



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

## President's Thoughts

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of cold and snow! I hope you are thinking about spring and you are ready to step out the door and join us for our spring/summer programs! The groundhog says he is ready!

As we start another year, I look at our very hard working OTHS Board and wonder how we can do it all! We have exciting ideas for programs and fundraisers, for partnering with the HDC and PRC at Cranberry Lake Farm HD and for bringing our members and residents together to appreciate our history in beautiful Oakland Township. The problem is that we can't do it all with only 10-12 core members, so we eliminate, cut, shorten and present to you what we think we can honestly accomplish.

I would like to encourage all of our members to consider how you could help this core group fulfill our goals in 2016. On our board we still need a recording secretary and a program director. Sue Fox has generously been both secretary and treasurer for 3 years. She really could use some help!!

Our Schedule of Events for Spring 2016 is included in this newsletter. Notice that our meetings for March and April will be at the Paint Creek Cider Mill in Goodison. We welcome back Bill Grandstaff with his new presentation on Walt Whitman. Bill is a real Civil War historian and you will be surprised to hear his research into Walt Whitman's experience as a caregiver during the Civil War! In April, our friend Fred Fleming will enlighten us about the value of antiques. In recent years some antiques have lost value as others have become special collectables. Fred invites you to bring an item for his comments and appraisal.

Our field trip in the spring will be to Troy for a lunch stop and a tour of the Troy Historic Village. Details will be forwarded to all who RSVP.

During the Memorial Day weekend, you will find many of us at Greater Rochester Heritage Days. This Saturday and Sunday event is held at Rochester's Municipal Park. Your historical society is an important contributor to this event. **We could really use your help!**

June 1st is our annual and final meeting for the summer months. Please join us for a potluck picnic, our election of officers (consider a position) and a great program! Jim Cassell is a collector and historian of tools. He will present his collection and stories about unusual tools of the trades from the 1800s.

We never do a summer field trip but many of us have wanted to go to the Whitehorse Inn. Well why not make it a field trip and lunch? We plan on a tour of the Hadley Mill and lunch at the Whitehorse! Details to follow!

Colleen Barkham, OTHS President



*Colleen Barkham &  
Diana Borrusch*

## 2015 State History Award of Distinguished Volunteer Diana Borrusch

Diana Borrusch from Oakland Township received the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award. The Oakland Township Historical Society is almost completely dependent on community support and the time, energy and dedication of individuals who volunteer their services. For more than 20 years, Diana has served and supported the Oakland Township Historical Society. Almost since the founding of the organization in 1974, Diana has been an active member.



## Society News and Information...



*Jeanne Phillips assists shoppers at past Heritage Days' plant sale.*

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL PLANT SALE AT GREATER ROCHESTER HERITAGE DAYS

This community-wide celebration of our area's rich history is Memorial Day weekend, May 28 and 29, at the Rochester Municipal Park. Greater Rochester Heritage Days has many family activities, crafts, log rollers, history area with demonstrations, car shows, pancake breakfasts, entertainment and more. Volunteer workers and perennial plant donations are appreciated! Call Jeanne Phillips, 248-651-2940, to donate plants or volunteer to help. Stop by during the sale to select from a variety of local perennials at a great price! <http://www.dinosaurhill.org/HeritageDays2016>

### CALLING ALL OAKLAND TOWNSHIP BARN OWNERS AND ENTHUSIASTS

EXCITED TO HAVE A QUILT ON YOUR BARN? JOIN US!

We invite you to participate with us to create a Township-wide Quilt Trail! It would be great to have as many barn-owner participants as possible. Visible locations for the quilts would be beneficial so drivers on the trail can see your quilt from the roadside. Design your own quilt square or enlist members of OTHS for help with design ideas. Your quilt square can be a temporary or permanent fixture. Squares are usually made from two 4'x8' sheets of plywood or smaller depending on your location, visibility, design, and available barn surface area. Once the Barn Quilts are installed, a *Barn Quilt Trail Brochure* will be produced to showcase them. The Barn Quilt Trail will be publicized locally and a self-guided tour will be offered in 2016. And we want YOU to be a part of our Quilt Trail!

The Quilt Trail will include Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District's quilt square. Designed by Mary Asmus in 2014 to celebrate OTHS' 40th anniversary. It features four branches representing the collaboration of OTHS, Parks and Recreation Commission, Historic District Commission, and Oakland Township to protect the natural beauty of the lake, the park and the farmstead.



*Barn Quilt on Flumerfelt Barn at Cranberry Lake Farm*

The Barn quilt tour idea has spread to 50 states and Canada, with over 7000 painted quilts included in organized quilt trails. We're excited to promote our community's distinct rural character and agricultural heritage and hope you will join us in our Barn Quilt Trail endeavor. It's sure to be FUN!

For more information or questions, please contact: Barb Barber at 586-703-3933

### You are cordially invited

*Design Charrette Open House*  
(intensive design planning session)  
*Thursday, March 31, 2 pm to 7 pm,*  
*Cranberry Lake Farm, Main House*  
*388 West Predmore Road*



Stop by and provide your insight and comments on the master landscape plan for the sixteen-acre historic district. This plan will allow generations to enjoy our local heritage for years to come. Contact Barbara Barber with any questions.

# OTHS Schedule of Events Spring 2016

**March 2**

**Program- Walt Whitman- The Comforter of the Wounded**



Presented by Bill Grandstaff, President of the Israel B. Richardson Civil War Roundtable. Bill will tell the story of Walt Whitman and his personal involvement helping wounded soldiers during the Civil War.

**Time: 7:00 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill**

**April 6**

**Program- How are Antiques Valued?**



Presented by Fred Fleming, one of our experienced appraisers at AAD. Fred will talk about the current values of antiques and how to store or sell your antiques.

You are invited to bring one item for Fred to appraise.

**Time: 7:00 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill**

**May 6**

**Field Trip to the Troy Historic Village**

*field trip*

We will car pool to Troy and have lunch at Red Robin. Then we have a short drive to the THV to meet with a docent to tour Troy's historic buildings. Charge is \$5.00/person at THV. RSVP to Colleen Barkham at 248-652-0712 or [thsbarkham@hotmail.com](mailto:thsbarkham@hotmail.com) Details to follow!

**May 28 & 29**

**Greater Rochester Heritage Days**



OTHS members are asked to donate potted perennials to sell at our booth and to volunteer their time to work at the event. WE NEED YOU! GRHD is 11:00 am to 5:00 pm daily at the Rochester Municipal Park. Contact person: Jeanne Phillips at 248-651-2940

**June 1**

**Picnic and Program- Tools of the Trade**

James Cassell will present obsolete and unusual tools used by different tradesmen of the 1800s.

**Time: 6:30 pm at Cranberry Lake Farm** Picnic- Bring a dish to pass.

Program will follow elections/meeting.



**June 18**

**Free Square Dance at CLFHD** sponsored by HDC at the Flumerfelt Barn.



OTHS will have ice cream available. If you want to reserve a barbeque dinner plate served from 6-7, RSVP to 248-608-6807. \$9 adults and \$5 children 12 & under. Join in the square dance from 7 - 9 pm.

**Time: 6:00 pm dinner; 7:00 pm dance at Cranberry Lake Farm**

**July 9 Field Trip to the Hadley Mill**

Tour the Hadley Mill and enjoy lunch at the Whitehorse Inn in Metamora. Details will be forwarded to you via email.

*field trip*

**Oct 1**

**Down on the Farm Event and Flumerfelt Flea Market**

Family fun at the farm, pumpkin painting, hay rides, games, and butter-churning.

Please keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning. We will need donations of vintage, collectable and antique items. Check our website for more information!

**Time: 11 am - 3pm at Cranberry Lake Farm**



## Society News and Information...cont'd

### ARCHIVE ROOM NOW OPEN!

After two and a half years of gathering, organizing, cataloging and putting together shelving, OTHS has now completed enough of the Archive Room to open it to the public for their enjoyment. We have the honor to use a second floor room in the main house at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District to collect and display our archives.

Our Township has a rich and interesting history to share and we strive to gather, preserve and protect it for future generations. These records, pictures, family histories, books, organization papers and other items are one way to remember, recognize and honor the hardy pioneers who toiled so hard to make our township what it is today.

This is an ongoing project to preserve as much of that history as possible. If you or anyone you know has any archives they wish to have preserved, please remember the OTHS Archives project for your donation. Much has disappeared already and someday this may be the only way to really see how fascinating our history is!

The archive team is typically on-site each Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 4 pm, but please call before heading over by contacting Sue Fox at 248-342-7464 or [othsmember@comcast.net](mailto:othsmember@comcast.net). Open to the public by appointment.



Don't forget that the **OTHS store** has many great gift items for sale - there is something of interest for everyone.

A few of our 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!



Any would make a great gift. Look for them on display at our programs or contact Sue Fox.



Thank-you to Jean Kroger for teaching a chair caning class at Cranberry Lake Farm during the dreary month of January! Eight

**Thank You!** of us met weekly and shared our frustrations and accomplishments as we learned the art of chair caning. The end result was eight chairs returned to their intended use in their Oakland Township homes!



*Tom Pederson,  
Jean Dertouzous and  
Jean Kroger at chair  
caning class*

**SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS, GOOD OLD FASHION SCHOOL DAYS**

The OTHS is displaying some of their school artifacts in the Paint Creek Cider Mill first floor hallway. Stop by and see some of our old one-room school house and student photos; old school books; school light; bell; slate; and other treasures from our school-time past.

**2015 Antique Appraisal Day**

On November 1, OTHS held its annual Appraisal Day at the Rochester Community House. Seven appraisers volunteered their time and expertise to evaluate many items including jewelry, furniture, china, rugs and more. It's always so interesting to see and hear about all the special things people bring in. You can count on at least one special item to enter the doors to be appraised. And this year was no different. As one of the two OTHS fund raisers, we put a lot of work into making it successful and profitable. It would not be possible without the help of the many dedicated members we have. Even though attendance was down we still earned revenue of almost \$900. Thanks to everyone who helped out and let us know your suggestions on how to attract more appraisers in the future.



## OTHS Membership News

### OTHS BOARD

Wishing you a wonderful spring and looking forward to sharing our time together!

Your OTHS Board:

Colleen Barkham,  
President

Diana Borrusch,  
Vice President

Sue Fox,  
Acting Recording  
Secretary and Treasurer

Bonnie Mackley,  
Corresponding Secretary

Tom Asmus, Director

Barbara Barber, Director

Gail Palmer, Director

David Phillips, Director

Jeanne Phillips, Director

We have had a delightful year enjoying activities, speakers and learning new things about the history of Oakland Township and surrounding communities. We have new activities planned for this year, wonderful archives to explore and much to do to continue protecting, collecting and preserving our history.

Will you join us? Come to our programs, be a docent at Cranberry Lake Farm, contribute historical items and information and assist us in other ways.

Your dues help us continue our mission. **If you pay at or before our June 1st (Wed) famous potluck picnic, your name will be added into a drawing for an Edward Noble Oakland Township photograph. Plus an additional two prizes will be offered from our "store."** If you would like to be a board member, please contact Colleen Barkham. It is a wonderful way to learn and help!

**Monthly Membership Meetings are the first Wednesday at 7:00 pm**

**Monthly Board Meetings are the fourth Monday at 7:00 pm** Please complete this form and mail with payment for dues to:

OTHS, Oakland Township Historical Society  
c/o Bonnie Mackley, 415 West Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363  
Phone: 248-693-8977

**Annual Dues:** Individual-\$18.00, Family-\$25.00, Patron-\$50.00, Business- \$100.  
*Special two-year pricing: Individual - \$32 instead of \$36, and Family - \$45 instead of \$50.*

**Note:** Dues cover the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPORT OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITH EASY REWARDS!

OTHS is registered for community rewards with both Kroger and Amazon. You can support OTHS with the donations given by these companies whenever you shop with them. It's very easy to sign up. Online, go to Kroger.com, click on 'Community' and in drop down, click 'community rewards'. Click 'create account', follow instructions (enter card number on back) and enter who you want your rewards to go to. Our number is '62713', or enter our name. This does not affect your fuel points. They do require that you renew this each April. A number of people have already signed up, and we are receiving rewards quarterly. For Amazon, go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and select a charitable organization to support. We are registered as Oakland Township Historical Society. **It's that easy.** questions at [sfox44@comcast.net](mailto:sfox44@comcast.net).



YOU SHOP - OTHS WINS!

### FROM THE PAST - THE GARLING FARM

We are sad to report the loss of yet another piece of our township's pioneer history - the homestead of John and Catherine Rodenbough at 2220 West Clarkston Road near Lake George Road, known by many as the Garling Farm. A fire in the wood burner somehow spread and sadly was too far advanced for firefighters to control, leading to the house's demolition.



Demolition exposed the sturdy framework of large mortise and tenon beams that were hand made by John Rodenbough (d 1861) in the early 1840's. This farm and nearby land had been in the Rodenbough family from 1838 to 1883. A brief history shows that John Rodenbough initially bought 80 acres from the Governor on April 20, 1838 and added 20 acres across the

road. By Before his death in 1856, his son William had purchased 140 acres across the road. The land and farm passed down to brothers Archibald (d 1884) and Christopher (d 1886). William's farm faced his father's but there are no signs of this farm left.

Later the farm built by John was owned by Harry Garling, whose wife Ethel was descended from Betsey Ross.

This was a great loss since it was a complete farm which included a windmill and was known as "Best View Farm". If you might have additional information about the Rodenbough family to share, please contact Sue Fox at [othsmember@comcast.net](mailto:othsmember@comcast.net).

*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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Recycle!

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