



The Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) Newsletter
www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org Oakland County, Michigan

President's Thoughts

I am pleased to return to the OTHS Board of Directors after an absence of several years.

Our Past President, Colleen Barkham, will continue to serve on the Board and has arranged an interesting array of activities for the Society in the Fall and Winter of this year. As she pointed out in the Spring Newsletter, the Society is still in need of a Secretary and Program Director. I would be happy to discuss these positions with anybody interested in serving the Society and Community.



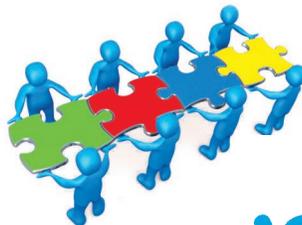
The 2016/17 year marks the first time in many years that Colleen Barkham will not be the President of the Oakland Township Historical Society. The Society and its Board owe an enormous thank you to Colleen for all she has done while serving as President and will continue to do as our Past President.

Currently, we have 64 members who have paid dues to maintain their membership in 2016/17. The Society operates on a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year with dues payable each June. Membership is down slightly, however, if you've missed the deadline you may bring your renewal dues payment to the Potluck on September 7. Our Membership chair, Bonnie Mackley, will be happy to help you.

This Fall Goodison Good Tyme at Bear Creek Nature Park (September 17) and Down on the Farm at Cranberry Lake Farm (October 1) offer wonderful opportunities for family fun. There will be many activities for children at both events. Be sure to mention these activities to the younger members of your families and friends.

At its June meeting the Board of Directors decided not to hold an Antiques Appraisal event this year. The Board will consider reinstating the event in the future if there is interest among the membership. If you would like the event reinstated mention it to a board member.

Bill Kroger, OTHS President



Join Us!

FLEA MARKET

Flumerfelt Flea at Down on the Farm

To ensure a successful flea market at the October 1st *Down on the Farm* we need your help! Members and friends are asked to donate items for the *Flumerfelt Flea*. Similar to a church rummage sale, we are particularly interested in collectables, antiques and vintage items. We will also accept small furniture pieces, household and kitchen utensils, dishes and tools. Sorry, but we are not able to take books, magazines, computers, printers, appliances, TVs, clothing, Christmas trees, exercise machines, cross trainers or large furniture. Please contact Colleen Barkham to schedule pick-up of your donations at 248-652-0712 or thsbarkham@hotmail.com. We will be receiving items until September 26th.



Cranberry Lake Farm silo

A Brief History of Silos *by Lyn Sieffert*

Most of us consider silos such an obvious part of a farmstead that it's surprising to learn they haven't always been attached to barns. Neither are they part of a traditional European farm landscape. Strictly an American innovation, silos weren't invented until after the Civil War. The word silo comes from the Latin word, *sirus*. Simply translated, it means, "a pit to keep corn in". (The word corn commonly referred to any type of grain.)

The idea was inspired because milk quantity and quality went down as winter waned and hay supplies dwindled. Cows could even become anemic. The size of a farmer's herd depended on how much fodder could be harvested and stored. Storing fodder through the winter months initially began with the digging of an underground trench. The idea was similar to using a root cellar for storing vegetables through the winter.

The first structures were rectilinear because farmers, accustomed to squares and straight lines, were slow to accept rounded forms. Cylinder shapes evolved with the realization of the practicality of a space that didn't collect mold in the corners.

Early attempts made use of fieldstones because every farmer sought to utilize them as they were removed from fields. Construction was lengthy and labor intensive. Their height required walls that were two feet thick. In spite of this, they could crack from interior pressure.

Eventually, wooden staves constructed from cedar or redwood, became more practical as they resisted rotting from the interior fermentation process. Steel hoops reinforced these thinner walls. Silo foundations could be as deep as twelve feet underground in order to anchor such light weight structures in high winds when empty.

Migrant farm crews traveled from farm to farm harvesting and filling silos. More silage meant more profit for a farmer, making it easier to increase the size of a herd to move beyond simply subsistence farming.

The 20th century explored the use of poured concrete, metal and curved ceramic tiles, such as those we see at the Van Hoosen farm museum.

Today's modern silos are called "silage bags". It is obvious why. Made of plastic, they lie horizontally along the ground.

Like many "modern" improvements, they are preferable because of convenience and less expense. However, there is no question as to their lack of aesthetics when compared to the view of historic, upright models in a landscape.



Modern day silage bags



An early square silo with a small, wood-stave round silo nearby.

**Oakland Township's
Down on the Farm**

**Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 W. Predmore
Saturday, October 1, 2016 11am-3pm**
Free Family Fun Activities on the Farm!
Hay rides pulled by a tractor all day!
Variety of Musicians: banjo, guitar, and harmonica
Local artists display of paintings
Honey beekeeping presentation
Horse grooming and Farrier demonstration





Flumerfelt Flea Market in the Barn!
Free Pumpkin painting until we run out!
Writing competition with 1st and 2nd prizes!
Games, Caning, Spinning, and Quilting!











Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve
Lawn games, Butter Churning, Giant Lincoln Logs



Generous donations from
Oakland Township Parks & Recreation
And Oakland County Parks

Check the website for exact times of activities!
Historic District Commission at <http://bit.ly/OTHDC>
www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org

OTHS Schedule of Events Fall 2016

September 7



Potluck and Program-

Getting Around: Mass Transportation in Southeastern Michigan

Presented by Joel Stone, Senior Curator, Detroit Historical Society

Time: 6:30 PM at Cranberry Lake Farm- Bring a dish to pass.

Program will start by 7:15 PM.

September 10



Square Dance OTHS will have a variety of ice cream available at the square dance. Everyone and all age groups are welcome to join in the square dance. Program sponsored by Historic District Commission.

Time: 7-9 PM at Cranberry Lake Farm - Flumerfelt Barn

September 17



Goodison Good Tyme- A community event with activities for all ages! OTHS will have a sales tent and games for the kids!

Time: 11 AM to 3 PM at Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 W. Snell Road

GAMES

October 1



Down on the Farm- Join us for a day of fun for the entire family: Flumerfelt Flea Market, hay rides, pumpkin painting, farm animals, and activities for the kids. **GAMES** by Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve! **PUMPKIN PAINTING!** **HAY RIDES!** Art Exhibit on the main house East Porch. Horse demonstrations. Writing competition finals. Be sure to stop out for the fun and to find your special treasure the day of the sale in the Flumerfelt Flea Market.

Time: 11 AM to 3 PM at Cranberry Lake Farm



November 2



Program: The Sons of the American Revolution

Presented by Rod Wilson, President of the Michigan Society SAR (MISSAR)

Time: 7:00 PM at Main House of Cranberry Lake Farm

December 7



Holiday Party and Program-

The DUR in the Goodison area presented by Tom Asmus

Time: 6:30 PM at the Paint Creek United Methodist Church
4420 Collins Road in Goodison



Barn Quilt Trail—Oakland Township Barn Owners

OTHS encourages decorating township barns with a quilt like the one at CLF. For further information and help, call Barbara Barber at 586-703-3933

Society News and Information

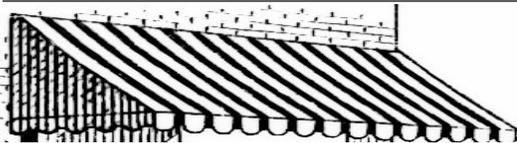


OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES ROOM

OTHS Archive Room is now open for the public to explore. We're on the second floor of the Cranberry Lake Farm Main House, 384 W. Predmore Rd, and open Wednesdays from 1 to 4 pm or by appointment with Sue Fox at 248-342-7464 or othsmember@comcast.net. While there you can enjoy the atmosphere of a restored historic homestead. We are continuing to gather official and personal records, photos, family histories, and anything that may pertain to the history of our beautiful and historic township. We also gather archives from the surrounding localities, as many of our pioneers either came from, had family living there, or retired to those places. If you should have anything that you would like to donate, or let us make copies of, we would be very appreciative. We need to preserve our history for the newer generations to understand how hard our ancestors worked to make this land what it is today.

ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

Share your reflections on our agricultural heritage or farming history within the Greater Rochester area. What does it mean to you? Do you know a place where the grasses grow and where the landscapes produce crops? Writing competition for 7th – 12th grade students interested in submitting a 500-750 word essay. First and Second place prizes will be awarded October 1. Some entries may be read at Down on the Farm at Cranberry Lake Farm on October 1, 2016. **Deadline:** Tuesday, September 20, 2016 **Submit to:** HDC Office email at bbarber@oaklandtownship.org or mail 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306 **Scoring criteria:** Includes content and style with ideas shared regarding the agricultural theme. **Include:** Title, name, age, and contact information (phone and email).



Don't forget that the **OTHS store** has many great gift items for sale - there is something of interest for everyone. A few of our popular items:

- Ed Noble prints
- Lyn Seiffert large color prints
- Lyn Seiffert note cards
- It's the Berries* Cranberry Recipe Book
- Carolyn Dulin ceramic art
- Mill sack dish towels and aprons
- and many other items!

Any would make a great gift. Look for them on display at our programs or contact Sue Fox.



Jeanne Phillips assists shoppers at past Heritage Days' plant sale.

MEMORIAL WEEKEND PLANT SALE

Our participation in the Greater Rochester Heritage Days Memorial weekend event resulted in profits from our plant sale of \$1,264. Thank you to Jeanne Phillips who is in charge of the sale and does such an excellent job! Jeanne says, "We are grateful to all our workers and plant donors for their time, help and plant donations."

DONATIONS TO OTHS

Our Society has been fortunate to receive many wonderful donations of artifacts for our museum from members and friends. Furniture, linens, books, photos, artwork, vintage clothes, farm equipment, etc. are reviewed by our Collections Committee before accepting. Donations forms are given for your tax purposes. Our preference is items from our township, but we have received and benefited from other community offers. We can copy any photo or family records to place in our Archives and return your originals. Please contact Diana Borrusch (248-693-8660) to donate your treasures for the benefit of our residents.



FROM THE PAST - THE GOODISON STATION SIGNAL BOOTH (The Railroad Phone Booth) *by Tom Asmus*



Doug Caruso at the signal booth

While the small gray building which stands in the covered area in front of the Paint Creek Cider Mill seems rather dull, it plays a part in the history of rail travel through Goodison. It was donated to the Oakland Township Historical Society in 2000. Doug Caruso and his father, Harry, made significant structural repairs shortly thereafter.

The original railroad tracks owned by The Detroit Bay City Railroad appeared in Goodison in 1872, and 5 years later a side track (spur) just short of a mile long was added to accommodate the increased freight and passenger traffic. The side track with switches at both ends clearly justified the need for a communication system for both safety and efficiency. Thus the Railroad Phone Booth with a wall-mounted crank phone was added.

(Continued on page 6)



OTHS BOARD

Wishing you a wonderful fall and looking forward to sharing our time together!

Your OTHS Board:

Bill Kroger,
President

Colleen Barkham,
Past President

Diana Borrusch,
Vice President

Sue Fox,
Acting Recording
Secretary and Treasurer

Tom Asmus, Director

Barbara Barber, Director

Bonnie Mackley, Director

Gail Palmer, Director

David Phillips, Director

Jeanne Phillips, Director

OTHS Membership News

We have had a delightful year enjoying activities, speakers and learning new things about the history of Oakland Township and surrounding communities. We have new activities planned for this year, wonderful archives to explore and much to do to continue protecting, collecting and preserving our history.

Will you join us? Come to our programs, be a docent at Cranberry Lake Farm, contribute historical items and information and assist us in other ways.

Board and membership meetings are held at Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore Road. Check online at <http://oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org> for program details.

Monthly Membership Meetings are the first Wednesday at 7:00 pm at CLF

Monthly Board Meetings are the third Tuesday at 6:30 pm at CLF

Please complete this form and mail with payment for dues to:

OTHS, Oakland Township Historical Society
c/o Bonnie Mackley, 415 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363
Phone: 248-693-8977

Annual Dues: Individual-\$18.00, Family-\$25.00, Patron-\$50.00, Business- \$100.

Special two-year pricing: Individual - \$32 instead of \$36, and Family - \$45 instead of \$50.

Note: Dues cover the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number (s): _____ Email: _____

SUPPORT OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITH EASY REWARDS!

OTHS is registered for community rewards with both Kroger and Amazon. You can support OTHS with the donations given by these companies whenever you shop with them. It's very easy to sign up. Online, go to Kroger.com, click on 'Community' and in drop down, click 'community rewards'. Click 'create account', follow instructions (enter card number on back) and enter who you want your rewards to go to. Our number is '62713', or enter our name. This does not affect your fuel points. They do require that you renew this each April. A number of people have already signed up, and we are receiving rewards quarterly. For Amazon, go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and select a charitable organization to support. We are registered as Oakland Township Historical Society. It's that easy.



YOU SHOP - OTHS WINS!

FROM THE PAST - THE GOODISON STATION SIGNAL BOOTH (The Railroad Phone Booth) *(Continued from page 5)*

Despite this, a head-on collision between two trains occurred in 1926 just north of Goodison.

Electric trolley cars were becoming common in urban centers and eventually expanded through rural areas connecting urban centers. Thus, they passed through places like Goodison around 1900. Coal-fired steam locomotives were the major source of power for the railroads at this time, and while these were satisfactory for cargo hauling they were less than ideal for passenger travel. Thus these electric trolley cars, known as the DUR (Detroit Urban Railways), became an increasingly popular means for passenger travel. As Lake Orion was becoming a very popular vacation spot, many urbanites from Detroit passed through Goodison on the DUR tracks that were generally parallel with the traditional railroad tracks and Orion Road. The 1908 Oakland Township map clearly illustrates this.

In the early 1950s Diesel-electric locomotives began to replace the steam ones, and this along with increases in automobile usage and improved roads, led to the DUR system fading into history. The interstate highway system along with large heavy-duty trucks led to shrinkage of the railroad cargo business, and this caused financial stress for the railroads. In 1974 the last train passed through Goodison, and the tracks were removed in the 1980s. The Rails-to-Trails movement soon got underway, and the Paint Creek Trail was one of Michigan's first such transitions. Two Oakland Township women - Peggy Johnson and Alice Tomboulion - were largely responsible for making this happen.

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



Share this newsletter
with a friend!
Recycle!

The Oakland Township Historical Society Newsletter
www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org