



The Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) Newsletter  
[www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) Oakland County, Michigan

## Looking Forward to Spring!

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of cold and snow! I hope you are thinking about spring and you are ready to step out the door and join us for our spring/summer programs! The groundhog says he is ready!

Because March weather can be a little iffy, we are planning a March 4th program at the Paint Creek Cider Mill. Join us for the first showing locally of the

**BROTHERS ON THE LINE**

film, *Brothers on the Line*. In 2008, the OTHS started their Heritage Series with an exhibit on Walter and May Reuther. The Reuthers moved to Oakland Township in

1950 and called it home for twenty years. Their daughters attended Baldwin School and the Reuthers became involved in their Goodison community. They lived a quiet life in Oakland Township which was a respite to Walter's work life. The bigger story is of course the story of Walter Reuther and the UAW.

The OTHS Board is excited to share this film which tells the story of the labor movement in Detroit and the leadership of the Reuther brothers. It is a compelling documentary of courageous social action and Detroit's place in this history. The Reuther brothers supported human rights, open housing and equal opportunity for all. Walter, as the head of the UAW, was an advisor to four American presidents and his political influence always championed the disadvantaged.

This will be the first opportunity for residents of this area to see the film! The film was produced by Sasha Reuther, the grandson of Victor Reuther.

For details on our spring/summer program schedule, see page three or check out our website at [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org). The website will be updated monthly to include added activities and details.

Colleen Barkham, OTHS President



Victor (recovering from an assassination attempt), Roy, and Walter Reuther

## Field Trips with the OTHS

It has been a tradition for many years that the Oakland Township Historical Society plans a field trip in the fall and spring. These are usually day trips to a historical site or another society's museum. Last October we had a beautiful day at Harsens Island. We arranged a visit with the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society to see their collection at the old fire house in Sans Souci. If you have never been to the island, this is a great day trip! The ferry connects at Algonac and constantly runs between the island and mainland. There are many places for lunch and we chose the School House Grill which is a restored two room schoolhouse with great food! Everyone raved about their lunch that day! We made new friends with the HISC Historical Society and hope to go back this summer for their Tashmoo Days. Watch for the details on our website!

On the same day, we also visited the Algonac Historical Society's new display of their boating history. For anyone that loves boats and boat racing, this is a great opportunity to see some special displays. The AHS also has a historical log cabin at another site in Algonac which is worth the stop. So much to do in one day!!

This spring we are planning a field trip and tour to the Redford Theatre on Saturday, **April 4th**. The movie playing will be *Singing in the Rain*. Each classic film is preceded with a performance on the restored pipe organ. The Redford Theatre was built in 1928 and has seen many changes over the years. Preservation efforts are ongoing as this theatre is brought back to its former glory! We will send an email out with the details of driving and lunch plans as we get closer to the date. Your contact for this trip is Colleen Barkham at 248-652-0712.



## Society News and Information.....

### CLF News- Docent Training

As most members know, Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District is the home base for the Oakland Township Historical Society. We have a lease with the Parks and Recreation Commission which allows us the use of the Caretaker House for our museum and the upstairs of the Main House for our archives. The historical society was responsible for the move of the Flumerfelt Barn to CLFHD and we continue to use that structure. All the buildings have display items owned by the historical society so we take great interest in helping to manage the historic district. One responsibility our society has at CLF is to supply volunteers for planned events. We have a unique relationship with the PRC and the HDC to keep this township historic district maintained and available to our residents. With that said, the OTHS would like to start a new program of training docents to help at CLF open house events. This is a great way to become involved at the farm and to give your historical society some needed help! Come learn about our displays and become an "active" member of OTHS!

Dates for Docent Training (choose one): **Monday April 20, 2:00 – 4:00 pm** or **Saturday, April 25, 10:00 – 12:00**  
 All training will be at Cranberry Lake Farm located at 384 W. Predmore Rd.  
 Please RSVP by April 17, 2015- Diana Borrusch at 248-693-8660 or [dianaoths74@comcast.net](mailto:dianaoths74@comcast.net)

### Archives

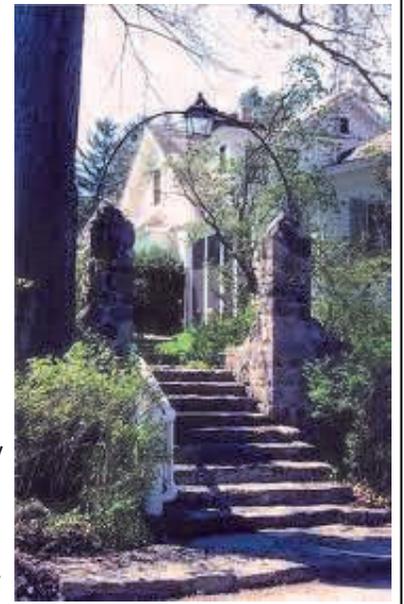
#### OTHs ARCHIVES ACQUIRES A SIGNIFICANT DONATION

Jerry Sieja, a long time Stony Creek Metro Park employee now retired, spent many years researching and collecting information on Allan and Elizabeth Warren Shelden and their Greenhill estate in Oakland Township. The Sheldens lived in Grosse Pointe but spent much of their leisure time at Greenhill until it was sold in the 1960's and became part of Stony Creek Metro Park.

Jerry was able to gather early park information, family information and exhaustively researched Detroit's libraries and institutions to compile the story of Elizabeth Shelden, Greenhill estate and how it became part of Stony Creek Metro Park.

Jerry Sieja has shared his findings in presentation format with audiences at local society meetings and on tours of the estate site in recent years. OTHS was very pleased that Jerry donated his collection of research on our township heritage to the Society last fall. We are working to best accommodate this special archive for now and in the future! A sincere thank you to Jerry Sieja of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

*The Shelden Estate*



### Donations

Member Richard Ashleman donated a small replica of a steam engine and threshing machine handmade in the 1880's by his grandfather, William Ashleman. He also donated several farm items that were stored in his historic red barn on Gallagher Road. We were thrilled to receive his collection and plan to display items at the Paint Creek Cider Mill in a new showcase. *Watch for this next month!*

# OTHS Schedule of Events

March 4-

**Program- Movie night:**

**Brothers on the Line** Join us to preview this new documentary film about the Reuther brothers and their part in the history of the labor movement.

**Time: 7:00 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill**



April 4-

**Field Trip to the Redford Theatre**

We will car pool to the theater to see a classic film: *Singing in the Rain*. Lunch is also planned. More details to follow. Call Colleen at 248-652-0712 to RSVP.

April 20 & 25-

**Docent training at CLF**

See article and contact Diana Borrusch to RSVP.

May 6-

**Program- The Mill Builder of Rochester**

Presented by Pat McKay, Director of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm. William Austin Burt had many professions, surveyor, inventor and builder. Come hear this interesting story of the man from Mt. Vernon.

**Time: 7:00 pm at Cranberry Lake Farm**

May 23 & 24-

**Greater Rochester Heritage Days**

OTHS members are asked to donate potted perennials to sell at our booth and to volunteer their time to work at the event. Contact person: Jeanne Phillips at 248-651-2940.



June 3-

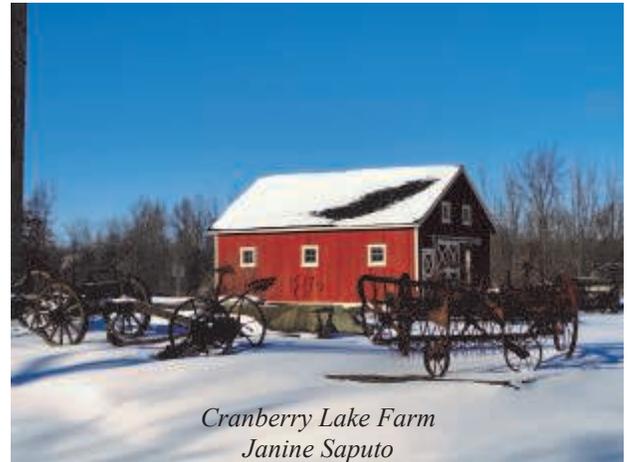
**Picnic and Program- Cranberry Lake Farm History of the Stony Creek Metro Park and the Shelden Estate**

by Jerry Sieja and Anthony Kowalchick. They have new research to share! **Time: 6:30 pm** Picnic- Bring a dish to pass. Program will follow immediately after nominations/meeting.

June 20-

**Square Dance at Cranberry Lake Farm**

Sponsored by the HDC  
Watch their website for details!



*Cranberry Lake Farm  
Janine Saputo*

## *It's the Berries!*

Created by our talented local artist Lyn Sieffert, this booklet features a collection of cranberry recipes both savory and sweet. The booklet also features artwork of historic resources that you will treasure. The booklets are only \$10 and can be purchased at our events and programs or by calling Sue Fox at 248-693-9646.

## *Recipe*

## OTHS Board of Directors and Members: 2014-2015

*President:* Colleen Barkham  
*Vice-President:* Diana Borrusch  
*Treasurer:* Sue Fox  
*Recording Secretary:* Open  
*Corresponding Secretary:* Jeanne Phillips  
*Program Chairperson and Director:* Open  
**Board Members:**  
Tom Asmus, Barb Barber, Dave Phillips

## Support Your Non-Profit

We have a wonderful opportunity for our members to donate to OTHS. If you have a Kroger rewards card you can help OTHS. Kroger has Community Rewards and has Oakland Township Historical Society listed as an organization to receive rewards from your purchases. Please sign up at this site to donate your rewards to OTHS. **You must renew every April!** Email Sue Fox if you have questions at [sfox44@comcast.net](mailto:sfox44@comcast.net).



YOU SHOP - OTHS WINS!

## OTHS Membership News

We would like to invite everyone who loves history, to join us in our goal to collect, preserve, teach, and protect the rich history of this Township. You can help in many ways, like being a docent at Cranberry Lake Farm, working in the archives or helping at Antique Appraisal Day. There are many ways to volunteer and we would like to see all of our members involved. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend one of our programs and join the OTHS. At our June meeting and program we will hold elections for positions on the board. We currently need additional Directors, a Recording Secretary, and a Program Chairperson.

Oakland Township Historical Society, 384 W. Predmore Road,  
Oakland, MI 48363 Information at 248-693-8660,  
[www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalociety.org)

**Annual Dues:** Individual-\$18.00, Family-\$25.00, Patron-\$50.00,  
Business- \$100. **Note:** Dues cover the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30.

### In Memory

Long time member and friend, Arthur Phillips Jr., passed away January 17, 2015. For many years, Art directed our elections each June and served as our friendly cashier at our Memorial weekend plant sales, along with many other services to the OTHS. We will miss Art and extend our condolences to his wife Jeanne and son David, who both serve on our board. Memorial donations are being accepted by the Society. Please mail to OTHS Treasurer, 384 W. Predmore Rd, Oakland, MI, 48363.

*Mission Statement:* OTHS is dedicated to gathering, interpreting and preserving the history of Oakland Township.  
It's your memory, it's our history, it's worth preserving!



384 West Predmore Road  
Oakland, Michigan 48363



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