



THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue Pontiac, MI 48342

phone: (248) 338-6732

email: office@ocphs.org

website: www.oaklandhistorycenter.org

149th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY MEMBERS

By Barbara Frye



The 149th Annual Meeting of the members of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society was held Saturday, May 20, 2023 in the historic Wisner Elementary School.

Lee Industries graciously offered the Society the use of their conference room on the third floor, to accommodate the 70+ members and guests and we are sincerely appreciative of the support they offer OCPHS. This year in addition to electing Board Members several awards were distributed, pictured here are:

Presentation of *Mighty Oak Local History Award* to Esmo Woods (*posthumously*), Wendell Woods accepting; also to Larry Keehn, and to Professor DeWitt S. Dykes, Jr.

Presentation of *Volunteer of the Year Recognition* to Tracy Crowe. The *Presidential Award* was given to Charlotte Cooper in recognition of her years of service to the Society.

The *Elizabeth Sparks Adams Lifetime Achievement Award* recipient for 2023 is Gretchen Adler, who was out of town. This award recognizes her time as Past President of the Society and her many years of leadership and excellently researched projects.

The Society was founded in 1874 and we are looking forward to our 150th year with great anticipation!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Sara Cote, Highland

1st Vice President:

Dave Decker, Clarkston

2nd Vice President:

Connor Newton, Waterford

Secretary: Barbara Frye, Pontiac

Treasurer: Joy Dockham, Clarkston

Board Members:

Nancy Calendine, Pontiac

Charlotte Cooper, Clarkston

Kathy Davis, Pontiac

Bill Grandstaff, Romeo

Dyann Hayes, Auburn Hills

Gwen Markham, Novi

Evan Monaghan, Pontiac

Linda Porter, Pontiac

Adrian Rawls, Pontiac

Rosie Richardson, Pontiac

Rita Ski, Birmingham

Rodger Zeller, Waterford

Executive Director: Mike McGuinness

The Annual Meeting of the Members is when the Members elect Candidates to the OCPHS Board of Directors. Officers are elected at the July Board Meeting

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Vincent Cervantez, Waterford

Stewart Collins, Waterford

Laura Hartman, Waterford

Naomi Koepsell-Jurgens

Valerie Goemaere, Pontiac

April Ogg, Waterford

Moriah Rutherford, Pontiac

Joseph Sims, Waterford

Stephen Sutton, Rochester

Jon Szykowski, Dearborn

Rachel Tanner, Rochester

Society Membership dues run from January to December of each year.
Please consider OCPHS for your end of year tax deductible donations. Thank you.

\$\$\$ YOUR DONATIONS MATTER! \$\$\$

Don't you just hate it when you tune into a good program on PBS and it is interrupted by some guy asking for your *financial support*? Guess what ~ I am gonna be that guy!

OCPHS is a 501 (c) 3, non profit organization, we rely heavily on the donations from our members and friends for the daily operation of the Oakland History Center. Membership dues -- tax deductible by the way -- only cover a small percentage of operating costs. Yes, we have an Endowment Fund, but guess what? **We cannot touch that money!** We can use the interest it may generate, but we cannot touch the principal of any funds designated to go to the Endowment Fund. That is Michigan law folks.

What that means is ~ your donations and support matter!

Please consider making a donation today. We thank you, and we could not do any of it without you!

MAKING HISTORY AT THE HISTORY CENTER



You're Invited to a Garden Party

in Honor of Governor Moses
Wisner's 208th Birthday

Saturday, June 3rd, 2023
5:00 to 7:00 pm

in the Governor's Gardens
405 Cesar E. Chavez, Pontiac

Free for All Historical Society Members
Join Online, In-Person, or via Mail.
Your Support Helps our Nonprofit Survive

OAKLAND COUNTY'S
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



History is fluid, it flows and is ever moving forward. At the History Center we may look back, but we are ever moving forward with events to enrich, entrance, and entertain our members, guests, and visitors. The above are just two of the events held on our grounds. Many more are scheduled. #OCPHS where History Happens!

SPRING CLEANING TREASURES

Did you find something in the garage or attic this Spring that might be of interest to a History Geek? Perhaps you found a old map, a City Directory, or an old school yearbook. Items like those can find a new home in our Library!

Donations to a 501 (c) 3 are tax deductible.

Consider a donation, ask for a tax receipt. Thanks for your support!

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Please join us August 11th for Movie Night at the Museum. We will have a family friendly movie available on the lawn with a huge outdoor screen. There will be popcorn, cotton candy, and ice cream. The snacks will be available starting at 7:00PM, and the movie will begin as soon as it is dark around 8:30PM. There will be popcorn, cotton candy, and ice cream. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket and dress according to the weather. This is a free event for the Pontiac Community. It is sponsored by Pontiac Community Foundation and Oakland County Parks and Rec.

CELEBRATE YOUR PIONEER MICHIGAN ANCESTORS



The Michigan Pre-Statehood and First Families certificates are offered by Michigan Genealogical Council as a way to honor our ancestors who settled the Great Lakes State. Recipients will receive either the Pre-Statehood or the First Families certificate, depending on the arrival date of their earliest Michigan (or Michigan territory) ancestor.

Pre-Statehood
before Jan. 26, 1837
First Families

Jan. 26, 1837 to Dec. 31, 1880

Personalized certificates and a pin bearing the emblem of the certificate will be presented to recipients, and their ancestor's name will be added to a database of early Michigan pioneers.

This is a great opportunity to preserve the history of your Michigan ancestors, with a goal of having well documented lineages of our Michigan pioneers. The Oakland History Center library would be a great place to begin your research.

OCPHS Member Barb Hofmann is one of the reviewers for this program. She would be delighted to help you find the records you need to fill out an application.

The Pioneer Certificate application and a promotional brochure are available to download on the Michigan Genealogical Council website:

<https://mimgc.org/pioneer-certificates/>

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Greetings from the President!

Time flies when you are having fun! We have had quite a busy first half of the year already with Governor Wisner's Birthday Garden Party, our Dishes Past Dinner in the School House, the Accent Pontiac Concert, two weddings held on our grounds, lots of Genealogy research in the Library, Mansion Tours, Flea Market Sales, and our well attended Annual Meeting at the historic Wisner Elementary School.



Next year will mark the 150th anniversary of the Society and we plan to go all out for you! Thank you to all who have attended these events with EXTRA SPECIAL thanks to everyone behind the scenes that make these events possible! The next big event I am excited about is our 54th Annual Summer Ice Cream Social. We always have something new for you to see! Please join us from noon to 4pm on July 29th and 30th for this fun and FREE event. Hope to see you there!

In closing, I would like to take a moment to honor our member Shirley Anne Hunt. She was very active in the Society for as long as I have been a member and we became fast friends. I have many fond memories of spending time together in the Mansion as docents, serving cocoa and cookies in the Carriage House, walking in the always chilly Christmas parades, setting up and planning for events like our Live Auctions or "Small Talk" Historical Lectures, and of course lots of clean-ups and gardening together on the grounds. She was always there with a smile to lend a helping hand. You could often find us sipping coffee in the carriage house talking about our two favorite things, animals and gardening. She was a beautiful human with such a kind and caring heart. I will miss her dearly. May she rest in peace.

Sincerely, Sara Cote



A BRUSH WITH DEATH

On Sunday, September 17, 2023, the *Friends of Oak Hill Cemetery* and *Oakland History Center* present the Annual Oak Hill Cemetery Walk
"A Brush With Death"

This year we will be telling the stories of artists and musicians from Pontiac's past.

George Hoyt, a blind music composer and teacher
Charles Wisner, an artist, inventor, and Judge
George Hodges, an artist and inventor who was associated with the Scarab Club in Detroit

These and other stories will be featured on your hour long tour of this historic cemetery. Reservation details will be posted on facebook and the History Center website. Proceeds fund restoration efforts at the Cemetery.

Good walking shoes are a must.

OAKLAND COUNTY & PONTIAC CELEBRATE FREEDOM DAY!

Juneteenth is an annual holiday observing the end of slavery in the U.S. It marks the day (June 19, 1865) when news of emancipation reached people in the deepest parts of the former Confederacy in Galveston, Texas.



Portia Fields-Anderson



Geoff Brieger



Dave Coulter

Mike McGuinness



June 14, 2023 ~ Oakland County Court House
June 17, 2023 ~ Bagley Street & Downtown Pontiac



Baba O
Story teller



HONORING
JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY
CITY OF PONTIAC, MICHIGAN



INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS INVITED

Summer Social Planning Meetings

Do you love our annual Summer Ice Cream Social? Would you like to help us make it the most dynamic event that it possibly can be? Well, we would love to have you join in the planning fun. Fridays leading up to the event, starting at 3:00 pm, we'll meet at the Carriage House on our Oakland History Center campus. Refreshments will be provided to volunteers. Mark your calendars for July 7, and closer to the event, including July 21st. This year's Summer Social will be held July 29th and 30th, 2023, from noon to 4:00 pm each day.

Contact the office and/or Executive Director Mike McGuinness for more information.



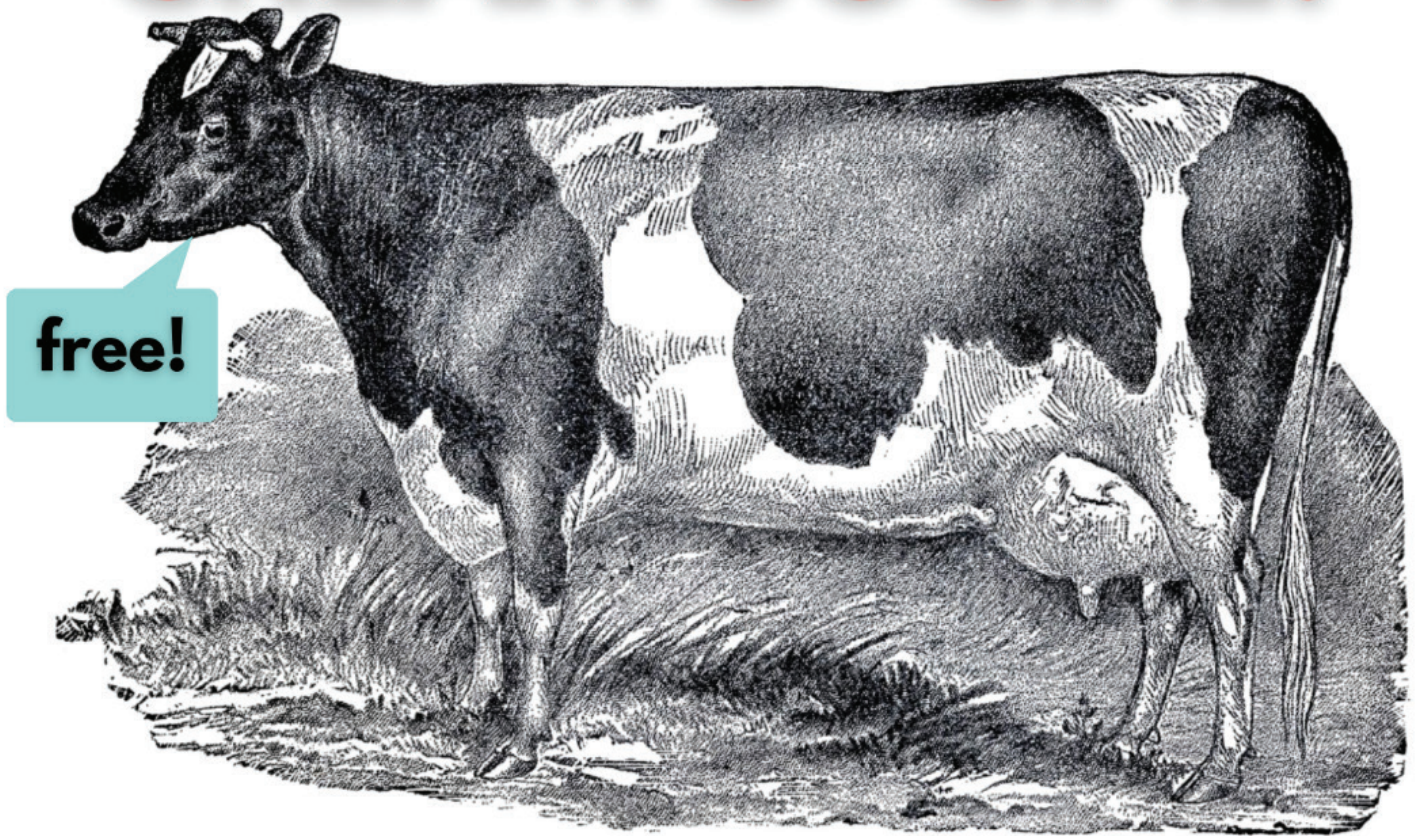
GENEALOGIST ON BOARD

Starting May 9, 2023, OCPHS Member Barb Hofmann, an experienced genealogist, will be available on Campus to assist visitors to the Oakland History Center discover the history of their families. Barb is well versed in researching family histories for DAR, Colonial Dames, and Mayflower families, all lineage societies that require direct line research and proofs.

Barb will be available, by appointment, during regular business hours, in our Research Library to assist you to find what we can in house, and on line. Please call the office to set up an appointment. 248 335-6732

Oakland County's Historical
Society Presents our 54th Annual

SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL!



JULY 29th & 30th
Noon to 4 pm each day

family-friendly celebration held at our
OAKLAND HISTORY CENTER
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac
OaklandHistoryCenter.org (248) 338-6732

Free Ice Cream
Food Trucks
Live Music
Reenactors
Mansion Tours
Historic Demos
Flea Market
Vendor Booths
Kids' Crafts

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Fellow advocates of local history — life is short. How we spend our limited time and who we spend it with is so valuable.

For your past, present, or future time that you spend with us saving local history I say thank you. We need it. And we enjoy advancing our mission with you.

We pause to remember longtime member Shirley Hunt of Keego Harbor, who grew up in Pontiac and often went by her middle name of Annie. During her previous time on this earth, she made a lot of special memories with us.

Annie's been a treasured part of our Historical Society for years. Her reenactment gowns, including historic mourning garb, were stunning; she'd always stand out in her brilliant attire as she traversed our grounds during a Summer Ice Cream Social or other local history gathering.

It was hard to say goodbye to her recently, but we cherish the time she spent with us helping to celebrate and save local history. On behalf of our Historical Society, we extend our condolences to her beloved husband Tom and their entire family.

Warmly,
Mike McGuinness



Remembering Shirley Anne Hunt
1948 ~ 2023
She will be sorely missed.



RESEARCH ASSISTANCE NEEDED

By: Dave Decker

We were asked by Father Timothy Vavarek of West, Texas (near Waco) to see if we could locate the baptismal record for Martin Maumee, the adopted son of Joseph Maumee. We aren't having a lot of success with that, but boy are we learning a lot about the early Catholic missions and parishes in early Oakland County. We've learned that there was an early mission called "St Thomas" which preceded St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Pontiac, that there were thought to be some 15,000 Catholics in southeastern Michigan in the 1840s (!) and that the first Mass conducted in northern Oakland County was probably held in a little log chapel on the farm of the Nusbacher family. That chapel between the interchange and in the vicinity of the Meijer store now stands near the current I-75 and Joslyn Road area, where the Maumee and Nusbacher families - cousins to each other - had their farms.

If anyone out there has information about early Catholic presence - specifically Swiss and German families - we'd love to be in touch.

We know of several of the parishes around the county and a lot about the Irish Catholic population, but not a lot about catholic congregations of other ethnic groups, especially Swiss and German Catholic emigrations. So if you have an old bible, or just interesting stories passed down, we'd love to hear them, especially about the circuit-riding priests and their connections around the area.

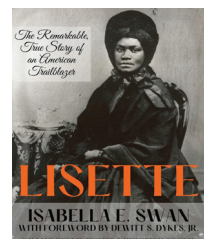
If you have any information please send an email to:
office@ocphs.org attn: D Decker

PHOTO CAPTIONS - left to right:

Annie in front of the 1857 Oakland County map in our Carriage House, when she gave a local history presentation.
Annie in one of her stunning gowns, with her daughter, Kimberly.
Annie at one of our 2020 outdoor summer concerts during the pandemic.



Copies of the reprint of *Lisette* are available at the The History Center office or at our website:
<https://www.ocphs.org/product/lisette/>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

One of the best ways you can support OCPHS is through volunteering, and boy could we use your help! With summer here, there's a lot to do!

It isn't all work: Come socialize, have a cup of coffee and relax for a day. Take on some research of your own, maybe just help move stuff around. There's no wrong way to volunteer!

Here are a few areas where we could use some help:

Administrative Help

Help keep our records and bookkeeping in order and make a positive difference in the day-to-day operations of OCPHS.

Collections

Processing new donations, classifying, inventorying and cleaning. Help us keep our collections in order.

Community Service

Do you need community service hours through school or the courts? Come get some hours and enjoy our company. We gladly sign your paperwork!

Data Entry

We use the cloud edition of PastPerfect to manage our collections and membership. If you've got the chops, we've got a keyboard and mouse ready.

Docents and Guides

Supplement our awesome docent and guide crew. Conduct tours of the house and grounds, answer questions, and teach history all at the same time.

Event Planning Committees

Our events all need planning and coordination. Come help us put wonderful events together!

Grounds and Buildings

We have lots of opportunities to garden, keep the grounds clean and in order, and help maintain our buildings. A great way to spend a morning or afternoon.

House Committee

Help create displays and work with our house team to clean, maintain and present our awesome house.

Research Library

Answering patron's questions, greeting visitors, and shelving materials. Or index scrapbooks and clipping books, or work on your own projects.

Schoolhouse Committee

Keep our schoolhouse tour-ready and work with our schoolhouse committee, planning and creating exhibits, and work with local schools and groups.

Interested?

Contact our office to learn more.

office@ocphs.org

248 338-6732

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society was

established in 1874 by the descendants of those early settlers who made the trek to Michigan Territory and settled in what we now know to be Oakland County. We are coming up to our 150th birthday in 2024. We want you to come celebrate with us the incredible history of our Society and all of Oakland County!

OCPHS is a non-profit, member-based, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Oakland County. We are not affiliated with any governmental unit. Our work is supported by modest annual membership dues, program fees, corporate and grant support, and tax-deductible donations. Membership is open to everyone. Annual memberships run until December 31.

You can join on line at our website:

<http://www.ocphs.org/membership-and-benefits/>

Student	\$15.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$35.00
Non Profit	\$20.00
Patron	\$100.00
Benefactor	\$200.00
Friend of OCPHS	\$500.00
Corporate Sponsor	\$500.00

We offer a
membership level
that suits your
budget!
Contact our Office
or visit our website.

Membership fees include a digital copy of our Quarterly Publication *The Oakland Gazette*.

2023 COMING EVENTS

Governor Wisner's Home Available for Tours

Tours Available by Appointment, Contact the Office

ANNUAL SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday & Sunday ~ July 29 & 30, 2023

12:00 to 4:00 pm both days

Movie Night at the Museum

Friday, August 11, 2023 ~ 7:00 pm

sponsored by:

*Pontiac Community Foundation &
Oakland County Parks and Recreation*

Outdoor Flea Markets

Saturdays, weather permitting

Oak Hill Cemetery Walk

"A Brush With Death"

Sunday, September 17, 2023

216 University Drive, Pontiac

pre registration encouraged

*All events held at OCPHS Campus unless otherwise noted
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan*

**THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Save the Date!

Saturday & Sunday ~ July 29 & 30, 2023

ANNUAL SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL

12:00 to 4:00 pm

**Follow us on social media and watch your email for
further information on our events!**

Find us at: facebook.com/OaklandHistoryCenter



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



We regularly send out email updates between Gazette editions, including local history stories and details about upcoming events.

If you don't receive these and would like to be added to our email list, contact us today to let us know!

email: office@ocphs.org

phone: 248 338-6732

~ or message us on facebook ~



IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 OCPHS 149th Annual Meeting of the Members
- Page 2 Officers and Board of Directors
 - Welcome New Members
 - \$\$\$ Donations Matter \$\$\$
- Page 3 President's Comments
 - Movie Night at the Museum
 - First Family & Pre-Statehood Certificates
- Page 4 Celebrating Freedom Day
 - Genealogist on board
 - Summer Social planning meetings
- Page 5 Summer Social Flyer
- Page 6 From the Executive Director
 - Research Assistance Needed
- Page 7 Volunteer Opportunities
 - Membership Has its Rewards
 - Events Schedule
- Page 8 Contents

ABOUT THE OAKLAND GAZETTE

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

Volume 56 Number 2, June 2023

Editor: Barbara Frye

Gazette Crew: C. Cooper, P. Schmaltz, D. Decker, M. McGuinness

Gazette email: gazette@pinegrovewisner.org