

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

By Brian Golden



As we come to the end of the year, it's a perfect time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past. We've had great success with our Small Talks, thanks to Kathy Davis and her efforts, not to mention all of the volunteers who assist, which makes this activity a team effort.

The Summer Social was also a huge success. We had many guests, including L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive. Rodger Zeller and his committee worked tirelessly. Fred Liimatta ran the white elephant sale, the DAR served ice cream, there were hot dog lunches thanks to the Willises....When looking back, everyone helped make this year's events very special.

The Victorian Open House, honoring those who have served in the military, is coming up on Sunday afternoon, December 8th. It promises to be a special occasion, especially for our veteran guests.

The library volunteers continue to assist researchers with their projects and to provide them with their expert knowledge and use of our research materials.

Membership seems to hover right around 300. We add new members every year and some old members don't renew. All-in-all we add special value to the lives of those who volunteer here and those who come onto our Pine Grove campus to learn and enjoy.

Facing the task of bringing revenue into our coffers is an on-going challenge. We have started a fund raising committee and a board-focused funding planning committee. As we move into 2014 we will be making a concerted effort to find creative ways of sustaining ourselves into the future.

Please join in the effort as we move forward to ensure Pine Grove will continue to evolve, bringing joy and learning to all who explore the richness of our heritage and history.

Historically,
Brian Golden bgolden@pastways.info 248-701-8112

HONORING VETERANS WITH WISNER ANNUAL EVENT: 'I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS'

By Fred Liimatta, Event Chairman



There are many risks involved when you choose to serve your country. Any Veteran will tell you: The commitment requires sacrifice. The phrase, "All gave some, some gave all,"

is not quoted lightly. Combat veterans and their families cannot forget such acts of heroism. They demonstrate that our freedoms do not come from a politician's vote on the floor of the Senate...that free speech is not given to us by a newspaper editor...and the right to bear arms is not for the sportsman's pleasurable hobby.

Deep in his heart, a soldier is always homesick. He/she goes through hell and back for his buddies and the people back home. Such spirit does not simply disappear after discharge from active duty. As veterans they continue to fight for home, family, work and community. Many remain supportive of those in uniform through organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Oakland County Veterans Group, and others on state and national levels. As a veteran myself, I can truly say we all know the cost of freedom. It was not cheap and it was worth every drop of blood, sweat, and tears.

There are no fences to keep us in America. If our country is as bad as some might claim, then why do so many want to become part of this noble exercise in Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness? As Americans we will continue to choose government of, by and for the people and believe it is the most powerful human force for good on the face of the earth.

The **2013 Veterans' Victorian Open House** at Pine Grove will be held on Sunday, December 8th from 1 - 5 p.m. There will be a full program of activities with Veterans front and center for all they have done for America and for the world. We believe your attendance will be a fitting expression of national patriotism for this Pearl Harbor Day remembrance weekend.

Showing your patriotism is the balm for a soldier's homesick heart. Please come and be a part.

FUNERAL FOR GOV. WISNER, 150 YEARS LATER

Mourners gathered at Pine Grove in October to commemorate the death of Michigan's 12th Governor, Moses Wisner, 150 years after his passing. The event, part of our *Small Talks* series of historical programs, included an actual Victorian-style funeral service, with sermon, hymns, and re-enactors portraying Wisner's family members and friends.



Marble bust of Gov. Wisner placed behind flag-draped coffin in parlor

OCPHS member Diane Clark took on the persona of grieving widow Angeolina Wisner. The assembled group walked in a solemn procession across the grounds of Pine Grove, convening in the formal parlor of the Wisner House for the ceremony. Sparks Griffin Funeral Home in Pontiac graciously supplied an antique coffin to help lend authenticity to the scene. Many in attendance commented on what a unique and moving experience this was—a powerful way to bring history to life while acknowledging death. Moses Wisner died in 1863, one of thousands who gave the ultimate sacrifice in patriotic service to our country.



Processional, led by re-enactors Ryan Johnson and Diane Clark

PONTIAC'S PARADE: MARCH WITH US DEC. 7th

We'd love to have you march with us in Pontiac's annual Holiday Extravaganza Parade! To participate, please call Fred at 248-931-3583 for details. Our contingent will dress in red, white, and blue or in historical costume, and will meet at Pine Grove that morning for the march that begins on Cesar E. Chavez Avenue and ends at the Phoenix Center Plaza downtown. We'll have a patriotic float, candy and flyers to distribute, and an authentic, forty-eight star American flag to display proudly. More information about the parade and related family-friendly events that day may be found at www.holidayextravaganza.org.

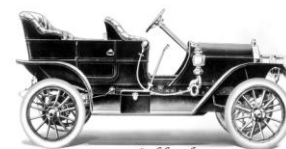
WIN THIS QUILT

One of our talented members has crafted the beautiful puzzle-piece quilt shown at right. At 51" x 38", the quilt makes a cozy lap robe on cold winter days, or it would be perfect for display as a wall-hanging or accent piece. Our loyal member donated it for use as a fund raiser, so with a bit of luck and \$5 per ticket, it can be yours! The winner will be chosen at our Victorian Open House on December 8th, but you need not be present to win. Tickets are available at the office or by mail and on the day of VOH; all proceeds will benefit OCPHS. Good luck!



2014 CALENDAR FEATURES AUTO HISTORY

Our latest calendar is about to roll off the presses, just in time to prepare for the New Year! The calendar features automotive history, with images of vintage vehicles made right here in Oakland County. Volunteer Dave Walls put the calendar together, and a generous donor covered printing costs. They sell for \$10 each, with all proceeds benefiting the Society. Copies will be available at the Victorian Open House on December 8th, or stop by the office during our business hours. Can't come in? Add \$5 for postage & handling and we'll send your order by mail. Calendars make great gifts and the images preserve and convey our local history, too.



*1907 Oakland
Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society*

2013 SUMMER SOCIAL THANK YOU

Our Summer Social, *To Save the Union The Battle of Chickamauga*, was such a special event! Heartfelt thanks to all who visited, volunteered, performed, and sponsored this day of living history at Pine Grove!

Special Thanks to Summer Social Sponsors:

Gaylor Forman, Premier Sponsor

Bob Nelson
Charlotte Cooper
Joyce Scafe, in Memory of Gale & Connie Scafe
Bruce & Amy Annett
Fred & Anne Liimatta, in Memory of Stu Packard,
Kathryn Daggy, Diane Walker, & Larry Pate

Rodger & Beverly Zeller
Patricia Leal
Reida Gardiner
Skip Upcott
Claire Pryor

Catherine Jo Dixon, in Memory of Civil War Soldier
Charles Wesley Morse
Sara Guy
Carole Thompson
Jack Bressler

Hodges Supply Company, Pontiac, Lead Business Sponsor

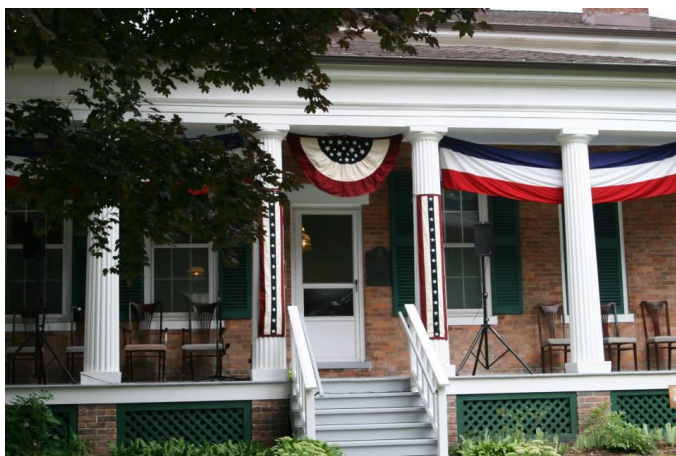
Buckner's A Dessert Café, Pontiac
Knight Sales, Inc., Scott Knight, Howell
Eye Contact Vision Center, Wayne G. Wilde, O.D.,
Waterford
Bruce Henderson, M.D., Bloomfield Hills

Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, Pontiac
Simply Natural Health Foods, Waterford
Crofoot Ballroom, Pontiac
Michigan Chiropractic Specialists of Waterford

Woodward Auto Sales & Service, Pontiac
Cloud 22 Glassworks, Pontiac
Service Glass, Pontiac
Golling Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Bloomfield Hills

Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, Pontiac
Ron Gay, Master Carpenter, Pontiac
Woman's Nat'l Farm & Garden Assn., Pontiac Branch
Turner Sanitation, Lake Orion

John's Small Animal Live Trapping, White Lake
Professional Instant Printing, Waterford
Pete's Oven, Waterford
Doug's Tree Service, Waterford
Memory Time LLC, Rochester Hills



REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR: LEGACY OF PAIN AND HOPE

By Charlie Martinez, Society Historian
Pat Kaltwasser, Dave Walls, Research Assistants

Nothing like a Sunday drive

Family ritual decreed the first Sunday of each month be a day of pilgrimage to the home of a sweet, elderly widow of the Crawford-Martinez clan. Her name was Katherine Crawford, a cousin who lived on the outskirts of Ann Arbor.

My father couldn't go so four of us piled into the family's 1939 Pontiac for the trek. We left about 1 p.m. that December 7th. The sky was cloudy and the weatherman predicted the possibilities of flurries and a high temperature of 34 degrees. Mother drove with her sister next to her while grandma and I occupied the back seat. Grandma usually napped or said her rosary on these occasions while this skinny nine-year-old grandson read a comic book.

Glancing out the window occasionally I watched the telephone poles fly past on Michigan Avenue. The scene was gradually changing from mixed commercial-residential to farmland. The rural roadside vegetable stands were mostly closed for the season but some still displayed a few pumpkins, tokens of the past Halloween.

The radio had been dialed to relaxing music which around 2 p.m. was sharply broken by a deep male voice:

We interrupt this program to bring you a news bulletin. The State Department has just announced that the naval and air forces of Japan have attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Please stay tuned.

My Mother said, "O my God!" I shouted, "Where is Pearl Harbor?" Instantly the car's interior was a bedlam of voices. To me it seemed like my family and my country had taken a collective slap in the face.

Making it official

Of course none in our family slept well that first night as a blanket of rage and uncertainty covered the nation. With the dawn of December 8 radio stations and newspapers were well armed with cables and wire dispatches. The Home Edition of *The Pontiac Daily Press* that day carried an unforgettable banner head:

**UNITED STATES DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN;
3,000 KILLED AND WOUNDED IN HAWAII RAID**

Beneath it was our nation's response to the treachery spoken firmly and eloquently before Congress by President Roosevelt. His address stated in part:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941--a date which will live in infamy--the United States of America was deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the empire of Japan....With confidence in our own armed forces--with the unbounding determination of our people--we will gain the inevitable triumph--so help us God.

The reply from Japan's axis partners to President Roosevelt's pronouncement came as no surprise. On December 11, Germany and Italy officially declared war on the United States. Earlier all three had taken aggressive action against their neighbors or generally peaceful states. Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931. Three years later Italy did the same to Ethiopia and then supplied thousands of soldiers to Francisco Franco to help defeat the Republican army in Spain's 1936-39 Civil War. Finally, on September 1, 1939 Hitler's troops invaded Poland and World War II officially began. Now, 27 months later the U.S. faced a conflict on two fronts with well prepared enemies who threatened the very essence of our democratic principles.

This is not a drill

To those under attack at Pearl Harbor that Sunday morning there was little time to debate the merits of democracy over foreign imperialism. Many of the servicemen were from Michigan, some from Oakland County.



SEAMAN ELDO LALONDE

Said to have been the first Oakland County serviceman killed in action in World War II, Seaman Eldo Lalonde died Dec. 10, 1941 while on duty with the Navy near Manila. Pine Grove Library and Archives, OCPHS.

Two Navy men from Bloomfield Township were there. David Zimmer was a commissioned officer on board the USS *Worden*, one of five destroyers moored alongside the tender USS *Dobbin*. Zimmer spotted several aircraft

flying nearby and identified them as Japanese by the "red meatball" insignia on their wings and fuselage. A bomb from one of the planes fell some 50 yards away, causing his ship's stern to leave the water. The *Worden's* 50-caliber machine guns brought down one of the low flying enemy aircraft.¹



The epitome of the Pearl Harbor attack was captured in this photo of the blazing battleship USS Arizona. Today a memorial spans the wreck of this vessel, which serves as a tomb for the remains of more than one thousand of its crew. U.S. Navy Photograph, National Archives Collection.

The other Bloomfield resident was ensign John Lavrakas aboard the USS *Salt Lake City*. This cruiser was one of the most powerful, high-speed vessels in the fleet. It had just performed escort duty for the carrier *Enterprise* which delivered much needed aircraft to Wake Island. On its return to Hawaii news of the Japanese attack there was received so the cruiser stood off shore until the extent of damage at the base could be determined. Upon entering the harbor on December 8, Lavrakas was stunned. The proud but damaged battleship *Nevada* had been beached so as not to block the channel while the capsized USS *Oklahoma* was a stark reminder to the ferocity of the attack. Lavrakas recalled a foot of oil covering the harbor surface and the sickening stench of it in the air.²

William "Bill" Daugherty, a fireman first class, was off watch brushing his teeth after breakfast when a crew member alerted him to the sounds of battle. Assigned to the USS *Argonne* Daugherty dashed up and down this supply ship's deck carrying ammunition to its anti-aircraft guns during the attack. Years later when asked to describe that morning, he said simply, "everything was burning."³ Daugherty was a Waterford resident.

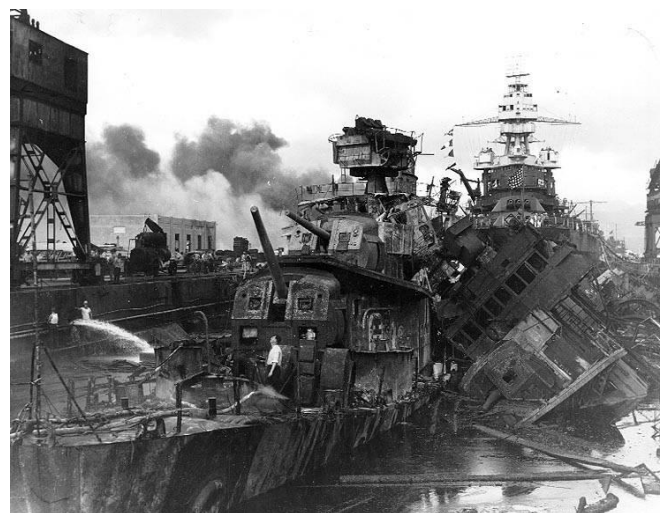
Walter Drenkhahn, Jr., was relaxed, enjoying a doughnut below decks on the USS *Medusa*, a repair ship. Outside he thought he heard the sound of construction personnel blasting the harbor floor in

shallow spots to create greater depth for ship traffic. All of a sudden the ship's loudspeaker announced, "Battle stations, this is not a drill!" Drenkhahn's initiation to war was spent loading machine gun belts. The *Medusa* was credited with downing two Japanese planes and damaging a miniature enemy submarine. Drenkhahn was a Pontiac resident.⁴

Down but not out

The amount of devastation at Pearl Harbor was hard to grasp by those not stationed there or living on the island of Oahu. The attack lasted over two hours and took the lives of some 2,400 American servicemen. There were reportedly 94 U.S. ships in the harbor that day. Six were

sunk and another 11 damaged in varying degrees. Three of those sunk were ultimately raised and repaired. However, the battleships *Arizona* and *Oklahoma* as well as the radio-controlled target ship *Utah* could never be returned to active service.



The destroyers USS Downes (left) and USS Cassin (right, partially submerged) display the havoc rendered by the Japanese air attack. In the background is the battleship USS Pennsylvania. U.S. Navy photograph, National Archives Collection.

The *Oklahoma* was floated again but sank while being towed back to the mainland. The hulk of the *Utah* was left to rest in the harbor. In contrast, the location of the *Arizona* has become a memorial of international status, a special tribute to those 1,102 officers and men killed aboard her. The memorial was built in 1962 and

receives about one million visitors annually. The U.S. Army and Navy aircraft also took a serious hit: 188 planes were destroyed and 202 damaged. The Imperial Japanese fleet with some 360 carrier-based aircraft suffered minimally in comparison. Less than 100 men were killed and 28 planes destroyed. They also lost five miniature submarines. One of their crew was taken prisoner.

In retrospect, by concentrating on battleships at Pearl Harbor---the U.S. carriers were all at sea --- the Japanese failed to destroy the U.S. submarine base there along with the fuel depots, industrial areas and repair facilities. This meant a much shorter turnaround time for launching a U.S. counteroffensive.⁵

As if we didn't know hard times

Like the rest of the United States on the cusp of war, Pontiac and Oakland County were in the final throes of the Great Depression. We had weathered the stock market crash in October of 1929, the bank closures in the late 1930s, and the withering economy that left millions unemployed. But, slowly the federally sponsored projects launched by President Roosevelt's New Deal program were having a positive effect.

On the home front

In 1940 Pontiac had a population of more than 66,000 and the entire county slightly in excess of 254,000. The municipality had adopted the slogan, "An Industrial City in the Land of Play." Its residential and commercial core was surrounded by 400 spring-fed lakes interspersed with parks and picnic grounds. There were 22 manufacturing establishments that employed 18,500 workers drawn from a 20 square mile area.⁶ The principal manufactured products were automobiles, trucks, busses along with automobile parts, paints and varnish.

Of some note, nearly nine months before Pearl Harbor, Pontiac Motors received its first military contract to make anti-aircraft weapons for the U.S. Navy. With the

onset of hostilities Pontiac plants would be called on to produce Bofors 40mm field guns, aircraft torpedoes, trucks and amphibious vehicles. This was in keeping with the U.S. Government's call to its vast industrial arsenal in early December of 1941 to "Remember Pearl Harbor."

The bitter with the sweet

To win the war, belt tightening was necessary. With Japanese and German submarine fleets lurking in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, products that fed our economy would be threatened. Rubber tires were a prime example. By the end of 1942, action on this issue was crucial and the President ordered nationwide gas rationing. The logic was the less gas you use the less tire wear you experience. However, food rationing had greater impact on the human psyche. Four days after Pearl Harbor, the Price Administration Board in Washington, D.C., ordered "emergency price ceilings on raw coffee, coca, pepper and coca butter to cushion the impact of the war on imported food prices."⁷ Full sugar rationing began on May 5, 1942 and coffee followed seven months later. For those who by nature of war had temporary living accommodations, an overall rent ceiling went into effect on December 5, 1942. Ration books, cards, stamps and the shortages they hoped to solve were now a way of life.



To help the war effort, the public was encouraged to contribute household products that could be melted down and reshaped into military hardware. Here a scrap drive brings a group of youngsters to a collection depot in the Pontiac area. Pine Grove Library and Archives, OCPHS.

Collecting stamps has been a popular hobby for years. During World War II it meant a special way of

supporting our cause. The stamps that attracted interest then were Defense Stamps. On December 12, 1941 the City of Pontiac learned that *The Pontiac Daily Press* newspaper carriers would be taking orders for 10 cent Defense Stamps as they delivered papers along their routes.⁸ These stamps carried an image of The Minute Man, one of those band of brothers who rallied to battle the British at Lexington and Concord. You would paste your stamps in a special book which when filled could be exchanged for a U.S. Savings Bond.⁹

Not for the faint of heart

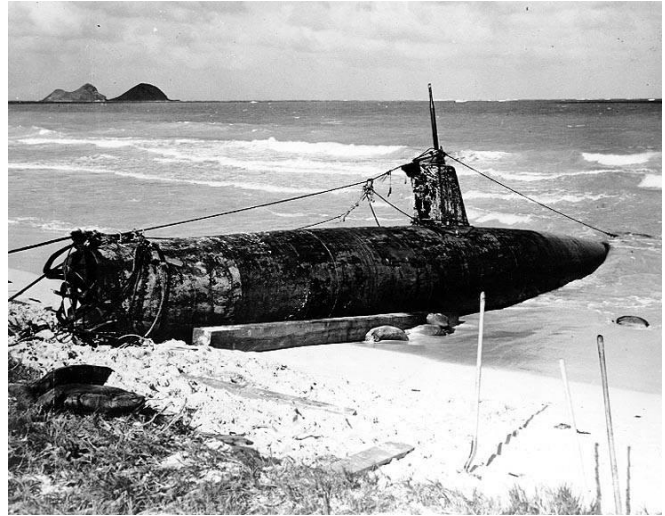
Along with Savings Bond drives there were paper drives and scrap metal drives also essential for helping bring victory to our cause. These events could be held in school or church parking lots, as well as popular assembly areas. Paper is kind of a benign article but scrap metal, under certain circumstances, might represent a serious safety issue. In 1943, my mother, a grade school teacher at McKinley Elementary in Detroit, was in charge of a scrap drive there. On a whim she brought home an object she thought would be of interest to her son. When I opened the back door to the family car, I saw a very large bullet-shaped object on the floor. "Mom", I said, "I think this could be dangerous. Maybe we should call Norm?" Our next door neighbor Norm was a U.S. Marine who recently served in Guadalcanal but was home on sick leave recovering from malaria. Norm came over and looked at the find and carefully lifted one end. "Mrs. Martinez", he said quietly, "I believe you have a live artillery shell. I would call the police if I were you." Mom turned pale and made the call. Two policemen from the Palmer Park station arrived shortly thereafter. They spent about 10 minutes examining the shell before wrapping it in a thick blanket and carefully loading it into their car. One of the sweating officers told mother she had done the right thing. They drove slowly away and we never heard another word about the matter.

Duck and cover

Earlier in the year the possibility of enemy air raids was considered a threat, however remote. On December 16, 1941 *The Pontiac Daily Press* carried a full page message, "What to Do in an Air Raid." This warning was an official announcement by the U.S. Office of Civil Defense. It stated six key steps or points to be remembered in case of an air raid: 1) Keep Cool 2) Stay Home 3) Put Out Lights 4) Lie Down 5) Stay Away From Windows 6) You Can Help. Each step carried specific directions and ended with a call for volunteers to fill various support roles. Readers took this communication very seriously.

On the evening of December 7, 1941 the Crawford-Martinez family huddled around their Philco radio in the parlor listening intently to the latest news bulletins of the attack. After a while I slipped away and went to the

kitchen. There I took a big red crayon out of a table drawer, and in a mixed mood of fear and patriotism, wrote the word "WAR" in huge letters on the pantry cabinet. Then I crept upstairs to bed. About 20 minutes later my mother, having discovered my defacement of the kitchen cabinet, stormed upstairs. In a rage she threw open my bedroom door and shouted, "Young man, never do that again!" Then she slammed the door behind her. I waited a moment, sat up in bed, and screamed back, "Mom, go tell that to the Japanese!" That was the longest night of my life. And for most Americans it would be a long, horrible war.



Japanese miniature submarine, one of several that participated in the Pearl Harbor attack. They were six feet wide, eighty feet long, and armed with a pair of one-thousand pound torpedoes. National Archives Collection.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to Pine Grove Library and Archives volunteers Pat Kaltwasser and Dave Walls for their research skills that helped launch this article. Thanks also to Barbara Frye for her photographic skills and knowledge of the National Archives collections that sped up our image research. And, as usual, deep appreciation to the adult services departments of the Bloomfield Township and West Bloomfield Township public libraries for their help in selecting the best World War II background resources.

NOTES

¹ David Zimmer, "Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941," *The War of our Generation* (Birmingham, MI: Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan, 2004) 13-15.

² John Lavrakas, "Luck Was a Lady for Me on December 7," *Ibid.*, 16-18.

³ "William Daugherty, Pearl Harbor Survivor enjoyed fixing electronics," *The Oakland Press*, 11 July 2003.

⁴ "Pearl Harbor was enough war for a Michigan farmer," *Detroit Free Press*, 7 December 2005.

⁵ David M. Cooney, *A Chronology of the U.S. Navy: 1775-1965*, New York: Franklin Walls, Inc., 1965, 265-66.

⁶ R. L. Polk & Co., Publ., *Polk's Pontiac (Oakland County Mich.) City Directory* (Detroit, MI, 1940), 11.

⁷ "Price Ceiling Decreed on Coffee and Coca," *The Pontiac Daily Press*, 11 December 1941.

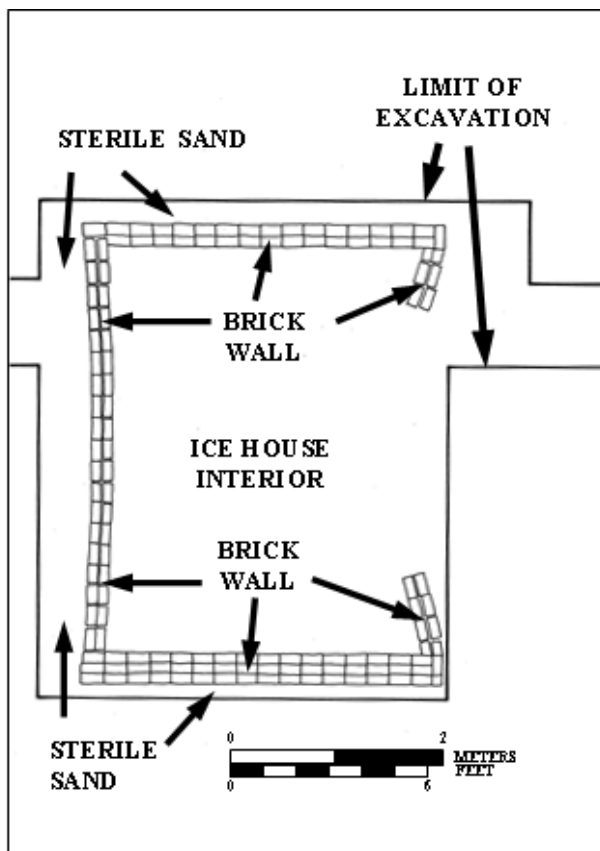
⁸ Rae Elizabeth Rips, ed., *Detroit in its World Setting: A 250-Year Chronology, 1701-1951* (Detroit: Detroit Public Library, 1953), 285.

⁹ "Defense Stamps Sale Will Start on Friday," *The Pontiac Daily Press*, 11 December 1941.

THE SEARCH FOR THE WISNER ICE HOUSE

By Carol Bacak-Egbo

In 2010, archaeological investigations were begun to locate the Wisner ice house at Pine Grove in Pontiac. Research was carried out at the site for nine weeks from May 2011 to June 2011. Students from Oakland University's Archaeology Field School were joined by volunteers and local teachers from the Waterford School District. The project was a cooperative venture co-sponsored by Oakland University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society (OCPHS), and the Waterford School District. A "Teaching American History" grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the Waterford Schools helped to involve local teachers and better prepare them to teach national history through local history.



Plan of the Wisner Ice House

The goals of this project included locating and recording any surviving archaeological data from the abandoned ice house, which was reported to have once existed on the estate of former Governor Moses Wisner. We were specifically interested in defining the ice house dimensions and the type of walls and foundation it had. We were also interested in learning how it was insulated, if a drainage system for melting ice had been incorporated into its design, if artifacts associated with ice house use had survived in situ, and

finally, what happened to the ice house after it was abandoned.

This data when combined with historical information from drawings and photographs would hopefully help to interpret the role food preservation played in the life of the estate's 19th century occupants before the advent of electrical refrigeration.

The project was also designed to educate local history teachers about the techniques and methods used by archaeologists, and to support the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society by educating local citizens about the valuable historical resources in their community.

The project resulted in the successful location of the ice house, the center of which is approximately 57 feet directly west of the east rear corner of the Wisner dwelling. The ice house is a brick-lined, semi-subterranean square structure with interior dimensions of 9 feet 8 inches x 12 feet 2 inches x 7 feet 2 inches below the present surface.

The brick wall lining the ice house measured approximately 8 inches thick. Soft paste brick measuring approximately 7¾ inches long x 3¾ inches wide x 2 inches thick were set by masons into a sand and lime based mortar utilizing a bonding system known as "American Common Bond". The lining of the ice house walls was different from the nearby root cellar which was lined with cobblestones. A small portion of the ice house originally extended 5½ feet above the ground and was covered by a gable roof. Two access doors were set in the southeast wall. An interior ladder provided access to the ice house floor.

The ice house had a sand floor that provided adequate drainage for any melting ice. Since only two artifacts were found in contact with the floor, this suggests that when in use, the ice house served no other purpose than the storage of ice.

Indeed, Vernon Kath recalled that the ice house was never used for its intended purpose after his parents moved to the property as caretakers in 1921. By this time commercially produced ice was readily available and electrical refrigerators were being used.

Kath also noted that during his stay at the Wisner property, the roof started to deteriorate and the owner, Florence Wallace (Moses Wisner's granddaughter) was reluctant to spend money for repairs. After the roof had disintegrated, Kath remembers that the brick superstructure was pushed into the hole left by the abandoned icehouse. Once again, this agrees with what was found archaeologically. The northeast wall appears to have collapsed into the interior of the ice house either from pressure from the surrounding earth

or intentionally during demolition. Complete sections of the superstructure walls were found in level III intermixed with brick from the collapsed wall. Kath noted that after the walls were pushed in, additional items of trash were thrown in to fill up the hole. As near as he could recall, this all happened during the 1930s.

This episode is represented by the material recovered from level II. The sample of diagnostic artifacts that were analyzed supports a 1930s date of deposit. One item from the collection, a “gum dipped” Firestone tire first introduced for sale in 1925, was found at the very bottom of level II. Assuming that this tire had been used on an automobile for a number of years, a 1930s date of disposal appears appropriate. Finally, Kath noted that the “hole” was eventually covered and leveled with dirt. Later an herb garden was planted by the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society as part of their interpretation of life at the site in the 19th century. These last activities are represented by the findings in level I.

In sum, the project provided new information for interpreting the Wisner site. Additionally the project was deemed successful in training university archaeology students and local history teachers. It also provided educational field experiences for numerous public school students and advanced the mission of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

A full report of the Wisner Ice House Dig is available at OCPHS for a nominal fee.

CIVIC GROUP MAINTAINS HERB GARDEN

The Wisner ice house discussed above eventually gave way to our present-day herb garden. The garden remains an integral feature of Pine Grove’s tours, helping to teach visitors about the value of plants for food, medicine, and beauty. For many years the herb garden has been a community service project of Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association, Pontiac Branch. Members of the club gathered in our Carriage House in October for their monthly luncheon meeting (below). Now in its 83rd year, the garden club welcomes new members and volunteers. If you’d like to consider joining, contact President Gerry Howard at 248-634-3766 or gerryhoward323@yahoo.com.



WISNER HOUSE TENANT RETURNS FOR VISIT

By Charlie Martinez

On Wednesday, October 23, 2013, we received a very exciting surprise visit from Jean H. Drury of Lansing, MI. Jean, accompanied by her step-daughter Elaine, stopped into Pine Grove to see where Jean had lived from July 1, 1941 until January of 1943. Jean was born in Grand Rapids in 1917 but came to Pontiac in 1941 for work.

Charlie Martinez chats with former Wisner House tenant Jean Drury



Arrangements for Jean to rent a room here at Pine Grove were made through her employer, Dr. C. A. Neafie, Director of the Department of Public Health, whose office was at 465 W. Huron. Jean’s room was the old first floor office of Moses Wisner that had been turned into a bedroom by Angeolina, Moses Wisner’s wife, after his death on January 5, 1863.

Jean used one of the two doors facing Cesar E. Chavez Avenue that open onto the porch as her entrance and exit to Pine Grove. Jean wasn’t the only boarder at that time as she said a portion of the upstairs was rented to two young men.

The rent was paid to Mrs. Florence Wallace, granddaughter of Moses and Angeolina Wisner. Jean said Florence was very friendly and quite motherly. Jean said she would eat her breakfast at Pine Grove and have her other meals in downtown Pontiac. Jean was led to believe that her bed was once slept in by Abraham Lincoln. Jean mentioned that the Pine Grove parlor was vacant except for the piano and that the carpet in that room was threadbare.

The Society was unaware that the Wisner family had ever offered rooms for rent. This is of great interest to our researchers and we plan to interview Jean again very soon to get more details of her experience living at Pine Grove. Stay tuned!

VOLUNTEERS GET THINGS DONE!

Are you interested in helping to plan and organize events here at OCPHS? We need volunteers to help with our annual Summer Social and Victorian Open House events, as well as our monthly Small Talk lecture series. We have openings on several other committees including the funding committee, house committee, membership committee, volunteer coordination committee and *Gazette* committee. We also need docents for our school and private tours.

Why should you volunteer? Because we have lots of FUN, fresh coffee, and even, sometimes, Avon donuts! Of course the most important reason is the good you'll do when helping.

Just take a look at some of the varied and important things volunteers have done lately:

An anonymous OCPHS member crafted the lap quilt to be raffled at this year's Victorian Open House.

Barbara Frye, Karyn West, Annie Hunt, and Carroll DeWeese took hundreds of photos documenting our events—these are terrific for presentations, social media, and pure entertainment value.

Skip Upcott created dozens of OCPHS coasters, which we're using to promote the upcoming Victorian Open House. They are unique take-aways that will keep OCPHS top-of-mind for visitors.

Linda Porter called on numerous downtown Pontiac businesses to introduce Pine Grove to the community, even charming several into sponsoring our events.

Sue Grifor comes in regularly to keep our membership database up-to-date and to mail thank you notes.

Greg Kowalski wrote a feature for the *Birmingham Eccentric* touting Pine Grove as one of the area's best-kept treasures.

Diane Clark portrayed the grieving Mrs. Wisner for the reenactment of Moses Wisner's funeral service.

Gaylor Forman again supported the July Summer Social and December Victorian Open House with his generous premier sponsorships.

Dave Walls compiled our 2014 calendar showcasing Oakland County's automotive history.

This list could go on and on—and that is part of what makes volunteering here so special. Why not try it? Give Sara a call to learn more: 248-338-6732.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP WITH THESE PROGRAMS

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Have you signed up yet with this free and easy way to support OCPHS? We are off to a great start with about twenty households enrolled but we can do better than that! Let's see how much free money we can earn to continue the preservation of the beautiful Governor Moses Wisner estate. We look forward to receiving our first quarterly check from Kroger. Stay tuned and we'll let you know how much you've helped us earn. Thanks for your support!



ShopForMuseums.com

Did you know you can support OCPHS each time you shop on-line? Log in (or if it's your first use, register) at ShopforMuseums.com, select Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society as the museum you wish to support, then use the links to click through to hundreds of your favorite stores. A percentage of your purchase amount is given back to us as a donation, at no extra cost to you. We've already received two checks!

Shop on-line at Amazon, Office Max, Macy's, Zappos, Best Buy, Walmart, Barnes & Noble and other retailers. You can even book travel, airfare, and car rental.

Get started today at ShopforMuseums.com and please spread the word to your friends and family. A few extra clicks translate to extra cash for OCPHS. It's a win-win way to get your shopping done and help this museum!

DO WE HAVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

Are you receiving our email updates? If not, we may have outdated contact information. Please call the office at (248) 338-6732 or send a quick note to office@ocphs.org. We'll update your information and you'll receive the latest news from OCPHS.

JOIN OR RENEW!

OCPHS membership dues are renewable July 1 of each year. We currently have about 300 members whose dues are up-to-date, but there are others who intend to join or renew but just haven't gotten around to it yet. We invite you to cross an item off your "to do" list and sign up now! Your dues—as little as \$20 per year—cover a substantial portion of our operating costs, allowing us to maintain Pine Grove, present historical programs and events, provide access to research materials, and fulfill our mission to convey Oakland County's role in the evolution of American history.

By joining or renewing you'll receive future issues of this newsletter, notice of upcoming events, opportunities to volunteer or visit, and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make history! Please accept our invitation to join or renew today.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Engnell, Anders/Leaders of the Future	Pontiac
Harrington, Mr. & Mrs. Mark	Waterford
King, Richard & Sue	Pontiac
Long, Meredith	Oak Park
Millichamp, Jaclun	Waterford
Napoleon, Alexandra	Rochester Hills
Perkins, Nancy	Waterford
Pontiac Creative Arts Center	Pontiac
Suhay, Barbara & Family	Birmingham
Withrow, Dawn	Pontiac

GET WELL SOON

Mike Willis, OCPHS board member and past president, has been undergoing medical treatments and is now recovering at home. Best wishes, Mike, for your return to good health.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Francile "Fran" Anderson, well-known Oakland County volunteer and OCPHS life member, died September 22, 2013. We offer our condolences to Fran's family and friends and all who were touched by her community service.



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 46-3, Nov. 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



WE WANT YOU!

*"I'll be Home for
Christmas"*

**Victorian Open House
Honoring All Veterans**

At Pine Grove,
Moses Wisner's Historic Estate

**Sunday Dec. 8th
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

Bring Family and Friends
Bake Cookies - Be a Sponsor - Volunteer
See you there!

We are seeking editorial help: Call for info

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

Volume 46 Number 3 November 2013
Editors: Amy Annett, Sara Guy

Contributors:

Brian Golden, Fred & Anne Liimatta, Charlie Martinez,
Pat Kaltwasser, Dave Walls, Carol Bacak-Egbo,
Barbara Frye, Karyn West, Shirley "Annie" Hunt

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1: President's Corner; Honoring Veterans at VOH
Page 2: Wisner Funeral Re-enactment; Holiday Parade;
Quilt Raffle; 2014 Auto History Calendar
Page 3: Summer Social Thank You, Sponsors, & Photos
Page 4: Historical Feature: *Remembering Pearl Harbor*
Page 8: Wisner Ice House Archaeology Report
Page 9: Herb Garden Group; Wisner House Tenant
Page 10: Volunteers; Shopping Programs; Contact Info
Page 11: Join or Renew; Welcome New Members;
In Remembrance; Get Well; Membership Application
Page 12: VOH Notice; Gazette Info; Mark Your Calendars

Photo credit page 1, Honoring Veterans article:
Christmas tree and menorah placed at Vietnam Veterans Memorial,
Washington, D.C., December 2010, courtesy www.zimbio.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Nov. 22 – Dec. 2: Office and Library CLOSED
We will reopen on Tuesday, December 3 at 11 a.m.
Happy Thanksgiving!

Dec. 7: Holiday Extravaganza Parade, 11 a.m.
*OCPHS will participate in Pontiac's annual downtown
parade. Want to march along? See page 2*

Dec. 8: Victorian Open House, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
*This year's event honors military veterans, especially
those having served from WWII to the present*

Dec. 19: Special Funding Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
*Interested members are encouraged to help develop
strategies for long-term sustainable funding for OCPHS*

Dec. 20 – Jan. 6: Office and Library CLOSED
We will reopen on Tuesday, January 7 at 11 a.m.
Happy New Year!



Find us on [Facebook.com/Oakland
County Pioneer and Historical Society](https://www.facebook.com/OaklandCountyPioneerandHistoricalSociety)



Follow us on Twitter
[Twitter.com/OCPHS](https://twitter.com/OCPHS)