



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

## President's Thoughts

People care about what happened here in the past. Some people go out of their way to tell us about it and that is good for us and our Society, as we work to preserve our community's collective memory.



Recently a group of us met with descendants of a former Addison Township Schools official. Cindy and Wendel Byrne of Acworth, Georgia, and her sister Annette McAvoy of Auburn Hills, Michigan are the daughters of Mary Ellen Kresnak of Auburn Hills, Michigan. Mary Ellen was born to Frederick Dernberger and his second wife, Mary Dildy, in 1930. Franklin Rowley, the father of Mr Dernberger's first wife, Mabel Rowley, had been Superintendent of Addison Township Schools during the latter half of the 19th century and he kept a handwritten journal of matters concerning the schools. The sisters have donated this record to our Society archive.



*Cindy Bryne, Annette McAvoy, Sue Fox and Diana Borrusch examine the Addison Journal*

The 112 handwritten pages are very interesting; containing items such as teachers' wages, the names of families that donated wood to heat the schoolhouse in the 1850s and the Board members in the 1860s. The notes begin in 1851 and end in the late 1890s.

Donations like this, along with the efforts of our Township Commissions and the Society's oral history project, help preserve both the personal and business memories of our beautiful community's agrarian past. These histories provide a window into the daily life of past residents for today's youth and new Township residents to explore and learn from. If you have stories of how your family's history contributed to the heritage of this area please consider donating them to the archive room. See page 5 for more information on how to donate.

**Bill Kroger, OTHS President**



## FLUMERFELT FLEA MARKET

OTHS will again sponsor the Flumerfelt Flea at Cranberry Lake Farm on the weekend of Down on the Farm. On Saturday October 7 our flea market will be open 10 to 5 and on Sunday, October 8, we will be open noon to 5. Members are asked to donate vintage, collectable, antique, rustic, and household items. Please contact Colleen Barkham if you have items to donate: --- We pick up! ---  
[thsbarkham@hotmail.com](mailto:thsbarkham@hotmail.com)  
or 248-652-0712.



*Jeanne Phillips and Christina Wolf are ready to help you find your treasure!*


*Continued from our Spring 2017 newsletter...*

## **Grant Chamberlin and Terry Nowels his daughter—Interview Transcript**

March 16, 2003, Interviewer, Carolyn Dulin

Terry Chamberlain Nowells:

Norma, my mother, did some sewing, but my Uncle Harold's wife, Lydia sewed quite a lot and helped us. In 4H we learned to sew. We made aprons, dirndl skirts and maybe a dress to show at the Armada Fair. Mom was part of a group of Goodison people that were friends with the Reuthers. Mom spent quite a bit of time with May Reuther. They came to dinner here quite a few times. May had a lot of back problems, so Lisa would stay with us while May had some surgery. She went to New York to a hospital there. Lisa would stay here for a week or two at a time. They had Eleanor Roosevelt to their house and they invited quite a few of the mothers and daughters to meet her. I remember when Walter took Lisa me and my sister, Susie, to the 3D movies in Detroit - Cinerama. His bodyguard went with us. A lot of people recognized him and stopped to say hello; and he was real nice to everybody. Afterward we went to a soda fountain to have a malted milk shake. They didn't know how to make a milk shake, but the bodyguard did and they let him make them. I remember spending a *lot* of time at *their* house. They had a beautiful screened-in porch at the back, and there was a little waterfall going over the creek. You could sit on the porch and look at a real waterfall. Walter put colored lights under it. He used to say that he'd put me in his suitcase and take me to Washington. Another time we went to the movies just to see a John Wayne movie. We had picked all these cherries from their tree and we were eating them during the movie. When we got home, he cut some open and every one had a worm in it. It didn't hurt us, I guess.

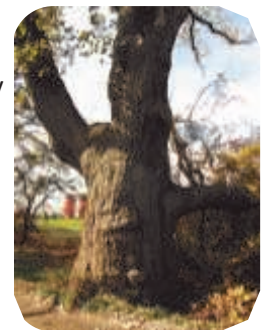
 4H was a real big deal. We all had steers. We'd pick out a steer from the lot. One year, Henry Axford gave us a special one, a Hereford steer, and it's the one I won with at the Armada Fair, and the Oakland County Fair, too. We'd do both fairs. And Tommy Barkham would be there with his sheep. Becky Barkham and Sharon had a horse, and then the Whims, Mark and Louis, had their steers. Going to the fairs and having the steers were the highlights of growing up here. Everyday when I got home from school, I'd take the steer out and walk him down the road like a dog, and he'd follow me. They wanted the beef marbled and solid. They didn't want fat. One year I won Reserve Grand Champion. When you sell them at the auction, if you had the Champion, you'd get a big price for it because Kroger and other big grocery stores would buy it for advertisement. At that time, I think I sold that steer for \$1.25 a pound which was a big deal then. He weighed 1000 pounds and that was money that I used for college. I always wanted a horse, but Dad wouldn't get me one. Then I got my own after I graduated from college.

The cattle we raised here were Herefords. We also had a few Black Angus. That's usually the ones that would win. When my steer won Reserve Grand Champion, it was a Black Angus that won Champion and people said that Hereford should have been Champion. They still favor Black Angus. The steer is almost 2 years old when we sell it. We used to feed it a lot of corn, and we'd give it Mormon's Mastermix Concentrate Sabesterol. I always wondered if that was hormones. Dad says no. I'd brush him every day so his coat was real shiny. I had a steer every year from age 10 to 19. When I was older I helped a few kids in 4H with their steers, but I was more into horses then so I helped with that. I was a 4H leader for a few years. I've had about five different horses that I've shown - dressage.

There are interesting things here in Oakland Township. It's so beautiful here, and there's the big tree, the Schuette Oak, the arrowheads and the Indians. It's fun to imagine what it was like when the Indians were here.



*Terry Nowels, horsewoman, on Zippy*



*Transcribed by Mary Tischler, OTHS Recording Secretary. The first half of this interview transcript may be viewed in our Spring 2017 newsletter. PDF versions of the Oakland Township Historical Society's newsletters are available online at [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) under NEWS.*

# OTHS Schedule of Events Fall 2017

**September 6**

**Potluck and Program**

**Roads of Oakland and Nearby Townships**

Presented by Anthony Kowalchick, Oakland Township Historical Society

**Time: 6:00 PM at Cranberry Lake Farm-** Bring a dish to pass.



**September 9**

**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 9**

**Goodison Good Tyme**

A community event with activities for all ages!

Visit the OTHS tent - we'll have games for the kids!

**Time: 11 AM to 3 PM at Marsh View Park, 3340 E Clarkston Road**



**October 7 & 8**

**Flumerfelt Flea Market**

Stop by the 1879 barn to find your special treasure!

**Time: 10am to 5pm Saturday, 12Noon to 5pm Sunday at Cranberry Lake Farm**

**October 7**

**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. 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 2 PM at Cranberry Lake Farm**



*Michiganradio.org; Clarence S. Metcalf Great Lakes Maritime Research Library*

**November 1**

**Program**

**Timber, Venison & Booze - Booty of Great Lakes Pirates**

Presented by Lori Feret,

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

**December 6**

**Holiday Party and Program**

**Christmas 1917**

Presented by W. Kroger, Oakland Township Historical Society

**Time: 6:00 PM at the Paint Creek United Methodist Church**  
4420 Collins Road in Goodison



# Society News and Information

With great sadness, we remember long-time OTHS member Janine Saputo, who passed away on August 5th. Janine was active in preserving our township history as she wrote the applications for our historic markers, served on the Barn Survey Committee and Co-chaired the three OTHS Heritage Series Exhibits. Janine served as Secretary and President on the OTHS Board in her 25+ years as a very active member. OTHS is planning an exhibit at the Paint Creek Cider Mill titled: **Repeat Performance: The OTHS Heritage Series - Dedicated to the Legacy of Janine Saputo**. This popular exhibit will be open every Saturday and Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, from 12 Noon to 4:00 pm. Please join us for this unique and exciting look back at our local culture as a tribute to Janine. Please see our website for complete details.



Janine with her horse, Princess Kibriya

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 prints and 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.

## DAVE BORRUSCH MEMORIAL

Dave, a long-time active member, passed away last fall. A memorial bench is being purchased from the donations made in his name in appreciation of his devoted work for our Society.

## 2017 MEMORIAL WEEKEND PLANT SALE

In spite of a rainy weekend for the Greater Rochester Heritage Days we made a profit of \$1,001. Thanks to all our plant donors, helpers, workers, and Jeanne Phillips for the wonderful job she does organizing and running our plant sale with co-leader Gail Palmer.

# Smalley Elliott House

This historic property of 5 acres has been added to Marsh View Park. Recently, representatives of the Warnshuis family came from Milwaukee and New York to visit the Smalley Elliott house. Their family lived on this property during the '30s as Teri Gorman explained in an email to Parks and Recreation Director Mindy Milos-Dale after the visit:

*"My grandfather was Dr. Gerrit Warnshuis, and he and his family of 9 children (my father was Laurent) lived on a 160 acre farm (of which 96 acres is now Marsh View Park) for several years in the 1930s, until his tragic death in a car accident there in 1937(8?). My grandmother had to sell it after that.*



Patrick and his two nieces visiting the Smalley Elliott house in July 2017

*To recap who came to visit: her uncle Patrick Warnshuis who is 88 years young, and was Dr. Warnshuis' 7th child, living on the farm from about age 8-10. Her cousin, Seana, organizer of this trip, is the daughter of Dolores Warnshuis Reilly, 8th child, who was about 7-9 years old. And I am the daughter of the late Laurent Warnshuis, who was the 6th child, and was 10-12 years old on the farm. He told of us many fond memories of their relatively short time 2 years) on the farm, as well as how devastating it was when their father was killed in a car accident and they had to sell it.*

*They were very appreciative of everyone's efforts which allowed them to view the farmhouse and the farm again. We are still so moved recalling how special you made our visit. I am overwhelmed by what you have done as guardians in your community, not only with how lovingly*

## OTHS BOARD



### JUNE 2017 ELECTION RESULTS

Welcome new Director, Anthony Kolwalchick. Thank you to Bonnie Mackley for the excellent job she did as our Correspondence Secretary and Membership Chairperson, and to Gail Palmer for her good work and the time she contributed to our board. We will miss Bonnie and Gail at our board meetings. Thank you also to Colleen Barkham for providing us with interesting and enjoyable programs and field trips for the past several years. We still need a Program Director and welcome your participation.

Other continuing board members are:

*Bill Kroger, President*  
*Diana Borrusch, Vice President*  
*Sue Fox, Treasurer and Membership Chair*  
*Mary Tischler, Recording Secretary*  
*Colleen Barkham, Correspondence Secretary*  
*Tom Asmus, Director*  
*Barbara Barber, Director*  
*David Phillips, Director*  
*Jeanne Phillips, Director*

## OTHS Membership News

Hello valued member, once again it's renewal time for Oakland Township Historical Society. If you have already paid your dues for 2017/2018, thank you. Otherwise, payments will be accepted at our September meeting or by mail at anytime. We value your membership and support of the Society. A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We bought new folding chairs for the barn. The museum now has an antique stove and refrigerator. And the Archive room on the second floor of the main house is shaping up nicely.

As a member, we welcome you to be a docent or be helpful where or whenever you can. We can always use your support. We also would love to hear from you on programs or events you would like to attend. Come by the Archives and do some looking around. We are open every Wednesday from 1 to 4, and by appointment if needed. We publish our Newsletter twice a year and send special announcements by mail or email. Hope to see you at upcoming events!

You can also support the Historical Society with your Kroger shopping by enrolling in Kroger Community Rewards online and Amazon Smile for your Amazon shopping. They both contribute a percentage to us of your purchase.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

### Archive Room

The Archive Team is typically on-site at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Wednesdays. Email [othsmember@comcast.net](mailto:othsmember@comcast.net) to make an appointment.

For information about the Oakland Township Historical Society visit us online at [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org)



## Down on the Farm

Free Family Fun Activities on the Farm!  
 Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 W. Predmore  
 Saturday, October 7, 2017 11am-2pm

Hay rides pulled by a tractor!  
 Variety of Musicians: banjo and harmonica  
 Local artists display of paintings  
 Honey beekeeping presentation  
 Horse grooming and Farrier demonstration

Oakland Township Historical Society

Flumerfelt Flea Market in the Barn - treasures!  
 Free Pumpkin painting until we run out!  
 Games, Caning, Spinning, and Quilting!

Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve  
 Lawn games, Butter Churning, Giant Lincoln Logs  
 Historic District Commission  
 Oakland Township Parks & Recreation  
 And donations by Oakland County Parks

Historic District Commission <http://bit.ly/OTHDG>  
 And [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org)

**SUPPORT OAKLAND TOWNSHIP  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITH  
 EASY REWARDS!**



**YOU SHOP - OTHS WINS!**

## Smalley-Elliott House...*(Continued from page 4)*

*you have preserved this particular land that we had a connection to, but your obvious passion for your community, and reverence for your history.*



*When we learned the farm was preserved as parkland, when it could have been housing developments or a Walmart or anything, that was so reassuring. And then to be able to see the farmhouse that has loomed in our family's stories since my childhood---it just couldn't have been more perfect than you made it for us. I'm actually grateful that it wasn't upgraded and inhabited, but could be experienced like this. And while I can see that many people have struggled for several years making sure you honor the land in the best way possible, I can see that the structure has had it's time. Thank you for the years of hard work you obviously have put in to coming to a good solution. Presenting us with the window is such a generous and genuine, personal gift. We are discussing how to best give it a place of honor. Our inclination at this point is to preserve it as is, and suspend it from hooks in a protected place of honor. That also allows for it to be shared, or "visit" other family members."*

The preceding correspondence from the Warnshuis family applauding our Township Parks and Recreation and Historic District Commissions' protective efforts gives us good reason to be proud and provides a clear indicator of how worthwhile and necessary our efforts truly are.

*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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