



Illustration by George DeAngelis

Green Oak Historian

Official Newsletter of the
Green Oak Township Historical Society

Volume 36 Issue No. 1

January/February 2017

It is time to renew your membership:

Enclosed with this mailing is an envelope. It is for your dues. Please join, renew, or donate to GOTHS. If your mailing label says "Life" or 2017 then your dues are paid. If your dues are paid, please consider donating to GOTHS or encouraging a friend to join. It is the generosity of the members and friends who keep the Society viable. Thank you!

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES:

Big PDQ – For all your printing needs
(810) 229-2989 www.bigpdq.com

Costco – 6700 Whitmore Lake Road
Brighton 48116

Green Oak Golf Carts (248) 437-8461

Green Oak Gutter (248) 437-9700
greenoakgutter.com

Green Oak Tire Inc. (248) 437-1753 ...
7480 Kensington Rd Brighton, MI 48116
greenoaktire.com

Hungry Howie's Flavored Crust Pizza
(734) 449-9100 ... 11930 Whitmore Lake Rd
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

***Each is a supporter of GOTHS.**



Feature:
Alex & Maggie Zakem

Sunday, March 19, 2017

General Meeting:

1:00 pm Potluck Luncheon (Bring a dish to share. GOTHS will provide plates, silverware, coffee, and tea.)

2:00 pm GOTHS Information update

2:15 pm Alex and Maggie Zakem performing traditional American Songs and Irish Songs and Tunes.

****Please call Marilyn Harrington at (248) 446-0789 if you plan to attend as seating is limited.**

Green Oak Township Historical Society
10789 Silver Lake Road
South Lyon, MI 48178

Thank you, Green Oak Charter Township, for the new taller toilets in the GOTHS bathrooms.

RECOGNITION OF MAJOR DONORS TO GOTHS:

Gifting 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

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 donate over \$ 500.

There are tax benefits for gifts to GOTHS. The Society is a 501 (C) (3) organization. Please contact, the Society’s treasurer or use the donation form on the last page of this newsletter. 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:

Bert & Marieanna Bair of Brighton
 Gransden Enterprises Inc. of Green Oak
 Green Oak Gutter Inc. of South Lyon
 Steve and Marilyn Harrington of Northfield
 Dave and Gail Huck of Green Oak
 Erlah Lambert of Green Oak
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 Cleo Moran of Ann Arbor
 Chris and JoAnn Williams of Green Oak

COPPER DONORS:

J.R. and Virginia Asher of Green Oak

Duncan Disposal of Green Oak
 John & Janice Field of Green Oak
 Graco Foundation in honor of Anna Ernst of Green Oak
 George & Vivian Kane of Green Oak
 Donna Martin “In Memory of Bud” of Green Oak
 Masonic Lodge 247 of Brighton
 Margaret Williams Lanning and Lou Lanning of Green Oak
 Ruth Munzel of Green Oak
 Norm & Anne Nebozenko of Green Oak
 Angie Nelson of Lyon Twp.
 Ore Creek Jewelers of Brighton

PEWTER DONORS:

Beverly Chiasson of Lyon Twp.
 Rose Cook
 Bruce, Judy, and Stacy Gamble
 George & Sidonia DeAngelis of Green Oak
 Fred & Sandy Hanert of Green Oak
 Verne and Agnes Hoshal
 Mary Janssen of Green Oak
 Gerry Macks of Green Oak
 McNabb Carpet of Milford
 Ray and 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 Rod & Gun Club

**Recognition of Major Donors will only appear in the first issue of the Green Oak Historian each year. (David Huck, the Treasurer works very hard at keeping track of each person’s donations.) THESE DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.*

Check out our website:
www.greenoaktownshiphistoricalsociety.org

GOTHS MISSION STATEMENT:

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.

The Bank of Kensington

Upon satisfying population and boundary line requirements, Michigan joined the United States on January 26, 1837. To promote the evolution of the new state from one of forest trails to one with a progressive climate for development, general incorporations statutes regulating commercial ventures were enacted, including banks. Banking was “Free” in that only 30% of its stock was necessary in “. . . good and sufficient security” to protect bank notes; county clerks and treasurers (who had a vested interest in the development of their county) were influential in the approval process. Legal restrictions on the trustworthiness of banking promoters were loosely drawn and later proved that many of the organizers were of questionable character.

Sherman D. Dix, who had taken up 82 acres in Section 17 of Green Oak Township in 1832, was a member of the Board of Directors of the newly organized Bank of Kensington, just over the Oakland County line. Completely within Michigan corporation laws of the time, banks were started on a shoe string throughout the populated areas of Michigan. After being certified the Kensington Bank Directors began to issue notes. “They obtained a good supply of bank note blanks that were soon properly signed and put in circulation. Let it be recorded that the Bank of Kensington issued as nice bills to look upon as any bank ever issued.” This bank was one of the many “Wild Cat” banks. (So, named because their nearest neighbors often were wild cats?) The panic of 1837, caused state bank commissioners to make changes. New regulations would take effect January 1, 1838. By organizing December 12, 1837, the Board of Directors got in just under the wire. Dix was a Bostonian and attended school in the suburbs. But his restive spirit would not brook restraints of a school room and he determined to extricate himself. With a vial of chicken blood, and feigning illness, he sent for his father. Coughing, the blood and other symptoms got him released and taken home. Fresh air and active exercise, to be found in Michigan, transformed him into a pioneer. Bringing along a stock of items to sell to settlers he soon disposed of them, purchasing the land in Green Oak, and in 1834, 80 acres in Brighton

township, section 34. Both pieces were on local trails. The Green Oak property straddled the trail from Ann Arbor to Flint; the 80 in Brighton Township was just north of the Grand River Trail, across from Woodruff’s Mill on Pleasant Valley Road. That he platted into the Village of Livingston including a large flouring mill, and a large hotel on the plat. He took the plat to New York and easily disposed of the lots. In 1836, his address is noted as the Village of Livingston, Michigan.

Although the town of Kensington was in Oakland County, Green oak residents often shopped there. They patronized the blacksmith shop, the doctor’s office, the Post Office, the Bank and attended church. On the Grand River Trail the two hotels and taverns were a welcome sight to weary pioneers and stagecoach riders as they crossed the Huron River.

When Kensington Bank note sales had not proceeded as well as expected, Sherman Dix, and fellow director Alfred Dwight, left for Milwaukee (unknown to the remaining stock holders) and disposed of several thousand bank notes, keeping the proceeds. Some sources report they were apprehended and brought back to Michigan with no record as to punishment. Other sources say “. . . he (Dix) repaired to Texas and engaged in cattle speculations.” Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; History of Green Oak by Green Oak Township Historical Society; Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau. (Additions and corrections requested. 810-229-6402)

**Green Oak Township Historical Society Board for 2017:
The Board meets the second Wednesday each month,
except December, at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.**

President – Marilyn Harrington 248-446-0789
Vice President – Antoinette “T” Shelvey 248-342-0978

Secretary – Carrie Buatti 313-790-3019
Treasurer – David Huck 248-486-9121

Trustees:

Marieanna Bair 810-229-6402
Bill Besso 248-486-0515
Anna Ernst
Walt Ernst 810-231-3273
Erlah Lambert 248-437-0893
Bill Lintner 248-231-6484
Ruth Munzel 248-437-2421
Stuart Schluckebier 248- 486-6662



**Green Oak Township
Historical Society Programs for 2017: (All
are held at the Historic 1856 Hall 10789
Silver Lake Road -South Lyon, MI 48178
unless otherwise noted.)**



- *Sunday, March 19, 2017:
General Meeting --1:00 pm Potluck
Luncheon: Maggie and Alex Zakem
performing traditional American and Irish
Songs and Tunes*




- *Sunday, May 7, 2017 General
Meeting – 1:00 pm Potluck Luncheon: Judi
and Keith DesRosiers presenting
information on Bees. They plan to show us
how their “Busy Buzzing Bees” make
honey. If you plan to attend please call M.
Harrington at 248-446-0789, as seating is
limited.*



- *Garage Sale – Accepting
Donations May 22 through May 27, 2017
(Donations accepted throughout the sale.)
Sale begins Thursday, June 1, 2017 and
continues through Saturday, June 17,
2017. Call Antoinette “T” Shelvey at 248-
342-0978 for more information.*



- *Wednesday, July 19,
2017: 7:00 pm Special Program – Al and
David Eicher presenting “Michigan in the
Civil War”. If you plan to attend please call
M. Harrington at 248-446-0789, as seating
is limited.*

-  Thursday,
August 31, 2017: 7:00 pm Special
Program- Mike Fornes presenting “Gordon
Lightfoot Tribute”. If you plan to attend
please call M. Harrington at 248-446-0789,
as seating is limited.

- **Green Oak Day - 10001 Silver Lake Road -
Brighton, MI 48178 (Date to be
determined.)**



- *Sunday, October 22, 2017:
1:00 pm Annual Meeting and Potluck
Luncheon: Susan Nenadic presenting
“Ghost Hunting”. If you plan to attend
please call M. Harrington at 248-446-0789,
as seating is limited.*

- *Sunday, December 10, 2017: 1:00 pm
Luncheon at Bar None - 11600 Grand River
Rd. - Brighton, MI 48116*

- *We also hope to tour Peaker Services and
the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, Birthplace
of the Model T. More about this later.*

- **GOTHS is selling Rada Knives. Call
Antoinette “T” Shelvey at 248-342-0978
for more information.**

The Society’s historic 1856 Hall with warming kitchen is available for rent for small groups (maximum capacity is 50 people). The rent is \$200.00 paid at least two weeks prior to your event. \$100.00 will be returned to you one week after your event if everything was maintained as before your event. Please call Marilyn Harrington at (248) 446-0789 if you wish to rent the Society’s 1856 Hall.



GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Now Accepting Donations!

(and throughout the sale)

May 22nd thru 27th (9am - 5pm)

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

GOTH is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization

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.

CONTACT:

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

For information on:

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



**GARAGE SALE DATES:
JUNE 1ST THRU 17TH (9AM-5PM)**

At the

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

Green Oak Township
Historical Society
1856 Historic Township Hall
10789 Silver Lake Road
South Lyon, MI 48178
Return Service Requested

Non- Profit
U.S. Postage
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South Lyon, MI
Permit No. 64

Please check your mailing label. Your dues are due if it doesn't say "Life" or "2017". Please use the enclosed envelope or the form below and mail it to GOTHS. Thank you! (If the label says 2017 or "Life" your dues are paid. You can pass the envelope to a friend, recycle it or use it for donating.)

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, donate, or become a member please use this form. Mail form to: **Green Oak Twp. Historical Society 10789 Silver Lake Road South Lyon, MI 48178**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

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

Donation: _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other

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