

OAKLAND GAZETTE

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society's Newsletter

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SOCIETY'S 2022 CALENDAR FOCUSES ON STUNNING CLINTON RIVER PROJECT PHOTOS BY RICHARD FRYE



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One of the most fascinating and asked about topics in Oakland County's history is how the Clinton River, which flows through downtown Pontiac, was buried underground there in the 1960s. It's the focus of our calendar this year. Thanks to the generosity of Member Barbara Frye and her family, we have featured her father's remarkable photographs from that massive infrastructure construction project. Professional photographer Richard Frye of Pontiac was hired by Oakland County to document the project as it progressed. Luckily, the family has preserved the negatives; these images are not otherwise publicly available.

Sales Revenues Help us Save Local History

As with all of our merchandise and publications that we offer for sale, those revenues from any purchase you make helps us fund our local history preservation efforts. The maintenance and enhancement of Governor Moses Wisner's historic home, insurance and utilities for that structure and all of our Oakland History Center facilities, compensation for our limited staff, and the creative ways we educate, engage, and celebrate local history with the community. The calendar cover is pictured, right, and is available for \$15 at the History Center or \$20 online on our website.



INSIDE: 1860 New Year's Local Revelry, 2021 In Memoriam & Much More

SLEUTHING A NEW YEAR'S EXCURSION FROM 1860

By Dave Decker

I first stumbled onto this fun little article while searching for something on the Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal, hosted by Central Michigan University's Clark Library. I was assisting a member of our society who is a descendant of Dr. Ezra Parke, brother of Hervey Parke. Our patron was backgrounding for a book he's writing, which is set in 1860's Pontiac. As sometimes happens, conducting research for patrons can lead us down a rabbit hole, and down I went. And so, all credit goes to him for asking the right questions at the right time.

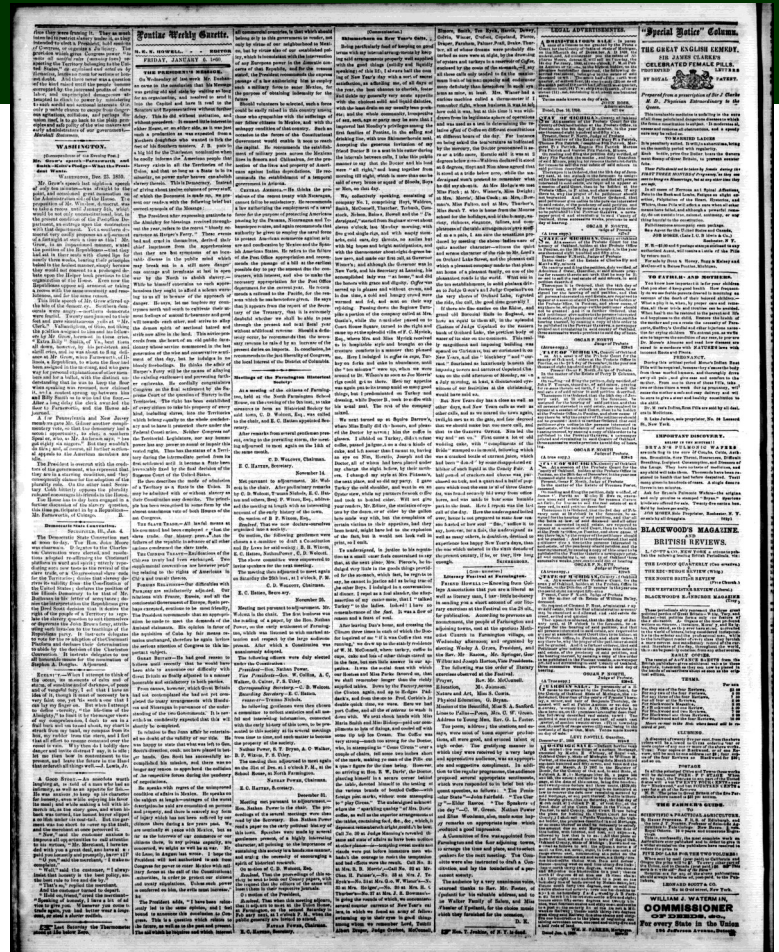
The article was originally published in the Pontiac Weekly Gazette on January 6, 1860. It describes a group of men going calling, which was the tradition on New Year's Day in that era. It was customary for men to visit the homes of their friends for a short visit, where the hosts would lay out food and drink for the callers.

What is described is the 1860s equivalent of a pub crawl. The author identifies himself as "Skinnerhorn", a fictional narrator. All along the journey, Skinnerhorn and his friends stop at various homes in Pontiac, enjoying "coffee" and a variety of food and drink at each stop. As the day proceeds we're told about the places they visited as the gastric and mental distress of the day mounts, ending up at the end of the day in the Gazette's publishing office.

What struck me about the article are the people along the journey, and the well-known (to us) prominent citizens (and their sons) along for the ride. When we look at Pontiac's history, we see some names that crop up over and over: McConnell, a dry goods merchant and family who left a strong legacy in Pontiac. Thatcher, a lawyer whose family went on to become quite important in the latter half of the 19th century. TerBush, Comstock, Waldron: all names that come up over and over.

Because these names are attached to prominent citizens – Willard McConnell, Erastus Thatcher, Solon Comstock – and the rest, I thought those men were in this cutter with Skinnerhorn – a clear case of my bias showing through.

But I was wrong. It's not just these prominent men in cutters wandering around the town. Their sons were there, too – and



The January 6, 1860 Edition of the Pontiac Weekly Gazette.

their wives and daughters are at home, laying out the food and drink. It gives us a wonderful look into the lives of our prominent folks and their families and homes. We're not just talking about the sons, though: as the ride progresses, we meet the women who were hosting these calls – people like Cleantha Parke McConnell, and Angeolina Wisner, wife of the current Governor of Michigan Moses Wisner of Pontiac (residing at the historic home still standing today).

As you read the article, see if you can tease out their route and some of the names dropped along the way. Some of these places remain as historically important places today – the Wisner house, the Myrick-Palmer house, and the McConnell house (aka American Legion Post 20).

Local Historian Dave Decker of Clarkston is a Vice President on our Historical Society's Board of Directors and serves on the Oakland County Historical Commission.

'Skinnerhorn on New Year's Calls' — January 6, 1860.

"Being particularly fond of keeping on good terms with my internal arrangements by keeping said arrangements properly well supplied with the good things (solidly and liquidly speaking) of this life, I always hail the coming of New Year's day with a sort of secret satisfaction, as affording me, of all days of the year, the best chances to cherish, foster and tickle my generally very acute appetite with the choicest solid and liquid dainties, with the least drain on my usually lean pockets; and the whole community, irrespective of sex, sect, age or party may be sure that I improved last Monday's privileges among the first families of Pontiac, in the eating and drinking line, with true Skinnerhorn zeal. Accepting the generous invitation of my friend Doctor B to a seat in his cutter during the intervals between calls, I take this public manner to say that the Doctor and his load were "all right", and hung together from morning till night, which is more than can be said of every brace or squad of Bloods, Boys or Men, on this day.

"We, collectively speaking, consisting of Company No 1, comprising Hoyt, Waldron, Smith, McConnell, Thatcher, Terbush, Comstock, Nelson, Baines, Howell and the "Undersigned", started from Saginaw street about eleven o'clock, last Monday morning, with five good single rigs, and with empty stomachs, cold ears, dry throats, no smiles but big hopes and bright anticipations, and with the thermometer about eight degrees below zero, and made our first call, at Governor Wisner's; and although the Governor was in New York and his Secretary at Lansing, his accomplished lady was "at home", and did the honors with grace and dignity. Coffee was served up in glasses and without cream, and in due time and cold and hungry crowd were warmed and fed, and sent on their way rejoicing. Passing down the Saginaw Turnpike a portion of the company called at Mrs. Gustin's, while the remainder passed on to Court House Square, turned to the right and came up at the splendid villa of F.C. Myrick, Esq., where Mrs. and Miss Myrick received us in hospitable style and brought on the creature comforts in a manner that pleased me. Here I indulged in coffee in cups, Turkey on forks and cake in abundance, until the "ten minutes" were up, when we were around to Dr. Wilson's as soon as Joe Morris' rigs could get us there. Here my appetite was again put to its trump amid so many good things, but I predominated on Turkey and dressing, while Doctor B, took to coffee with his usual zeal. The rest of the company mixed.

"We next turned up at Squire Darrow's, where Miss Emily did the honors, and pleased the Doctor by serving the coffee in glasses. I nibbled on Turkey, didn't refuse coffee, passed judgment on a dozen kinds of cake, and left sooner than I meant to, having an eye on Nim, Horatio, Joseph and the Doctor, all of whom had been placed under my charge the night before, by their mothers. I changed my style at Mrs. Pittman's, the next place, and so did my party. I gave Turkey the cold shoulder, and went in on an Oyster stew, while my partners forsook coffee and took to bottled cider. Will not give your readers, Mr. Editor, the statistics of oysters by the dozen, or of cider by the gallon here made way with, but the complaints of certain victims to their appetites, had they been heard, might have led to the explosion of the fact, but it would not look well in print, so I omit.

**'SKINNERHORN' ARTICLE
CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE**

Members of the Crew — Researched by Dave Decker	
Skinnerhorn	Myron, aka "M.E.N." Howell - aka "Nim", age in 1860: 26. Owner and publisher of the Pontiac Weekly Gazette.
Dr. B	Dr. M.L. (Monsieur Lamont) Bagg, age in 1860 – 50. A physician.
Hoyt	George A. Hoyt, a blind music teacher (and later professor of music). He was employed by Charles H. Palmer, a noted and wealthy citizen himself. He had worked for Palmer at the Romeo Academy, a branch school of the University of Michigan, and on its closing came to Pontiac with the Palmer family in the 1850s. He was 42 in 1860.
Waldron	George Wickham Waldron. Married Virena Palmer, daughter of Charles, in 1860. He served in Company C of the 5 th Michigan Infantry and died in Pontiac in 1869.
Smith	Horatio Smith, age 26, clerk. He later became a produce dealer in Detroit.
Thatcher	Marshall P. Thatcher – the son of prominent lawyer Erastus Thatcher. In 1860, he was a student and 18 years old. In 1862 he was commissioned a 2 nd lieutenant in Company K of the Michigan 2 nd Cavalry. He mustered out as a Captain in 1865 and took up farming.
McConnell	Son of Willard McConnell. Joseph went to war in 1862 and never returned home. He was 19 years old in 1860.
Comstock	William H. Comstock, a clerk, age 22.
Nelson	James H. Nelson – age 18 and a driver for Morris' Livery – from where our intrepid party got their rigs. He later married Mary Bacon, daughter of Levi Bacon, the business partner to Willard McConnell.
Baines	William S Baines, druggist, age in 1860: 35. And a business partner to Willard McConnell.

SKINNERHORN ARTICLE, CONTINUED: *"Ye undersigned, in justice to his reputation as a small eater feels constrained to say that, at the next place, Mrs. Pierce's, he indulged very little in the good things provided for the stomach, which fact, he regrets to say, he cannot in justice add as being true of the other Boys. I indulged in conversation at dinner. I repel as a foul slander, the after-assertion of my cutter-mate, that I "talked Turkey" to the ladies. Indeed! I have no recollection of the fact. It was flow of reason and a feast of soul.*

"After leaving Dan's house, and crossing the Clinton three times in each of which the Doctor inquired of me "if it was Coffee that was running", we drew up to the stately home of W.M. McConnell, where turkey, coffee in cups, cake and lots of other things stared us in the face, but met little answer in our appetites. It was the social feast with which our Hostess and Miss Parke favored us, that we shall remember longer than the richly supplied tables. Down by the Factory, across the Clinton again, and up to Hodges Paddock's, and from thence to Prof. Corbin's in double quick time, we were. Here we had port Coffee, and all of the et ceteras to wash it down with. We next shook hands with Miss Maria Smith and Miss Bishop – paid our compliments to lots of fixings, and cooled off with some tip top Ice Cream. The Coffee was very strong – much too strong for the Doctor, who, in attempting to "Come Circus" over a couple of chairs, fell some two inches short of the mark, making ye man of the Pills cut a queer figure for the time being. However, on arriving at Hin. R. W. Davis', the Doctor, planting himself in a secure corner behind the table, devoted himself to the testing of the various brands of bottled Coffee – with foreign post marks, without once attempting to "play Circus". The undersigned acknowledges the "sparkling quality" of Mrs. Davis' coffee, as well as the superior arrangements of the tables, containing food &c &c, which if deponent remembereth alright, couldn't be beat.



**Pontiac Weekly Gazette, where
our callers ended their day.**

"Call No. 30 at Judge Manning's revealed the same sad state of affairs as have been noticed at other places – ie – tempting sweet meats and viduals were put before immature men who hadn't the courage to resist the temptation and bad effects were the result. Call No. 31 at Mrs. R. B. Morris; Call No 32 at Mrs Chas H. Palmer's, - No 33 at Mrs. J. Ten Eyck's – No 34 at Mrs. Geo. W. Wisner's – No 35 at Mrs. Hodges – No 36 at Mrs. H. C. Thurber's – No 37 at Mrs. J. R. Bowman's – in going the rounds of which, we encountered several counter currents of New Year's callers, in which we found an army of fellows swimming up to their eyes in good things among whom we remember Lord, Tuthill, Albert Draper, Judge Crofoot, McConnell, Elmore, Smith, Ten Eyck, Harris, Dewey, Colvin, Wisner, Crofoot, Copeland, Pierce, Draper, Farnham, Palmer, Prall, Drake, Thurber, all of whose dreams were probably disturbed as ours were at night, by the drowning of oysters and turkeys in a reservoir of Coffee, enclosed by the coats of the stomach, - I say all these calls only tended to fix the maximum limit of human capacity and endurance more definitely than heretofore in such systems as mine, at least. Mrs. Wisner had a curious machine called a thermometer if I remember right, whose business it was to tell how cold it was, but at this time it was withdrawn from its legitimate sphere of operations and was used as a test in determining the relative effect of Coffee on different constitutions at different hours of the day. For instance on being asked the temperature as indicated by the mercury, the Doctor pronounced it zero or a trifle more, Horatio said it was at 2 degrees

below zero – Waldron declared it stood at 5 degrees, Hoyt and Nim alone agreed that it stood at a trifle below zero, while the undersigned won't pretend to remember what he did say about it. At Mrs Hodges we met Miss Fitch; at Mrs. Wisner's, Miss Dwight; at Mrs. Morris', Miss Cook; at Mrs. Bowman's, Miss Fulton; and at Mrs. Thurber's, Mrs. Sarah T. who is home from the Monroe school for the holidays, and if the beauty, variety, richness, elegance, fullness, and completeness of the table arrangements gave stuffed men pain, I am sure the sensations produced by meeting the above ladies were of quite another character – witness the quiet and serene character of the ride to Mr. Lord's on Orchard Lake street, and the pleasant call which a pleasant company made to that pleasant home of a pleasant family, on one of the pleasantest roads in the world. What one in the ten establishments, in solid phalanx driven to Judge Green's and Judge Copeland's on the very shores of Orchard Lake, regretted the ride, the call, the good time generally?

"If there are fine castles on the Rhine, and grand old Baronial Halls in England, we have an equal in the splendid Chateau of Judge Copeland on the eastern bank of Orchard Lake, the prettiest body of water of its size on the continent. This really magnificent and imposing building was opened on Christmas, but we christened it on New Years, and the "blackberry" and "currant" flourished as luxuriously beneath the imposing towers and turrets of Copeland Chateau on the cold afternoon of Monday, as on a July morning, at least, a disinterested eyewitness of our festivities at the christening, would have said so.

"But New Years Day has a close as well as other days, and New Years calls as well as other calls, and as we neared the town again, twilight met us at the gate, and fate decreed that we should make but one more call, and that to the Gazette Office. Nim led the way and "set on". First came a lot of old wedding cake, with "compliments of the Bride" stamped on in mould, following which was a cracked bottle of currant juice, which had been "doned" by some disappointed exhibitor of such liquid at the County Fair. A half pound of crackers and cheese was purchased on tick, and a quart and a half of popcorn which cost the sum total of three Gazettes, was found securely hid away from office bores, and was made to bear some humble part in the feast. Here I repeat was the last call of the day. Here the undersigned boiled over, hence is not prepared how reason feasted or how soul "fine" suffice it to say, however, for a fluis, the undersigned as well as many others, is doubtless, destined to experience less happy New Years days, than the one which ushered in the sixth decade of the present century, if he, or they, live long enough."

— **Skinnerhorn**

HOLIDAY CHEER AT THE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



Fun for Generations of Family Members

Board Member Iris Dominguez DeLaO, left, volunteered as a docent in Governor Wisner's house, then welcomed multiple generations of her DeLaO family who paid a visit to this year's Christmas Open House.



Pine Beauty at Pine Grove

For the second year in a row, Lydia Barnes Potter Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution have helped us deck the halls outside the Schoolhouse. Pictured is one of the stunning multiple arrangements on the Schoolhouse porch (that they've rebuilt), joining a giant lovely wreath.



Santa Claus Came to Town

We thank Member Maureen Young for inviting Santa this year, seen above with our Board Member Skip Upcott and his granddaughters.



Gingerbread House Decorating

Board Member Dyann Hayes volunteered in the Schoolhouse that weekend, and is seen here cheering on a young attendee as she shows off her gingerbread house creation.

Paying Tribute to Those
Our Historical Society
Said Goodbye to in 2021

IN MEMORIAM



LEWIS HAYNER
Longtime Educator

LORETTA COLEMAN - Departed at 72, Loretta was a bright, bright light. She was an active part of her Pontiac Central Class of 1968 reunions, and helped raise the funds that restored the Chief Pontiac statue that had previously stood in Pontiac Central High School.

PATRICIA LEAL
Past Member



ANDREA SCHROEDER
State Representative
Past Independence Twp. Trustee



**REV. ALFRED
E. JOHNSON**
Newman AME Church

PATRICK TOOMAN

Founder, Plastic Engineering
& Technical Services

Pat's generosity made up the largest contribution to the replacement of the badly damaged roof of the Governor Wisner House.



JUDY HUDALLA - Gone too soon, Judy served on the Society's Board of Directors for years and is included in the roster of Directors Emeritus. She steadfastly volunteered in the Society's Gift Shop for many years. Her loving daughter, Barb, continued her mother's dedicated volunteerism here.

**CARL
LEVIN**



United States Senator

GAYLOR FORMAN

Aged 97. Gaylor served for decades on our Historical Society's Board of Directors and he has been a friend of the Society's members for generations. Even as he wasn't able to physically attend as often, Gaylor continued his generous support. He will be missed, though his memory and legacy will live on through our historic site. The Forman family had a long history in Bloomfield Township and in area fruit orchards.

PATTY ANDREWS - At age 99, Patricia (Patty) Van Wagoner Andrews was a longtime member and the driving force behind our recent Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner Day celebration. A long-time educator, she operated a local history museum out of her house.

KENNETH ROGERS
Past Deputy Executive for
Oakland County
Creator of
Automation Alley





RAYMOND LUCAS

Ray's contribution to our Historical Society -- everything from our understanding of one room schools, his arranging the gift of our gazebo from Gloria Dei, and the many research requests he completed on behalf of our patrons have left a big mark on our society and our library. He kicked off the Wisner Plaque project by creating a database of soldiers that forms the core of our research on those men, and did it in two days.

He has left us a legacy — a number of databases (made in Microsoft Access of all things — if nothing else, Ray loved his Microsoft Access), of all this work. He had an innate grasp of the usefulness of digital assets and was a master at seeing what paper-only items would be most useful to future researchers in digital form. And then he'd grind that out, sometimes over months, and even when he lost his computer and had to rebuild, he just shrugged, turned to it and ground it out again. Turning those databases into useful assets adds a trove of information to our digital collection in a really useful way and will hopefully be a focus for some of our interns or research volunteers in the future.

I helped him with the grunt work of cleaning off that building foundation, and it was a lot of fun watching him find little pieces of glass or a brick and closely examining it, before pitching it into a bin to be looked at later. He had no regard for archaeological context, but his excitement when he would find a row of bricks or some really cool little glass bottle was infectious and he'd happily tell you about what they meant to him.

I've been to his apartment a couple of times to fix computer issues, and the place was Ray's all right - papers piled up on just about every surface (but Ray knew exactly where things were if you asked), a complete disorganized mess and a huge library of books of every description. He loved his detective novels and his TV shows and could describe plots and strange little details about them in great, painful detail.

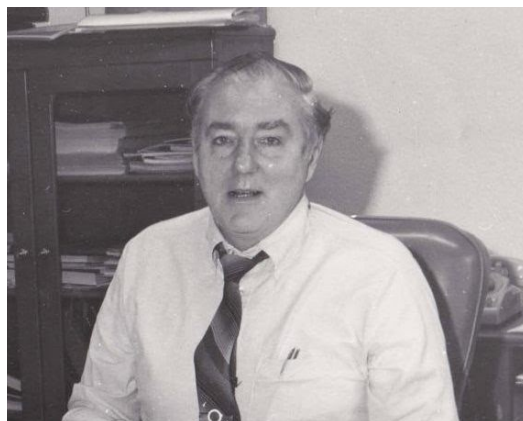
His 15 years of work at Troy Historical Village - building out early land records and plat maps for the township, researching its schools, and helping build out their research library - were great years for him and he often spoke of the work he did there. He was very proud of those efforts.

But more than anything, Ray was a teacher. Watching him give tours to kids visiting the Pioneer Museum during our events was always fun to watch. His face would light up as he helped kids find the artifacts and he'd share their excitement as they found a hayfork or noticed the carpenters level for the first time. Or when a visitor would come into Pine Grove and ask a question, and Ray would go into "teacher mode", answering their questions with questions meant to make them think. He'd get them to take their question to a logical answer, on their own, often handing them a book or a binder and telling them that the answer was in there, and they should take a look for themselves.

— Written by Dave Decker.



R. FRANK RUSSELL



JAMES HILDEBRAND

FRAN WILSON - Our Research Library is where it is today due to her steadfast service. Fran was librarian here for years and loved being here. She was loved and we'll miss her dearly.



FRED PRIEBE

2021

PONTIAC WARRIOR



This December 1960 edition of the Pontiac Warrior recently came through our doors. This was a monthly publication by Pontiac Motor Division of General Motors Corporation in Pontiac, Michigan for employees. The inside caption for this front cover reads: "Some Pontiac customer across the United States is undoubtedly in for a surprise when he finds his new 1961 Catalina Vista decked out with traditional Yuletide trimmings."

Our dedicated Historical Society Member **Graham Cassano**, a Sociology Professor at Oakland University, has an impressive new publication that he wrote with Terressa A. Benz. The title is "Urban Emergency (Mis) Management and the Crisis of Neoliberalism: Flint, Michigan in Context." In one particular section that explored a Pontiac case study, Professor Cassano writes: "The authors would like to thank Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society volunteers, **Barbara Frye**, **Dave Decker**, and **Geoff Brieger**, and OCHPS Executive Director **Mike McGuinness** for their generous assistance with research." It was our pleasure, and thank you for the shout-out in your impressive book!

In the November 2021 municipal elections in Pontiac, our longtime member and Executive Director **Mike McGuinness** was elected to the Pontiac City Council; he was also elected Council President by his colleagues. Member **Tim Greimel** was elected Mayor, and fellow Members **William Carrington**, **Mikal Goodman**, **Brett Nicholson**, and **Melanie Rutherford** were also elected to the City Council. Board Member **Rosie Richardson** was re-elected to the Pontiac Library Board, as was Member **Mattie McKinney Hatchett**, and Rosie was chosen by her colleagues to be Library Board Chairperson. Congratulations all!

On Make a Difference Day in October, ten **Oakland University** students came out to our Oakland History Center grounds and volunteered for the day. They assisted us with raking leaves and picking up tree branches. We are grateful for their volunteer spirit!

To honor the memory of **Ray Lucas** (see our In Memoriam feature on the previous page to learn more about him), multiple Members are raising funds to install a memorial stone near his long-running dig site project. As the weather warms in 2022, look for the stone to be installed where we would faithfully find him at the dig site for years.

There is currently state legislation under consideration that would create an Authority in Oakland County (and one in Wayne County) that would be able to present millage proposals for historical institutions to that respective county's taxpayers. The current concept under consideration would fund the **Detroit Historical Society** and the **Charles H. Wright Museum for African American History**, which are facing considerable financial challenges. Our Historical Society has begun reaching out to them in order to learn more. This is critical time with staff shortages, lack of corporate funding, and more potential cutbacks or closures. There may be the possibility that Oakland County historic sites and historical societies may be able to access greater resources depending on how the process unfolds. We'll be actively engaged.

News Briefs

Latest Local History Happenings

The Lydia Barnes Potter Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has done superb work with the Veterans Memorial 'Never Forget' Garden to the side of our 1865 Schoolhouse. On October 10, a lovely dedication ceremony was held. It was even covered in The Oakland Press. We salute their Chapter and Regent Barbara Hofmann, who is also one of our members, for continuing to go above and beyond to enhance the gardens around the Schoolhouse. Among other attendees at the ceremony, reenactor **Gordon Duda**, pictured below, was on hand in full regalia and spoke to the significance of certain military customs.

The former Elmer R. Webster Elementary School on West Huron Street in Pontiac has recently been added to the **National Register of Historic Places**. Prior to the State Historic Preservation Office making the affirmative decision, our Historical Society Board of Directors passed a Resolution adding our support to the designation. During the **Micah 6 Community's** research process as they worked toward applying for the designation, they utilized our Research Library and archive materials to bolster their case for the school's significance.



Board of Directors

Charlotte Cooper, President

Sara Cote, First VP

Dave Decker, Second VP

Barbara Frye, Secretary

Joy Dockham, Treasurer

Iris Dominguez DeLaO

Nancy Calendine

Kathy Davis

Bill Grandstaff

Gloria Harris-Ford

J. Dyann Hayes

Gwen Markham

Evan Monaghan

Connor Newton

Linda Porter

Adrian Rawls

Rosie Richardson

Rita Ski

Ann Stevens

Ernest Upcott

Rodger Zeller

Staff

Mike McGuinness,
Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



'Change' is the word included in most of the articles that I write as President of the Board of Directors. Change is constant and reliable. We can always depend on life, events, and especially the weather to change.

'Consistency' is the word I adopted for 2021. It is the 'conformity in the application of something, typically that what is necessary for the sake of logic, accuracy, or fairness.' I find that

I am consistent in not working out and not practicing my harp. However, I am consistent in being on my computer several hours daily for various non-profit organizations.

More good words are Respect, Support, Gratitude, and Recognition. When we can Consistently Respect others, Support their ideas, be Grateful for their efforts, and Recognize their contributions, we can create positive Changes.

I send a sincere Thank You to all the OCPHS members who give time and effort to make this organization the best history center in Oakland County!

Charlotte Cooper, President,
Historical Society Board of Directors

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS:

Mary Barteau, Auburn Hills.

Rene Bryce, Lake Orion.

Elaine Carey, Birmingham.

Nina Dodge Abrams, Huntington Woods.

Sigrid Grace, Rochester Hills.

Chris Hennessy, Clarkston.

Bonnie Lowe, Saugatuck.

Carmelo Moyet, Pontiac.

Dennis Nelson, Kansas.

Asher Todorovsky, Waterford.

Helena Wade, Clinton Township.

Kris Bauer, Bloomfield Hills.

Rodney Bryce, Lake Orion.

Mona DeQuis, Waterford.

Tom Donnelly, Pontiac.

Susan Hawkins, Southfield.

Emilie Hurley, Maryland.

Nancy Martens, Royal Oak.

Debra Mullins, Oxford.

Bethany Peterson, Pontiac.

Glen Tuomaala, Ohio.

Gale Walney, Waterford.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS BRING SMILES

Hauntiac Car Show, Walking Ghost Tours, Harvest Festival Well Attended



Catch our Oakland History Center's Upcoming Events!

Overlooked Black History in Oakland County Presentation

Monday, February 28th at 7 pm, by Carol Egbo via Zoom

Open House Tours & Flea Market Sales

Every Saturday in April and May, starting at 10 am

Historical Society 148th Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 21st starting at 11 am

Governor Moses Wisner Birthday Reception

Friday, June 3rd at 6 pm

Save the Date: Summer Ice Cream Social (July 30-31)

Save the Date: Oak Hill Cemetery Walk (September 18)



**OAKLAND
HISTORY
CENTER**

At Pine Grove

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society

Saving & Celebrating Our Local History Since 1874

Located at our Oakland History Center
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac, Mich. 48342

Connect With Us

www.OaklandHistoryCenter.org

You can stay in touch with us in between editions of the *Oakland Gazette*! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram if you're on those social media platforms, where we post daily content. Sign up for our weekly email updates and you'll receive exclusive historical content + upcoming event invites. Call us at: (248) 338-6732.

Second Place Win in Festival of Trees!



For this year's Holiday Extravaganza in Downtown Pontiac, there was a new feature added: The Festival of Trees. Area nonprofits, including our Historical Society, decorated trees that were displayed in storefronts along Saginaw Street in downtown and community members submitted votes for their favorite trees. Our tree, located at the historic Liberty Bar, came in second place, earning us a \$250 donation. Thank you to Members Barb Frye, Tracy Crowe, Linda Watson, and Rosie Richardson for handling the tree decoration. Thank you to Liberty Bar owner Brett Nicholson (pictured, right) for partnering with us, and thank you to everyone who shared your votes in support, especially Member Pam Schmaltz for spreading the word!