



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

From the Desks of the Co-Presidents

Our June potluck was a wonderful event to close our 2022-2023 season with an interesting program on the history of Oakland County Parks. We also re-elected our Treasurer Sue Fox, and Board Directors Tom Asmus, Diana Borrusch and David Phillips. Our 2023-2024 season will begin with our September 6th potluck, with Donald C. Westphal speaking about restoration of the Avon Prairie House.

Our April open house was a fun day with many new visitors to Cranberry Lake Farm who had always wanted to go inside the buildings but never had a chance to. If you are interested in being a docent and helping out at our building tours, please contact us!

Did you know that we have a display case at the Paint Creek Cider Mill where we rotate and showcase different items from our collection? Right now we have a display of old cameras – stop by the cider mill to take a look. Thank you to Sue Fox for getting that set up.

The annual plant sale at the Heritage Festival was once again a success – thank you to everyone who donated plants and everyone who helped, and special thanks to Bill Kroger for taking on this big responsibility.

Every year we receive a variety of donations of items from different people and families - sometimes they are historic artifacts that are donated to our collections, sometimes they are donations to our Flumerfelt Flea sale. Over the past few years we have added some interesting finds to our collection, such as school desks from the old Eaton Schoolhouse and a songbook from the church that took over that space.

One of the most important ways we collect history is from the people who live here – we have collected the oral histories of dozens of people throughout the years, and are working on re-forming our Oral History Committee in conjunction with the Rochester-Avon Historical Society to focus on some of the older folks in our area we haven't interviewed yet. If you can help or recommend someone to interview, let us know.

Please mark your calendars for our Flumerfelt Flea event to be held September 16 and 17 at the Flumerfelt Barn at Cranberry Lake Farm. We look forward to a fun new season!



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

50 Years! OTHS WILL CELEBRATE 50 YEARS IN 2024

In 2024 OTHS will be celebrating 50 years of serving the people and preserving the history of Oakland Township. The Board of Directors is planning a celebration of this milestone at our June potluck.

Among the events and projects the Board is considering to commemorate our 50th anniversary is creating an accessible online publication of photos and information about the Township; its people, history, homes and structures.

The OTHS Board is asking for your help. The Board is seeking digital photos of historic resources, historic homes and historic structures in Oakland Township. If you have such photos or you can create them now and are willing to donate them to the OTHS for possible use in this project please send an email to othspresident@gmail.com to coordinate the donation.

FLUMERFELT FLEA MARKET

Get Ready— Barn Flea Market!

The Flumerfelt Flea Market is planned for Sept 16-17, 2023. Remember us as you clean-out your house, garage or barn! The things that we like to sell include antiques, vintage items, collectables, farm rustic items, house wares and furniture. Please no appliances, books, computers clothing or exercise equipment. Contact Colleen Barkham at 248-652-0712 or thsbarkham@hotmail.com to arrange drop-offs.

***Transcribed Helen Waite oral history continued from Spring 2023 newsletter.
Helen Waite, interviewed in April 2001 by Carolyn Dulin.***



Everybody had gardens. We had to do a lot of canning. All the farm wives fixed meals for the guys. When they came to Kenny's dad's place, Grandma Waite had to cook dinners. Of course, she had help. They all helped each other out. I remember doing that a few times with Kenny's sister, Helen. It was fun for me. I never had to do it before, feed the animals. They had cows and horses. A.B., Kenny's younger brother, had a farm. Old Mr. Collins lived right next to us on Lake George Road. He had a horse and plow and he'd go up and down right next to our fence line. He went all around that big field.

He planted strawberries, blueberries, red and black raspberries. Even with our little family, Kenny planted potatoes. He planted corn and tomatoes. Mother and dad came up to help us can. We canned apples and whatever we had.



We shopped mainly in Lake Orion. On Friday night everybody was standing on the corners talking. Whatever we had to do, we'd get things in Lake Orion. Raymond would get a haircut, new shoes. The girls would get material in yard shops and make things.

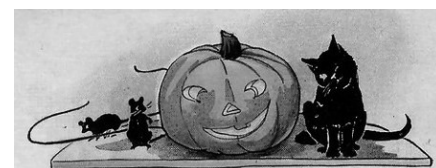
My mother made clothes over each year for us girls. She made a fur coat over for me. I felt like a bear in it, but it was warm. She made over a lot of her clothes for me, and then my sister Arlene, she got the end of it. She was younger and mother could buy her a few clothes. The boys made enough money from picking up potatoes and other jobs. They could get some clothes and things.



For fun, we went to dances. Oh, we had a good time at the township hall. In later years we put dinners on at the hall. Us girls baked pies. We had a lot of fun dancing. We had callers, you know. We had square dances.

Kids used to go to the movies for 10 cents and 3 for a quarter, at the Hills Theater on Main Street. They used to have those wild western movies. I was in 4H. My mother helped out with it. And then we had a lot of things at our new Baldwin school. We had so many things there. At least we had a bathroom and a big hall and a furnace. It was just like heaven. For a while each mother took turns bringing a dish of food at noon so we could have a hot lunch. We took sandwiches, too. We had a show where you had to put up a sheet and we'd be behind, casting shadows. We had a penny party, played cards, had bake sales, box socials. We'd make a lunch for two and the boys would bid on them. We'd make them real pretty. Mr. Bursley kept bidding on mine. Then I had to eat with him.

You know, really, we didn't miss a whole lot. I think it was good for us. We had to learn to entertain ourselves and make our own little money.



Mr. Boyland, our janitor, lived right across the street on Orion. He was such a nice fellow. He used to set up Halloween parties, and the older kids would fix scary things in the basement at school.

Helen Waite, interviewed in April 2001 by Carolyn Dulin. (Continued from page 2)

I played ball with the boys. I liked to play ball. We had slides in the wintertime – slides down those hills in the back of Baldwin.



Christmas was good. I remember the candles they used to put on the tree - real candles. And dad always bought oranges for us kids at Christmastime and that was a real treat. And when dad got older, he still bought oranges for us and his grandkids and great grandkids at Christmas. That was something real special.

I learned to drive when I was 16. I was going out with a boy and we were just driving along country roads. And I said "How do you drive this car?" He said "You just have to steer it". But how do you keep from going in the ditch. And he said "Here, I'll show you. Trade places with me". It seems like I did stay on the road. Kenny let me drive, so he must have taught me. I didn't have to have a driver's license. No tests or anything.

There weren't many cars on the road then. If a car would go by, you'd know who it was. If you'd come down to Rochester, there wasn't much traffic then. When Kenny lived on his dad's farm, he used his dad's horse and buggy. One time he rode the horse to school and tied it up to a tree.



It was expensive to buy meat for 5 or 6 people. Kenny and I had chickens - Leghorns. They were big. When mother and dad and his mother and dad came to dinner we could make a dinner out of one big chicken or maybe one big one and one little one. Sunday dinner was always chicken. During World War II things were hard to get. You'd go downtown to the meat market and they wouldn't sell you very much. You had to take what they'd give you. Sugar was hard to get.



My brother, Vern, was overseas. He wanted to go when he was 16, but they wouldn't take him. But there wasn't much for kids to do then. They were too young to get a job and people didn't have money to pay 'em with the war going on.

Walt Poplawski and I were involved with the Grandparents Project through the OPC (Older Persons Commission), and the School Board and the Extension Service. I was on some programs at Baldwin working with 1st to 3rd grade and we made decorations for the holidays. The program was to learn about the past and how people used to live.

We'd go around to different schools with videotapes for the older kids that we received from the Extension Service, and then we'd tell the kids about how our mothers put irons on the stove to iron our clothes, and hang clothes outside on the line. We'd hang long underwear on the line and it would freeze. We had a heating stove - a wood stove. She'd put her irons on there. Those irons were heavy. We had to sprinkle everything made of cotton to get the wrinkles out. A lot of people used to go around and iron for other people. My sister-in-law, she did ironing and got paid pretty good for it. Walt would show them his log cabins. I know we had electricity when I was in high school. Mother was ironing then with a regular iron. And she would listen to the ballgames. We used to listen to that radio every night. Amos and Andy was one of the programs we listened to.



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

The Oakland Township Historical Society Newsletter
www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org



OTHS Welcomes New Members

This year the Society has enrolled the following new members.

WELCOME!

Linda Burnard

Nancy R. Dakin

William, Michelle & Alexis Ferrer

Mary Kennedy

Amber Quesenberry

Dale A. Rustoni

Olivia Solomon

Marge Taylor

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



Mary Tischler,
Co-President

Anthony Kowalchick,
Co-President

Sue Fox, Treasurer

Barbara Barber,
Corresponding Secretary

Bill Kroger,
Recording Secretary

Tom Asmus, Director

Colleen Barkham, Director

Diana Borrusch, Director

Gayle Kowalchick, Director

David 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:

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

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.

Fall OTHS Programs and Events

Wednesday, September 6

6:30 pm Potluck dinner

7:00pm Program

Annual Fall Potluck and Program

Cranberry Lake Farm, Flumerfelt Barn

The Restoration of the Avon Prairie House by Donald C. Westphal



Saturday, September 16,

11am—3pm

Goodison Good Tyme,

Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 West Snell Road

OTHS historical displays and games

Saturday, September 16,

10am—5pm

Flumerfelt Flea Market

Cranberry Lake Farm, Flumerfelt Barn,
388 West Predmore Road



Sunday, September 17

12Noon—5pm

Flumerfelt Flea Market

Cranberry Lake Farm, Flumerfelt Barn,
388 West Predmore Road

Saturday, October 7

11am—2pm

Down on the Farm

Cranberry Lake Farm, 388 West Predmore Road

OTHS joins the Historic District Commission



Wednesday, November 1

4:30—6:30 pm

Big Wheels Dedication Ceremony and Open House

Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, Goodison, MI



Wednesday, December 6

6:30 pm

Moons of the Anishnaabe Program

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

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, othspresident@gmail.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

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/>

Yes, you can be a volunteer!

OTHS has no employees but it has many things to do. Are you bored? Do you have trouble filling your days? Would you like to help the Society? We have a large collection of archives and historic items. These things need arranging, labeling, repairing, signage, cleaning, sorting, cataloging & etc. Our collections and events are at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District on Predmore Road. If you would like to give the Society some of your time and talent contact us at othspresident@gmail.com. Give us your phone number and one of our Board Members will contact you.



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.

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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