



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

President's Thoughts

This year Oakland Township has been celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first settlers buying land and beginning life in our Township. As you pass the Paint Creek Cider Mill on Orion Road you see the 200th banner on the fence at the northwest end of the building.

Throughout the year, beginning with cupcakes in March, the Township Historic District Commission and our Society have been celebrating this bicentennial anniversary with events and articles in our local publications. The fun continues this month at the Music in the Meadows Concert at Cranberry Lake Farm on

August 16th. The Concert is at 7:30 pm, however, you can come an hour or so early and tour the various buildings in the Historic District at CLF.



Members of the Society will be available to show you around and answer questions. In addition, the Society has a limited number of bicentennial fabric shopping bags full of surprises. The bags will be given away on a first come-first served basis.

Oak 200: the Celebration of Oakland County's Bicentennial in 2020

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners (OCBC) created the Bicentennial Study Group in 2018. This Study Group brought together interested parties across the county, including historical societies, historic district commissions, and historical museums. There are currently four sub-committees creating proposals for the 2020 celebration. Once the proposals are presented to the OCBC and necessary approvals are obtained, we should have events and activities to announce for the 2020 celebration! Stay tuned!

Bill Kroger, OTHS President



Flumerfelt Flea Market

OTHS will again sponsor the Flumerfelt Flea at Cranberry Lake Farm on the weekend of Goodison Good Tyme. The Flumerfelt Flea will be **Saturday, September 14, 2019 10 am – 5 pm, and on Sunday, September 15, 2019 noon – 5 pm.** 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 or 248-652-0712.



The Society Flea Market Sale at Cranberry Lake Farm Flumerfelt Barn

LOOKING BACK WITH MARGARET BLANCHARD

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

(In the Spring 2019 issue we printed the first part of the interview of Margaret Blanchard in April 2002. This is the conclusion of that interview.)

The fire in the wood burning range went out during the night. I can remember my mother and the boys walking up the tracks with a pail, and if they'd get 2 or 3 nice chunks of coal, that would keep a fire going all night.

We had a bathtub. We heated the water on the stove, and put the tub near the range and opened the oven door. We shared the bath water, 1 or 2 depending. We'd argue who was going to get in there first. That was once a week. In summer we took our baths and washed our hair in Paint Creek.

We made our own entertainment. We had very few toys - a ball and bat that I assume my father made. We had a sled and he'd keep that in repair. In winter we had skates that clamped on our shoes and we spent most of the time sitting on the ice, keeping them on, than we did skating. One of the boys at Baldwin school (at Gunn) had skis. He had skis and a toboggan. There was a hill across the road, and we'd slide down. At home we just used cardboard for our toboggan, and we took an old wooden barrel apart and that was our skis. We'd polish 'em up and we'd put a strap across 'em. We made do.

I have a couple of the rationing books. I remember saving all your bacon fat and turning it in, and flattening all your tin cans, for scrap drives. We had newspaper drives.



None of my family had to serve in the war, but my husband's brother, Rollin Blanchard, was on a sub. He tells about going into the harbor in Japan, and they got into the harbor by going under one of the big Japanese ships, and the ship couldn't pick them up. They went right into the harbor and bombed them. They got a bunch of their ships, and then got out OK. Then he came back and was in Portsmouth. He went out on a practice mission on the Squallis, out on maneuvers. Someone didn't shut a hatch tightly and the sub went down, and they lost a lot of lives, but 30 of them got out with the new diving bell they had. It was the first time it was ever used, and my husband's brother was the first man brought up. They had one section that wasn't flooded and he was the last man to shut the door.

Banking. Everything was cash, and if you didn't have the money you didn't buy. We didn't have a checking account until Carl, my last child, was in school and I went to work for the school system. I worked in the cafeteria for 19 years. I started in the old high school. I worked there 3 years and then I came to North Hill. I managed the cafeteria here. My husband was making good money at Parke Davis. That's when we started a bank account and checking account.



Shoes were a big thing. My mother sewed, and my aunt visited and made my sister and I each a coat. We hated those coats. They were big, heavy material and the collar was bulgy and bulky. But they were the first new coats we ever had. I think what my mother didn't make We went barefoot most the time and saved the shoes for school and special occasions. I've always sewn. I think Mrs. Barnes gave us some feed bags, and I bleached them and I made pajamas for Peggy, shorts for my husband. My mother had a sewing machine, a treadle, and I'd go there to use it, but I remember making those pajamas all by hand because I had no way to get to my mother's then. I learned to sew at home. My aunt would bring things and then they didn't fit very well, so I would fix them on the sewing machine.



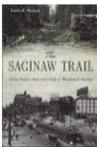
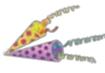
We had a garden and Mike had a walk-behind tractor and he would pick up extra money preparing gardens for other people. He was always working. But he left the gardening to me.

Goodison. I can remember when there was a little store, and the mail came there. I knew the Blair family and she ran this little store and her son had a garage next door. Before that I don't remember who ran it, but my mother got her mail there. Carroll Blair and his wife and two boys lived upstairs. His mother lived downstairs, and she'd bake pies and she'd serve a slice of pie and a cup of coffee. In the fire, Carroll's wife and two sons were killed. They were upstairs, and he was in the garage that connected with the store. Old Mrs. Blair was never well after that, but she didn't die in the fire. Carroll Blair came to my husband's funeral in '85.



(Continued on page 4)

2019–2020 Program Schedule

<p>September 4 6:30 pm CLF Barn</p> <p>'The Saginaw Trail: From Native American Path to Woodward Avenue' by Leslie Pielack, Annual pot-luck dinner.</p> 	<p>October 19 11:30 am Lunch at Thee Office Pub 128 South Main Street, Romeo, \$ on your own 12:45 pm Haunted History Trolley Tour of Romeo by Michigan Trolley Tours, Inc., pick up location in alleyway behind Thee Office Pub, \$20/person</p>	<p>November 6 7:00 pm PCUMC</p> <p>'The Chautauqua Movement: Its Origins, Impact and Presence in Michigan' by Jim Craft.</p> 
<p>December 4 6:30 pm PCUMC</p>  <p>Annual December Potluck and Program 'Motor Sports: The Thrill of the Track' by Marc Trahan. Followed by Christmas carol sing-along</p>	<p>January 2020 No Meeting This Month Happy New Year!</p>  <p>February 2020 No Meeting This Month Stay Warm!</p> 	<p>March 4 7:00 pm PCUMC</p> <p>'One-Room Schoolhouses in Oakland Township' by Anthony Kowalchick.</p> 
<p>April 1 7:00 pm Brewery Location TBD (arrive an hour earlier if having dinner)</p> <p>'Early Detroit Automotive Pioneers' by Steve Johnson, Motor City Brew Tours.</p>	<p>May 2020 (Field Trip) TBD Time TBD</p> <p>Joint Field Trip with Rochester-Avon Historical Society – details to follow.</p> 	<p>June 3 6:30 pm CLF Barn</p> <p>Program by Professor Mark Manry, pot-luck dinner and elections. More information to come!</p>

Join Us At These Special Events



- Music in the Meadows at CLF** - Fri August 16, 2019, Tours 5:30-6:30, Music 7 – 9 pm
- Square Dance at CLF** - Sat Sept 7, 2019, 7 – 9 pm
- Goodison Good Tyme** - Sat Sept 14, 2019, 11 am – 2 pm
- Flumerfelt Flea** - Sat Sept 14, 2019, 10 am – 5 pm, Sun Sept 15, 2019, noon – 5 pm
- Down on the Farm** - Sat Oct 5, 2019, 11 am – 2 pm



Pot-lucks are in the Cranberry Lake Farm (CLF) Flumerfelt Barn at 384 W. Predmore Rd in Oakland Township. November, December and March programs are at the Paint Creek United Methodist Church (PCUMC), 4420 Collins Rd. A bad snow storm 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. For membership or other information contact Sue Fox, Membership Chairperson, (248) 693-9646.

Visit our Facebook Page @othsmi or our website: www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org

Looking Back (Continued from page 2)



I can remember the mill and seeing that old man that ran the mill. His name was Davey. I think they called him Will. He lived right across from the schoolhouse with the stream in the back. We would see him walking to the mill in the same clothes he had on the day before all covered with flour, and his socks on the outside of his pants. I was going in grade school. I was in 8th grade when they opened Baldwin school as it is now. It had two rooms. I went from January to June, and they still had only one teacher in one room. But we had an inside toilet. We had water.

On Silverbell then, we had an outhouse. Everybody had an outhouse. And we didn't have a well, but there was a spring where we got our water, and there was a cistern. The spring water was the best water. The only neighbors we had lived across the road. Their name was Goodison - Dolly and Ed, and they had a son named Gerald. The Freers only came out in the summertime. They had a daughter and we always played with her. Her mother came from Detroit and didn't want anything to do with us kids. She wouldn't let Ruth swim in the creek. Us kids spent half our life in the creek. But she wouldn't dare get her bathing suit wet or her mother would know she'd been in the creek. So we decided to go skinny dipping at a bend where there were a lot of trees and nobody could see us. But of course, my *brother* followed us. We really got in trouble. Later, Ruth lived alone there in that big house after her parents were gone, and I never saw her. I really don't know anything about her becoming a seamstress. She was in the arts, a painter, I think. Her father had a couple horses that he raced in the wintertime on the ice.



He kept them here and they had a racing buggy. My father would hitch them up and exercise them once in a while. Freer would come out on weekends and do this. My dad milked the cows. Mother made the butter. There were beef cattle, and a bull. There was a hay barn where we played. They had a granary. My dad was mainly a Caretaker.

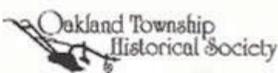
OTHS BOARD



- Bill Kroger, President*
- Anthony Kowalchik, Vice President*
- Sue Fox, Treasurer and Membership Chair*
- Mary Tischler, Recording Secretary and Program Chair*
- Tom Asmus, Director*
- Barbara Barber, Director*
- Colleen Barkham, Director*
- Diana Borrusch, 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

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.

OTHS Membership

It's membership renewal time, and if you don't know your status, just contact Sue Fox by email at othsmember@comcast.net or call 248-693-9646 to find out. When sending in your membership dues, let us know if you have a change in address, phone or email address. We will be putting dues status information with all future mail, so you will be able to see your expiration date anytime. Thank you for being an Oakland Township Historical Society member.



In May 2019 Rochester Avon Historical Society and Oakland Township Historical Society jointly sponsored a tour of the **Ford Piquette Plant** in Detroit. These photos by Leslie Mack show the tour group inside the Plant. This three story Plant produced the ford Model A and others in the early part of the 20th century prior to the start of the assembly line at the Highland Park Ford Plant.



PDF versions of the Oakland Township Historical Society's newsletters are available online at www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org under NEWS.



Down on the Farm

Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District, Oakland Township's historical farm, is holding its annual Down on the Farm event on Saturday, October 5, from 11 AM to 2 PM. The address is 388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363.

Sat. Oct 5 - 11am to 2pm

This is a free family fun day filled with activities provided by Oakland Township Historical Society, the Historic District Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, with special thanks to Oakland County Parks and Recreation for lending their hay wagon.



We will have a variety of Musicians: Just Banjos and Harmonica George, and honeybee beekeeping presentations, chickens, ducks, and goats. Also Blacksmiths, Horse grooming and Farrier demonstrations! For the young at heart: pumpkin picking and painting (until we run out), lawn games, apple history, local artist paintings displays, caning, spinning, and quilting. New this year will be a vintage apron display, and of course hay rides pulled by a tractor!

Event is free and open to the public - plenty of activities for all ages!

Clarence Kremer Dollhouse Returns to Oakland Township

Clarence Kremer was a renowned Oakland Township carpenter. He was well known for displaying his craft by building clocks and dollhouses in addition to his primary business of building houses and other things in the area. In 1976 he made a dollhouse for Jenny Lee Head, the daughter of Robert and Barbara Head who lived at 2720 Rochester Rd.



Mr. Kremer fashioned the dollhouse to be a replica of the 1837 farmhouse the Heads lived in at that time. The large wooden home was originally built by Peter Kline, one of the earliest settlers of the Township. The home remained with descendants of Kline until 1935 when it was sold to the Markle family that included daughter Gretchen.

Jenny Head, in a 2007 write-up about the dollhouse said, (I) “spent my younger years collecting things for it, playing for many hours and having fun with the creative things you could do, like wall paper and carpet and much, much more.”

The dollhouse was moved from her parents house to Jenny’s home in Texas and remained in the crate Bob Head had made to ship it to his daughter for twenty years. In 2007 Jenny shipped the dollhouse to Brian Atkins, a business partner of her dad in Rochester. He had a daughter, Kendall, who was about the age Jenny was when she received the dollhouse.

Several years ago the dollhouse was purchased by a family in Macomb County and this year they made it available to the Oakland Township Historical Society. It now resides in the Society’s Museum at Cranberry Lake Farm, keeping company with a grandfather clock also made by Clarence Kremer, and located in the Main House at Cranberry Lake Farm.

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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