



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

## Co-Presidents Thoughts – Spring 2025

A new year is upon us and it's great to reflect back as well as look forward. We are excited to report that the railroad signal booth has been installed at Goodison Station (*Paint Creek Junction Park*) along the Paint Creek Trail. A plaque with historical information about the booth is being created and will be installed this spring. Take a walk or bike down the trail to stop by and see it!

The Flumerfelt Flea sale was a huge success once again. We received numerous donations of wonderful items, including a large collection of depression-era glass. This Flea sale is one of our biggest fundraisers, and we appreciate the donors who gave us items for the sale.

We also accept limited donations of quality, historical items, with a connection to Oakland Township or the surrounding area, to add to our collection of artifacts. As a small historical society with limited space, we cannot accept everything that is offered to us. We have a collections policy in place to help guide that process. All donations to the Flumerfelt Flea sale are not considered donations to our collection of artifacts – so those items are either sold or donated to another organization or recycled/disposed of if they don't sell. Sometimes, however, an item we receive for the Flea sale might meet the guidelines of our collections policy and we might add it to our artifacts collection. The Oakland Township Historic District Commission (HDC) also accepts donations for their collection, separate from ours.

Thanks to Pat Lazar and the Lazar Family for their donation of two antique family rockers to add to our artifact collections.

Congratulations to the HDC for their successful move of the Garling Barn! What a wonderful accomplishment. It was a cold and windy day, but it is now relocated and history will be preserved.

We continue to work on organizing archives and want to thank our intern, Tabitha, for her hard work.

Please pay your dues if you haven't already. We are always looking for new members to support us financially as well as help us with volunteering. If you know anyone please spread the word!

And of course, please remember to check our Facebook page. We have included in the newsletter two historical excerpts from our Facebook page of the history and people in our community, please read on pages 2 and 3.



**Your OTHS Co-Presidents  
Anthony Kowalchick and  
Mary Tischler**

## Historic Home Book Launch Coming Soon!

Oakland Township Historical Society is in the process of producing a booklet to showcase some of the beautiful historic homes in our township. Even this fundraiser for our society has history! In 1976, our society produced a book highlighting some of our heritage with photographs, maps and descriptions of historic properties. In 2009 we produced a calendar of 13 historic sites, including the cover photograph. Today, we are in the process of creating a booklet to highlight mostly homes, along with some other noteworthy historical sites in the township. This book will give a brief history of the places highlighted. We will announce when it goes on sale and at that time, we would love your support to spread the word.



1976 Booklet



## ***Historical excerpt from our Facebook page of the history and people in our community***

The story of Gallagher Barn at 4240 Adams Road.

The history of this barn and the individual linked to it is absolutely fascinating!

This barn is referred to as the Gallagher Barn since it was built for William Henry Gallagher. The original farm that the barn was located on was named Glackmore Farm, probably named for Gallagher's Irish ancestry.

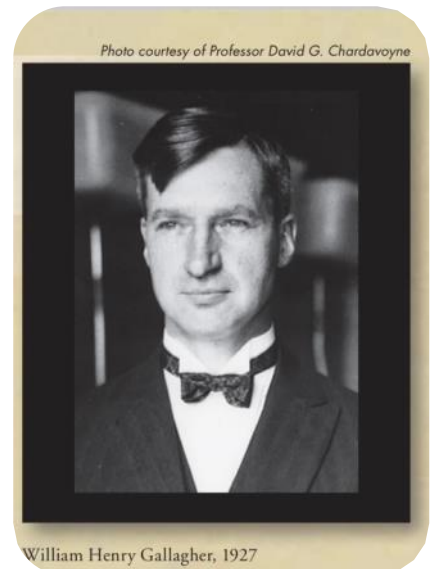


Mr. Gallagher was a very prominent criminal attorney in Detroit in the 1900s. In the 1920s he argued over 50 cases in the Michigan Supreme Court. He represented Aaron Sapiro, in his suit against Henry Ford for his anti-Semitic attacks. Gallagher also won a record settlement of half a million back in that time! The Gallaghers (wife and two children) purchased farmland in Oakland Township, their beautiful 1927 home still stands today on Silver Bell Road. See picture below. The farm originally consisted of 1,000 acres; 125 acres were fruit trees—apples, peaches, and tart cherries. 300 acres was crop land with additional pasture for 60 Guernsey cows, 2 bulls, and two teams of horses. Our society knows a lot about this farm since we have the oral history of John Edwin Proctor, the son of the Farm Manager who was hired by Mr. Gallagher. The Proctors lived on the farm until the 1940s.

Many years later when the land was subdivided and sold, a private resident saved the barn by moving it to his land off Adams Road. We are grateful that the barn was preserved when Westwynd Golf Course purchased the land from the private resident.

\*Pictures of barn and home are from our barn survey report from 2003.

\*Credit for the picture of Mr. Gallagher is noted on the picture.



## **Oral Histories — Preserving The Past**

## ***Historical excerpt from our Facebook page of the history and people in our community***

The lovely farmhouse that sits on Dutton Road was once part of Glenwood Acres. Glenwood was the first name of the smiling face below!



This home, land and structures have fascinating history for Oakland Township. The first Dobats, Gust and Carrie, purchased 103 acres back in 1919. The farmhouse was a Sears mail order home built in 1907 by Clarence Kramer.

Gust Dobat immigrated with his parents from Prussia, coming from the Erie Canal to Detroit. He owned a buggy and wagon paint shop on Main Street near the bridge. On the farm they raised animals and had a garden to help feed their 5 children, one of whom was Carl. Carl married Glenwood Stickney in 1930. Together they raised turkeys, chickens, pigs and dairy cattle and later in time, beef cattle.

There are many interesting stories to share about the lives of the Dobats—one in particular is the moving of Matilda Dodge-Wilson's barns from Meadowbrook Hall to Carl's property. See picture below. Carl moved a Gambrel Barn, a Corncrib barn, and a 5-door Garage Barn to his parcel in 1961.

The home currently stands on now 10 acres with some of the barns still standing!



***PDF versions of the Oakland Township Historical Society's newsletters are available online at [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) under NEWS.***

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**A Briefing from our Donation Chair**

Our Society welcomes donations that are relevant to the history of our township for our museum. We have a committee that reviews and reports their recommendations for accepting and displaying items to our board. We are limited on space and are grateful for the wonderful items we have received.

We also, at times, receive collections that we may add to, and display in a display cabinet in the Paint Creek Cider Mill. We currently have a collection of old cameras that is very interesting. Since we change it twice a year, this will be changed to an old hat collection soon. You still have time to view the cameras. Stop by and enjoy!

Diana Borrusch

**Insights from our Social Media Chair**

If you haven't had a chance to look up our Facebook page -Oakland Township Historical Society, I highly encourage you to do so. Come see why over one thousand people have chosen to follow us! Our site announces our monthly programs, historic homes with the stories behind them, past people of interest as well as landmarks gone but not forgotten. We aim to make history current and relatable!

Do you have a story or a picture of Township history that you would like to share? Feel free to reach out to me at

[Ganekow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ganekow@sbcglobal.net).

Gayle Kowalchick

**facebook.com/othsmi**

**OTHS BOARD**



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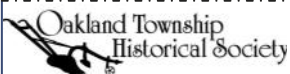
Gayle Kowalchick,  
Social Media Chair

Diana Borrusch, Director,  
Donation Committee Chair

**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:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Total Enclosed

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

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

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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)

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.

## Spring 2025 OTHS Programs and Events

**March 5**

**Once There Was a Town Here:**

**Stories of Oakland County towns that have disappeared.**

6:30 pm Social

7:00pm Program

Paint Creek United Methodist Church, 4420 Collins Road, Goodison, MI

Speaker: Carol Bacak Egbo, historian, researcher and educator.



**April 2**

**Dinner and Program**

6:00 pm Dinner

7:15 pm Program

Lakeville Station Restaurant, 600 Lakeville Road, Leonard, MI

Speaker: TBD



**April 26 (Tentative)**

**Tour and Program**

Details Soon!

Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke Avenue, Washington Township, MI

By invitation with Rochester Avon Historical Society.



**May**

**Tour and Lunch Field Trip!**



Join us for a trip to Northville to tour their historic Mill Race Village. \$5 fee for the tour. RSVP to [thsbarkham@hotmail.com](mailto:thsbarkham@hotmail.com) Lunch after in Northville.

8:45am Meet at Paint Creek Cider Mill parking lot, 4480 Orion Road, and carpool to Northville.



**June 4**

**The Pontiac Legacy -**

**The History of Transportation: Carriage, car and truck in Pontiac and Oakland County**

6:00pm Potluck, Elections, Annual Membership Meeting

7:15pm Program

Flumerfelt Barn, Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI

Speaker: Terry Connolly, Pontiac Transportation Museum Member and Volunteer.



**Special Announcement** The Heritage Festival is taking a break this year and will be returning in 2026. We have appreciated all your past donations of perennials, trees and houseplants. Please, give your shovels a rest for this year. For those who have purchased and supported us in the past, we will be selling Red Pine saplings at our Spring Potluck on June 4<sup>th</sup>. If you can't attend but are interested in supporting us, please send Colleen Barkham an email at [thsbarkham@hotmail.com](mailto:thsbarkham@hotmail.com).

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, email Colleen Barkham, Program Chairperson, [thsbarkham@hotmail.com](mailto:thsbarkham@hotmail.com). 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)

## Find Us on Facebook

Have you ever wondered where the names of local roads like Snell, Dequindre or Gallagher came from? You can find out on the OTHS Facebook page. Join our 1,000 followers and become follower 1,001! Learn about William Goodison and keep up with our latest programs and events. Find out about local historic homes like the house at 825 Mead Road or the house at 5770 N. Rochester Road. Check us out at [facebook.com/othsmi](https://www.facebook.com/othsmi) or search Facebook for Oakland Township Historical Society.



<https://www.facebook.com/OTHSMI/>

### A Word from Our Archive Chair:

I am happy to announce that the archives are steadily increasing at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District. They are currently being logged into the Past Perfect Software Catalog on our new computer and corrections are being made as needed. Our intern, Tabitha Masters, is doing a great job and she has been working a lot of hours to ensure it will be finished in a timely fashion. Once it is completed, we can set up our website for the public to view and get access to our archives. At that time, I will be continuing with my volunteer hours at the farm every Wednesday from 1 PM to 4PM, weather permitting. You may also schedule an appointment with me, my cellphone number is 248-342-7464.

The office and archives room are also being sorted and cleaned; it is a never-ending task. We are grateful for all the additional information we are continuing to gather for our society.

Sue Fox



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.



Don't forget that your Kroger purchases can help support OTHS. Sign up for Kroger 'Community Rewards' and choose Oakland Township Historical Society as your charitable organization.



*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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