

Oakland Heritage News

September 2015

Volume 4, Issue 1



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

Planning For Fall

As you enjoy the summer season and a vacation at the lake your OTHS Board is busy putting together our fall event schedule. The first Wednesday of September is our picnic and program kick-off for the fall season. We welcome Bill Grandstaff, from Romeo, who will present the fascinating story of cemeteries and their place in the social fabric of yesteryear.

October is a great month for a short day trip and this year we are going to the Lakeville Mill. The mill has been restored by Oakland Township residents, Todd and Sue Elder. They welcome us for their first group tour! We will also hear about the history of Addison Township from their enthusiastic Supervisor, Bruce Pearson. Of course our field trip wouldn't be complete without lunch, so we plan a stop right around the corner at the Celtic Knot in Lakeville.

In November we have scheduled Oakland Township resident and author Maureen Thalmann to tell us about her recent publication, *Petticoat Surgeon: The Extraordinary Life of Dr. Bertha VanHoosen*. Thalmann spent years researching for her book, which included reading the original manuscript for Van Hoosen's published autobiography of the same name, *Petticoat Surgeon*. Thalmann's book tells the story of VanHoosen's early life raised in the late 1800's on her family farm at Stoney Creek Village and her quest for the education which propelled her to be a pioneering female surgeon.

Our holiday party and program in December will again be at the Paint Creek United Methodist Church. Join us for music, holiday treats and a program about collecting Santas. Kay Johnson will share her stories of her collection of 1500 Santas which she displays in her home every Christmas. She will bring her favorites and we encourage you to bring yours! Be sure to check our website at www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org for updates on programs and activities.

Colleen Barkham, OTHS President

Antique Appraisal Day

Antique Appraisal Day is planned for November 1st at the Rochester Community House from 12 to 4pm. Appraisers will be giving their expert opinion on collectables and antiques and the charge is only \$5.00 per item. This is an event that everyone enjoys and our members readily participate! If you would like to help out at AAD please let us know by signing up at the September 2nd program or contact Sue Fox at 248-342-7464.



Bill Pietrzyk OTHS appraiser
evaluating a clock



Art Phillips Memorial

We had an amazing response for donations to create a memorial for long time OTHS member and former Oakland Township Park Commissioner Art Phillips. Thank you to our OTHS members, OTHS Board, and PRC employees and Commissioners. Our plan, with HDC approval, is to find a special place for a memorial bench within the CLF Historic District.

Society News and Information.....



The Barn Survey Team Missed a Barn!

The OTHS Barn Survey team actually missed more than one over-50-year-old barn in the township in its documentation efforts conducted over 10 years ago. Aerial photographs and sometimes casual comments reveal overlooked buildings. A recent story surfaced about an old granary structure noticed by Dr. Tom Barkham.



Colleen Barkham and Janine Saputo have traced the story to a privately owned small barn along Stoney Creek Road hidden by trees from the road. The property owners were most accommodating to a site visit and building documentation and research is happening now. This Granary barn seems to have a story to tell about relocation from nearby when Stoney Creek Road was still gravel. Saputo is checking on farmsteads that existed in the area using WPA Rural Property Inventory of 1937-1942 for Oakland County. This inventory documented farmstead buildings and crops and may hold clues to where the barn

originally stood and/or when it was moved. The structure does have characteristics that date it over 50 years old. Stay tuned for more information. We hope to tell the whole story soon!

Janine Saputo, OTHS

Archives

Our archive room at CLF is nicely taking shape and should be ready for visits by this fall. The shelves are filling up with all kinds of history on people and places. We will be taking appointments for any research time. If you have any Oakland Township historical items that you would like to donate, we would be happy to add them to our collection. We also welcome volunteers to work in the archives. Email us at othsmember@comcast.net or call Sue Fox at 248-342-7464.



Jeanne Phillips offers up a fern with a friendly smile at the 2015 OTHS Plant Sale

2015 Memorial Day Weekend Plant Sale



Our participation in the Greater Rochester Heritage Days resulted in a profit of \$1258 from our annual plant sale organized by our charter member Jeanne Phillips.

We would like to thank all our plant donors, sales helpers, workers and friends, our members who did demonstrations in the GRHD tent and all members who helped make this event a success! A huge thank-you to Co-Chairs Jeanne Phillips and Diana Borrusch who work so hard to keep us involved!

Support Your Non-Profit

We have two wonderful opportunities for our members to donate to OTHS. Amazon Smile and Kroger have Community Rewards programs and OTHS is listed as a group to receive rewards from your purchases. If you have a Kroger Rewards card or shop on Amazon you can contribute! Just create an account online at kroger.com and smile.amazon.com/about. Remember Kroger needs renewal each April. Send questions or help to Sue Fox 248-342-7464 or sfox44@comcast.net.



YOU SHOP - OTHS WINS!



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!



Welcome to 2015/2016 OTHS Board

Your OTHS Board for the next year includes two new members and some returning members. We are pleased to welcome **Bonnie Mackley** as our new Corresponding Secretary and **Gail Palmer** as a new Director. Returning board members include:

- ◆ Colleen Barkham- President
- ◆ Diana Borrusch- Vice President
- ◆ Sue Fox- Acting Recording Secretary and Treasurer
- ◆ Tom Asmus- Director
- ◆ David Phillips- Director
- ◆ Jeanne Phillips- Director
- ◆ Barb Barber- Director

*Thank-you to all for their
commitment and dedication to
OTHS!*

OTHS Membership News

The new fiscal year has begun and we are still collecting membership dues to further our mission to gather, interpret, and preserve any and all of Oakland Township history. Your dues make it possible to keep our rich history alive for further generations and to continue our programs and events. We appreciate your participation and welcome your input and help! Please send your dues to: OTHS, 384 W. Predmore Rd., Oakland, MI 48363. Individual \$18, Family \$25, Patron \$50, Business \$100.

Monthly Membership Meetings are the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Board Meetings are the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Please complete this form and mail with payment for dues made to: OTHS, Oakland Township Historical Society, 384 W. Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363 Information at www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number (s): _____ Email: _____

**Oakland Township Historical Society
Events and Programs 2015
Public Welcome to all OTHS Activities!**

September 2 Picnic/Potluck at Cranberry Lake Farm

Program: Bill Grandstaff: *A Picnic in the Cemetery*

Time: 6:30 PM Picnic Please bring a dish to pass.

Program will follow immediately after.



September 19 Goodison Good Tyme at Bear Creek Nature Park

Look for our booth and a photo opp with a vintage military vehicle.

Time: 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM BCNP on Snell Road

October 24 Field Trip to the Lakeville Mill

Todd and Sue Elder will tell us about the restoration of the mill and Supervisor Bruce Pearson will present the history of Addison Township. Lunch planned at the Celtic Knot. More details to follow. RSVP to Colleen Barkham at 248-652-0712

Time: 10:00 AM at the Lakeville Mill



November 1 Antique Appraisal Day

Come and have your antiques & collectables appraised!

Time: Noon to 4:00 Rochester Community House

November 4 Program: Maureen Thalmann: *Petticoat Surgeon:*

The Extraordinary Life of Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen.

Time: 7:00 at Cranberry Lake Farm



December 2 Holiday Party/Program at Paint Creek UMC

Program: Kay Johnson - A lifetime of Santas—A story of collecting

Time: 6:30 Party starts 7:00 Program

Please see our website for updated information: www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org



384 West Prædmorę Road
Oakland, Michigan 48363



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