



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

OCPHS had a very good 2012. We expanded our operating hours. Our major events drew record attendance. Not only did we cover our expenses but, thanks to the generosity of benefactors, we closed the year 20% over budget. This will

enable us to address some of the needs we have for 2013. All this is due to the outstanding work of our volunteers and members. Each of you made 2012 a success for OCPHS!

2013 has gotten off to a good start. Our first two Small Talks drew full house audiences. The remainder of the year is booked with equally interesting speakers and topics. The June Small Talk (History of Ford) and the September Small Talk (History of Oakland/Pontiac Motors) will also feature antique cars from the respective companies. A new member "Meet and Greet" is scheduled for Feb. 28. The Library Team has plans to work with Oakland University and OCHR (Library Consortium) to help with the digitization of our archives and collections. Thanks to the generosity of one of our members we will be receiving computer equipment with all the power needed to undertake this huge task. A committee has been formed to update our tour program and another is working on our policies and procedures. In a short while you will see more improvements to our campus security. This spring our members will give presentations for the Baldwin Library in Birmingham and the Birmingham Optimists. The Summer Social Team is already working on this year's event. Check our website for dates and latest news on these activities

Sara Guy came on board last October as a part-time Office Manager and has made an immediate contribution to our campus. Thanks to the Library Team and the service of Sara, OCPHS is now open Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visitors and members now have more opportunity to use our facilities and visit Pine Grove. Stop by and catch up on the latest activities. See you at Pine Grove!

Regards, *Mike West*, President

COUNTY EMPLOYEES GIVE GENEROUSLY

OCPHS was proud to be among 17 local charities to receive a donation from the 2012 Oakland County Employee Casual Day Fund. Throughout each year, county employees may dress casually for work in exchange for contributing \$1 to the fund. Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, over



\$500,000 has been distributed to area charities through the program. In December, Mary Connell had the honor of representing OCPHS to accept the donation from county executive L. Brooks Patterson.

WELCOME SARA GUY

We're pleased to introduce our new office manager, Sara Guy (right). Sara joined OCPHS in 2010, and soon began volunteering as a docent and helping during our community events. Her enthusiastic support of our activities and mission made her a winning volunteer and a great candidate when we decided to reinstate this part-time position. Already Sara has recruited new members, expanded our social network presence, brought in new visitors, improved response time and efficiency, and brightened the office with her ready smile. Sara has a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Western Michigan University, with minors in social work and criminal justice. She brings excellent communication, organizational, and "people" skills to OCPHS. A newlywed, she lives in Waterford with her husband Steve.



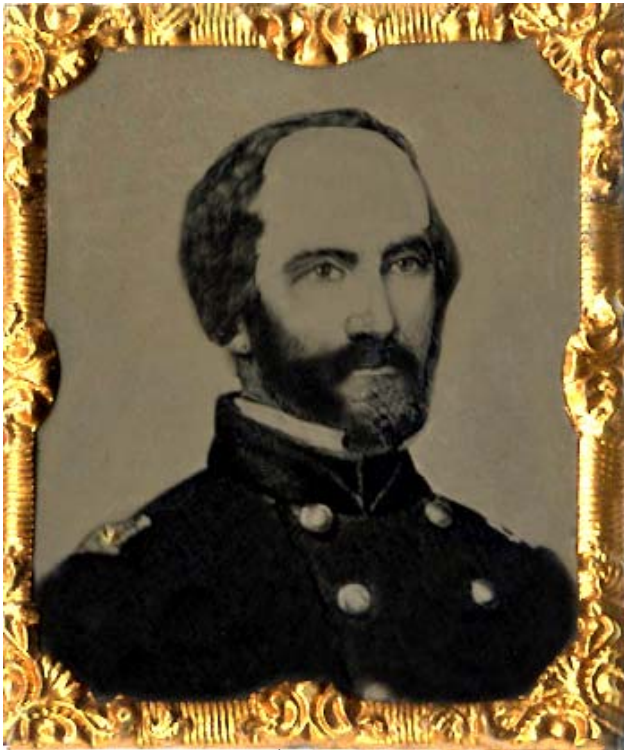
IMAGE FOUND, ALLEGED TO DEPICT WISNER IN CIVIL WAR UNIFORM

By Charlie Martinez

*Oh, how hard it is to find
The one just suited to our mind*
Thomas Campbell (1777-1844) Song, st. 1

An image of Moses Wisner in Civil War uniform, believed to be the first of its kind, has been found in Kentucky, according to a report recently received by the Society.

The surprising announcement came in the form of an email from Doug Casamer, Society member and Armada, Michigan resident. He is also the author of the monumental work, *The History of the Michigan Twenty-Second Infantry and the Men who Served During the American Civil War* (2006). Wisner was the first commander of that regiment.



Moses Wisner? Colonel 22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
September 1862 – January 1863

The image was supposedly found in a box of old photographs that was located in a Lexington, Kentucky church. The reverse of the likeness carried the cryptic inscription, "Colonel 22nd Michigan." An acquaintance of Casamer, who deals in antiques, acquired the contents of the box which held a number of other early photos. Notified of the find, Casamer asked the dealer for more details, only to learn that he had sold the artifacts to an unnamed party.

News of this turn of events saddened Casamer as well as those Society members who had been informed of the initial discovery. As a student of Civil War photography, Casamer leans toward the authenticity of the image. He feels "the original was on glass" and framed behind a "golden/brass-colored border." This arrangement was then protected by a hinged case made either of pressed paper, leather, or gutta-percha (a coagulated, rubber-like material).

The writer of this article has examined the Society's collection of nineteenth-century images and finds that such protective cases were used with the Daguerreotype, Ambrotype, and tintype photographic processes. The Daguerreotype produced a likeness on a silver-coated, copper plate, the Ambrotype on a sensitized glass plate and the tintype on a black japanned iron plate. All these processes shared the same disadvantage, however, that of being unique images that could not be reproduced from a master negative.



Moses Wisner, 12th Michigan Governor, 1859 - 1861

Tintype photography survived competition by improvements in the attendant camera that made their images inexpensive, sturdy, and highly sought after. The tintype's only true rival was the "carte-de-visite" or visiting card. It was made from a wet plate negative which was mounted on a cardboard card. The emotional factor and family separation brought about by the Civil War triggered an explosion in the production of tintypes and carte-de-visites.

"A picture is worth a thousand words." That oft-quoted saying applies to the newly discovered image

of Moses Wisner in uniform. Is it a true likeness or a fake? The Society will undertake an investigation with the help of professionals to learn more of the techniques used to produce it. At the same time we will re-examine details of Wisner's life along with that of his family and friends. We will also look into the identity of possible photographers and the time frame involved when the image may have been made.

We are asking you the reader for your opinion based on a comparison of the two images accompanying this article. Are they the same man? Email us your reply to office@ocphs.org, or if you prefer, drop us a note in care of Wisner Survey, Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, 405 Cesar Chavez, Pontiac, MI 48342. Your verdict, together with our survey results, will appear in Part 2 of the article scheduled for the next issue of the *Oakland Gazette*.

YOU THINK YOU GOT IT BAD?

By Charlie Martinez

Your alarm clock didn't go off this morning. The shower handle stuck. The toast burned. Your Smart Phone died and the Impala's right rear tire is flat. What a blankety-blank way to start the morning!

Well, that would have been a walk in the park if you had a handy park to walk in nearly two hundred years ago in the Oakland County. As it was, your pioneer neighbor had just lost his home to fire and you have generously offered to share yours for several weeks of joint accommodation, bringing the total number of mouths to feed to twenty-four.

To meet expenses as male head of the family you usually walk four to five miles a day to work and back. In so doing you might earn fifty cents for yourself and a whole dollar for your durable oxen who do all the heavy plowing. It's not uncommon to find yourself without meat for the table, so you load up your musket and kill a deer or bear. Of course if you are a good shot you might make some bounty money eliminating those pesky wolves who constitute a threat to your family and livestock. They run in packs and their howling provides your loved ones with a bone-chilling symphony on those bright moonlit nights.

Because of the nature of carving out a life in the wilderness, your wife and children might be left alone for several days. Mom never gets bored, however, facing her traditional duties of providing food, clothing, and all the necessities of home life. Along with the cooking, she prepares the dairy products, makes soap and candles, is adept at spinning and weaving, and does her share in raising the farm animals. All these tasks are performed without the

benefit of such distractions as radio, TV, text messaging, vacuum cleaners, Dr. Phil, yoga, and trips to the mall.

Putting such human interest happenings in historical perspective has become the retirement vocation of David Walls, one of the Society's top genealogical researchers. For the above noted pioneer incidents are drawn from David's third great grandfather, Erastus Durkee. That gentleman, together with brother Jedediah and father William, settled in West Bloomfield, Oakland County near Pine Lake in 1829-1830. Dave Walls now shares his skills at uncovering ancestral data with Pine Grove library patrons. One day your family's history may find its way onto the pages of our *Oakland Gazette*. But that's another story.



Jedediah Durkee fought wolves to save his West Bloomfield farm in the 1830s. Image from OCPHS Collection.

MEADOWBROOK HALL: NATIONAL LANDMARK

Meadowbrook Hall, built in the 1920s by Matilda Dodge Wilson and lumber broker Alfred Wilson, was one of 13 sites nationwide to receive National Historic Landmark status in an announcement made last year by the United States Secretary of the Interior. Located in Rochester on the campus of Oakland University, the famous Hall is but one example of important historical treasures that lie practically in our own back yards. There is much to explore in Oakland County!

**"THIS SEEMS LIKE THE SURE THING":
TOM TUCKER ENTERS THE WAR**

By Katie Annett

This Civil War Sesquicentennial serial follows the 22nd Michigan Infantry Regiment as described in the "daily memorandum" of one of its soldiers, Private Tom Tucker.

On September 4, 1862, the 22nd Michigan Infantry left Pontiac for the South. On the steamboat to Cleveland, Ohio, Colonel Moses Wisner discovered that most of the soldiers had alcohol in their canteens. "The Colonel told all the Captains of each Co. to empty all the beer and whisky out and not to except no body, neither Officer or men," Tom wrote. "The boys was awfull mad about it and some of them drank most of what they had before the Officers found it. So there is a good many of the boys prety drunk and they say they are sea sick." Nevertheless, the regiment reached Covington, Kentucky the next night, and "this seems like the sure thing."

The regiment got its first taste of battle at the "Cabbage Hill Fight" on September 6: "Well, we marched 3 miles south of Covington on a side hill and formed a line of battle in a large cabbage patch. We could hear the guns going off about 1 mile south of us. We only had 1 catradge each and the ball was to large for our guns, so we had to shave the bullets before we could get them down the barriell of our guns. Well, we thought sure we was going to have some fun and for awhile it sure looked like it. Colonal Wisner every little while would swing his sword arround and every time he would smash of a cabbage head he would say he wished that was a Rebbs head. One of our Co. was out on the skirmish line and several of them was taken prisonors. But finaly our men drove the Rebbs back and we went up on top of the hill."

The 22nd Michigan's soldiers spent the next few months chasing Rebel raiders, serving on guard and picket duty, and putting up with bad water, bad weather, long marches, and dust. The night of October 2, Col. Wisner was ordered to take 100 volunteers to capture some Confederates in the woods. After reading the orders to the regiment, Wisner "gave the command for 10 men from each Co. to step 2 paces to the front, but instead, the whole reg.[iment] stepped out 2 paces." Due to this willingness, the Captains had to choose them, and Tom was "one of the 10 from Co. D." The group captured a total of 14 Rebels. "We were awfull tiard and sleepy," Tom wrote, "but we had lots of fun anyway. We got our 1st batch of rebs". A few days later, Tom narrowly escaped trouble when a plan to sleep in shifts while on picket duty went awry and a falling hickory nut woke him right before the Sergeant

of the Guard arrived. "I'le bet I wont go to sleep again when I am on Picket," he said. Tom was still just 17 years old at the time, and didn't make any note of his 18th birthday on October 9.

Young as he was, he and the rest of the regiment were learning fast. One unfortunate reality was the increase of disease as winter set in. "There is a lot of our boys sick and lately several boys of our reg. has died," Tom wrote, and Colonel Wisner was one of them. On January 5, 1863, Tom reported, "Our reg. marched at Reverse Arms behind the herse with our Colonal Moses Wesner in it, down to the Depot in Lexington. He was put in the baggage car and will go to Pontiac, Mich. for the Colonal was very strict with us sometimes but he was a brave soldier and will be missed by some."

Tucker: War Years and The Farm, the "daily memorandum" of Private Thomas H. Tucker, was published by Robert G. Tucker in 1991 and can be found in the OCPHS collection.

Spelling and grammatical errors from Tom's original writings have been transcribed, unedited, in the article above.

**MOTORCITIES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
PROJECT, WAYSIDE EXHIBITS**

By Ron Gay



Wayside signs convey transportation history. Courtesy Motorcities

It's been over a year since I agreed to be the coordinator for the Pontiac area for the Motorcities Wayside project, working with Nancy Thompson from Oakland County's Economic Development department. At that time it was thought that there were only a couple of months left to find sponsors for these exhibits that were conceived to showcase the ground transportation and automotive industry history in our area. To my astonishment, the response has been nothing short of overwhelming, resulting in extended deadlines. What started as a plan to have a few signs to install by summer of 2012 has turned

into a large contingent of signs that won't be ready until summer of 2013.

Along with the Pontiac community I reached out to a few other neighboring areas to find sponsors for this unique and long overdue opportunity to showcase our automotive history. Along the way I talked to groups in Sylvan Lake, West Bloomfield, Wixom, and Farmington. Five Wayside Exhibits will go in Sylvan, thirteen along the West Bloomfield Trail including two about Pine Lake Country Club, two in Westacres Subdivision, three in Wixom, and one in Farmington. Pontiac will have 53 signs within our city limits, one being sponsored by Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. The Society's Wayside sign will address Pontiac's buggy companies, of which there were many, highlighting Pontiac Buggy Company.

The OCPHS board recently voted to allow the use of its archive for images on Waysides yet to be completed. Of the 53 signs for Pontiac twenty-four are sponsored by members of the Downtown Business Association. Those comprise the major lot yet to be laid out. I know images from the OCPHS archive will be helpful in the layout of those signs.

Another opportunity has come along with the Motocities project. The signs in Pontiac not in the downtown district, 29 of them, will each have a different variety of iris planted around its base. In cooperation with the Pontiac Garden Club we will use this opportunity with placing historical signs to draw attention to the garden club's goal of making Pontiac a center for irises. We expect to have these iris varieties noted on future literature that will describe the location, sponsor, and theme of all of our Wayside Exhibits. There will also likely be a marker at each sign installation noting sponsors, iris varieties with possibly a QR code.

To conclude, we are working diligently on completing layouts for better than half of the signs sponsored. The one for the OCPHS sponsorship should be ready for proofing in the very near future. Once our work is completed towards the layout of each sign we will begin meetings to talk about specific locations for each installation. The installation phase will be coordinated to install all signs at approximately the same time. The next time you hear from me we'll have our sign, for OCPHS, ready for proofing. Thanks to the OCPHS board for their full support in this unique and wonderful opportunity to assist the National Park Service, and Motorcities in celebrating our local history as it relates to transportation, as well as many peripheral stories and facts.

With appreciation, Ron Gay

NEW MEMBER MEET & GREET, FEBRUARY 28

Those who have joined OCPHS over the past year or so have received invitations to our annual Meet & Greet, to be held Thursday, February 28 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Board members and committee chairs will provide new members with an overview of activities and volunteer opportunities, and we'll get to know one another in an informal setting. Not a new member, but thinking about joining or becoming more active at OCPHS? You're welcome, too! Come on February 28, or contact us and we'll arrange a time to get acquainted. We look forward to meeting you.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following people have joined OCPHS since the last issue of the *Gazette*. Welcome!

Bauer, Mary	Clarkston
Betts, Kathleen	South Boardman, MI
Campbell, Nancy	Waterford
Cote, Linda	Rochester
Deren, Michael	Ann Arbor
Garabedian, Edward & Phyllis	Bloomfield Hills
George, Carol	Clarkston
Hauser, Robert	Waterford
Hoopfer, Gerald	Waterford
Knudson, Betty Anne	Waterford
Pontiac-Oakland Museum	Pontiac, IL
Upcott, Ernest "Skip"	Pontiac
Williams, Faye	White Lake
Zaremski, Lindsay	Royal Oak

It's easy to become a member: Sign up on-line at www.ocphs.org or use the application form included in this newsletter. Join or renew now and your membership will be good until **July 1, 2014**.

HONORS FOR OCPHS MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS

Elaine Keinert, who portrays Harriett Beecher Stowe at our Summer Socials, received the Paul Harris Fellow Designation, Rotary International's highest award, for her nearly 40 years of Rotary Club service

Lois Lance celebrated her 95th birthday last fall at a special gathering at Royal Oak's Orson Starr house.

Maureen Thalmann, historian and OCPHS Small Talk speaker, was elected in 2012 to the Oakland Township Board of Trustees

Dave Walls, library volunteer, has been appointed to the Oakland County Historical Commissio

SMALL TALKS START STRONG



The 2013 Small Talk series is off to a great start, filling the Carriage House to capacity for each of the first two programs. Hamtramck Historical Commission Chairman Greg Kowalski (left) spoke in January about that city's history and evolution. He also wrote a terrific article for the *Birmingham Eccentric*, where he serves as editor,

about his experience here and the importance of preserving local history. Both Greg's talk and the article brought in many visitors and new members.

In February, historian Jim Craft (right) shared a wealth of information about upstate New York's "Burned Over District", so called because of the intense religious fervor that influenced its residents. Many of these people migrated westward in the first part of the 19th century, settling in Michigan and bringing with them a wide range of social, religious, and political reforms. Jim's presentation also generated a large, enthusiastic audience.



The next program, **Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m.**, features historians Bob and Cherie Allen, authors of the book, *A 'Guest' of the Confederacy*, which details the military history of Alonzo M. Keeler, a Civil War soldier in Michigan's 22nd Infantry. The Allens drew from Keeler's diaries and letters to tell the story of his service in Moses Wisner's regiment, his capture at the Battle of Chickamauga, and his imprisonment by Confederate forces.

Pontiac's Hubert Price will also speak about military history on **Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m.** His topic is *The 6th Calvary: U.S. Colored Troops, Company C*. Hubert has a personal connection to a soldier from that company, and his presentation promises to be another interesting one.

Please see our website or contact us for a complete listing of upcoming Small Talks. Kathy Davis, chairwoman, has booked the complete series for 2013 and is already lining up 2014 speakers. We hope you'll join us as often as you can.

COMCAST SENDS ADDITIONAL DONATION

Last fall we wrote of Comcast Corporation's donation of supplies and refreshments for our 2012 Spring Clean Up. In addition to that generous help, the company subsequently sent a cash donation as well! This unexpected but welcome support was part of the company's 11th annual Comcast Cares Day, the nation's largest single-day corporate volunteer effort. Thank you, Comcast!

STATEWIDE HISTORY CONFERENCES

Michigan in Perspective, the Historical Society of Michigan's local history conference, will be held **March 22 – 23** at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Livonia. For details and registration, visit www.hsmichigan.org or call 800-692-1828.

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network will present *Ingredients of Place*, its 33rd annual statewide preservation conference **May 8 – 11** at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Details at www.mhpn.org, admin@mhpn.org, or 517-371-8080.

LIBRARY EXPANDS HOURS

In addition to its Wednesday hours, our research library is now open on the first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and by appointment. Our volunteers are eager to help with your questions.

PONTIAC RESEARCH LEADS TO MEMBERSHIP

A recent research request had ties to Pontiac—the cities, the automotive brand, and the Native American Chief. Tim and Penny Dye own the Pontiac-Oakland Museum in Pontiac, Illinois, located along the famous Route 66. They and their colleague, Dave Sullivan, visited our library to learn more about Chief Pontiac. Historian Charlie Martinez and volunteer Dave Walls were happy to help, and we're proud to count the Pontiac-Oakland Museum among our new members.

By coincidence, board member Bruce Annett had visited the Illinois museum last spring with his family and had purchased two copies of Tim's book about Pontiac-Oakland memorabilia—one for himself and one for our library. We can attest to the quality of both Tim's book and the Pontiac-Oakland Museum. We're pleased that our two organizations have been brought together. As for the Chief Pontiac research, it is for another planned book—we'll keep you posted.

LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS PLANNED GIVING

In October, we hosted a luncheon and presentation in appreciation of the Society's members and donors. Financial experts Nathan Mersereau and Jim Niedzinski of Planning Alternatives, LTD and OCPHS benefactor and CPA Konrad Kohl of Berger & Wild, PLLC, joined forces to speak about financial and tax implications of giving, and the importance of planning donations to charities you care about. We enjoyed a delicious meal followed by an informative discussion.



Financial experts Nathan, Konrad, and Jim "got framed" following their talk at October's appreciation luncheon

The most important advice? Take action! Think about how you'd like to use your time, talent, and resources, and set a plan in motion. Actions to benefit a charity close to your heart can be as simple as writing a check or volunteering your time, or they may require a bit more paperwork, such as naming the charity as a beneficiary on accounts, insurance policies, or investments, specifying a bequest in your will or trust, or transferring assets. Whatever path you choose, taking the time to put your wishes in writing, to discuss your options with a financial, legal, or tax professional, and to plan for your philanthropic legacy is time well spent.

In 2012, the Society received many donations in memory of OCPHS members and volunteers. We received a major first-time gift from an anonymous donor which was facilitated by an OCPHS member, and we benefited from intentional giving by those committed to supporting the Society.

If you do not have a professional advisor and would like to speak with Nathan, Jim, or Konrad, contact us and we'll put you in touch with them. Thank you to our members, volunteers, and donors, and to our speakers for helping us understand the power and potential of planned giving.

WE'VE BEEN FRAMED!

Next time you're at Pine Grove, check out the collection of "I've Been Framed" photos displayed in the Carriage House. Member-volunteer Barb Hudalla spied some empty poster frames one day and turned her moment of inspiration into a series of shots, two of which appear on this page. If Barb's around when you are, smile—you may be about to get framed.



Katie & Amy Annett, "framed" by photographer Barb Hudalla

ROADWORK COMPLETE

We're relieved to report that the months-long roadwork along Cesar E. Chavez Avenue in front of the Society is now complete, making access to Pine Grove much easier. Two-way traffic has been restored, and the Michigan Department of Transportation complied with our request to change the pitch of our driveway entrance, preventing cars from "bottoming out" on the sidewalk.

FACEBOOK, TWITTER HELP PROMOTE OCPHS

Many of our recent guests heard about us through social media. We're making good progress toward a greater electronic presence, which promotes our mission and activities and helps reach others who share our love of history. Thanks for helping spread the word: Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

If you have recently acquired email or changed your email address, please let us know so that we may keep you informed of events and activities. We promise to keep informational emails short and infrequent. Also, we are now able to send the *Gazette* electronically to those who prefer it that way. If you would like to update your email address or *Gazette* delivery preference, please let us know by sending a note to office@ocphs.org.

VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE RECAP

By Anne Liimatta



Financially: The 2012 Open House was the best in many years! Entertainment-wise: Outstanding with live piano, super-duper high school carolers, soloist, School House manger scene, two new exhibits and the regionally and nationally famous Dodworth Saxhorn Band! The volunteer help was outstanding, starting with a top-notch group of co-chairs: Bob Nelson, Rodger Zeller, Brian Golden, Annie Hunt, Barb and Judy Hudalla, Linda Porter, Joan Hayes, Kari Vaughan, and yours truly. ☺ We definitely fed off each others' enthusiasm and came up with a very successful program. Short prayers at the start of each meeting brought it all together, I believe!



Thanks to a record number of members this year as well as committed spouses and family who volunteered to publicize, advertise, decorate, walk in the Christmas parade, work at the pre-event auction, dress in costume, guide, bake cookies, serve hot chocolate, manage and direct wherever needed on

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society presents its annual

VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE

A Civil War Christmas
 Sunday December 2, 2012
 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Featuring
THE DODWORTH SAXHORN BAND
 in
"Sounds of the Season"
 Antique Brass Ensemble from Ann Arbor
 Period Christmas Music & Dancing

* ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ *

- Tour the 1850's Pine Grove Museum decorated for the holidays
- Sing along with the School House Christmas programs
- Kids - Visit with St. Nick and get a photo!
- Make a stop at the Gift Shop
- Enjoy Refreshments
- Join in the Poinsettia Raffle
- Donate a canned good to Lighthouse
- Tickets \$5/Adult...\$10/Family of 5

Attend Live Auction
 November 29th at 6:00pm
 at Pine Grove

Pine Grove Historical Museum
 405 Cesar Chavez Ave.
 Pontiac, MI 48342
 248) 338-6732 www.ocphs.org

the day of this event. To all of you: Please accept our sincere thank you for making Pine Grove the place to be when you want some friendship, laughter and excitement! Let's do it again!





We extend our sincere thanks to the following people who joined in presenting this program:

The Dodworth Saxhorn Band Ensemble, Ann Arbor,
for musical entertainment in the Wisner Mansion,
Drayton Plains School House, and on the grounds

Dan Del Mastro for his talents at Mrs. Wisner's piano

Cepeda Chatman for his rendition of
The Christmas Song in the formal parlor

Nelson Haynes for his wood carving demonstrations

Catherine Haynes for sharing pioneer cooking arts

Brian Golden for portraying St. Nick

Students from Notre Dame Prep/Marist Academy,
Pontiac for caroling throughout the day

Teachers Chris Cyporin and Heather Nuckolls
and Waterford Village Elementary students for
children's Christmas programs in the School House

And finally to the
Seidel, Mitton and Neal home-schoolers for their
work in the School House program, including the
Silent Night manger scene.

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Gaylor Forman
Bob Nelson
Joyce Scafe
Bruce and Amy Annett
Jan Roncelli
Jim Slezinski
Rodger Zeller
Bob and Joan Hayes
Goldner Walsh Garden & Home
Charles and Marion Steeber
Tom and Annie Hunt
Claire Pryor
Fran Wilson in memory of
Diane Walker
Susan Metzdorf in memory of
Kathryn Daggy
Joan Mountford in memory of
Margaret Rockwell Gregory
Kleber P. Rockwell
Fred and Anne Liimatta in memory of
Tom Wilson
Larry Pate
Miriam and Rachel Foxman in memory of
Daniel Foxman
Patricia Manning in memory of
Diane Walker
Duncan and Marie Anderson



MILESTONE FOR MARTINEZ

By Geoff Brieger



Charlie Martinez (left), who has served OCPHS for decades, was treated to a surprise 80th birthday party last November. Librarian Joan Hayes and a team of helpers worked covertly to

orchestrate the celebration. Charlie's colleague Geoff Brieger delivered the following remarks, and he was even inspired to write a poem for the occasion, which we've shared as well. –Ed.

Charlie Martinez, as he is universally known, is a native Detroit, educated in a time when Latin was still taught and there was academic rigor in our school system

Today, as we celebrate his 80th birthday, we need to ask, what have you been up to, Charlie, for the last six decades at least? Well, it turns out, quite a lot. Aside from employment in radio, television, and public relations, to which I cannot speak, he has been engaged as a steady and versatile student of local history, particularly what we call historical archaeology. For those of us who are fascinated by what went on before we came on the scene, and particularly by the evidence which can be gathered by a minute examination of the physical remains buried in the soil, people like Charlie are needed to do the careful physical work of excavation as well as the research and interpretation required to provide a reliable account for history.

This is hard physical and mental labor, and not many are up to it, although Charlie has continued this endeavor up to this day. I would add incidentally, but not insignificantly, that the financial incentives do not loom very large for this work, and it requires devotion and enthusiasm to persist for 30 or more years as Charlie has.

He has participated in well over 50 archaeological projects, often as the associate of well-known archaeologists in the area, such as the late Arnold Pilling of Wayne State University as well as Gordon Grosscup and Thomas Killion, and at Oakland University with Richard Stamps. They have worked on sites such as Fort Lernoult, Fort Wayne, and Fort Michilimackinac, but he has also worked on Apple

Island, tracking down the Chief Pontiac legend, has helped excavate Thomas Edison's boyhood home in Port Huron, and even now is engaged in a project, along with Richard Stamps, Carol Egbo, and me, in locating the site of the Oliver Williams homestead in Waterford Township.

In addition, over time he has become an expert on prehistoric Indian artifacts in Michigan, which resulted in a publication entitled *Hammering out the Past*. He is also a specialist in historic funeral practices and customs. This area, in fact, has occupied a good deal of time and effort, as he has been working on a book, *Dead Reckoning*, which chronicles these practices.

As if this were not enough to keep him busy, Charlie has written an excellent and informative history of West Bloomfield entitled *Song of the Heron*. It is characterized by a fluid and entertaining style, as well as scholarly rigor to back up the historical assertions.

When the local papers uncover some historical artifact or need background, they invariably turn to Charlie. In addition, he has also given numerous presentations, has been a regular contributor to our *Gazette*, and has lectured at local universities.

The services he has rendered to the Society are too numerous to recount here, but I will mention his major contribution to the archaeology and rebuilding of the Carriage House, his steady concern for the Wisner mansion, and last, but by no means least, his decade of leadership as the executive director of Pine Grove during the nineties.

Is that not enough to account for one life at eighty? Charlie, you deserve not only our congratulations on your birthday, but also our thanks for making local history yourself in such a gratifying way!

To Charlie at Eighty

*You have dug in necessities
You have axed in native's quarries
You have looked in lakes at last
Seeking proof of Pontiac's past
You have brought Edison to light
You found history so bright
You have sung the Heron's Song
In a voice both loud and strong
You have toiled in Pine Grove's care
You have made us all aware
That to care for history
Is the finest way to be!*

Happy Birthday!

CALL FOR BOARD CANDIDATES

OCPHS members interested in serving on the board of directors may contact the office for an information packet detailing requirements and application deadlines. A slate of candidates will be presented at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 19.

Board members serve three year terms; officers are elected annually. Our success depends upon the hard work of members willing to contribute their skills and resources. If you would like to explore this possibility, please let us know.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE REVIEW, UPDATE

Brian Golden, 1st vice president, has volunteered to serve as chairman of the Policy and Procedures committee for OCPHS. The committee will undertake a comprehensive review of current OCPHS policies and procedures and recommend updates or modifications necessary to address new issues or to improve existing practices.

If you are an OCPHS member interested in serving on this committee, please contact Brian at 248-701-8112. Committee meetings will begin in March, with each session addressing a specific topic. The project will culminate in a reference binder containing up-to-date, approved copies of all OCPHS procedures.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Laurence "Larry" Pate, member, volunteer, and husband of publications editor Jo Pate, died Oct. 6, 2012

Irma McMillan, life member and former OCPHS board member, died Oct. 20, 2012

Diane J. Walker, volunteer and mother of OCPHS treasurer Amy Annett, died Nov. 6, 2012

LaVon DeLisle, life member, long-time membership secretary, and director emeritus, died Nov. 26, 2012

Margaret Anna Kutscher Lange, mother of OCPHS life member and past president Gretchen Adler, died Jan. 7, 2013

Each of these OCPHS members, volunteers, or friends contributed to the well-being of the Society. We are grateful for their contributions, and we extend our sincere condolences to their families.

Membership Application

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

Memberships received now extend until July 1, 2014

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Send my *Gazette* by: U.S. Mail Email

What prompted you to join?
(Optional, check all that apply):

- Interest in History
- Invited/Introduced by Member/Friend
- Copy of *Gazette*
- Attended Event or Tour
- Research Library
- Newspaper/Magazine Article
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Website
- Other

Membership Categories:

- \$15 Student
- \$20 Individual
- \$20 Non-Profit Organization
- \$35 Family (2 adults & minor children)
- \$100 Patron
- \$200 Benefactor
- \$500 Friends of OCPHS
- \$500 Corporate Sponsor
- \$ Additional Donation Enclosed: \$

Already belong? Consider giving a gift membership or inviting a friend to join, too! Everyone is welcome.

Mail this form with check payable to OCPHS to:

OCPHS
405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave
Pontiac, MI 48342

For your convenience you may also join or renew online at www.ocphs.org. Thank you for your support!

We are a 501(c) 3 organization.
Donations are tax deductible in accordance with applicable law.

Gazette 46-1, Feb./Mar. 2013

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society
405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48342

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 868
Royal Oak, MI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Oakland Gazette is a publication of the
Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.
Submissions, story ideas, or comments are welcome.

Volume 46 Number 1 Feb./Mar. 2013

Editor: Amy Annett

Contributors: Mike West, Oakland County Office of Media &
Communications, Charlie Martinez, Doug Casamer, Dave Walls,
Katie Annett, Ron Gay, Motorcities, Barb Hudalla, Anne Liimatta,
Juan and Brigida Cantu, Geoff Brieger, Tyson Brown

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1: President's Letter; County Donation; Sara Guy
Page 2: Civil War Feature/Survey: *Wisner in Uniform?*
Page 3: Historical Feature: *Durkee Pioneers*;
Meadowbrook Hall Designation
Page 4: Civil War Feature: *"This Seems Like the Sure Thing"*
Motorcities Wayside Exhibits
Page 5: Meet & Greet; New Members; Honors
Page 6: Small Talks; Comcast; State Conferences; Library News
Page 7: Appreciation Luncheon/Planned Giving; We've Been
Framed; Roadwork Complete; Facebook, Twitter, Email
Page 8: Victorian Open House Recap
Page 10: Milestone for Martinez
Page 11: Call for Board Candidates; Policy & Procedure;
In Remembrance; Membership Application
Page 12: *Gazette* Information; Winning Photo; Calendar

WINNING PICTURE PARTY PHOTO



Civil War Soldiers at 2012 Summer Social, photo by Tyson Brown

Congratulations to Tyson Brown, whose photograph from the 2012 Summer Social won the popular vote at September's First Annual Picture Party. Tyson is president of the Auburn Hills Historical Society and an OCPHS member. You may have noticed him riding his bicycle with the huge front wheel during the Social, proving that photography is not his only skill! Thanks to Tyson and all who entered the contest and/or shared your photos at the party!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Feb. 28: Meet & Greet, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Meet current and new members, learn about volunteering at OCPHS. Refreshments served.

Mar. 10: Small Talk, 2 p.m.

A "Guest" of the Confederacy: Alonzo M. Keeler, 22nd Michigan Infantry, with Bob & Cherie Allen

Apr. 14: Small Talk, 2 p.m.

The 6th Calvary: U.S. Colored Troops, Company C, with Hubert Price

May 5: Small Talk, 2 p.m.

Defining Moments: A True Story of War, Family Conflict & Reconciliation, with Robert Dustman

May 19: Annual Meeting and Election

Save the date; details to be announced

Next Board Meetings: Members Welcome

Mar. 16 at 9:30 a.m., Apr. 17 at 4:30 p.m.



Find us on Facebook.com/Oakland
County Pioneer and Historical Society



Follow us on Twitter
Twitter.com/OCPHS