



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

## President's Thoughts

The Oakland Township Historical Society has 89 members. Attendance at our meetings is considerably less. To further the mission of the Society to interpret and preserve the history of Oakland Township we must increase our membership. It is important that we include more members of the Township community to spread knowledge of this 200-year-old area that began settlement in 1819.



Examine our schedule of events for this spring. Our Program Chair, Mary Tischler, has done a wonderful job of providing interesting and informative programs. All of our programs (except field trips) are open to anyone without charge. When you come to a program bring a friend.

Please make an effort to mention the Society to your friends, neighbors and acquaintances. Share your copy of this newsletter with them.

The OTHS has been a part of the Township since the early 1970s. Before long we will be fifty years old. So we have been around almost a quarter of the time the Township has been in existence. Almost since its first days the Society has been adding value to the community.

In 1976 the founders of the Society published a 36-page booklet entitled "Heritage in Oakland Township" containing photos and information about 85 historic homes and structures in the community. Since that time the Society has produced and provided historic displays such as the Reuther and Goodison exhibits, entered floats in the Rochester and Lake Orion Christmas parades and restored historic artifacts such as the Paint Creek Cider Mill Logging Wheels and the Flumerfelt Barn at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District.

Look elsewhere in our Newsletters to see other exciting projects we are involved in. WE NEED TO SHARE THIS GOOD NEWS WITH MORE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE HELP!



**Bill Kroger, OTHS President**

## OTHS Annual Plant Sale

The Oakland Township Historical Society is asking if you have extra perennial plants to donate towards our annual Plant Sale. This fund-raiser is held during the Greater Rochester Heritage Days in the Rochester Municipal Park on Saturday May 18 and Sunday May 19 this year.

If you have potted plants to donate, they may be delivered to the OTHS tent area in the park on Friday, May 17. \*Park rule – no driving on the grass. Let us know if you need assistance digging or potting, or would like us to pick up, etc., we're happy to help! Donation forms are available if needed. Please identify the plants and color if known. Thank you - your contributions ensure a successful plant sale!

Contact Jeanne Phillips at 248-651-2940 or Bill Kroger at 586-752-6154.



*The Society Perennial Plant Sale at the Greater Rochester Heritage Days*

## LOOKING BACK WITH MARGARET BLANCHARD

*Oral history transcription of Margaret Blanchard's April 11, 2002 interview with Carolyn Dulin.*

I've lived all my life in this area except when I was a baby and my family moved north of Flint. My father farmed there and we came back to this area when I was about 6. I was born in 1913 in a house on Orion Road on the east side just south of the Livernois intersection.

I was small when we came back from Flint. My father worked for Freers (Silver Bell and Orion) and we lived in a little house beside Freers. It's still there. I lived there until I was 13-14. Then we moved up the hill on Silver Bell, north side. It was a fairly big house. It had an unfinished cellar. There was no water. We had to get it from a neighbor across the street. We had a cistern that we used for laundry, baths and dishes.

Cisterns were common in those days. It was nice, soft water. Some had a pump, but we had to go with a pail and string and dip it out.

I can remember having what they called carpetbag socials. You would roll up a ball of yarn and you'd put your name in the center, and the girls would bring a box lunch and the boys would buy the ball of yarn. Then they'd eat their lunch with the girl whose name they won.

When I was in high school, I'd catch the Interurban at Silver Bell and Orion. I'd get off in the center of town and walk up to the high school. When I was in high school, we were not in the Rochester District, so I had to pay tuition. Not too many kids in Oakland Township got to go. I think the state paid a share of the tuition and my parents paid the rest. My brother had gotten a job and made it a little easier for my family, so I was the only one who got to go. I'd get out of school at 4:00 and the next streetcar didn't come north until 6:00, so I had to wait in the hotel. We never had homework and I never wrote an exam until high school. If you had a B average you didn't have to write exams. I didn't finish high school. I went 2 years. I played baseball and basketball, and I played varsity. We went to the other schools and this was a big thing. Then I'd miss the 6:00 o'clock and it might be midnight before I could get a streetcar home. After the 2nd year, my father said I'll pay your tuition one more year, but no more baseball and basketball and you come home on that 6:00 o'clock car. And I said, I'm not going. I was captain of the freshman team. I won a letter and a sweater. I loved it.

I had two older brothers and two younger sisters. They only graduated from grade school. Grade school then was almost as important as high school is now. So few people went on to high school. People who lived in town went. But people out here had to find their own way in and pay tuition.

Christmas. We didn't have a Christmas tree very often. I remember when we got a little older, my brother and I went back in the field and sawed it. We brought that little tree home and strung popcorn and cranberries for it. But as far as gifts, if you got one gift you were lucky. One time my sister and I got wool gloves with a gauntlet cuff - practical gifts. And my mother would make us night gowns and that would be our Christmas gift. And we'd hang up our sock, and we'd get an orange. That was a very rare thing, and maybe some apples and walnuts. My father would buy a bag of candy, and he would keep it and give it to us as a little reward, to make it last as long as possible. But you know, I look back and I think we had a very happy childhood. We had nothing, but we were very happy.

We had a garden and mother canned lots of stuff, and you lived pretty much off of that.

My father would go into Rochester on the streetcar and shop. We never went as a family because it was too expensive. My father went a lot by himself. He was a good shopper. He would buy a 25 pound bag of flour and my

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Margaret Blanchard, on the right, and her daughter Peggy at CLF Museum*



## 2019 Spring Program Schedule

### Happy 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Oakland Township First Land Purchase 1819-2019

**Wednesday, April 3** 7:00 pm **Rochester Mills Beer Co**, Rochester (arrive an hour earlier if having dinner)  
 “Prohibition History in Detroit”, by Steve Johnson, Motor City Brew Tours.

Join us for a fun and informative lecture on prohibition and the temperance movement in Detroit. Learn about the prohibition era gangs, speakeasies and famous landmarks that made Detroit one of the centers of illicit activity during that time. Join author and Motor City Brew Tours founder Stephen Johnson for Detroit history while you enjoy a pint.

*Stephen Johnson is the owner and founder of Motor City Brew Tours, a tour company that provides guided tours to Detroit breweries. He has worked sales and marketing for over twenty years. A Michigan native, Stephen loves to share his knowledge and history of Detroit - the beer, prohibition and automotive scenes.*



**Saturday, May 4** 9 am Joint Field Trip with Rochester-Avon Historical Society  
**Tour of Ford's Detroit Piquette Plant**, Lunch at Zs Villa.

\$25/person paid in advance (includes bus and tour, does not include lunch) – registration info will be provided soon. Meet bus at 8:45 am for 9:00 am departure (location of departure TBD). Arrive at Piquette Plant 10 am tour – 1.5 hours. Bus to Z's Villa for lunch at 11:45 am. (Lunch is pay on your own, not included in the price, separate checks will be issued.) **Note: Participants need to be able to use stairs for getting on/off bus, at the plant\*\* and at the restaurant. \*\* Plant does have an elevator we can use.**



**Wednesday, June 6** 6:30 pm **Cranberry Lake Farm Flumerfelt Barn**, 384 W. Predmore Rd, Oakland Township  
 Program, pot-luck dinner, awards and elections



“Early Pioneer Settlers of Oakland Township – 200 Years and Still A Great Place To Settle”, by OTHS Board members.

Join us for a special 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the first land purchase in Oakland township back in 1819. OTHS Board members will present tales of interest about the early settlers of Oakland Township.



#### JOIN US AT THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!

**Also look for 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations around the Township throughout 2019!**

Celebrate OT's first land purchase 200 years later on March 16, 2019 –  
 check the Historic District Commission website for details

Greater Rochester Heritage Days and OTHS Plant Sale May 18 & 19, 2019

Goodison Good Tyme – September 2019

Down on the Farm – October 5, 2019



Pot-lucks are in the Cranberry Lake Farm (CLF) Flumerfelt Barn. CLF Programs are in the Main House. March program is at the Paint Creek Cider Mill (PCCM), 4480 Orion Rd. CLF is at 384 W. Predmore Rd in Oakland Township. A bad snow storm/school closings will mean that we would cancel our program and reschedule it. Join our Society to stay on our mailing list and receive more information about program location, time and details.

#### WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.

The public is welcome to our programs. There is no charge for our programs. For program information or to submit program ideas and speaker suggestions, e-mail Mary Tischler, Program Chairperson, [marytischler@comcast.net](mailto:marytischler@comcast.net). For membership or other information contact Sue Fox, Membership Chairperson, (248) 693-9646.

Visit our Facebook Page @othsmi or our website: [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org)

## Looking Back (Continued from page 2)



mother would bake bread. There was a little store in Goodison and you could go there for little things you needed.

The streetcar went from Detroit to Saginaw and up here at the junction, some went to Romeo. This subdivision used to be called Junction and our street (now Courtland) was named Junction.



I helped mother with canning, washing jars, and put things in. I always had to do the dishes. We weren't allowed to go out to play until we had finished the dishes and made the bed. We helped with the laundry. We had a washboard. We'd heat the water on the stove and put it in the washtubs. No wash machine. We didn't even have a wringer.

Later we got a ringer you turned by hand. We put bluing in the rinse water for the white clothes and if the towels were too bad, we put them in the boiler on the stove. I can remember helping wring the clothes. We'd hang clothes outside and in the winter they'd freeze. We used to laugh about bringing the underwear in and standing them up. When they thawed out they were still a bit damp. We'd hang them all over where we could. All we had for heat was a heating stove and a range in the kitchen. The big heating stove burned wood or coal in the living room. At night, everybody would get into their night clothes behind the stove and run upstairs because there was no heat, and jump under the covers and try to warm up a little bit. All the cooking was done on a wood burning range. My brother's job was to get the kindling ready for the next morning, and if it wasn't dry, we'd lay it on the oven door so it would be nice and dry in the morning.

*This lengthy interview will be continued in our Fall 2019 issue. PDF versions of the Oakland Township Historical Society's newsletters are available online at [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) under NEWS.*

## OTHS BOARD



*Bill Kroger, President*

*Diana Borrusch,  
Vice President*

*Sue Fox,  
Treasurer and  
Membership Chair*

*Mary Tischler,  
Recording Secretary and  
Program Chair*

*Colleen Barkham,  
Correspondence Secretary*

*Tom Asmus, Director*

*Barbara Barber, Director*

*Anthony Kowalchik, Director*

*David Phillips, Director*

*Jeanne Phillips, Director*

## OTHS Membership

*Help us continue to be a Society to be proud of. We welcome new members!*

*Share the form below with a friend or neighbor.*



### Membership Application Form

Membership Category:

Additional Donation:

Individual \$18 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail with this form to :  
Treasurer, Oakland Township Historical Society  
384 Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363 (do not send cash)  
For more information contact Sue Fox at 248.693.9646 or  
e-mail [othsmember@comcast.net](mailto:othsmember@comcast.net)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

We need your help! Consider donating your memories, time, money, or skills to help us preserve our heritage. Do you have a story to share? Do you want to submit a written memoir to our archives or have us tape an interview with you? Do you have a barn more than 50 years old? Have you found any old arrowheads or other ancient artifacts? Do you want to help with the plant sale at Heritage Days, Flumerfelt Flea, Down on the Farm, restoration of Cranberry Lake Farm, or other fun things? Please indicate below. We will contact you!

YES!  I have artifacts or historical photos, stories or other information

YES!  I would like to Volunteer with an event, committee, program, etc.

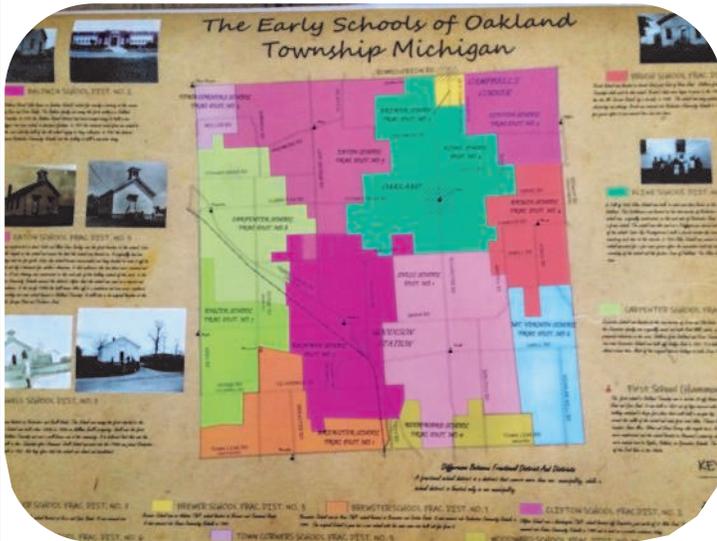
The OTHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All contributions and membership fees are tax deductible as provided by law.

## *Oakland Township 200 Years*

- May 1817 – Joseph Wampler – First recorded non-native person to set foot in the township. He surveyed the Township and gave it the geographic name, Township 4 North, Range 11 East.
- February 20, 1818 – Joseph Wampler land survey is approved by the land office and property in the Township becomes available for sale.
- March 16, 1819 – Woodworth and Russell buy land on Livernois north of Dutton in Oakland Township.
- 1820 – Oakland County is established and split into two townships, Bloomfield Township and Oakland Township.
- 1825 – The Erie Canal was completed and this encouraged a greater influx of pioneers. Some of the first to purchase land in the Township included a large family group lead by Needham Hemingway, Benedict Baldwin, Asa Baker and Josiah Dewey. Many more early families followed including Axford, Fosdick, Brewster, Carpenter and Kline.
- April 25, 1825 – James Hazzard and James Coleman buy at Adams and Silver Bell.
- 1825 – Needham Hemingway purchases property off Territorial Road to build a mill.
- 1826 – First log homes are built in the Township.
- 1827 – The first school is built in Section 29 of the Township.
- November 25, 1832 – Survey complete for widening of Territorial Road (Orion Road) to make better access to Lapeer.
- 1835 – Needham Hemingway completes building a mill and millrace and several other businesses including the Baldwin school locate in the area that will become known as Goodison.
- 1837 – At the time of the first settler's arrival, Oakland Township comprised three-fifths of the area of the county. It included five congressional towns of Avon, Oakland, Addison, Oxford, and Orion. By 1837, the year of statehood, all five congressional towns were established as separate townships.
- 1855 – First Town hall is built off Buell Road close to Collins Road. Saint John Methodist church is established at Rochester Road and Buell Road.
- 1866 – William Goodison buys the mill Needham Hemingway built.
- 1872 – Detroit and Bay City Railroad cuts through the township. A flag station is established at Goodison's Mill. The State recognized Goodison as a Hamlet and establishes a post office.
- 1887 – Saint John Methodist church is moved to Collins Road in downtown Goodison.
- 1952 – Snell, Baldwin, and Brush Schools are annexed into Rochester Community Schools.
- 1953 – Kline School is annexed into Rochester Community Schools.
- 1955 – Kline school is torn down; this was the last building in the historic town of Oakland.
- 1974 – Oakland Township Historical Society is formed.

# New Project – Schools in Oakland Township

Beginning in 1827 Oakland Township had one-room schoolhouses. The schools provided education through grade 12. Teachers were hired and paid by the citizens of the area they served. As the Township grew the schools multiplied. The first school was in the area of Adams Road between Silver Bell and Gunn.



Anthony Kowalchick, an OTHS Board member, has created a GIS (Geographic Information System) map showing the location of the seven schools that were located in the Township about 1900. The map also displays fractional schools in the surrounding area. Fractional schools were located outside the Township but served some Township residents.

The map contains photos of five of the schools. Photos of the other two were not available to the Society. The map also contains information about each of the schools. The original 2'X3' version of the map will be displayed in the OTHS museum at Cranberry Lake Farm.

The Society has copied the map in a smaller (16"X20") format and they will be available for sale at a cost of \$15.

Don't forget that your Kroger and Amazon purchases can help support OTHS! Sign up for Kroger 'Community Rewards' and Amazon Smile, choosing Oakland Township Historical Society as your charitable organization!



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!



384 West Predmore Road  
Oakland, Michigan 48363



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