

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fred Liimatta



Robert Burns plowed a field and accidentally destroyed a mouse's nest. When he realized his actions had ruined the winter shelter of such a small creature, he penned the lines of *Poem to a Mouse*: "The best laid plans of mice and men, oft they go aw-rye." In

military endeavors, sometimes things do not go as expected, unfortunately resulting in catastrophe. Soldiers use the oxymoron "friendly fire," defined as a call for a gunship to lay down a field of fire to eliminate hostile positions, yet the rockets somehow end up killing the wrong side. There isn't much hope when you're on the wrong end of a miscalculation. I can still hear the radio operator calling off the assault: "CEASE FIRE! CEASE FIRE! YOU HIT FRIENDLIES!"

I recently had a delightful conversation with a troubleshooter for a large company. He often makes emergency visits to assess what went wrong. I asked him what is the most common reason for disaster. His quick answer was something very hard to fix: "Communication, communication, communication." Anyone married longer than 24 hours knows the value of good communication and the pain of poor communication!

It can be a bittersweet experience working with our many passionate volunteers. Focused on their particular field of interest, they sometimes trample others in pursuit of the same goal but with a different, just as valid method. Only after the damage has been done, and at times not even then, do they see the error of their ways. A fellow volunteer has been hurt. Soon an empty chair remains where once sat a smiling friend. I am thankful for our crew of seasoned workers. Most

have made similar mistakes, but ultimately the OCPHS family remains at the forefront in their hearts. I think it wise to consider all the hard work that has been done to make the Wisner Home a success, then work together today for its future.-
Freddie

P.S. Great pain makes for good poetry!

ANNUAL OLD-FASHIONED SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

**OLD FASHIONED
ICE CREAM
SOCIAL**

Saturday
July 30, 2016
11 AM to 5 PM

Pine Grove Historical Museum
405 Cesar Chavez Avenue, Pontiac Michigan

★ Fun for the Whole Family! ★
★ Music ★ Exhibits ★ Demonstrations ★
★ Tours of the Governor's Mansion ★
★ Activities for the young and old ★
★ Gift Shop ★ Curiosity Sale ★ Quilt Raffle ★
\$5 per Person / \$10 per Family of five
Admission includes FREE Ice Cream & Cake!
★★ FREE secure parking on site ★★

**Blue Star
Museum**

**GENISYS
CREDIT UNION**

All proceeds benefit
The Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
The Pine Grove Historical Museum
* a Michigan 501(c)3 non-profit organization *
(248) 338-6732 ~ www.ocphs.org ~ office@ocphs.org

Headquarters of the
Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

We are currently seeking volunteers and sponsors; watch your mailbox for information on how you can help make this event our best yet!

TREASURER'S NEWS

Amy Annett

MONITOR MARKET!

Thanks to Cranbrook Bloomfield Insurance Agency, OCPHS has ten used flat screen computer monitors available for sale to our members and friends. The selection includes Dell, Acer, Asus, Sharp and AOC, all priced at \$20-\$40! Some need A/C cord or monitor cables but all are in good working order and priced to sell fast! Available on a first-come, first-served basis so stop on by during business hours to choose the perfect monitor for your needs.

Many thanks to our insurance agents Mark Barrett and John Williamson for again choosing OCPHS as the recipient for their good-quality surplus office furniture and equipment!



These and more available now!

2015 YEARBOOK AVAILABLE

2015 was a great year for OCPHS and our 38-page, full-color Yearbook offers a fun way to relive some of the highlights! More than simply an annual report, this booklet commemorates the activities and accomplishments made possible through your volunteerism and support. To read a free copy, please email office@ocphs.org and we'll send you the link. If you'd like a more permanent souvenir, hard copies are available for a modest \$10 donation to cover the cost of printing and postage. Enjoy this look back at the history we made together last year!



WATCH YOUR MAILBOX...

Over the next few weeks, you will receive letters detailing three important ways you as a member can support OCPHS:

ANNUAL GIVING

Supports our annual operating budget: Payroll, insurance, utilities, lawn care, etc.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Also supports our day-to-day expenses, but indicates your love of Oakland County history and desire to see it preserved and taught. Renewing your membership ensures you'll be kept informed about all that's happening, and about ways you can participate.

SUMMER SOCIAL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Here's a chance for you to offer your support of our Annual Old-Fashioned Summer Ice Cream Social as a volunteer or sponsor, cake-baker, or attendee!

On behalf of OCPHS, thank you for all you do!
- Amy

CALLING ALL COOKS!



OCPHS' Dream Team continues to collect members' favorite recipes, "food hacks" (i.e. a creative way to cook a turkey) and decorating techniques for a book to be published in time for our 2016 Victorian Open House. Pictures to accompany your submission are encouraged!

You may email your recipe to Dream Team member Barbara Frye at frye_photo@att.net We look forward to sampling your famous dish or learning a new kitchen technique!

2016 "SMALL TALK" LECTURE SERIES
CONTINUES THIS FALL!

Save the dates for our fall lineup of lectures...always informative, always engaging!

Sunday, September 11 -
The Good Roads Movement 1890-1915
Presented by Jim Craft

Jim is an OCPHS member and serves on the Oakland County Historical Commission. He will explain the movement to improve the construction of road systems in both urban and rural communities, and the crusade to improve the condition of roads throughout the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Sunday, October 16 -
Victorian Burial/Cemetery & Impact of the Civil War

Presented by William Grandstaff

A man of many talents, Bill is an OCPHS board member, president of the Israel B. Richardson Civil War Roundtable, and portrays Loren Andrus at the Octagon House in Washington Township.

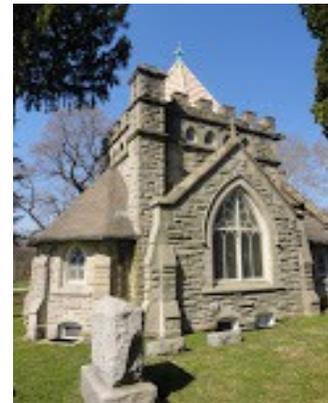
Come explore the beliefs and traditions associated with death in the Victorian period, along with the rituals and customs related to cemeteries during the Civil War.

Sunday, November 6 -
Lighthouses Along the Rivers of Steel:
Michigan Destination Depots
Presented by Ron Campbell and Jackie Hoist
Ron is the Preservation Architect for Oakland County. Jackie is a Historic Architect and partner with H2A Architects in Davison. This dynamic duo will take a look at the importance of train depots as centers of commerce, transportation and communication. They will focus on the early function of depots in the 1850s and architectural styles into the 20th century.

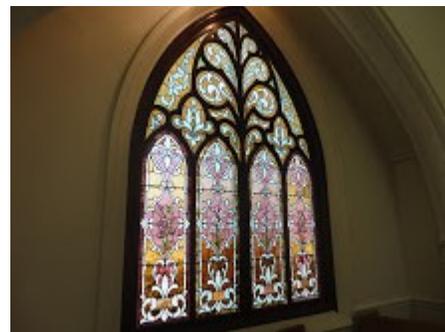
All presentations start at 2:00 pm in the Carriage House. \$5 admission includes light refreshments. For further info, please contact the office and ask for Kathy Davis.

A TRIP TO THE BUCKLAND CHAPEL
John Scholl (Growth & Development)

On April 14th, the Growth & Development Committee was invited to tour the recently restored Buckland Memorial Chapel at Oakhill Cemetery in Pontiac. Our host was Larry Keheen, a one-man volunteer at Oakhill. He is the force behind the brush and tree removal, along with the upkeep of several of the vaults. His biggest accomplishment is the restoration of the Buckland Chapel, including the remarkable stained glass throughout the building. A complete drainage system was installed around the chapel to prevent the walls from caving in. It is constructed of Brea sandstone with a roof of German molted tile. Larry is always looking for volunteers to help him continue his preservation work. If you are interested, you can reach Larry at 248-303-0186. Our sincere thanks to him for this experience! (*Photos courtesy John Scholl*)



The beautifully-restored Buckland Memorial Chapel



An example of the stained glass throughout the chapel



President Fred Liimatta lies down on the job

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

At our Annual Meeting on May 18th, OCPHS welcomed two new members to our board of directors. We are pleased to introduce them and their goals for the organization!

Barbara Frye

"I am a Photographer/Graphic Artist with a knack for doing research. I have experience as an Assistant Director and Stage Manager in community theater, as well as performing "improv" at the Renaissance Festival. I enjoy working with people. As a director I hope to guide OCPHS to continue to be a progressive force in the community with regards to preserving the history of Oakland County and the history of the many cities and historical figures that it contains."



Sara Cote

"After driving by for over a decade and always wondering what lied beyond that 'Pine Grove Historical Museum' sign, I came across the website in an internet search for local historical attractions. After my first visit, I fell instantly in love with this little-known place with the really long name. I became a member and soon after hosted a talk on edible landscaping in the Carriage House. I then began volunteering as a docent in the mansion and had fun dressing in period clothing and sharing the fascinating history of the governor and his family. While taking a break from a 10-year career in the stressful world of real estate, I received an email about a part-time office job at the museum. I decided to apply and was thrilled to learn I had been chosen for the position. As the former office manager, I feel I was instrumental in increasing community awareness and involvement in one of Oakland County's 'best kept secrets.' One accomplishment I am especially proud of was utilizing print and online media advertising to increase attendance at Small Talks to some standing-room only events. I also enjoyed working with our neighbors Ed Lee and Steve Cartier on the Short Street land acquisition



project. I am delighted to see the project has come to fruition and feel it has added greatly to the beauty and safety of Pine Grove. As a board member, I hope to continue spreading the word about this important part of local history and promoting and preserving its mission for generations to come."

IN REMEMBRANCE

On April 29th, OCPHS lost a friend and great asset to our community events four days after his 84th birthday. Melvin Hardiman has both sung and portrayed Frederick Douglass at past Summer Socials. Our deepest condolences to his family, and we appreciate their kind request that donations be made to OCPHS in his memory. We cherish our memories of Melvin's talent and service!



Melvin Hardiman (top left) and fellow reenactors at the 2010 Summer Ice Cream Social.



Melvin poses in the schoolhouse with the love of his life, Elaine Keinert.

Photos courtesy Karyn West

**“SKIP THE SALES AND PANCAKES THIS
MEMORIAL DAY AND HONOR THE SACRED
DEAD INSTEAD”**

Commentary on Memorial Day by OCPHS member
and Oakland County Circuit Court Judge
Michael Warren
(submitted by Anne Liimatta, board member)

*The following is taken from a May 26, 2016 post on
Rochester Media. No edits were made for content.

“I love pancakes, especially at the International
House of Pancakes. However, when I sat down
recently at my friendly neighborhood IHOP, I was
barraged at the table with the message that I should
'celebrate Memorial Day' by buying red, white and
blue pancakes. My stomach ached instead of
hungered. We should honor Memorial Day, not
cheapen it with pretty pancakes.

Of course, IHOP is hardly an outlier. Look around,
the crass commercialism of Memorial Day is
overwhelming. Overstock.com asserts, 'It wouldn't
be Memorial Day without a sale on your favorite
home goods and summertime apparel.'

Bonkers. On May 5, 1868, General John Logan,
national commander of the Grand Army of the
Republic, promulgated General Order No. 11, which
was the first official promulgation of Memorial Day.
General Order No. 11 provided that flowers be
placed on the graves of Union and Confederate
soldiers on May 30, 1868. Logan's Order declared,
'Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the
present or to the coming generations that we have
forgotten as a people the cost of a free and
undivided republic.'

Indeed.

In a Memorial Day speech in 1884, Oliver Wendell
Holmes answered, 'the indifferent inquirer who asks
why Memorial Day is still kept up' by explaining that
'it celebrates and solemnly reaffirms from year to
year a national act of enthusiasm and faith. It
embodies in the most impressive form our belief that
to act with enthusiasm and faith is the condition of
acting greatly...We can hardly share the emotions
that make this day to us the most sacred day of the
year, and embody them in ceremonial pomp, without
in some degree imparting them to those who come
after us.'

President Ronald Reagan remarked on a Memorial
Day at Arlington National Cemetery that the holiday
'is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes
and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for
us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others,
a day to remember the splendor of America and
those of her children who rest in this cemetery and
others.' Reflecting on the soldiers of Viet Nam War

who had given their last full measure of devotion, he
observed, 'They chose to be faithful. They chose to
reject the fashionable skepticism of their time. They
chose to believe and answer the call of duty...They
seized certainty from the heart of an ambivalent
age; they stood for something.' He also remarked,
'We owe them something, those boys...a promise to
look at the world with a steady gaze and, perhaps, a
resigned toughness, know that we have adversaries
in the world and challenges and the only way to
meet them and maintain the peace is by staying
strong.'

In his order, Logan reflected he hoped the Memorial
Day would become an annual tradition, and it has.
With World War I, that tradition expanded to include
all war dead; eventually it became a recognized
holiday celebrated each May 30.

Unfortunately, the ravages of time have yielded not
only neglect, but also forgetfulness. In 1971, the
fatal error occurred – the Uniform Monday Holiday
Act that fixed the celebration of Memorial Day to the
last Monday of May. Congress, botching up its own
creation, corrupted it with a three-day weekend.
The 'most sacred day of the year' was perverted into
an empty excuse for barbecues, sales, and mini-
vacations.

To hope that Memorial Day will ever entirely recover
its original meaning for most is a hopeless cause –
the commercialization and habits of generations
have undermined it too much. That is why my
daughter Leah and I created Patriot Week – with the
hope of establishing a new civic calendar to renew
the spirit of America.

Patriot Week celebrates the First Principles,
Founding Fathers and other Patriots, vital
documents and speeches, and flags that make
America the greatest nation in world history.

Like Memorial Day, most of our current civic
holidays have become overly commercialized and
lost their deeper meaning. We need to invigorate
our appreciation and understanding of America's
spirit. Anchored by the key dates of September 11
(the anniversary of the terrorist attacks) and
September 17 (Constitution Day, the anniversary of
the signing of the Constitution), Patriot Week does
just that. It is a grassroots effort that has taken off in
Michigan and elsewhere.

Without such a civic renewal, we are doomed to
forget what makes America unique, and lose
ourselves in the process – a fate too terrible to
contemplate. American needs your help. To learn
more, visit www.PatriotWeek.org

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

Carter, John (Audubon, NJ)
Green, Joanne (Pontiac)
Grow, Michael (Scotland, CT)
Hughes, Shawn (Pontiac)
Mutch, Kathleen (Novi)
Schwartz, Lyn (Waterford)

AROUND THE COUNTY

Can't get enough Oakland County history? Check out these upcoming events hosted by our partners in preservation...

Log Cabin Days

Saturday, June 25 / 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday, June 26 / 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Waterford Historical Society

More info: www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org

Town Hall Museum – Open for Tours

Tuesdays in July, first two Tuesdays in August

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Southfield Historical Society

More info:

www.southfieldhistoricalsociety.wordpress.org

Ongoing Exhibit – “Historic Maps”

Fridays & Saturdays 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

More info: www.rochesterhills.org/museum

We want to hear about YOUR upcoming event and help promote it! We use the activities happening at local historical organizations to fill our “Around The County” section and enjoy hearing about what our friends throughout Oakland County are planning.

Please email details to kari.robert.vaughan@gmail.com for inclusion in our next *Gazette* (timing appropriate) or to post on our bulletin board at Pine Grove!

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

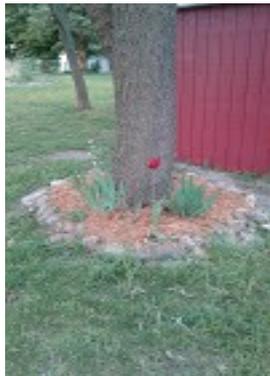
FROM THE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Bill Clink (Co-Chair)

Spring is past and warm weather has come upon us quickly. We at the Wisner Home have been working hard to keep up with the grounds and the ever-changing Michigan weather!

We had a successful April auction fundraiser with a large selection of interesting goodies. The crowd was light on account of cooler than average weather, but in spite of that we were able to send off many customers with great deals. A word of warning...our Summer Social is coming up and it's a great time to clear out closets and attics; send those wonderful items our way to be put up for adoption in the Curiosities Sale.

We are cleaning up the yard, prettying up the buildings and doing all the necessary things to make Pine Grove a beautiful place we can all be proud of. If you have the time and energy we would love to see you on Thursday evenings in June from 6-9 as we work on grounds improvements. Please contact me at 248-766-2725 or the office if you wish to join us. We are also researching the possibility of installing a new path to the front door of the mansion and air conditioning inside to cool our summer docents. *(Continued page 8...)*



Welcome sunny days at Pine Grove! Volunteers with green thumbs are working their magic! (Photos this page and page 8 courtesy Bill Clink and Anne Liimatta)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

Saturday, July 30 -

Annual Old-Fashioned Summer Ice Cream Social
11:00 am – 5:00 pm
Admission \$5 per person / \$10 family of five

Sunday, September 11 -

Small Talk - "The Good Roads Movement
1890-1915"
2:00 pm / Admission \$5

SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, October 1-
Fall Auction Fundraiser @ Lafayette Grande
Details TBA**

OCPHS Officers and Board of Directors

President

Fred Liimatta

1st Vice President

Rodger Zeller

2nd Vice President

Mike West

Secretary

Kathy Davis

Treasurer

Amy Annett

Directors

Bruce Annett, Jr

Charlotte Cooper

Sara Cote

Barbara Frye

Bill Grandstaff

Ann Johnson

Greg Kowalski

Anne Liimatta

Charlie Martinez

Linda Porter

Kari Vaughan

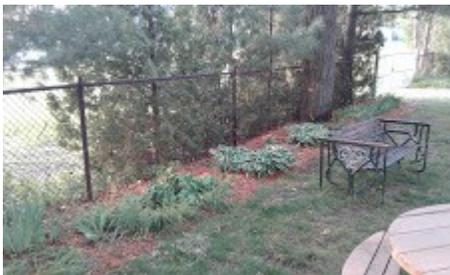
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

***From the Growth & Development Team
continued...***

We are still waiting for some of our snowbirds to return from their tropical locations. We can't wait to welcome you home; we miss you!

As always, we appreciate your generous donations of time, funds or delightful vintage goods to help our museum prosper and move forward. We can't do it without you. Thank you for your support!



Come enjoy our lovely campus this summer!

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 49 Number 2 June 2016

Editor: Kari Vaughan

Contributors: Amy Annett, Bill Clink, Anne Liimatta, Fred Liimatta, John Scholl, Kari Vaughan

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1: President's Corner; Old-Fashioned Summer Ice Cream Social Just Around the Corner
- Page 2: Treasurer's News; Calling All Cooks
- Page 3: Small Talks Fall Lineup; A Visit to the Buckland Chapel
- Page 4: Welcome New Board Members; In Remembrance
- Page 5: Commentary on Memorial Day (Judge Michael Warren)
- Page 6: New Members; Around the County; Membership & Donation Form
- Page 7: From the Growth & Development Team; Mark Your Calendar
- Page 8: From the Growth & Development Team cont.