



Vol. 51, No. 1

Dedicated to the history and heritage of Oakland County, Michigan

March 2018

THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue

Pontiac, Michigan 48342

Ph: 248-338-6732

Fax: 248-338-6731

Email: office@ocphs.orgWeb: www.ocphs.org**PRESIDENT'S CORNER***Charlotte Cooper*

"The true sign of intelligence
is not knowledge but
imagination."

- Albert Einstein

There is much imagination
here at Pine Grove. We
imagine that a member won a
\$7 million lottery and donated
it to OCPHS. We imagine
that we have fifty active

members consisting of Gen Z, Gen Y, Gen X,
Millennials, multi-cultural, multi-racial, "reasonables,"
intellectuals, artists, and "organizational." We also
have a wish list and have set goals to achieve in
2018.

Occasionally we receive "gifts" that we never
imagined. In 1965, Coates Funeral Home donated
a circa 1865 Waterford one-room schoolhouse to us.

Somewhere along the way we acquired a sleigh,
which we eventually donated to the Oakland

Township Historical Museum where it could be
displayed in a protected environment. In 2014 we
were given a carriage, made here in Pontiac circa
1901 by the Standard Vehicle Company. Ed Lee
and Steve Cartier of Wisner LLC transferred two
pieces of property on Short Street to OCPHS in
2015; with new fencing, they are now part of our
grassy parking area.

We have also learned that sometimes, wishes do
come true. We have had a gazebo on our wish list,
and now we have a beautiful one donated by Gloria
Dei Lutheran Church in Auburn Hills. Ray Lucas, a
dedicated member of Gloria Dei and of OCPHS, has
been working with us on this newest acquisition.
Once relocated to our campus, the gazebo will offer
opportunities for special events. We hope you will
attend our dedication this summer of the "Gazebo at
Pine Grove."

Warm wishes and regards, *Charlotte*

**OCPHS SHARES IN OAKLAND COUNTY
"CASUAL DAY" FUNDS**

OCPHS was honored to be among 21 local
charitable organizations receiving funds raised
during Oakland County's "Casual Days" in 2017.

County employees were permitted to wear
jeans to work on Thursdays and Fridays for a
\$1 donation to the county casual day fund. In
December, over \$30,000 was distributed to
charities based on overall need and impact of
the organization. None of the funds for the
program comes from taxpayers. Since its
inception in 1993, county employees have
contributed over \$850,000! The Oakland
Casual Board, overseen by County Executive

L. Brooks Patterson and County Chief
Information Officer Phil Bertolini, recommends
amounts to be distributed among many worthy
organizations. On December 14th, Mike West
and Linda Porter proudly represented OCPHS
at an awards ceremony for the selected
organizations. We are incredibly thankful to
serve a county whose employees are so
generously committed to the betterment of
their community!



(Photo courtesy of The Oakland Press)

WANTED!

Bill Grandstaff, Nominating Committee

Have you been fighting that urge to join in and help protect a piece of local history? Well, let yourself go and step up to help carry on a 70-year tradition by becoming one of the guiding lights of the Pine Grove campus, home of Colonel Moses Wisner and his family.

Now, you might be asking – how can I do that?

Answer: Join the Board of Directors (three-year term) and help formulate a yearly budget, plan new fund-raising events, make decisions and solve problems.

So, you think to yourself – that sounds pretty easy, but how much do I get paid and how much time do I have to invest?

Answer: The Board meets once a month, alternating between Saturday morning and Thursday evening meetings to accommodate directors' schedules. We request that you attend a minimum of four meetings per year to remain on the Board. As for the PAY...you'll receive a free cup of coffee or tea at each meeting and some excellent sweet treats (assuming someone brings them). But more importantly, you will get the satisfaction of helping OCPHS continue a tradition that started in 1874. This is the type of compensation that will truly enrich your life, as well as our community, for many years to come.

Sounds good – how do I make it happen?

**Answer: Contact our office to request an application packet.
WE NEED A FEW GOOD FOLKS TO HELP
KEEP THIS LOCAL TREASURE AROUND FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS.
WE NEED YOU!**

**New applicants and current Board members wishing to renew their term will be elected to service by the membership at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 19th at 9:30 am. A brunch potluck will be served in the Carriage House. Please join us!*

THANKFUL RESEARCHER SHARES THE LOVE (AND SOME USEFUL TOOLS)

We love the warm, fuzzy feeling that comes from knowing our resources have assisted a researcher in discovering more about their family and their community. We also enjoy finding new “tricks of the trade” and learning from fellow history buffs. Below, we share an email received last month from a researcher named Alicia Hurst in hopes our members will both share in the delight from her praise and enjoy adding a couple new items to their genealogy resources tool kit.

(Email is reprinted in its entirety with only minor editing for grammar.)

“Hi OCPHS family,

I just wanted to send a quick note to thank you for the genealogy tools on your site; some savvy teens and I are getting a lot of use from them. Our writer's group just started a family history project – we're all very excited to start digging! In our search for research tools and info we stumbled onto your page (www.ocphs.org/links); it's been tough finding non-spammy sites for the kids so you have our thanks!

We all agreed your page gave us some great ideas to get started – as a token of our thanks we wanted to share another resource with you that one of our superstars Mia found. It's a very detailed genealogy guide/article that has a lot of helpful info. Maybe you might even find it useful for your page?

“History at home genealogy guide”
www.homeadvisor.com/r/guide-to-genealogy

Hopefully you like it too! If you do decide to add it I'll be sure to show Mia and the gang you liked her find. We have also been using Cyndi's List and www.findmypast.com

I love sharing so if you have any needs or tips please feel free to pass them along. They say genealogy can be an addictive hobby; we'll let you know if we get hooked. Thanks again and sorry for rambling, I'm excited about this connection.

Cheers and well wishes, Alicia”

Thanks again, Alicia, for utilizing our resources and for sharing your own!



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Dave Decker, Board member / tech guru



I am pleased to update you on a few tech-type things OCPHS has been doing recently:

Network storage – Way back in the day, everything was kept in file cabinets. Lots and lots of files, which we still have. But these days, many of those hard copies have been converted to digital versions as we continue to scan and electronically archive information. As digital technology has evolved, OCPHS has over the years utilized a number of storage devices (encompassing various computers, flash drives, and external hard drives) that have made finding digital files a bit cumbersome. We also have digital files on floppy disks and CD ROMS (both of which are now outdated) that need to be transferred to modern storage devices.

To address this, we've purchased a device that can store a large number of these files in one place, available to all of our computers. It will allow us to find and work with digital files in a much more efficient way. Now we need to figure out how we want to organize it! We're leaning on the Library of Congress's digital archiving standards to ensure our digital files will be readable (and findable) by future generations. It's a big leap forward and we're setting the groundwork for those that will follow us. If you have expertise in digital archiving, get in touch – we'd love to get your take on how we're doing.

QuickBooks – We're implementing it, for a couple of reasons. OCPHS currently tracks its financial operations using spreadsheets. Our bookkeeper, Amy Annett, has been using these for a number of years (and keeps our books in great shape – that's no mean feat!), but with the advent of more complicated reporting

requirements, the time is right to move from a manual financial system to one that requires less effort to create reports. Many grantors want to see our financials; QuickBooks financial reports are standardized and will provide the info they need to see almost on the fly. We recently met with the treasurer of the Royal Oak Historical Society, a new convert to Quickbooks, to see how that organization utilizes it and to make sure we don't miss anything along the way. If you have experience with Quickbooks, please let us know – we're always looking for help!

Social media – OCPHS has had a strong presence on Facebook for a number of years, which is great! But this year we're looking to reach new audiences by lighting a fire on the Internet. Look for us to have an increased presence on Twitter and Instagram. We recently participated in a contest on Twitter, for example, that let us have a say in what newspapers would receive a grant to digitize their archives. Our vote didn't win, but the process was fun and we learned a lot. The big takeaway is that there are lots of young local folks out there interested in history, and we're determined to get in touch with them!

Our website continues to gain ground – Since December 1st of last year, we've had almost 800 unique visitors to the site, from all over the world! 88% of those users were "new views" and 13% were "returning users." In comparison, the same period in 2016/17 had only 380 unique users.

That's a huge leap forward and shows that our efforts on the Web are paying off...new people are finding us, and that's great for the Society and for Oakland County. Look for more improvements to the site throughout the year, especially as we get catalogs of our collection online.

Since implementing new ways to donate, join and purchase on the OCPHS website, we've seen an increase there, too. It's a really easy way to support us, and people are taking advantage – since July of last year, over \$3,000 has come through the website system. That's awesome.

And so we continue to progress – from how we store and organize our digital files, to how we track our finances, to how we present ourselves on the Internet – we're making progress, gaining audiences, and learning as we go. And having fun!

APPRECIATION RECEPTION 2018

Bill Clink, Growth & Development Co-Chair

Once again, our intrepid band of historians gathered together on a dark night in February to appreciate all those who have done good deeds for the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society. The weather was cold and blustery, but in spite of it our Linda Porter and gang pulled off another delightful Valentine's themed event. The "creeping crud" was a factor in attendance; Sara, our event co-chair, was laid low at the last minute and Sherie Morgan, who helped set up, wisely steered clear that night to avoid catching a bug.

Attendance was in the mid-20's, including one first-timer who became a new member thanks to the efforts of our fearless president Charlotte and Anne Liimatta. The goodies were great, the décor was lovely, and the front walk was candle-lit to lead the way inside to fun. We even had words of inspiration bestowed by Charlotte and past presidents Amy Annett and Fred Liimatta.

Thanks again to Linda and support team for hosting a delightful crowd of folks sharing their love for history.

If you couldn't join us, we missed you and look forward to seeing you in the not-too-distant future. Whether you're currently in Michigan or the tropical South, keep thinking of OCPHS and keep on with your good deeds!

Please enjoy these photos from the evening, snapped by Linda Porter:



A PLACE FOR YOU, HERE!
Joy Dockham, Operations Manager

I am going to be completely honest with you: I need volunteers! I imagine you are asking, "What do you need volunteers to do?" I am so glad you asked! Let me ask you a question; what do you like to do? Do you enjoy prowling around antique stores or looking for vintage fashion? What about gardening? Are you the family picture hoarder? Have you ever investigated a family legend to find out what really happened? Are all of your alphabetized files organized by color and topic? Do you like to plan parties and events? Are you a people person or a quiet researcher?

No matter what you enjoy, there is an aspect of that here at OCPHS. Whatever hobbies excite you, there is a volunteer opportunity in that area that would benefit from your time, attention, and unique talent. The very heart of history is stories about people and their lives. Here at OCPHS you can sort the clothes they wore, label the milk bottles they drank from, and scan the pictures of special moments in their lives. It is impossible to tell a story without the basics of life.

Volunteers are an enormous piece of this organization, helping to keep the history of Oakland County alive. We love our members, but we especially enjoy actually spending time with our volunteers and getting to know them. You can volunteer at your convenience and on your schedule.

Come twice a week, once a month, or somewhere in between. You can even help with your favorite event or serve on a committee.

We are now open until 8 pm on Wednesday nights to better accommodate volunteers' schedules. Please give me a call or stop in during office hours to talk with me about what you love to do. I promise you coffee or hot water for tea, and to find you a project you will love!



The following appeared in the February 24th, 1948 edition of the Pontiac Press and is re-printed here for our members' enjoyment. The caption under the photo reads: "Jayno W. Adams (left) retiring president of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical society, accepts Lincoln chair from E.D. Stephens at the annual meeting and luncheon of the society at Stevens hall Monday." Mr. Adams was instrumental in acquiring the Moses Wisner property, Society members, and financial donations and loans. Thanks to Board member and Wisner descendant Ann Johnson for digging up this "blast from the past" as our 2018 annual meeting fast approaches!

"A chair once used in the home of Abraham Lincoln was presented to the society by E.D. Stephens. It had been secured from Robert Lincoln, son of the martyred president, by interests behind the production of the Lincoln car a few years ago. When that corporation went out of business it went to the Leland interests at Lake Angelus, and was given to Mr. Stephens by Wilford Leland.

William T. Leggett gave some violin selections, and took the occasion to present

to the society a Stradivarius violin that was the property of his father.

Donald S. Patterson gave a report of the progress being made by the Oakland County Pioneer and Veterans Historical foundation, and reports of the various officers were received. Marshall E. Smith was toastmaster.

In the election of officers, Jayno W. Adams, who has been president for many years, declined to accept the place again, because of his health, and was named president emeritus. Morgan Axford of Oxford was named to succeed him.

Other officers are: Mrs. L.L. Dunlap and Joe Haas, vice presidents; Mrs. G.H. Kimball, Jr, secretary; Harry F. Going, treasurer, and Mrs. E.V. Howlett, historian."

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

Jay & Kay Taylor (Clarkston)
Sandra Skene (Fenton)
Christopher Bogucki (Pontiac)
Ryan Shenouda (Bloomfield Hills)
Caryn Pfeiffer (Pontiac)
Michele Ward (Waterford)
Jason Garlow & Alyssa LaRaia (Waterford)
Kathleen LaBrosse (Waterford)

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Our deepest sympathies to dedicated research librarian Pat Kaltwasser whose husband, Carl Kaltwasser, passed away on March 4th. Raised in Birmingham, Carl received his mechanical engineering degree from the University of Michigan and was a brother in the Sigma Chi fraternity. He was an officer in the Korean War and a longtime employee of the Jervis B. Webb company in Farmington Hills.



Memorial donations may be made to Common Ground or the Michigan Animal Rescue League.

(Photo courtesy of Desmond Funeral Home)



OCPHS was saddened to learn of the passing of member Donald Youmans on December 16th, 2017 at the age of 82. His obituary, published in the *Flint Journal* on December 19, stated that "Don was director of the Waterford School District, retiring in 1997 after 36 years of service.

A devoted Tigers fan, his passion for baseball secured him a place in the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame for his performance in baseball at Flint Northern High School.

He received his masters degree in education from U of M Flint and his blood runs for maize and blue football. He was a devoted father, grandfather, and friend; above all, an exceptional and loving husband."



We extend our condolences to the Youmans family. Memorial donations may be made to the Michigan Humane Society or the Medical Team Hospice.

(Photo courtesy of mlive.com)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

Sunday, April 22-
"Captain Furlong in World War I"
(Mini Lecture Series)

Presented by Larry Hathcock
2:00 pm / Admission \$7

Saturday, May 19 -
OCPHS Annual Meeting & Election
9:30 am

Sunday, May 20-
"This Place Matters"
(Mini Lecture Series)
Presented by Ron Campbell
2:00 pm / Admission \$7

Sunday, June 24-
"Advances of Farming – 200 Years"
(Mini Lecture Series)
Presented by Tom McClure
2:00 pm / Admission \$7

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
Anne Liimatta
Fred Liimatta
Linda Porter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

PONTIAC ARTS AND CULTURE CRAWL

OCPHS will have an exhibit in the old Pontiac State Bank building for the Pontiac Arts and Culture Crawl on May 4th from 5 - 10 pm! The event is being put on by the Pontiac Arts Commission and promises to be a great one. With the permission of Bishop Layne LaPage of the Cathedral of Valor, we're going to take over the lobby of his church for the event and possibly continue to display early maps, old documents pertaining to the founding of Oakland County, and of course some early items from Pontiac's founding. Come join us (and if you really want to be a superstar, come help put together the exhibit and/or staff the display on the night of the event!

BICENTENNIAL UPDATE

This year, several communities in Oakland County will celebrate bicentennials, and we're doing our part to help make those celebrations special and informative. Over the past several months, OCPHS has participated in a study group focusing on the route and explorers that took part in an expedition into Oakland County in the fall of 1818. We are both learning and contributing a great deal of information about this expedition and think it will be a great addition to the Summer Social and the events our fellow historical societies are hosting this year. Plans are in the works for a video, display materials, and possibly some Mini Lectures on the topic. If you want to be a part of something truly fascinating, check in with us. If you think your local organization would be interested in working with us, we'd love to hear from you too!

P.S. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Spring Cleanup! (Details forthcoming!)

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 51 Number 1 March 2018

Editor: Kari Vaughan

Contributors: Bill Clink, Charlotte Cooper, Dave Decker,
Joy Dockham, Bill Grandstaff, Ann Johnson, Kari Vaughan

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1: President's Corner; OCPHS Shares in Oakland County "Casual Day" Funds
- Page 2: Call for Board Members; Thankful Researcher Shares the Love
- Page 3: Technology Update
- Page 4: Appreciation Reception 2018
- Page 5: A Place For You, Here; Lincoln Chair Donation Reprint
- Page 6: Lincoln Chair con't; Welcome New Members; Membership & Donation Form
- Page 7: In Remembrance; Mark Your Calendar
- Page 8: Pontiac Arts and Culture Crawl; Bicentennial Update