



Green Oak Historian

Official Newsletter of the
Green Oak Township Historical Society

Illustration by George DeAngelis

Volume 36 Issue No. 4

July/August 2017



*Thursday, August 31, 2017
7:00 pm*

Mike Fornes presents a multimedia, musical program about "Up North" culture, sentiment, and moods through the lyrics and music of Gordon Lightfoot. Featuring songs: "Rainy Day People", "Canadian Railroad Trilogy", "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" and several others.

If you plan to attend call M. Harrington at 248-446-0789, as seating is limited.

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

*Green Oak Day
Saturday, September 16, 2017
10:00 am to 3:00 pm*



SPONSORED BY:

- GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP
- GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
- GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHERE:

- 10001 SILVER LAKE ROAD BRIGHTON MI, 48116
- 9384 WHITMORE LAKE ROAD BRIGHTON, MI 48116

QUESTIONS:

CALL MARK ST. CHARLES,
GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISOR 810-231-1333 EXT. 102

**Bounce House/Horses
Kids Activities/Games
Taste of Green Oak Restaurants**

Thank you to the Green Oak Township Board for their continued support of the Society.

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

GFL Environmental – gflusa.com (844) 464-3587

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

Check out the Society's 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.

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 –*
- *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*

Stephen Lee

Born at the time of the signing of the Paris Treaty in 1783, when the 13 colonies hung together to defeat the British, Stephen Lee, and wife Lydia, determined to head west from New York in 1830. They and their nine children undoubtedly traveled the Erie Canal, by steamboat over Lake Erie to Detroit, then by wagon and probably oxen to Washtenaw County.

It was 1835 before the 80 acres they bought October 6, 1830, on the Huron River officially became Green Oak Township. Their acreage was in Section 20, north of Winans Lake Road, west of Ann Arbor Road (Whitmore Lake Road) to the north shore of the Huron. Their two older boys Hannibal, 18 and Solomon 17, worked to help get shelter built and land cleared for wheat for the next year. Their diet consisted of local game and fish in addition to what they brought along.

It can safely be assumed Lydia and the younger children were deeply involved in the construction of the cabin. Stephen and Lydia's log house was the first structure in the wilderness of Livingston County. A year later the Lee family hosted the Lewis Fondas until that family's shelter was built north of the Grand River Trail east of the Ann Arbor Road. It must be noted the Lees hosted other Green Oak settlers until cabins could be constructed.

The Lees were Christians who valued education. An itinerant preacher held the township's first worship service in their house. Daughter Hannah, born 1816 conducted classes, the first in the township, in a cabin built on the bank of the Huron by an uncle, just north of the Lees. Other settlers' children also needed a local school. Meeting in the Lee cabin, November 1837, School District #4, was organized by these settlers. Lee was hired to build Hollister School on the northwest corner of Winans Lake Road and the Ann Arbor Road. Following very explicit construction details, Lee built the school and desks for \$250.00.

The Lee's children grew up, married children of nearby neighbors, and had families. Stephen was 82 and Lydia 81 when they died. They also lost children, several of which are interred at Green Oak Plains Cemetery on Maltby Road.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Early Landowners and Settlers by Milton Charboneau; Yesteryears of Green Oak 1830 -1930 by the Green Oak Township Historical Society; records from the Old Village cemetery by John & Janice Field; census record and obituary collection; Ellis' 1880 History of Livingston County. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402)

Save these dates:



Sunday, October 22, 2017: 1:00 pm Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon: Susan Nenadic presenting "Ghost Hunting".

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



The Society is selling Rada Knives and products. Call Antoinette "T" Shelvey, the Vice President at 248-342-0978 for more information.

The Society's Historic 1856 Hall with warming Kitchen is available for rent. Call SELCRA: 810-229-4140 or email: info@selcra.com



Old mail wagon at Rushton, MI

Notes from Marilyn Harrington, President

Thank you:

- Antoinette "T" Shelvey for organizing items and taking them to the resale shop.
- Marieanna Bair, Mary Janssen, Eralah Lambert, and Maris Wallag for working on the archives and collections of the society with me. (Join us as we usually work on Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Call me if you plan to stop by with a question or wish to help as we sometimes need to cancel our work session. (248) 446-0789.)

Please note, the Society could use help with the following:

- Organizing, cleaning, and creating displays
- Assisting with the flower beds and grounds up keep

Updates:

The Society is very pleased to be working in partnership with SELCRA (Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority). With SELCRA the Society plans to rent the Historic 1856 Hall and warming kitchen more often.

The Society members attending the Piquette Avenue Ford Plant tour enjoyed it very much.

The "Michigan in the Civil War" presentation was well attended and very interesting.

Noah Doneth is working on his Eagle Scout Project, which is to build a split rail fence behind the museum.

The Society sends condolences to the families of Clotildus (Cleo) Moran, and Bud Wynings. Cleo was a Past President and served on the Society's Board. Bud is a descendant of the Warden family and has been a member for many years.

GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GOTHS BOARD

Marieanna Bair's parents came to America in 1923 from Germany. This allowed her the privilege of being born in the United States.

When she was seven they moved from Detroit to a farm in Brighton Township. After attending a one-room school, she was taught how to drive in order for her to attend Brighton High School from which she graduated. For 1 & ½ years she was employed at the General Motors Proving Ground. After World War II, Earland (Bert) Bair and she were married. They lived in Brighton Township until 1967, when they moved to Green Oak Township, where they continued to raise their family.

In 1974, they joined the Green Oak Township Historical Society. They have been active members ever since. They experienced the Bicentennial of the United States and felt they should enlarge their knowledge of local and U.S. history. Even more they wanted to preserve and disseminate this awareness and enjoyment to others and future researchers. Bert passed in 2015, but Marieanna has continued to work with the Society.

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

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U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 64

Check your mailing label. Dues have not been paid if it doesn't say "Life" or "2017". Please use the form below and mail it to the Society.

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.