J. Carnacchio
Leader Editor

A recently discovered 81-year-old telegram from a company founded by the Wright brothers indicated an Oxford manufacturer played a small role in making aviation history.

Dated May 22, 1927, the yellowed Western Union telegram sent to the M.D. Hubbard Spring Co. describes how a part it made was used inside the Ryan NYP "Spirit of St. Louis," the famous airplane Charles A. Lindbergh piloted during the first nonstop solo transatlantic flight.

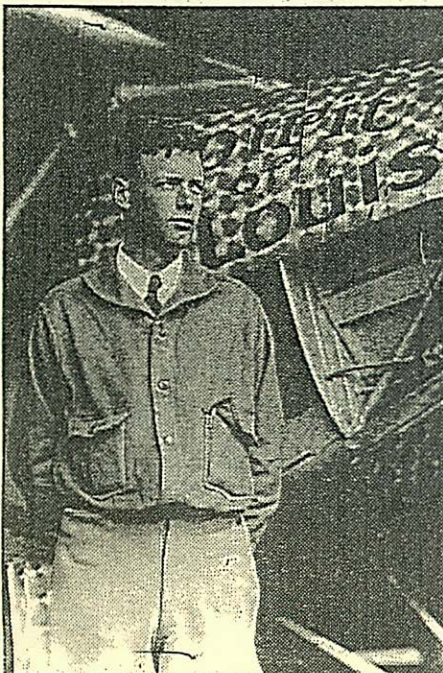
The telegram stated – "Welch expansion plugs made by your company were used in the Wright Whirlwind engine with which Captain Charles A. Lindbergh flew from New York to Paris. Period We know you will be glad to learn that you have done your part in contributing to his safety and success – Wright Aeronautical Corpn."

When Charles Hubbard, president of M.D. Hubbard Spring Co. located at 595 S. Lapeer Rd., was informed of the telegram's existence by a member of the Pontiac-based Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, he was very surprised to say the least.

"I didn't know it existed or anything about it," he said. "I knew we made stuff used in World War II, but I didn't know we were involved in the Spirit of St. Louis."

Guy Duffield, a part-time librarian with the historical society, ran across the telegram while thumbing through a scrapbook about the Welch Motor Car Co., which used to be located in Pontiac and was later bought by General Motors.

The message peaked his interest.



Charles A. Lindbergh with his Ryan NYP "Spirit of St. Louis" following the first nonstop solo transatlantic flight.



Guy Duffield (left), of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, and Charles Hubbard, president of Oxford-based M.D. Hubbard Spring Co., pose with the Welch Motor Car Co. scrapbook in which the 1927 telegram (below) was found. Photo by C.J.C.

"I didn't know if the Hubbard Spring Co. was still in business, so I looked through the phone book and I found it in Oxford," said Duffield, of Waterford. "I was pretty thrilled to find out they were still around after all of these years. I thought they'd be pretty interested in that telegram."

For most of its 102-year history, Hubbard Spring manufactured its standard and custom metal parts in Pontiac. The company moved to Oxford Township in 1973.

The Welch expansion plug mentioned in the telegram was first manufactured by Hubbard Spring in 1913. The company still makes them today in the widest range of sizes anywhere.

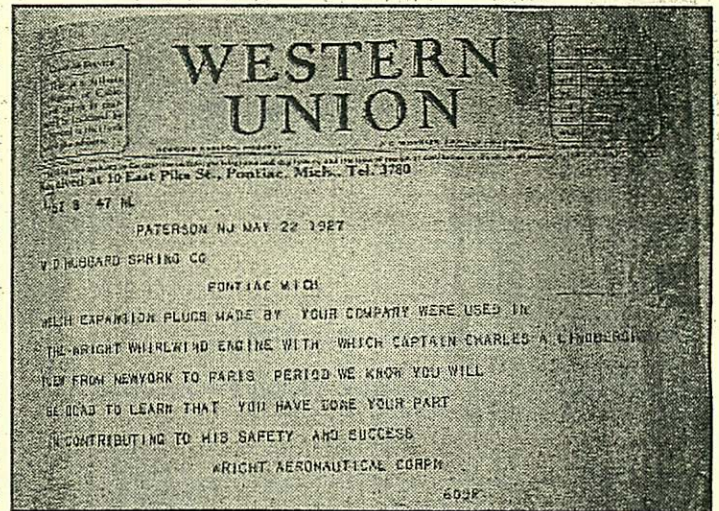
Expansion plugs are an inexpensive, efficient, permanent method of closing/sealing manufactured holes in casting and other processes.

"It's a piece of metal that's slightly cupped as if you'd sliced a piece off a baseball," Hubbard explained. "You put it in a hole and hit it. As it goes flat, it expands and seals the hole up."

The plug was developed by the brothers who owned the Welch Motor Car Co. with the help of Hubbard Spring's founder Martin Hubbard. The two companies were

once located next door to each other in Pontiac.

When the plug was patented, Hubbard Spring was licensed as the sole manufacturer for the life of the patent, which ex-



pired in 1930.

Wright Aeronautical Corp., founded by airplane inventors Wilbur and Orville Wright, used Welch expansion plugs in its 223-horsepower Wright Whirlwind J-5C engine, which powered Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis on its 3,610-mile flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

Lindbergh landed in Paris on May 21, 1927 – 33 hours, 30 minutes after he left New York.

Wright Aeronautical, which used to be located in Paterson, New Jersey, sent Hubbard Spring the telegram the very next day. And the rest is history . . .

**OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Pontiac Michigan 48342

Phone: 248.338.6732
Fax: 248.338.6731
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Check here if gift membership from: _____

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR ONE YEAR, FROM JULY 1
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- Student.....\$15.00
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- Patron..... \$100.00
- Benefactor..... \$200.00
- Friends of OCPHS..... \$500.00
- Corporate Sponsor..... \$500.00

Check desired membership category and enclose with this application and check or money order made payable to Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society and mail to above address.

