



The Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) Newsletter

www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org Oakland County, MI



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oaklandtwphistoricalsociety/](https://www.instagram.com/oaklandtwphistoricalsociety/)



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OTHS President's Perspective Fall 2026

With the new year approaching, we look towards the future for new ways to approach sharing our township history. Sadly, our long-time archivist and treasurer, Sue Fox, has passed leaving a big hole in hearts and our society. With her loss, we are exploring new strategies to document, preserve, and present our township's history. Our goals for this year are to make the archives fully digital and to work towards determining the right time to open it to the public. Please reach out to my email if you want to visit the archives or museum in the interim. Thank you all for your support and sharing your great memories of Sue.

othspresident@gmail.com

Mission Statement

To gather, interpret, and preserve the history of Oakland Township.



REMEMBERING SUE FOX

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Sue Fox. Sue was a member of our society since 2007 and a dedicated board member since 2009. She was always eager to volunteer and lend a helping hand all the way to the end. Sue was deeply passionate about history, especially local history, and her expertise in genealogy and deed research helped many. She loved Kline Cemetery, fondly calling it "my cemetery." Over the years, Sue served as recording secretary, archivist, and treasurer for OTHS. She learned how to use PastPerfect and spent countless hours organizing our archive collection. Sue was our 'Sales Table' gal, always attending local functions to promote the Society. Her dedication extended across the community, as she also served on both the Oakland County History Coalition and Cemetery Coalition, and on the Oakland Township Historic District Study Committee. Her contributions to preserving and sharing local history have been and will continue to be widely felt and deeply appreciated. She is remembered by all of us for her kindness, bright spirit, her contagious laugh, and sense of humor. We will miss her dearly. Our gatherings will never be the same. Prayers for her family as they navigate the difficult times ahead.



EVENTS & PROGRAMS

The public is welcome to our events, most are free. For more information, or to submit program ideas or speaker suggestions, email Colleen at thsarkham@hotmail.com



Wed, Sept 2, 6:30 PM Pot Luck and 7:00 PM Presentation.
Randy Baker will discuss the first colonies and their regional and lifestyle differences. CLF Flumerfelt Barn

Sat, Oct 3, 11-2. Down on the Farm. CLF

Sat, Nov 7, 10 AM. Coffee and Donuts.
Dr. Richard Stamps will present the history of the Indigenous People of Oakland. CLF Main House.

No programs offered
December – February.



Our programs are cancelled during severe weather. Become a member to receive updates.



LYDIA BARNES-POTTER: AN AMERICAN PATRIOT

Buried in Paint Creek Cemetery, Lydia Barnes Potter stands out from the rest. Not only does she have the oldest marker in the cemetery, but she is remembered by family as a Revolutionary War patriot. She spun and wove wool, as well as made the garments for soldiers during the fight. She then became a Michigan pioneer. She was in Oakland County before statehood. Lydia came with a large family group from Chili, N.Y.



2026-2027 OTHS BOARD MEMBERS

Anthony Kowalchick, President

*Colleen Barkham, Co-VP & Program Chair,
Interim Treasurer*

*Alexis Pfarrer, Co-VP, Social Media & Archives
Chair*

*Barbara Barber, Correspondence Secretary &
Membership Chair*

Open Position, Treasurer

Nancy Kicinski, Director

Michelle Pfarrer, Recording Secretary

David Phillips, Director

Rita Ski, Director

HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

The OTHS historical archives collection is located on the upper floor of the Main House at Cranberry Lake Farm. Over the past several years, reference materials and artifacts have been cataloged. The archives are open to researchers by appointment. If you have historical photos, diaries, letters, or other artifacts reflective of the past we would love to hear from you. Even if you are not willing to donate them, please give us the opportunity to make a copy.

DISPLAYED AT THE PCCM



The OTHS is exhibiting a fabulous collection of Americana at the Paint Creek Cider Mill.

TIME CAPSULE: LAST CALL

Send a message to the future. Submit your family or business history. Write a letter to a loved one. Tell the future what it was like to live in Oakland Township.

We are also accepting small artifacts representative of our times.



SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

If you have not already checked out our social media sites, it's not too late! If you have an idea, story, or photo you would like to share, or have a topic request message us.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Bone Family

America 250 Celebrations across Oakland County



SALINE FIDDLERS

This wonderful group of musicians came down to our farm. Although we did not sponsor the event, OTHS made it happen!



DECLARATION READING — BEAR CREEK PARK

On July 8th we had a wonderful community event where members of OTHS's board led the public in a reading of the Declaration of Independence.

ROCHESTER AREA HERITAGE FESTIVAL — ROCH. MUNICIPAL PARK

After a year hiatus, the RAHF was back at the Rochester Park on May 30 & 31, sponsored by the City of Rochester. OTHS participated in the planning and organizing. The OTHS exhibit featured our beautiful panels on the Hemingway Mill and Goodison History. Other displays included old time crafts and the Van Hoosen Museum. There also was a vintage car show. A great family weekend!

OAKLAND COUNTY'S AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION

On July 25th & 26th, we celebrated OCHS's yearly ice cream social with emphasis on celebrating America 250. The event was held at Pine Grove, in Pontiac at the former home of Governor Moses Wisner. Participants included historical societies from Oakland County, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation, SAR and DAR groups, numerous musical groups, and antique appraisers. Our society was involved with the planning and the weeks of preparation of the grounds.



Subscribe today to see more OT history on our Social Media Sites



www.instagram.com/oaklandtwphistoricalsociety/



www.facebook.com/OTHSMI/

GREENHOUSE PROJECT (2026-2027)



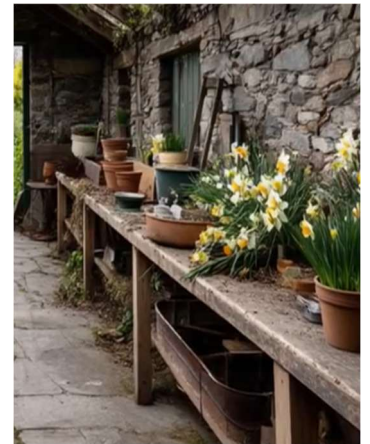
CALLING CARPENTERS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE!

The Greenhouse will be getting an update.

Please contact us for dimensions and specifications if you are interested in building and installing potting benches.

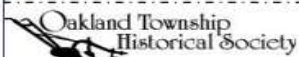
Bid Deadline Dec 20, 2026

We are also accepting décor items, flower pots, antique kitchen washboard and dry sinks, and gardening tools.



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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

Membership Category:

Individual \$18 _____

Family \$25 _____

Patron \$50 _____

Business \$100 _____

Additional Donation:

\$ _____

Total Enclosed

\$ _____

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 248-342-7464 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.

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS NANCY & RITA!

Nancy Kicinski is a recently retired Administrative Assistant. She and her husband have raised four children and currently reside in Shelby Township. Her ancestors, the Axford and Chamberlin families, settled in Oakland Township in 1831. In her spare time, she enjoys delving into her family history, antiquing, and refinishing furniture.

Rita Ski has been an OTHS member and volunteer with OTHS natural area stewardship since 2017. She double majored in math & psych, earning a bachelor's degree from WMU, followed by an MBA from U of M. She was a computer programmer, data base manager and consultant. Rita pursued a more flexible career by licensing in real estate, as a stock broker, a landlord, and an insurance agent. Rita enjoys pursuing interests such as local history, nature, concerts and refreshing old contacts. She has enjoyed many of our talks and events and admires and supports OTHS' continuing preservation of local history.

It's MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Time

If you are not sure of your status, reach out to Barb Barber by email at othspresident@gmail.com. Please let her know if you have a phone number or home/email address change. Your ongoing membership directly supports the valuable services and programs we provide. Your membership dues are more than a monetary contribution; they are an investment in our community and a legacy for those who follow us.

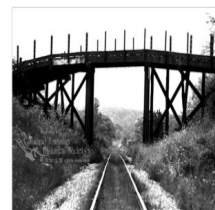


Your Kroger purchases can help support the OTHS.
Sign up today and choose Oakland Township
Historical Society

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>



Discover a fantastic selection of items at the OTHS merchandise store including Ed Noble prints, Lyn Seiffert prints and note cards, *It's the Berries* recipe book, Carolyn Dulin ceramic art, and mill sack dish towels and aprons, to name a few. Visit our website to view Noble prints: <http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org>



We Love our Volunteers!

Are you interested in sharing your love of history, in supporting us by donating cash or articles, or volunteering your time? Our gardens are in need of care. Students and Scouts are welcome to put in community service hours.

There are multiple ways in which you could make a difference.



Only have an hour to spare?

Perhaps you would like to be a docent at one of our events. Or, perhaps, you would you like to be a speaker and share your historical knowledge? We especially appreciate help setting up chairs and cleaning up after programs and events.



384 West Predmore Road
Oakland, Michigan, 48363

Recycle!
Share this newsletter
with a friend!

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