



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

Presidents' Thoughts

We would like to thank outgoing president Bill Kroger for many years of leading our organization. Bill is taking over as Recording Secretary now that Mary (who was Recording Secretary) is co-president with Anthony. We both have full-time jobs and we thank the board and the membership for allowing us the opportunity to join forces so that the role of president can be properly fulfilled.

Even though the pandemic made things challenging, we had a lot going on over the last year. Anthony and others succeeded in getting an historic marker for the Sheldon Estate, we raised a lot of money to help preserve the Big Red Logging Wheels, we held a targeted membership drive, and we had a lot of wonderful programs and field trips where we were finally able to gather together in person once again.

We look forward to more programs and activities for the 2022-2023 season. As Program Chair, Mary has scheduled an interesting line up of speakers, starting with Jim Craft at our September 7th potluck. Be sure to check the list of programs and save the dates! We truly hope you can come join us, and bring your friends. Also let us know if you are interested in getting more involved – we can always use more volunteers.

Mary Tischler and Anthony Kowalchick OTHS Co-Presidents

othspresident@gmail.com

Yum Yum !



POTLUCK DINNER

Start the year off with fellowship and good food. As usual we will begin our year with a potluck in the barn at CLF. Here are the details - we hope to see you there!

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

6:30 pm at CLF Barn

**Potluck and Program –
bring a dish to pass**

Autumn Pot-Luck Dinner and Program - "The American Guide Series: The WPA Travel Books of the 1930s" by Jim Craft

FLUMERFELT FLEA MARKET ~ ALL NEW OLD THINGS!

Proceeds benefit the preservation of Oakland Township History by OTHS. OTHS has a significant amount of donated antiques, collectables and vintage items for you to choose from. Contact Colleen Barkham: 248-652-0712 or thsbarkham@hotmail.com if you would like to help with the sale.

**FLUMERFELT
FLEA
MARKET**

Find your next treasure on these sale dates:

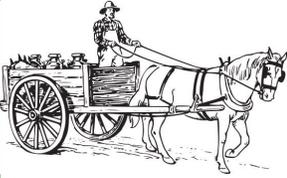
Saturday, September 17, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, September 18, Noon to 5:00 PM



Come to the Flumerfelt Barn at Cranberry Lake Farm; bring your money and leave it!

STORIES FROM THE 30's (Continued from Spring 2022 and Fall 2021 OTHS Newsletters. Final installment of interview transcription from a Nov. 20, 1999 interview with Marion Czechowski (MC), 809 Stoney Creek Rd. and Louis Spezia (LS), 1220 Stoney Creek Rd.)



(MC) We never shopped at A&P or Kroger's, there used to be a C.F. Smith store - they would trade eggs. Kroger's used to get 4 cases of eggs a week from us. In the spring mom would plant wax beans, a half acre and maybe an acre. They would get 4-5 bushels a week, and Smith would get maybe a bushel. But A&P wouldn't trade goods for goods. C.F. Smith died out in about '36-'37. In those days if you had 6 pennies you could buy a 20 oz. loaf of bread. A pile of pork chops - 6 cents. A ham was 9-12 cents.

(LS) Got 2 cents a pound for the hogs when they went to market.

(MC) Got less than that. My folks had 400 pigs. When they sent 20 to market they got a check for \$28. So we had to do better than that, so we started slaughtering 4 or 5 pigs a day and made sausage and bacon. One day in Hamtramck, and next day on the west side. We averaged \$12 a hog instead of 2.

(LS) We raised hogs and chickens and cattle quite a few steers. We bought a thrashing machine. My brother drove it and a bigger tractor. We did quite a bit of custom work - wheat, oats, beans, some rye. John and Joe worked at the brick plant down where B&G market is now on Woodward in Rochester. My dad bought the Almon Wilson land in 1939. We couldn't get electricity until about 1939.



(MC) We didn't get it til '34. When Roosevelt got elected he said every farm house is going to have electric. It was all lanterns and lamps. How much did your Pa pay for the 80 acres?



Thornetta and Louis Spezia

(LS) Less than \$2000

(MC) We bought the 60 acres in '44 and we only paid \$3500 for the 60.

(LS) If you had a lot of snow you had to haul the milk on a bob sled. The milkman couldn't get through so you had to haul it to a certain place. In the spring when the road flooded over, when we went to school we had to walk way around on high ground.

(MC) It could go up to 2' deep near Hopkin's place and by dad's place.

(LS) But when they put the ditch in it took care of that - in '34.

(MC) But we were between your dad's place and Rochester Rd, a lot of times someone would pound on the door at 2AM - we were the first farm - and they'd want a team of horse to pull 'em out. There was no gravel, no culvert so the road went out. My dad had a model T pickup and he'd gun the heck out of it. A lot of people got scared and slowed down and they'd hit bottom and that was it. The clay worked up, there were

(Continued on page 3)

STORIES FROM THE 30's (Continued from page 2)

so many cars and wagons that went through. Even Rochester Rd., south of Harold Fogler's, south of Buell coming up that incline - cars couldn't go through. South of Snell, my wife got stuck there. You'd go to the neighbor and get a team of horses to pull you out for a couple bucks. Stoney Creek was called Frost Drain in this area. It was a natural flow from Mud Lake, south, but when it got to the road there was a spillover. The farmers got together because they were losing too much acreage. Whenever they had time, they'd bring scrapers and they dug a creek to drain that land off, as far as Rochester Rd., following the contour of the land.



Marion Czechowski and Great Grandson Connor

(MC) We had people come up from the city - back in the early '30's. Then the change of model came, they'd work for 6 weeks and get laid off. There was no unemployment, so, they came on the farm. We had a lot of manual work. We didn't have a lot of equipment, so it was done by hand. So they'd stay over and the whole family would be there for maybe 2 weeks. In the fall we couldn't pay 'em, so they'd get a hog and a sack of potatoes for the winter. They'd get chickens and eggs and that was the way they got paid.

(LS) We had a whole family that came to cut corn and chop it up. They had 2 kids and the clothes on em was just rags wrapped around 'em. They sat there and husked that corn. They bound it up so tight.

(MC) We did the 26 acres by hand. The binder broke and we didn't have the money for repairs.



Cranberry Cheer

We are excited to announce a new fundraising event for Oakland Township Historical Society, --- ***Cranberry Cheer!*** --- We hope you will all come out to see the Cranberry Lake Farm House decorated for the holidays by Gretchen Drader of [Drader Interiors](#). The house will be decorated in a way that reflects the style and time period of the home. Docents will be on hand to give the history of the farm. Musicians will be playing to boost your holiday spirits as you stroll around. Afterwards, you can walk the grounds and shop with a multitude of vendors who will be on hand, make a craft to take home to display and enjoy a light snack and refreshment.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 19th. We will be selling tickets soon and will be offering tours at 11am til Noon and 1pm until 3pm. Tickets will be \$20. We hope you will come out with family or friends and enjoy this fun and festive holiday fundraiser.

We would also love for some of our members to volunteer their time to make this event successful. Please contact Gayle Kowalchick for more information at Ganekow@sbcglobal.net

OTHS Welcomes New Members

The Society has been soliciting new members through an effort led by Colleen Barkham. As we approach our September meeting we are pleased to welcome:

Preston and Karen Zale

Don and Helen Westphal

Dave and Brenda McCain

Karen Lemon

Martha Demiro

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.



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

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

Officers of the Society 2022-23

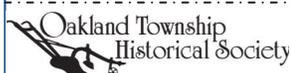
At its June meeting the Oakland Township Historical Society elected the following officers:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Co-Presidents | --- | Mary Tischler & Anthony Kowalchick |
| Treasurer | --- | Sue Fox |
| Corresponding Secretary | --- | Barbara Barber |
| Recording Secretary | --- | Bill Kroger |

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 _____
Patron \$50 _____
Business \$100 _____

\$ _____
Total Enclosed
\$ _____
New ___ Renewal ___

Address _____

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

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.

2022 – 2023 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:30 pm CLF Barn Potluck and Program – bring a dish to pass

Autumn Pot-Luck Dinner and Program - **“The American Guide Series: The WPA Travel Books of the 1930s”** by Jim Craft
 In the midst of the Great Depression, four separate agencies designed to put actors, musicians, artists and writers to work, one of which was The Writer’s Project. Varied in its output, the central part of The Writers Project was a series of travel guides for every state. The objective was to produce a comprehensive snapshot of American life...a goal that was achieved with almost universal applause from literary critics across the country. The books contain fascinating perspectives about American life in the 1930s when much of the country was still heavily rural and traditional mores from a pre-industrial age still abounded. Using these books to find the residue of that era is an experience that can make a road trip in Michigan or any other state incredibly rewarding.

Jim Craft is on the board of the Oakland County Historical Commission and a retired history teacher.



Saturday, October 15, 2022 Field Trip - Detroit History Tours-Historically Haunted Detroit departs Hamtramck at 2 till 5:30pm Tickets are \$55.50.

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 7:00 pm PCUMC Parking available next to the church in the Dentist’s office.

“Golden Age of Radio” by Tom Arwady. Join us as Tom Arwady relates the story of the radio’s invention and see how it grew to be our main source of news and entertainment in the 1920s-1950s, with special focus on Detroit radio stations and programs.

Tom Arwady has been a history interpreter at Troy Historic Village for almost four years. He primarily teaches elementary students visiting on field trips about life in 1800s Troy, but he also leads tours, plans holiday events for families, produces/directs/acts in theatrical performances, assists with creating exhibits, and gives presentations/lectures such as this one.” Formerly he taught elementary school for 19 years.

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 6:30 pm PCUMC Parking available next to the church in the Dentist’s office.

Bring a dish to share for the potluck – Christmas goodies and appetizers welcome! **“Christmas Traditions”** by Matthew Hackett
 Learn how pre-Christian traditions of winter solstice, yule and Saturnalia influenced modern Christmas celebrations.

Matthew Hackett has been teaching informally for more than 30 years. Dinosaur Hill, Stony Creek and the Madison Heights Nature Center are part of his resume. Since 2012, he has shared cultural history through the Troy Historic Village. Matthew last appeared before the Oakland Township Historical Society in 1999 with “A Natural History of Oakland Township”.



January 2023
 No Meeting This Month
 Happy New Year!

February 2023
 No Meeting This Month
 Stay Warm!



Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:00 pm PCUMC Parking available next to the church in the Dentist’s office.

“Foods, Fads and Funky Dishes” by Stephanie Suszek

This program looks at historic travelogues, Indigenous oral tradition, cook books, recipes, and ads to explore Michigan’s food and agricultural heritage from the 1600s – present day (in just under an hour!).

Stephanie Suszek is the Adult Programs Director at the Troy Historic Village where she has worked for over ten years. She is also a graduate student at Oakland University, working toward a master’s degree in history.

JOIN US AT THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!

<p>Square Dance at Cranberry Lake Farm Friday Sept 9, 2022 6 pm – 9 pm</p> 	<p>Flumerfelt Flea Market Sat Sept 17, 2022 10 am – 5 pm Sun Sept 18, 2022 12 pm – 5 pm</p> 	<p>Goodison Good Tyme Sat Sept 17, 2022 11 am – 2 pm</p> 	<p>Down on the Farm Sat Oct 1, 2022 11 am – 2 pm</p> 	<p>Greater Rochester Heritage Days & OTHS Plant Sale May 2023 Details to follow</p> 	<p>Cranberry Cheer Sat Nov 19th Tours 11 am & 1pm</p> 
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

Big Red Logging Wheel Fund Drive



The Oakland Township Historical Society members were instrumental in restoring the Big Red Logging Wheels that have been in front of the Paint Creek Cider Mill building since about 2006. The wheels have been repaired several times since then and now are in need of a complete rebuild. The Township Historic District Commission is working to make this rebuild happen to preserve this historic landmark for the Township. The Society conducted a fund drive in May and June of this year to assist in this effort. Forty-Four residents donated to this drive and the Society matched the first \$5,000 of their donations.



Anthony Kowalchick, Co-President of OTHS, accepts an appreciation Plaque from the HDC after presenting them with a check for \$10,045 to help with the rebuild of the Big Red Logging Wheels.

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
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



Share this newsletter
with a friend!
Recycle!

The Oakland Township Historical Society Newsletter
www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org