



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

President's Thoughts

The Covid 19 pandemic has certainly changed our lives and the way we get things done.

The OTHS has cancelled our monthly membership meetings since March of this year. The Board of Directors has continued to meet on a monthly basis using computer based technology. On a few occasions masked members have worked on our collections and archives at Cranberry Lake Farm.

We will resume programming when it is safe to do so. We continue to investigate subjects and presenters so that we are ready to resume our monthly meetings when appropriate.

When we do have meetings you may have noticed our membership is not increasing. If you know of someone who may be interested in our local history pass their name along to Sue Fox or myself and we will provide them with a copy of our Newsletter and information on the Society.

Election day is November 3. Be sure to vote. If you vote by absentee ballot you can put your completed ballot in a drop box immediately across from the front door of the Township Offices. No postage is required. Please note the article about the HDC Millage Renewal in this Newsletter.

Your Board of Directors wishes you continued good health and good fortune.

Bill Kroger,
OTHS President



Vote November 3rd For the Renewal of the Historic District Operating Millage

This is our history and it's worth saving!



Help preserve and protect our heritage in Oakland Township. Approved in 1996, 2002, and 2012, residents have supported the continued funding of historic preservation, education, restoration, acquisitions, and also funding for the development and maintenance of our community historical center Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The ballot language about this question is the following:

Charter Township of Oakland

RENEWAL OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE

SHALL THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND BE AUTHORIZED TO RENEW A LEVY OF UP TO .1096 FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS, STARTING WITH THE DECEMBER 2022 LEVY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING TO FUND HISTORIC PRESERVATION, EDUCATION, RESTORATION, ACQUISITION, AND MAINTENANCE WITHIN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND? AS PART OF THIS PURPOSE, THIS MILLAGE INCLUDES FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT, A SITE LISTED AS A COMMUNITY HISTORIC CENTER ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

APPROVAL OF THIS PROPOSAL WOULD RENEW THE PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED TAX LIMITATION INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY .11 CENTS PER \$1,000 OF TAXABLE VALUE ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIP, OR \$10.96 PER YEAR ON A HOME WITH A TAXABLE VALUE OF \$100,000. REVENUE FROM THE LEVY RENEWAL SHALL BE DISBURSED TO THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND. BASED UPON THE PROJECTED 2022 TOWNSHIP WIDE TAXABLE VALUE, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THIS PROPOSAL WOULD RESULT IN AUTHORIZATION TO COLLECT UP TO \$176,888.10 OF REVENUE IN THE FIRST YEAR (2022) IF THIS MILLAGE RENEWAL IS AUTHORIZED AND LEVIED.

STORIES FROM GLENWOOD DOBAT

From a November 3, 1999 interview with the Oakland Township Historical Society

Continued from Spring 2020 OTHS Newsletter

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Besides beef, we had a regular farm. We raised hay, corn, and oats for sale. We had 4 big silos. We had an elevator that took the corn up out of the silo and into a truck and it went across to the feeding lot into the driveway where he could just drive through and unload into the troughs. While he was doing that I was at the other barn hauling the silage for another kind of cattle - we had another kind of beef cattle. We had the first White Charlettes in the township, or even in the county. People asked how did you ever do it - all the meals, the cooking, the canning and the working in the fields. We occasionally had some help, but it was hard to find good help. John grew up knowing how to work. Even the girls - they'd drive tractors and milk cows. We had a big dairy herd. When we had our sale we had 50 head of Holsteins and 50 head of Drymots.



Glenwood Dobat



My son remembers going to Ray Alt's house to get papers signed. (Lucy Alt was township clerk), The township hall wasn't used for offices. Everybody had offices in their homes. I remember going to the hall for dinners. 4 H met there. The Farm bureau had Field Days. We had some at our place. There was a group of women who would get together and do crafts. I used to do pottery, china painting, clock painting, and all kinds of things.

When Carl and I were first married, for fun we'd go to the show on Saturday night, sometimes to Detroit. We'd go roller skating. He spent more time keeping me on my feet than skating.

There was a show on Main Street - the Idle Hour, next to the hotel, on the west side of the street near Burr Hardware. The old D&C used to be there and Schoolcraft's Drug Store, and Harley Korff's Butcher Shop. I still have the recipe that Harley Korff gave me in 1934 for his homemade sausage. Yes, we made our own sausage. We had our own pigs, and we made our own bacon, too. What didn't we do? I canned 600 quarts of fruits and vegetables. I had chickens and I dressed those and put the legs, thighs and breasts into a jar with salt, to cold pack, and the rest of it I cooked and made broth and canned that for soup in winter. You learned to do that. We made our own lard. My mother always made butter, and when she was gone, I made it. We had a churn with a crank.



For clothes, we shopped from catalogs. When we were little, we'd sit down in the fall and make out an order to Sears or Montgomery Ward. We'd get *underwear* with bloomers for the girls, with elastic at the waist and knees.



When I was 3 I lived with my aunt in Marcellus (SW of Kalamazoo), and that's where I saw my first automobile, a Stanley Steamer. It didn't have any steering wheel. It steered with a lever. And after we got up on the farm, I remember going huckleberrying one day, near Interlochen, and we had a Maxwell, and Dad went to shift and the shifter came off in his hand.

(Continued on page 3)

Our Oral History Collection

OTHS has a wonderful collection of oral histories of Oakland Township residents. These histories were done starting with the beginning of our Society in 1974. Our first President, Delta Kelly was responsible for the first interviews with some of our senior citizens who had deep roots in the Township. Later, under the leadership of President Carolyn Dulin, additional oral histories were added to the collection in the late 1990s.

In 2005, at the Rochester Hills Museum, a group met to start another series of oral histories which would be from residents of Rochester Hills, Rochester, Shelby Township and Oakland Township. This group created a list of elderly residents and started in earnest to interview and record many more oral histories. This committee met for approximately five years and collected another 20+ oral histories.

Today you can find all of these oral histories at the Rochester Hills Library and the Rochester Hills Museum. Any oral history that has roots in Oakland Township is also on file in our archive at Cranberry Lake Farm. Transcriptions can be copied and tapes are available if you want to hear those voices of the past! There are great stories of first settlers, the Great Depression, life on the farm and of Rochester area families during two World Wars. You might be surprised to find a history of your family on file! To make an appointment to visit our archives, see contact at our website: www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.com

We would love to start another committee of oral history enthusiasts. Is this something that might interest you? We have all the information to get you started! Please contact Colleen Barkham at thsbarkham@hotmail.com if you would like to get involved!

ORAL HISTORIES – PRESERVING THE PAST

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

STORIES FROM GLENWOOD DOBAT (Continued from page 2)

Carl lost his arm cutting corn for somebody down the road, east of us. The corn didn't ripen and was like icicles and it got stuck in the mowers. He thought he could get it out. The mower was tractor drawn. He got off to push it down in and it took his arm off. He knew if he didn't break it off, he would die right there, so he broke it off. Then he released his machine from the tractor and got on the tractor and drove to Wally Hodges' house. Wally took him to the doctor. When I saw him at the hospital, the nurse threw back the blanket and revealed the stump. He said, "How did you ever think I could do something like this? I am a man who bailed hay" And he never gave up. Never gave up. He drove a big combine when he got it. He was 35 when this happened. He lived to be 72.

Additional notes: There were 6 barns on the farm, and 4 big silos and 3 big cylindrical grain bins. Their son lived there and helped, but when he left to start his pool business, which still is active, they sold the cattle. It was too much work to continue.





With Thanks

This past May, lunch was delivered to our First Responders in Oakland Township from Oakland Township Historical Society. Fire Station 1, Fires station 2 and our 8 Oakland County Sheriff Deputies on duty every day! At Fire Station 1 is Bob Zbytowski (Rt) and Jon Diehr (lft). Thank-you to our First Responders for all they have done during the Pandemic!

The **OTHS store** has many great gift items for sale - A few 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! Contact Sue Fox.



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.

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©(3) charitable organization. All contributions and membership fees are tax deductible as provided by law.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE WAITING 72 YEARS

Why did it take so long for the women to get the right to vote? Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton initiated the movement with the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, yet the 19th amendment did not get ratified until 1920.

By the mid-1800s America was in turmoil over the massive issues of drinking, slavery, and women's rights. The Evangelical Second Great Awakening wanted soul-saving moral reforms, particularly temperance and emancipation of women. Which one was most pressing?

Slavery did create a civil war in the early 1860s. This peculiar institution was particularly abhorrent, owning and mistreating people solely for profit. As promoters of abolition, many early suffragists were peaceful Quaker women, often aiding station masters of the Underground Railroad. By campaigning for negro freedom, key leaders of that movement such as Frank Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglas came to support women causes as well.

A pressing problem was alcoholism. The Prohibition Party, founded in 1869, endeavored to reduce the level of crime and spousal abuse while trying to raise piety for a civilized society. Factory owners pressed for fewer work accidents and more productivity. Many a weekly pay was squandered at the tavern at the end of the week.

Concurrently suffragists fought for the vote. Stanton wrote eleven resolutions which declared women be the equal of men. These demands encompassed politics, family, education, jobs, and religion. Men had long dictated the female sphere of action while eroding her self-respect and creating dependence. In most states they were denied higher levels of education, prevented from owning property, and upon divorce lost custody of their children. With no representation by law, women submitted to laws with no consent.

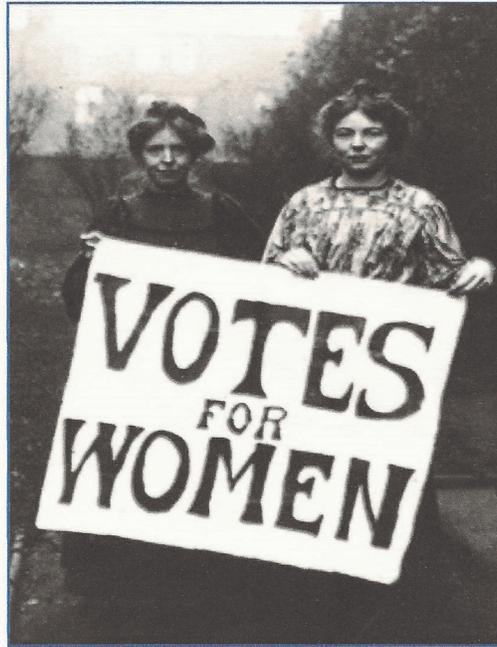
While the Negro man got voting rights in 1870, the US Supreme Court decided that women's citizenship did not extend to that privilege. A new constitutional change had to be drawn. Many thought women were uneducated, unworlly,

and too emotional to step outside their limited horizons. There were many of both sexes who believed all sorts of biases. By the turn of the century, women did work outside the home in offices, department stores, and even in professions such as journalism. During WWI they even took men's jobs in the war industry--by the end they comprised a quarter of the labor force. Such patriotism should be rewarded. Plus other countries had already granted voting rights to women. President Wilson eventually declared his support in January 1918 and the following year Congress approved the amendment. By the document called "Anthony's Amendment" introduced in Congress back in 1878, women finally achieved the right to vote.

Of the major moral problems raging during the 1800s, slavery, temperance, and suffrage generated a total of six constitutional amendments. And yet all grievances were still not addressed. Each amendment contained vague language necessitating future Supreme Court cases. While the suffrage question was resolved, women still do not have all the rights

fought for by the original activists. Yet today we do celebrate the hard-won advances of these suffragists. This is the 100th year anniversary of our right to vote!

Susan McGill



Used with permission of Susan McGill.

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP'S HISTORICAL FARM

Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District

PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND

bbarber@oaklandtownship.org or 248-608-6807

Social distancing is required.

We have scaled down the activities and will limit the number of people present at one time.



Down on the Farm

Family Fun Activities on the Farm -RSVP!!

388 W. Predmore Rd. Oakland Twp.

Saturday, October 3, 2020 11am-2pm

Harmonica George 11am to 12

Silver Tops Banjo Players 12 to 2pm

Tractors

Local artists display of paintings

Beekeeping, chickens

Horse grooming and Farrier demonstration

Learn about Spinning

Apron Display

Take a pumpkin home from the pumpkin patch



Historic District Commission

Historic District Commission <http://bit.ly/OTHDC>

And www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org



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
OTH
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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www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org