



JULY 25, 2009 – SAVE THE DATE!!!!

A DAY AT PINE GROVE

This is our major event of the year. Some of the entertainment includes:

Church Street Singers

Great Lakes Ancient Field Musick: Fife and Drum Corps

Antique children's games to play including:

Hoops, Quoits, Jacks, and several others

Demonstrations of woodworking

Antique appraisals will be available: 1 item per guest at \$5. fee

Deaccessioned treasurers from the OCPHS attics that need new homes

Tours available for Wisner House, schoolhouse, farm museum, root cellar, summer kitchen and privy

Ice cream and cake included with price of admission

Hot dogs, chips, beverages available for purchase and

Several special historic cars!

Oakland County Historical Societies have been invited to set up tables with their information and wares available.

The gift shop will be open.

Admission is \$8.00 per person, tickets are available at our carriage house office. Children under 12 are free. Admission at gate will be \$10.00.

We are looking for people to bake cakes to go with the ice cream. We prefer sheet cakes or cupcakes, as they are easier to eat. Call our office to let us know what you can do, or leave a message – and don't forget to leave your name and phone number.

A flyer for this event is enclosed – please pass it along to family, neighbor or friend to encourage them to attend with you.

Oh, yes, you can also help sponsor our event in any amount. Your generosity will be mentioned in the next *Oakland Gazette*.

Besides bringing your family to enjoy the old cars, listening to great music, eating ice cream, playing games, and generally having a grand ole time, consider volunteering some time for this event. Morning set-up of tents, tables, chairs, and after the event take-down of them all, working at a booth, directing parking, guiding guests through the Wisner House, schoolhouse and farm museum all require a lot of people to make everything work smoothly. We can use you. Call us (248.338.6732); email (office@ocphs.org), or enclose the green volunteer sheet with your dues payment. You will have a return phone call and a listing of spots that need filling.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR OCPHS

The following is the report filed for the annual meeting of OCPHS by the Legislative Committee, chaired by Mike West. It is reprinted here as we feel our membership should be aware of the actions being considered by the society.

The major activity of the Legislative Committee has been focused on the development of a Strategic Plan for OCPHS. A proposal was presented and approved by the Board at the February 2009 meeting. Detroit Executive Service Corp., a consulting service for non-profits, has been contracted for a fee of \$400. and will lead the process.

DESC has performed an assessment of OCPHS and has assigned two consultants to the project, Mr. Jerry Breuer and Mr. Wolfgang Treutlein. The OCPHS team consists of Amy and Bruce Annett, Mary Connell, Guy Duffield, Charles Martinez, Jo Pate, Mike Willis and Fran Wilson. Also, on the team are Carol Egbo, of Waterford Schools and Kirt Gross, Curator, Dearborn Historical Museum. Mike West is the committee chair. Individuals outside of OCPHS are included in order to benefit from the viewpoint of stakeholders and similar organizations with similar challenges.

The intention of this endeavor is to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that will ensure the viability and future of OCPHS.

The planning process, to be efficacious, is intensive and includes the following elements:

- Plan is based upon OCPHS mission and vision statements and core values
- Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) are identified and evaluated
- Identification of key issues
- Develop goals, objectives and strategy

The strategic planning meetings are held at the Carriage House every two weeks on Thursday at 3 pm. We have held a total of six meetings with DESC. We expect to conclude the project in August 2009.

We anticipate that the plan will provide direction with the following challenges:

- Identify the projects on which we need to focus in order to thrive in today's world
- Develop funding programs to support these projects
- Participatory membership
- Expanding membership
- Accommodating the electronic world
- Effective organization and management
- Implementing the plan with our resource limitations

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING MAY 16, 2009

The annual meeting of the society was held at the Auburn Hills Public Library with 24 members attending. The program, *Ice Harvesting in Oakland County*, featured Leslie Edwards former administrator of OCPHS and currently archivist for Cranbrook schools. The election of members to the Board of Directors was held, with one new member to the board: Bob Nelson. The following members will serve the association for the coming year:

Amy Annett – Waterford	(Treasurer)
Bruce Annett, Jr. – Waterford	
Kathryn Daggy – Auburn Hills	(Secretary)
Guy Duffield – Waterford	(2 nd Vice President)
Gaylor Forman – Bloomfield Hills	
Miriam Foxman – Keego Harbor	
Brian Golden – Farmington	
Judith Hudalla – Waterford	
Annalee Kennedy – Sylvan Lake	
Charles Martinez – West Bloomfield	
Robert Nelson – Waterford	
Joan Pate – Bloomfield Hills	
Cory Randall (Rev.) – Bloomfield Hills	
James Slezinski – Lake Orion	
Richard Stamps – Rochester Hills	
Michael West – Bloomfield Hills	(1 st Vice President)
Michael Willis – Pontiac	(President)
Rodger K. Zeller – Waterford	

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As a reminder, all memberships now expire on July 1. With a few exceptions, such as Life Memberships and those who have joined within the last 2 months, YOUR membership is expiring. Your membership in Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society is vital to our survival. As you know, we have no paid staff – our volunteers take care of all the office work, minor repairs and maintenance of buildings, organizing tours, writing and mailing this newsletter, maintaining website, etc. We have to pay for lawn care and snow removal and major repairs, utilities, and office supplies, telephones, computers, and everything else that it takes to maintain three major buildings and 4 ½ acres of land. We have some income from endowments and the personal donations of some of our members; however, our membership fees are very important to the survival of our society.

The fee structure is:

Student	\$15.
Individual	20.
Family (children under 18)	35.
Non-Profit organizations	20.
Patrons	100.
Benefactors	200.
Friends	500.
Corporate sponsors	500.

An envelope is included for your dues for the 2009-2010 year. If you can include a "little extra" with your dues, it will be truly appreciated.

Thank you.

PONTIAC GARDEN CLUB TOUR

July 18, 2009 is another date to remember. The Pontiac Garden Club includes our grounds and buildings in their annual tour of gardens. We will need a few good people to serve refreshments, serve as docents for Wisner House, schoolhouse and farm museum. There are many beautiful gardens in the Pontiac area, so sign up for the tour or help at our venue. Or, do both!

DONATION TO OCPHS LANDSCAPING

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Andrews of Orchard Lake Village have donated a topiary lilac tree to Pine Grove. Goldner Walsh Nursery planted it on the northeast corner of the mansion, and extended the bed and spread hardwood mulch on the area. The lilac tree has great presence and fits perfectly with the period theme of the time of Gov. Wisner, albeit very ornamental. Lilacs were in vogue and we know from records that lilacs were on the grounds.

Thanks you to Mr. & Mrs. Andrews and Goldner Walsh Nursery for their generous and thoughtful donations.

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Marion Kimball, long-time member of OCPHS celebrated her 100th birthday April 4, 2009. Marion and her husband, Clarke were very active in this society for well over 25 years, with Clarke serving as 1st Vice President for most of that time. He died at age 97 in 2004. There are two trees planted in their honor on the grounds of Pine Grove. A reception was held for Marion on April 4 at her home in Pontiac, and Willard Scott wished her a happy 100th on NBC on Friday April 3.

Happy Birthday, Marion, from all of us at the Pioneer Society.

On a sadder note, **Miriam Foxman**, our cheerful docent and popular schoolmarm for children's tours, lost her house and all its contents to a devastating fire in May. Fortunately, Miriam was not at home, so was not injured. She is staying with neighbors and continues as a member of the Board of Directors of this society. Our hearts go out to her, and will help in any way we can.

LIBRARY NEWS

We would like to thank Rich Luterman from Fox 2 News for coming to visit on May 19 and donating a CD with over 100 photographs of the damage from 1976 West Bloomfield tornado. Our librarian, Fran Wilson, accepted the CD on behalf of the library committee and the Society. All the photographs will make a valuable addition to our collection. While Rich was here, he enjoyed a tour of the Mansion and Pioneer Museum, and promised great weather for the rest of the week!



The storm was covered in Charles Martinez' book, The Song of the Heron. Also, Fran Wilson's son was driving in the middle of the storm and his car landed upside-down on another car, and one of his passengers was killed.

This is the first of a series of stories written by third-grade students in the elementary schools in Pontiac in 1960. With a little help from their teachers, they condensed the history of each school into a few sentences. Thanks to Annalee Kennedy for sharing these papers with us.

WISNER SCHOOL

Did you know that the Wisner School was named for Moses Wisner, Governor of Michigan in 1859? It is his old brick home on Oakland Avenue that is Pontiac's historical shrine. The school site was bought from the Wisner farm land. This land was once a swamp. Our school is next to the Wisner Home. Our playground is part of the Wisner property. The rent for the playground is paid to the Oakland County Historical Foundation.

Wisner School was built in 1911. We have about 700 children enrolled in 1960. Our school is one of the largest in Pontiac.

On the other side of our school is the Wisner Stadium. It is here that Pontiac's big games and festivals are held.

Mrs. Mary Morse is our principal. Mrs. Agnes Cox was the principal from 1947 until she died in 1956.

Yours sincerely,

The Wisner Third Grade

CROFOOT SCHOOL

Crofoot School, 280 West Huron Street, is next to Pontiac Central High School. It was built in 1905 and 1906 for an enrollment of about 400. The cost of the building was \$27,092.00.

Florence Herrington was the first principal from 1905 to 1938. During this time many of Pontiac's now important people attended Crofoot School.

Crofoot School was named for Judge Michael E. Crofoot. Judge Crofoot was very interested in the education of children in Pontiac. Judge Crofoot was born in New York in 1822. He came to Pontiac in 1845. He was interested in the improvement of the Oakland County Agriculture Society. He also took an active part in the Pontiac State Hospital and the Orchard Lake Military Academy (now the Orchard Lake Seminary).

Crofoot School has had eight principals. Miss Florence Herrington, Mr. Lukis, Adeline Hook, Mr. Bear, Theodore Wiersema, Daniel Abbott, Horton Southworth, Lewis Crew and Albert Henning, the present administrative intern.

Crofoot Third Graders

**OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Non-Profit Org.
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Pontiac, MI

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society

Name _____

Street _____ Apt. No. _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

☐ Check here if gift membership from: _____

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR ONE YEAR, FROM JULY 1
TO JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR.**

☐ Student.....\$15.00
☐ Individual.....\$20.00
☐ Family (children under 18).....\$35.00
☐ Non-Profit organizations.....\$20.00
☐ 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.

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