



Vol. 50, No. 3

Dedicated to the history and heritage of Oakland County, Michigan
THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 2017

405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue Pontiac, Michigan 48342

Ph: 248-338-6732

Fax: 248-338-6731

Email: office@ocphs.org

Web: www.ocphs.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Charlotte Cooper



As summer changes into autumn, we are reminded that "Change is Constant." When we, as members of OCPHS, are open to change, wonderful things happen and talented people appear. At Pine Grove, we feel the excitement.

*Accomplishments...*The Research/Meeting Room

refurbishment is complete, and the office is now being reorganized. There is new paint on the schoolhouse exterior and on the trim on the mansion. The signs in the front yard also have new paint and are much more visible. Tree trimmers are being scheduled.

*Volunteers...*New volunteers stepped up at the Summer Social and are now involved in several projects. A group of engineers has offered to do service projects on our property.

*Events...*Read about our very successful Summer Social in July. In September thirty people learned that Pine Grove is "batty" when the Urban Bat folks visited at dusk one Friday evening. Dave Decker's excellent talk about the history of milling in Oakland County was attended by about fifty people. The black & white themed October 7 Dinner/Auction is fast approaching; get your tickets now, available online! Plan to attend the Haunted Mansion on October 21, when three generations of Wisner "spirit-ghosts" will converse with each other about family history. We will finish 2017 with the traditional Victorian Open House in December.

*Needs...*Remember that OCPHS/Pine Grove is self-sustaining, receiving no financial support from any government entity. We need a winning lottery ticket or folks to make extremely generous donations. We need grant writers to find big money for us. We need a full-time director, more volunteers and several interns.

Whatever your talent, schedule or financial assets, please come help us. We need you! You will receive our undying gratitude, and you'll know that you have helped advance the cause of Oakland County history.

Warm regards!

COMING UP IN OCTOBER...

You're Invited to a Black & White Bash!












Dinner & Auction
to benefit Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
and Pine Grove Historical Museum
The Wisner House at Pine Grove

Saturday Oct. 7, 2017 6 - 10 p.m.
Lafayette Grande Banquet Facility
1 Lafayette, Downtown Pontiac
\$35 per person
(Hurry: Only \$30 if purchased by Sep. 22!)

Buffet Dinner/Cash Bar
Live & Silent Auctions

*Little black dress, b&w film star, tennis pro, bat or ghost...
Your black & white attire adds to the fun!*

For Info or Tickets, Contact OCPHS:
248-338-6732 / www.ocphs.org / office@ocphs.org
Sponsorships & Donations of Saleable Items welcome!

OCPHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and conveying Oakland County's history
Donations are tax-deductible in accordance with applicable law
Tax ID #38-1846291 MICS #7467



The Haunted Mansion
at Pine Grove

A Family friendly tour of
19th Century customs sponsored by
Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue - Pontiac, MI 48342

Saturday, October 21, 2017
6 pm - 8 pm

Children's Crafts and light refreshments
served in the Schoolhouse after your tour.

\$10 per person
Tickets sold in the Gift Shop

(248) 338-6732 www.ocphs.org

2017 ICE CREAM SOCIAL BEST EVER!
Rodger Zeller (Planning Committee Chair)

What can I say about the Ice Cream Social? There are several things I can say!

*The weather was perfect – low humidity, clear and sunny in the 70's.

*Attendance was close to 500.

*Our honored guests represented city, county, state and federal levels.

*The Porch Talks were well received and increased our understanding of the Civil War.

*The vintage car show was a pleasing sight and attracted a lot of attention.

*Ron Finch's eye-catching metal artistry was stunning.

*Ray Frase fascinated both kids and adults with his decorated spinning tops.

*Kids were also drawn to the Legoland activities and our pre-Lego toys. Many of their creations were on display.

*The Curiosity Sale drew a large number of treasure hunters. There was a lot of bragging about their newfound treasures!

*The Oakland County Sheriff's mounted patrol unit attracted a lot of animal lovers. The horses were well-petted.

*Our World War I talks in the schoolhouse helped us honor the 100th anniversary of our entrance into what was called "The War to End All Wars."

*Last, but definitely not least, we doubled our profits from previous years.

At the end of the day, I had a big smile on my face!

GENISYS CREDIT UNION
 THANKS!
 to our SPONSORS



Take Away Trash



Our Business Sponsors:

- Genisys Credit Union - Oakland County & Beyond
- Hodges Supply - Pontiac
- Rich & Campbell, PC - Farmington Hills
- Oakland Orthopedic Partners - Pontiac
- The Crofoot Ballroom - Pontiac
- Take Away Trash - Pontiac
- Meijer - Rochester Hills
- Leslie Electric - Pontiac
- Service Glass - Pontiac
- The Daily Diner - Waterford
- Camp Bow Wow - Clarkston
- Avon Donuts - Pontiac
- Woodward Auto - Pontiac
- Crystal Treasures & More - Pontiac
- Lee Industrial Contracting - Pontiac
- Frye Photo - Pontiac
- R7 Laundry - Pontiac
- Chef Traver Lucas - Pontiac
- Turner Sanitation - Lake Orion
- Memory Time LLC - Waterford
- NELCO Supply Company - Pontiac
- Vintage Press - Skip Upcott - Pontiac
- Professional Instant Printing - Waterford
- Mad Cow Custom Leather LLC - Pontiac
- Smith's Disposal & Recycling - Clarkston
- The Henk Studio Inc. - Kathie Henk - Pontiac

Individual Sponsors:

- Gaylor Forman ★★
- Joyce Scafe ★
- Charlotte Cooper
- Bruce & Amy Annett
- Dave & Barb Hendershot
- Rodger Zeller
- Ray Lucas
- Anonymous
- Charles and Marion Steeber
- Nenner Buckhaultler
- Chuck & Kerry Claus
- Rose Lewis
- Skip Upcott
- Kari & Robert Vaughan
- Patti McDonald

We Remember:

- In Honor of Nathaniel Tolman ~ by Carol George
- In Memory of Kitty Daggy ~ by Joan Hayes
- In Memory of David A. Dinger ~ by David H. Dinger M.D.
- In Memory of Guy Duffield ~ by Joan Hayes
- In Memory of Guy Duffield ~ by Barbara Irwin
- In Memory of Guy Duffield ~ by Fred & Anne Liimatta
- In Memory of Beatrice & Richard H. Frye ~ by Barbara L. Frye
- In Memory of W. E. C. Huthwaite ~ by Motoko Huthwaite
- In Memory of William E. Jackson ~ by Margaret Ann Jackson
- In Memory of Delta Kelly ~ by Catherine Jo Dixon
- In Memory of Clark & Marion Kimball ~ by John & Lori Kimball
- In Memory of Robert Nelson ~ by Fred & Anne Liimatta
- In Memory of Janine Saputo ~ by Colleen Barkham
- In Memory of Gale & Connie Scafe ~ by Joyce E. Scafe
- In Memory of Beth, Jean, Vada, Pete, Ted, & Frank ~ by Annie Hunt

**WISNER MANSION GETS FACELIFT FOR
SUMMER SOCIAL**

Kathy Davis (House Committee Chair)

I would like to thank the Birmingham Questers for their \$500 donation which made possible the new "Green Room" located across from the dining room. The Green Room is a walk-in display with furniture that can hold different items for viewing. Barbara Frye ordered and installed a plate of acknowledgment for the donation.

The painting of the new Green Room was done by Dave Reibel. Carpet was donated by Sue of Waterford Hill Antiques. The light fixture came from Saginaw Street Consignment shop. It was rewired and installed by Bruce Bandy (House Committee) who takes care of the furnaces and electrical. Bruce installed a control device on the furnace so that air can travel through the heat vents to help with air flow throughout the Mansion. He wired the air conditioner (donated by Charlotte Cooper) outside of the house for safety. It helped greatly to cool the Mansion.

The curtains and window in the Green Room were cleaned by Jane Karaguleff (House Committee) and glass on the cabinets was washed. For this event, the room had children's items on display in cabinets and clothing hung on wooden display holders that were made for an Eagle Scout project. The clothing was ironed and arranged by Nancy Duffield, who was assisted by Ann Johnson, a great-great niece of Moses Wisner.

Adrian Rawls (House Committee) made a tall ladder available to clean tops of windows inside and on the porch. Sherrie Morgan (House Committee) led the cleaning of doors and windows in the Wisner office, which were difficult to open and close. Her grandchildren were a big help!

The Mansion shined with new white painted trim around doors, windows and the bay windows, and a new gray porch floor, also thanks to Dave Reibel. The docents looked good and did a great job; one gave a \$200 donation toward the trim painting.

Sue Grifor did displays in the Mansion and schoolhouse. She helped to arrange the Wisner family photos in the family parlor on the fireplace mantel along with a painting by Charles Wisner on the wall above the mantel. She also arranged Charles' other paintings and watercolors along the hallway in the dining room for easier viewing by our tour guests.

Finally, Sue set up the dining room table display with a third set of dishes with leaves on them.

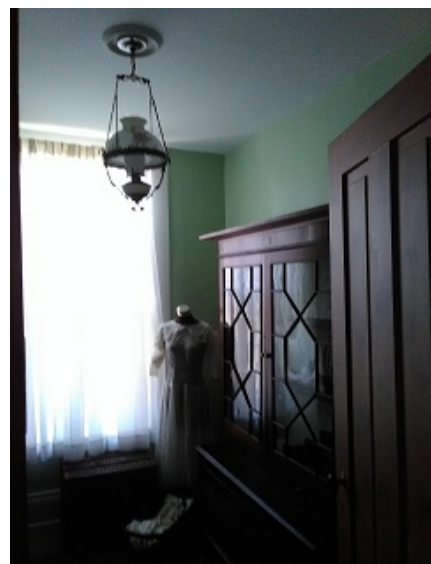
The flowers throughout the Mansion were donated, designed and arranged by Kathie Henk. Sue Grifor worked on the flowers outside. Linda Porter, who loaned us two pots from her beautiful flower garden, helped beautify the front entrance of the Mansion.

The mannequins in the Mansion were adorned with clothing and jewels by Nancy Duffield and Jo Pate. Their talent and expertise makes the Mansion come alive with color and beauty and creates a viewing adventure, enticing our guests to keep returning in expectation of what's new.

Many new guests this year browsed and purchased items and memberships from our great saleslady, Barbara Hudalla, in the Gift Shop. Barb and her family reorganized the shop with new shelving for displays. Thank you to EVERYONE who pitched in on all of these projects!

Help is still needed to complete our to-do list. We are seeking donations in the amount of \$25 to paint a door and \$200 to paint the trim in the Summer Kitchen; we face the greater cost of installing a new door frame if not painted soon. Donations are tax-deductible and are needed soon.

Please contact Kathy Davis at 248-688-4274 to make a donation toward Mansion repairs or with new topic suggestions for our Mini Lecture Series.



The stunning new Green Room in the Wisner Mansion.
(Photo courtesy of Kathy Davis)

THE NISBETT CIVIL WAR FLAG
Gottfried Brieger and David Walls

As mentioned in a previous article (“Charles Nisbett and the Civil War” – June 2017), one of the items donated to OCPHS by Charles Nisbett’s great-grandson Donald was a U.S. Flag showing 34 stars, a clear indication that this was a Civil War flag dating from 1861-1863, when West Virginia became the 35th star on the flag. We also received a typewritten sheet, entitled “The Old 16th Michigan Infantry Battle Flag,” listing the 38 major engagements in which the Regiment had fought, from the Siege of Yorktown to Lee’s surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Adding to the excitement was a newspaper picture appearing in the Pontiac Daily Press on October 13, 1933; It states that the flag is indeed the brave old standard, pierced in many places by Confederate bullets, and was presented by a group of Detroit women many years ago to the 16th Michigan Infantry. The photo caption also states that the flag was intended to be given to the State for its collection of Civil War flags.

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1933.

Shell Torn Civil War Flag Given Into State’s Keeping



Upon contacting the curator of flags, Matt van Acker, at the State Capitol, it became apparent that this flag was never donated, but that other battle flags from the 16th Regiment were already in their collection. This prompted further research!

“By July 4, 1866, the great American Civil War had been over for more than a year. At its close, the War Department had authorized Union regiments to return their regimental flags to the governors of their respective states. Now came the ceremony for the return of Michigan's flags – 'one of the finest and most interesting displays ever witnessed in Michigan' – recalled Adjutant General John Robertson. For the occasion, Detroit was bedecked with banners, garlands, and streamers, and each store, home and public building vied for the most lavish decorations. Over 70,000 attended the grand affair – the first public celebration of the end of the war – and cheered the remnant regiments and the color bearers holding their 'torn and smoke-begrimed battle flags in their hands.' Few present could have missed the veneration cast upon these relics – second only to the men themselves and in some ways equal to human life – for the colors were visible reminders of lives that were no more and causes won at such a bitter cost. In accepting the flags from the regiments, Governor Crapo promised they would be preserved forever. 'They will not be forgotten and their histories left unwritten,' he declared.” (Kerry K. Chartkoff, State flag historian).

Because the flag we received seemed quite fragile, we had not fully unfurled it, except to note that the canon (the segment of the flag bearing the stars) had 34 stars. We invited retired textile conservator Frances Faile from the Henry Ford Museum to unfurl the flag, which she kindly carried out. To our great surprise, the flag turned out to be much larger than the expected standard of approximately 6x6 feet. It was in fact 9.4x4.5 feet, far too large to have been carried in battle. There was a variety of damage to the flag besides the normal wear and tear of approximately 156 years. However, nothing really looked like bullet holes.

We should digress here to discuss the appearance of battle flags mostly used by the Union in the Civil War. They consisted of a National flag, generally 6x6 feet, and a Regimental flag, measuring 6x6.5 feet. While the collection at the State Capitol has examples of National flags from the 16th Regiment, they are fragmentary and heavily restored. We therefore show here an example of a National flag from the 18th Regiment, along with a Regimental flag from the 16th.



We reluctantly concluded that our flag was not one of the original battle flags of the 16th Regiment. What was it?

After further research on the web, we discovered a flag that appeared to be closely related to the one we had received. It was listed for sale by an antiques dealer and is identified as a 34-star Civil War Recruitment Flag made under military contract. The example seen here was actually labeled with the manufacturer's name, a James Sebring from New York, who made this flag between 1861-1863.

A detailed comparison shows that the fabric used in both flags is identical, the sewing of the flags and stars is the same, and the heavy canvas stripe on the left side is very similar, including the grommets used. Experts Matt van Acker and Frances Faile agree.



So a flag like this is what Charles Nisbett proudly held in 1933 and, while it did not see any battles, it served to attract recruits to join the Union cause. For many years thereafter, it was displayed and was the focus at the Annual Reunions of the 16th Regiment. Charles Nisbett was the Regiment's last survivor after its 49th and final Reunion, and retained the flag until his death in 1935.

(All images courtesy of the authors)



OCPHS is pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since our last publication:

Daniel Strang - The Netherlands

Garrett Door Company - Pontiac

Alyce Voit & Paul Hudacek - Pontiac

Jill Medlyn - Lake Orion

The Terri Berbatiotis Family - Pontiac

Matthew Hackett - Rochester Hills

Priscilla Shelton - Pontiac

Eddie Delbridge - Waterford

Rachel Sussbauer, Local Hop - Pontiac

Tana Lorenger - Waterford

Bill Johns

AROUND THE COUNTY...

The Waterford Genealogical Society will celebrate Family History Month with two events in October. Plan to join them and discover new tools for delving into YOUR family's history!

“Venturing into Genetic Genealogy”

Tuesday, October 10

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Dr. James Sims will present the basics of genetic genealogy for beginning researchers and anyone with little experience but lots of questions!

“Cemeteries and Ancestors: Leave No Stone Unturned”

Saturday, October 28

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Dan Earl from the Michigan Genealogical Council will discuss the history of cemeteries and how to find and use information gleaned from them.

Both programs are free, open to the public and will take place in the Community Room at the Waterford Public Library. Registration with the library is encouraged.

Membership and Donation Form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Send my *Gazette* via: U.S. Mail Email
(Please add \$5 to cover cost of printing and postage if sending via U.S. Mail)

Please Make Me a Member! (indicate level):

- \$15 Student
- \$20 Individual
- \$20 Non-Profit Organization
- \$35 Family (two adults & minor children)
- \$100 Patron
- \$200 Benefactor
- \$500 Friends
- \$500 Corporate Sponsor
- \$Gift Membership (provide recipient's name & contact info):

Please Accept My Donation! (indicate preference):

- \$ Annual Giving (general operating costs)
- \$ Fill In the Gap (expanding hours & services)
- \$ Preservation (historic buildings & contents)
- \$ Where Needed or Other (specify):
- \$ In Memory of / Honor of (provide name):

What Prompted Your Support? (check all that apply):

- Interest in Oakland County History
- Invited/Introduced by Member/Friend
- Received Copy of *Gazette*
- Attended Event or Tour
- Research Library / Archives
- Newspaper / Magazine Article
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Website / Facebook
- Other (specify):

Mail this form with check payable to OCPHS to:

**Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342**

For your convenience you may also join or donate 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

FROM THE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Bill Clink (Co-Chair)

Fall is fast upon us and the time has come to be thinking of our exciting and glamorous gala event! Once again our intrepid band of historians will host a dinner and auction at the Lafayette Grande. We can't wait to see you for a fun-filled night of fellowship and treasure-hunting. We are still accepting donations of resaleable items; contact Joy or Fred at the office to arrange dropoff or pickup.

The Growth & Development team was active and on duty at July's Summer Social. Whether it was Kari and Robert seeing that we got fed; John finding a place for us to park; Linda being charming and hospitable; Amy playing with the money; Barb seeing that details were covered; Fred keeping an eye on the loot; and Joy and Bill running around doing good deeds where needed, our team pitched in and helped our Summer Social to be one of the most successful ever!

A special shout-out to one of the newest members of our Society, Dave Decker, who recently gave a lecture on mills. He has worked to update our website and modernize our computer system, pitched in on various landscaping activities and become a member of our Board. All we need is 10 more people like Dave and we'll be off to the races!

Please do remember us as you're thinking about your year-end gift-giving. Your time, support and encouragement makes all the difference. Have a great fall! - Bill

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATE

OCPHS currently sends important notices, event reminders and calls for volunteers to our members via email. Do we have your current email address on file? If you are not receiving our emails, please contact the office to ensure your address is correct.



Rest assured, your inbox will not be inundated; we only send emails that are important and relevant to our members!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events...

**Saturday, October 7 -
"A Black & White Bash" Dinner & Auction**
6:00 – 10:00 pm
Admission \$35

**Saturday, October 21 -
"The Haunted Mansion at Pine Grove"**
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Admission \$10

**Sunday, October 22 -
"A Visual Tour of the Battle of Perryville"
(Mini Lecture Series)**
2:00 pm / Admission \$7

**Sunday, November 5 -
"Tom Tucker and the 22nd Michigan Infantry"
(Mini Lecture Series)**
2:00 pm / Admission \$7

**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, December 3 -
Victorian Open House**
Details forthcoming!

OCPHS Officers and Board of Directors

President

Charlotte Cooper

1st Vice President

Sara Cote

2nd Vice President

Rodger Zeller

Secretary

Kathy Davis

Treasurer

Barbara Frye

Directors

Dave Decker
Bill Grandstaff
Sue Grifor
Ann Johnson
Greg Kowalski
Anne Liimatta
Fred Liimatta
Linda Porter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



As much as we welcome history lovers among all God's creatures, this summer OCPHS was forced to call on this brave exterminator to remove the large nest of wasps/yellow jackets residing in the lower level of the Carriage House. The Farm Museum was closed during the Summer Social due to the problem. We are considering having some of the dead insects analyzed to determine exactly what was nesting!

(Photo courtesy of Charlotte Cooper)

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

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

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

Volume 50 Number 3 September 2017

Editor: Kari Vaughan

Contributors: Bill Clink, Gottfried Brieger, Charlotte Cooper, Kathy
Davis, Kari Vaughan, David Walls, Rodger Zeller

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1: President's Corner; October Events
- Page 2: 2017 Summer Social Recap & Sponsors
- Page 3: Wisner Mansion Gets Facelift for Summer Social
- Page 4: "The Nisbett Civil War Flag"
- Page 5: "Nisbett" con't.
- Page 6: Welcome New Members; Around the County; Membership & Donation Form
- Page 7: From the Growth & Development Team; Email Address Update; Mark Your Calendar
- Page 8: Getting Rid of Bees!