



Green Oak Historian

Official Newsletter of the
Green Oak Township Historical Society

Volume 36 Issue No. 5

September/October 2017

JOIN US:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22,
2017

1:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING AND
POTLUCK LUNCHEON

SUSAN NENADIC PRESENT-
ING:

"GHOST HUNTING"

(Please bring a dish to share. The Society will provide plates, silverware, napkins, and coffee.)

Susan discusses the problems that arise when one tries to research women who lived in the nineteenth century. She illustrates the problems with specific cases. She explains how women were eradicated from the historical record and how what does remain is often slanted due to the bias of the times. She uses lots of anecdotes and examples which will make this an interesting presentation.

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



THANK YOU,
NOAH DONETH
FOR THE SOCIETY'S BEAUTIFUL
NEW FENCE.



Noah has finished work on his Eagle Scout Project, which was to build a split rail fence behind the museum. Green Oak Township provided Quickcrete and the wood for the fence. Tuthill Farms and Composting allowed Noah to haul the brush from the Society's property and donated wood chips for under the fence. He is now awaiting presentation of rank.

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



Save this Date:

Sunday, December 10, 2017:
1:00 pm Luncheon at Bar None -
11600 Grand River Rd. - Brighton, MI
48116. Please call Marilyn Harrington
at 248-446-0789 if you plan to attend.



Check out the Society's website:
www.greenoaktownshiphistoricalsociety.org

Edna Peach as she worked on Yesteryears of Green Oak Township 1830—1930. (circa 1978) The Society published this book in 1981.



Society Notes

Thank you:

Mary Janssen, Delphine Palkowski, and Marilyn Harrington for donating snacks for the "Gordon Lightfoot Tribute"

Mary Janssen, Erlah Lambert, Maris Wallag, David Huck, Sandy Miller, Marieanna Bair, Walt Ernst and Marilyn Harrington for assisting with Green Oak Day. This was a well attended event and the weather was great.

Anna Ernst for donating the ice cream that the Society served at Green Oak Day. It was delicious.

Costco for donating the cakes the Society served at Green Oak Day.

Mary Janssen, Erlah Lambert, Maris Wallag, Marieanna Bair, and Marilyn Harrington for continuing to work on cleaning, archiving, and creating displays.

SEL CRA for the beautiful mums in our flower beds.

Green Oak Charter Township, Green Oak Township Police Department, and Green Oak Township Fire Department for all their work to make Green Oak Day a success.

Updates:

The Mike Fornes "Gordon Lightfoot" program was well received and the attendance was very good.

Notes from Marilyn Harrington, President and Editor of the Green Oak Historian.

My apologies if I have left someone or something out of this newsletter. I normally write the newsletter in Word, but my computer had issues, so this one is done in Publisher. Additions/Corrections 248-446-0789

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

Green Oak Station

Traveling north from Ann Arbor in Washtenaw County, to Pontiac in Oakland County, c. 1840, one followed the north-south trail in Green Oak Township along the centerlines of sections 35, 26, 23, 14, and 11, to Silver Lake Road. (This portion of the trail was later named Rushton Road.) One then continued East on Silver Lake Road to the Pontiac Trail in Oakland County. Research indicates these road names became official following the Detroit Edison bringing power to Green Oak in the early 1930s. However, everyone knew who lived on which road and which trail to follow.

In 1833, Reverend Ira Olds arrived in Michigan to serve the Presbyterian church of South Lyon. His wife, Jane and son, Alonzo were with him. Shortly after arrival Ira and Jane bought 80 acres May 23, 1834, selling to Alonzo late that year. Alonzo also bought 40 acres nearby. Within a few years both men bought several acres in section 26, in the area of Ten Mile Road and the trail.

Alonzo married Janet Warden, a niece of Kinsley Bingham, who lived a few miles north. They had two children: Mary a. b. 1843 and Robert b. 1846. Alonzo built a saw mill on the creek and before long a substantial home on the west side of the trail. (This house still stands, but is not open to the public.)

Alonzo did not neglect his civic responsibilities even in that primitive environment. In 1833, the Federal government planned a turnpike along the already well traveled trail west from Detroit, the Grand River Trail. The turnpike would follow that trail through Farmington, Novi, New Hudson, Kensington, Brighton, and beyond. Kinsley Bingham became aware of a change promoted by communities south, to route the trail through a more southerly route. He speedily prepared a petition, for local settlers to sign, to proper officials. Alonzo was among those who eagerly signed the successful petition.

The record states Alonzo owned, by 1859, over 600 acres in section 11, at the point where Silver Lake Road and Rushton Road intersect. (Rushton Road terminated at Grand River Road at that time.) At that intersection he built Green Oak Station. A general store, blacksmith, post office, and other small businesses were built, including his saw mill. The 1860 census shows seven employees on the site. Alonzo built another fine two-story frame house on the west side of Rushton Road. This became known as the Green Oak Inn. To be continued. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Yesteryears of Green Oak 1830 -1930 by the Historical Society; censuses; plat maps; Early Landowners of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau. Additions/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 Pro Tem – Marieanna Bair 810-229-6402

Treasurer – David Huck 248-486-9121

Trustees:

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

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BUSINESSES:

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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

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

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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.