



Illustration by George De Angelis

Green Oak Historian

Official Newsletter of the
Green Oak Township Historical Society

Volume 34 Issue No. 1

Winter 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meetings at the 1856 Township Hall except as noted.

April

- 8th Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 12th General Meeting 1:00 pm

May

- 13th Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 27th to June 1st Drop off for Garage Sale

June

- 5th to 20th Garage Sale
- 10th Board Meeting 6:30 pm

July

- 8th Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 11th Family Pioneer Saturday 2-4 pm
- 12th General Meeting 1:00 pm

August

- 8th Family Pioneer Saturday 2-4 pm
- 12th Board Meeting 6:30 pm

September

- 9th Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 12th Green Oak Day

October

- 14th Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 25th Annual Meeting 1:00 pm

November

- 11th Board Meeting 6:30 pm

December

- 6th Holiday Luncheon 1:00 pm

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Join Us
For A
Potluck Luncheon
on
Sunday, April 12, 2015
at
1:00 pm
10789 Silver Lake Road
South Lyon, MI 48178

VINTAGE STRINGS
Performance at 2:00 pm

- Bring a dish to share
- GOTHS will provide coffee, tea, plates, napkins, and silverware

Questions:
Call (248) 446-0789

MAIL CONNECTS GREEN OAK WITH THE WORLD



The English colonies in North America in 1776, united and decided to sever ties with the government of King George III and its controlling decrees and policies which degraded human dignity and one's liberty. The King's government inaugurated the London Penny Post in 1763. Prior to that there was a variety of means of delivery of written communication and various means of payment for this service. However, it was especially galling that British authorities could open any one's mail to ferret out political loyalties. Thus another grievance was added to the lengthening list to which the colonies objected.

The term 'Post Road', the designation of the route by which mail traveled, whether it was a road, a steam boat, or the railroad, was begun to be used in the 1770's. When settlers first came to Green Oak Township, c. 1832, the Grand River Trail, the Sauk Trail, etc., were the local 'Post Roads'. By horseback or stage coach, bags of mail came from Detroit, Pontiac, and Ann Arbor to be left with the Federal government appointed Post Masters. One of these 'Post Roads' riders in Green Oak was Lewis Thompson. One such post master was Kinsley S. Bingham in Green Oak, near Kensington Village. Another was Wilbur Fisher in Brighton.

As all other residents of the county, Green Oak residents had to go to the nearest post office to pick up their mail; until 1847 at Brighton, Northville, or Whitmore Lake, quite a distance. This probably meant a day-long journey which could include shopping, having grain ground, getting tools repaired, and horses shod at the blacksmiths. It could often be several weeks before the busy farmer could take a day off to get the mail. In this 21st century it is inconceivable that one might need more than a finger to be in touch with another.

A postal route from Ann Arbor to Pontiac

was formed in 1847. Thomas Dunlap, on horseback, made the weekly trip. The route appears to have followed Rushton Road north from Eight Mile Road. Green Oak Mills, Green Oak Station, and Kensington etc., were designated post offices. By 1859 Anna Holister was Post Master with a post office on her farm on Winans Lake Road near the south end of Rickett. This office was in operation until October 21, 1862.

The Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad was built in 1872, across the northeast part of the township and intersected with Silver Lake Road near Rushton Road. A small community, including a store, blacksmith shop, saw mill, and a boarding house run by the Parker sisters was established; it was logical to locate "Green Oak Station Post Office" at this site. It was in operation until July 16, 1906, a number of post masters served throughout the years. By 1875, the "Green Oak Post Office" is located in the small community of Rushton, a half mile south of Ten Mile Road, served by the Grand Trunk Railroad. A saw mill and a grist mill were in operation. Farmers, having the occasion to go there could pick up mail also.

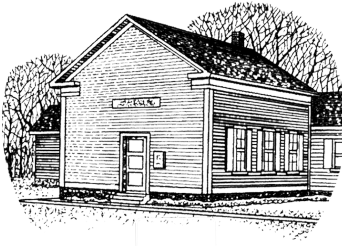
A July 4, 1884, clipping states "The Post Office at Green Oak Station has been moved to Clark Coe's store . . . where he continues his duties as Postmaster. " A week later . . . "The Rushton Post Office is now ready to receive mail" (at Coe's store). According to Yesteryears of Green Oak Rush Clark applied for a new Post office as the old one had fallen into disuse. The Post Office and later the road was named after him.

In 1896 Rural Free Delivery was instituted by the Federal Government. Rush Clark was Postmaster at Rushton. In 1949, Irving Clark, Rush's son reminisced about his 50 years as a rural mail carrier. At that time he was recognized as the longest serving

rural carrier in the U.S. To supplement their income Rush and Irving made mail boxes to sell to farmers who hesitated to buy them thinking RFD was a short lived experiment. Sometimes delivering mail on his bicycle, sometimes by horse and buggy, Irving in 1911, purchased a one-cylinder Brush car, reverting to the horse drawn buggy in deep snow. In 1935 he was transferred to South Lyon and the Rushton Post Office was discontinued. A chest with rectangular slots into which mail was sorted is on Rush Clark's postal desk which is on exhibit at the Society's 1856 Hall on Silver Lake Road. (Allie Bentley was a mail carrier on Rushton's Route #2) To expedite proper delivery and to become cost effective the digital icon zip code was instituted in 1963.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: clippings; Yesteryears of Green Oak, and plat maps. Corrections/additions requested. 810-229-6402.)





GOTHS sends sincere sympathy to Sidonia DeAngelis and the family on the passing of her husband, George.

George DeAngelis was born in Italy on November 21, 1920 and passed away on December 14, 2014. George came with his parents to the United States when he was a child. He was good at drawing, but never expected to make a living with that skill since he came from a poor family.

George served the United States Army in World War II. He spent 28 months in the Fourth Armored Division under George Patton. He served in France, Germany, and Austria. He was wounded in France and spent 3 months in the hospital near the end of the war.

After serving in World War II, George used the GI Bill to attend Meinzinger School of Art in Detroit to study commercial art. He worked for Ford Motor Company for 39 years as an Engineering Illustrator.

He coauthored two books: *The Early Ford V8* and *The Ford Model A*.

He collected and restored antique automobiles. He made several replicas of the Quadricycle. Henry Ford's first automobile. He was a member of the Antique Car Club, the Model A Restorers Club and the Early Engine Club. On one of the antique automobile tours he saw the Greenock Mill in Rushton. He bought the mill in 1971 which had been damaged by a fire. He joined the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills. He toured other mills to learn about them. He and his family began the work of rebuilding the mill. They tried to use salvaged posts and beams in the reconstruction. (The Greenock Mill is currently owned by Rhonda and Jim Fackert.)

George and Sidonia moved to Green Oak Township in 1980 from Allen Park. They built their retirement home across the street from the Greenock Mill. George continued his love of art creating water color landscape paintings of farms and water scenes in Green Oak Township. He joined the South Lyon Fine Arts Society. His landscapes have been shown in various art museums.

In 1984 George and Sidonia opened the Greenock Mill as a place to purchase cider and donuts. George made the cider from local apples and Sidonia fried the donuts. They included displays of antiques at the mill and their customers could watch the cider being pressed. The mill closed in 1994 as they felt it was becoming too large for a hobby operation. George belonged to Monarch Watch and was a Monarch tracker. He banded several Monarchs so their travels could be traced. (Sidonia had created gardens which attracted butterflies. She also had areas of

milkweed which the Monarchs enjoy.) George served on the Green Oak Township Historic District Commission and chaired this committee in 2001. He and Sidonia had been members of the Green Oak Township Historical Society since 1980. He also served on the Huron River Watershed Council.

George and Sidonia were married for over 70 years and raised three children: Dean, Don and Pat.

We will miss this fine gentleman, who worked hard to encourage all to love antique automobiles and local history.

Marilyn Harrington, President Information compiled from: "The South Lyon Herald," "The Ann Arbor News," and "The Brighton Argus" and Yesteryears of Green Oak (Corrections and/or comments appreciated 248-446-0789)



Henry Ford in his first Quadricycle



Greenock Mill circa 1983

**Green Oak Township
Historical Society
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A Letter From The President, Maryilyn Harrington

We had hoped that with all the work that the Green Oak Township had done on the museum portion of the building, we would not have any problems with ice dams. Even though we used a roof rake regularly and applied Roof Melt we still had a large build-up of ice on the north side of the building.

The roof on the north side of the building doesn't have a steep slope and we have many big trees in the back that limit the amount of sunshine. Therefore as the snow melts ice forms along the edge of the roof. When more of the snow melts the water runs up under the shingles and into the building. We did have water coming into the building, so we moved most of the items in those rooms out into the hallway. We will install heat tapes next year which should prevent this from happening.

Please see our **Thank You** section for all the help our members and friends have given us.

We also put in the **GOTHS 2015 Calendar** from the Calendar Committee so you would be able to put our dates on your calendar.

One other new item is a **Volunteers Are Needed**. Please review it and see if there is a way you could help us.

We hope to see you at some or all of our activities this year.

Thank You From GOTHS

Green Oak Township for all the assistance they have given GOTHS

- Mowing the grass
- Trimming the brush
- Installing insulation
- Installing two new doors
- Cleaning and replacing the faucet on the kitchen sink
- Removing/replacing ceiling tiles
- Painting the museum rooms
- Painting the exterior of the 1856 Hall and the museum
- Plowing the snow
- Cleaning up and removing the leaves
- Applying Roof Melt to the north side of the building
- Shoveling the roof on the North side of the building
- Removing ceiling tiles again

Antoinette "T" Shelvey for getting the Rada Knife orders delivered.

Marilyn and Stephen Harrington for cleaning the gutters.

Marieanna Bair for writing an article for the newsletter.

Stephen and Marilyn Harrington for repeatedly raking the roof and putting Roof

Melt on it. (Unfortunately this didn't stop ice dams from forming.)

Antoinette "T" Shelvey for getting two large donations for the June 2015 Garage Sale.

Marilyn and Stephen Harrington, David Huck, Mike Nelson, Antoinette "T" Shelvey for helping move the Garage Sale donations to Bill Lintner's farm or GOTHS.

Mike Nelson for coming to our rescue. He not only helped us move things, but he provided his big truck to haul the stuff in.

Billy Lintner for allowing us to store items in his green house.

Bill Besso, Marilyn and Stephen Harrington, David Huck, Mike Nelson and Antoinette "T" Shelvey for assisting with moving items from Billy Lintner's farm back to GOTHS on February 12th.

Anna Ernst, David Huck, Stephen and Marilyn Harrington for moving things out of the rooms with ice dam issues into the hallway.

Dave Huck for repairing our outside lights.



Thanks to Carrie Buatti and Marilyn Harrington for creating and designing this newsletter.

Recognition of Major Donors

Gift categories recognize donors to the Historic Township Hall Renovation - Restoration Fund. Contributions to the Fund are cumulative.

Platinum	\$ 25,000	Bronze	\$ 2,500
Gold	\$ 10,000	Copper	\$ 1,000
Silver	\$ 5,000	Pewter	\$ 500

Book of Major Donors: Designated Honorees and Memorials have been established to recognize donations made in the name of another person.

Plaque in the 1856 Hall will display the names of those making donations over \$1,000.

Paver will be inscribed with your name if you have donated over \$ 500.

There are tax benefits for gifts to the Fund. The Society is a 501 (C) (3) organization.

To make a pledge please use the form on page 3 or contact, David Huck at (248) 486-9121 or david.huck@charter.net

Platinum Donors:

Green Oak Charter Township

Gold Donors:

Silver Donors:

Dick & Connie Cowan of Mason
Jim & Rhonda Fackert of Green Oak
Steve & Patti Gronow of Brighton

Bronze Donors:

Gransden Enterprises Inc. of Green Oak
Green Oak Gutter Inc. of South Lyon
Erlah Lambert of Green Oak
Lumber Liquidators of Redford
Bert & Marieanna Bair of Brighton
Stephen & Marilyn Harrington of Northfield
Dave and Gail Huck of Green Oak
Cleo Moran of Ann Arbor

Copper Donors:

Brighton Lodge in Brighton
J.R. Asher of Green Oak
Duncan Disposal of Green Oak
John & Janice Field of Green Oak
George & Vivian Kane of Green Oak
Donna Martin "In Memory of Bud" of Green Oak
Masonic Lodge 247 of Brighton
Ruth Munzel of Green Oak
Norm & Anne Nebozenko of Green Oak
Angie Nelson of Green Oak
Ore Creek Jewelers of Brighton
Lorry Wagner of Brighton
Chris & Jo Ann Williams of Green Oak
Lou & Margaret Williams-Lanning of Green Oak

Pewter Donors:

Beverly Chiasson of Green Oak
George & Sidonia DeAngelis of Green Oak
Fred & Sandy Hanert of Green Oak
Vern & Agnes Hoshal
Mary Janssen of Green Oak
Bill Lintner of Green Oak
Gerry Macks of Green Oak
McNabb Carpet of Milford
Cindy Morianti of Green Oak
William Palmer of Green Oak
Phoenix Players at the 1856 Historic Hall
Jan & Loretta Plas of Green Oak
Stuart & Elisabeth Schluckebier of Brighton
N. S. Sridharan of Bloomfield Hills
Whitmore Lake Road & Gun Club



Thank you to the Calendar Committee

JoAnn Driver-Williams – Chairperson, Bill Besso, Marilyn Harrington, and Antoinette “T” Shelvey for creating a GOTHS Calendar for 2015

Sunday, April 12, 2015



General Meeting

Potluck Luncheon at 1:00 PM – Please bring a dish to pass. GOTHS will provide coffee, tea, plates, napkins, and silverware.

Vintage Strings Performing at 2:00 PM



Garage Sale – Antoinette ‘T’ Shelvey, Chairperson

Drop Off Dates:

May 27th through June 1st

Prepare For Sale:

June 2nd through 4th

Sale Begins:

Friday, June 5th and runs through Saturday, June 20th

Please call Antoinette if you have any questions or have items to be dropped off. 248-342-0978 or tshelvey@att.net

Saturday, July 11th



PIONEER DAY

Family Pioneer Saturday

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Vintage Strings Performing at 2:00 PM



Sunday, July 12th



General Meeting

Potluck Luncheon at 1:00 PM - Please bring a dish to pass. GOTHS will provide coffee, tea, plates, napkins, and silverware.

Diane Wynings speaking about – Rachel Andresen

*Bring a “Whatchamacallit” to share.

Saturday, August 8th



PIONEER DAY

Family Pioneer Saturday

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Laundry Demonstration/Ice Cream Making

Saturday, September 12th

Green Oak Day



Sunday, October 25th



Annual Meeting

Potluck Luncheon at 1:00 PM - Please bring a dish to pass. GOTHS will provide coffee, tea, plates, napkins, and silverware.

“Barns” - Presented by Dorothy Kapp Shear (Local author of Girl in a Feed Sack Dress.)

Sunday, December 6th

Luncheon at Bar None

1:00 PM



Pledge Commitment to 1856 Historic Hall

I, _____ (first & last name) pledge a one-time contribution of \$ _____.

I prefer to make a yearly contribution of \$ _____ for the years _____, _____, _____.

This donation is to be used for: check one or both

Renovation/Restoration _____ or operation and/or other expenses _____ incurred by the

Green Oak Township Historical Society related to Green Oak’s 1856 Historic Hall. Send to:

GOTHS – 10789 Silver Lake Road – South Lyon, MI 48178

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The Society's purpose is to bring together those people interested in history, particularly the history of Green Oak Township, and to promote a better understanding and appreciation of our American heritage.

www.greenoaktownshiphistoricalsociety.org

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The Mission of the Green Oak Township Historical Society Museum

Is to collect and preserve artifacts and publications with relationship to Green Oak Township and to build an awareness and appreciation of the history of Green Oak Township including the history of the people who settled here.

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We have space for three more ads... The cost is now \$60 per year for four printings. Seasonal ads are \$15 each. If you are interested please call Jo Ann Williams at (248) 939-2901 or email JoWilliams@aol.com. Please put "Newsletter" in the subject line.

Thank you





GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 5TH THRU 20TH

9am - 5pm
Daily



At the
HISTORIC 1856 HALL
10789 Silver Lake Rd., South Lyon, MI 48178

Accepting Donations: May 27th thru June 1st (9am - 5pm)

CONTACT:

ANTOINETTE ("T") SHELVEY AT (248) 342-0978 OR TSHELVEY@ATT.NET TO:

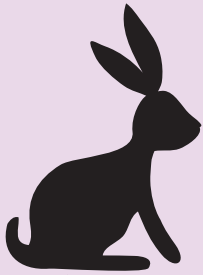
- Volunteer
- Arrange for pick-up of large items
- Arrange for drop-off of items at times other than those listed above

GOTH is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization therefore all donations are tax deductible. This is our fundraiser for restoration and operation costs for the 1856 Hall and Heritage Museum. Please be generous. We are sorry, we cannot accept clothing but shoes and linens are fine.

Please support the Phoenix Players

They will be presenting

The Velveteen Rabbit



At our Historic Green Oak Township Hall

10789 Silver Lake Road South Lyon, MI

🎭 Fridays: March 20 and 27 at 7:30 PM

🎭 Saturdays: March 21 and 28 at 7:00 PM

🎭 Sundays: March 22 and 29 at 2:00 PM

Tickets:

\$12.00 for adults - \$10.00 for seniors and students - \$8.00 for children (13 and under)
Call (810) 588-3662 for reservations.

Please check the address area of this newsletter. If it says Complimentary then you need to pay your dues.
The codes we use are:

15 year membership dues were paid
N means New
R means Renewal
S means Student
I means Individual

F means Family
P means Patron
B means Business/Professional
Life means your dues are paid for your lifetime

Therefore 13 NF – Means a new family joined in 2013 and has not paid any dues since 2013. If you think the code on your label is incorrect, please call Marilyn Harrington at 248-446-0789.

The Green Oak Township Historical Society relies on the participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to renew your membership, make a donation, or become a member please use the enclosed membership envelop or the form below.



Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Membership Plan: New Renewal
 \$2 Student \$15 Individual \$25 Family \$50 Patron
 \$50 Business / Professional \$350 Life

Donation to: Historical Society Project Fund
 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other

The Green Oak Twp. Historical Society is a 501 c (3) Non-Profit Organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Please pass this form along to a friend if you are a paid up member. Cut along dotted line and mail form to:

**Green Oak Township
Historical Society
10789 Silver Lake Rd.
South Lyon, MI 48178**



Green Oak Township Historical Society

1856 Historic Township Hall

10789 Silver Lake Rd. • South Lyon, MI 48178

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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

- Creating articles for the newsletter
- Creating displays in the museum
- Working in the archives (family research)
- Working on building maintenance (removing leaves from gutters)
- Providing information about your family in Green Oak

If you can help, please call Marilyn Harrington at (248) 446-0789