

December 1, 2018 – 4th Edition, 2018

# Gazette

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White Lake Historical Society / Fisk Farm

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## White Lake Historical Society Board of Directors

President - Barb Allison 684-5721

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## Santa's Coming to the Fisk Farm!

White Lake Historical Society will be hosting Christmas Open House on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our Christmas Open House has a new twist in 2018. Santa will still visit with children in the Thompson School, however he has set aside two time blocks daily for some enchanting storytelling. This very special enhancement will take place at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm both days of the open house. Children can move around the Fisk Farm from story time to other areas of the open house while they wait for their turn to visit with Santa.

The carriage house will welcome guests, where refreshments will be served. At the farm house, the air will be filled with the sounds of holiday music that invites you join along in song. Come by and enjoy the music in the parlor that includes pianist Phil Dannewitz and saw player Larry Ballard.

We are actively seeking help between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm on either or both days to host our guests, providing them the WLHS old school hospitality of fellowship. Please let us know in advance so we can schedule and give some of the regulars a break in their volunteer time. The last four months of each year are very labor intensive times of involvement by the core WLHS crew with Fall Festival, Haunting at the Farm and Christmas Open House.

If you do not have time to spare, a donation of cookies would be helpful, again to lighten the load of those that provide refreshments every year. Email us at [whitelakehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:whitelakehistoricalsociety@gmail.com), and let us know how you'd like to help!

## **A word from the WLHS President.....**

*THANK YOU! Volunteers are people that work hard at their chosen mission as if they are going to be financially, personally or professionally rewarded - but none are true! Their reward is the impact that they make on others and their community.*

*People look to the officials at their city or township as the leaders of their community, and they are, but there are many people in organizations that work behind the scenes and are as important to the health and well-being of the community as elected officials and township employees.*

*If you are reading this, you are most likely one of those people making a difference. There are many members of the WLHS that devote their free time and their personal funds to other non-profit organizations as well as the programs at the Kelley-Fisk Farm, ranging from their churches and veteran's organizations to Meals on Wheels, Open Door and Community Sharing, Special Olympics and many more. Please know that you and your work are noticed and appreciated.*

*You provide the strength that continually moves our community forward.*

*Sincerely, Barb Allison*

### **WLT Tree Lighting Ceremony**

The White Lake Township Community Tree Lighting will be held December 7th from 6-8 pm. This has become a crowd drawing event for a good reason! Come join the fun at the Fisk Farm to kick off the Christmas holiday with our community. Save the date!



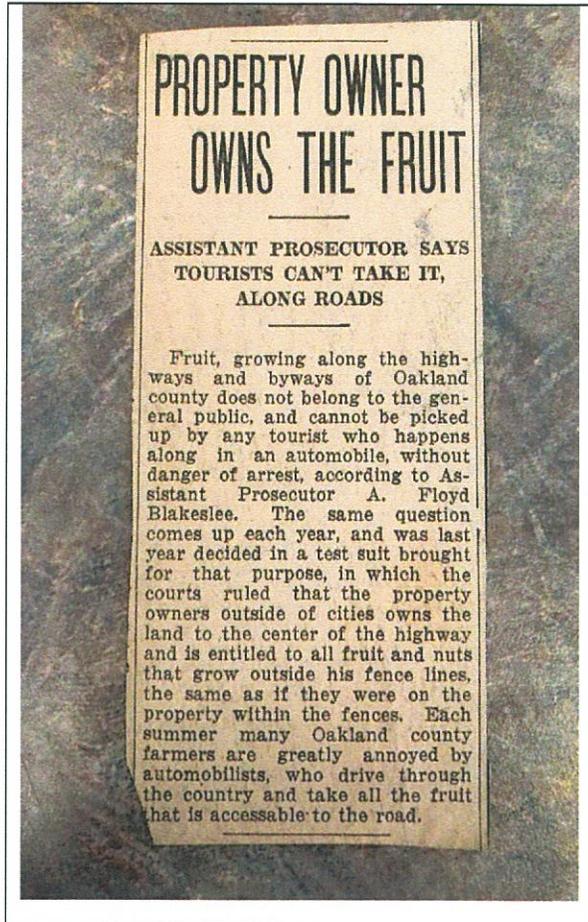
### **Thankful for an Abundance of Shared History**

Commerce Township resident Kay Barlow donated her father's World War II Navy uniform to the WLHS. R. Kent Swedlund's uniform was on display during the 2018 Fisk Farm Festival, along with Fred Welberry's World War II Army uniform, a World War II era nurses cape and Harley Hinman's uniform coat with badge. We had a wonderful addition to our archives this fall.

White Lake resident Lynne Williams shared records from her 3rd great grandfather who owned property that is now known as Ivory Farms. Terry and Pam Lidster donated several fun items from the estate of Edith McKeachie recently. You may find these items on display in our general store.

Tim and Maribeth Ruggles donated 2 beautiful dolls from Ruth Ruggles estate that will also become part of our general store display.

An In Remembrance book made its way to California recently. A member of the Garner family is renewing her genealogy research and ordered a copy.



Excerpts from Addie's Scrapbook:  
 Trivia Anyone?  
 The Pontiac Press 1947, Joe Haas. Time to test your knowledge. Try to best match the question to the correct answer and earn bragging rights for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018!

1. What was the principal cause of trouble between neighbors in Oakland County Pioneer Days?
  2. What were the early specifications for a line fence?
  3. Did many cattle jump fences?
  4. What for many years, was the stylish fence with which to enclose a home?
  5. What nationally famous manufactured fence was first made in Holly?
- \_\_\_ A. Cyclone fence
- \_\_\_ B. Once horses, cows and sheep discovered they could scale a fence, they became adept jumpers. It was difficult to keep them enclosed without the use of a "poke". A poke is a wooden contraption around the neck. Pokes were also used on hogs to keep them from crawling through holes in a fence or through holes which they would root under it.
- \_\_\_ C. It was required to be "hog and chicken tight and cattle and wolf high"
- \_\_\_ D. A neat lengthwise board or upright picket fence
- \_\_\_ E. Disputes over the maintenance of line fences. Every township had at least one official "fence viewer" who was supposed to adjust the trouble, but it frequently got into the courts, was the occasion for many neighborhood fights and at least one murder.

Trivia Answers: 1.E, 2.C, 3.B, 4.D, 5.A

**Largest Midterm Voter Turnout Rate in 56 Years**

David Eggert with the AP stated that this was Michigan's highest turnout rate in 56 years for a midterm election. White Lake Township has 24,624 registered voters; 15,461 ballots were cast which gave us a turnout percentage of 62.8. Ballot shortages were not reported across Oakland County as they were during the August Primary because the Oakland County Clerk's office both anticipated and provided for a large turnout. Ballots were distributed to all communities in Oakland County providing for 100% voter turnout. This was not done for the August Primary resulting in ballot shortages in White Lake and elsewhere. The White Lake Township Parks & Recreation Millage passed by 661 votes with a total of 14,997 votes recorded.

**Making History More Visible**

New to the Thompson School this year are typed stories, firsthand accounts from teachers and students of local one-room schools. These stories were gathered by Barb Allison from In Remembrance and our archives then converted to story boards so members and guests would have easier access to this information. Thank you to Ron Hinman for the story display board he built and placed in the school just prior to the festival, giving easy access to these story boards. Please take some time to read through these stories when you visit the school. Thank you to Ron for also making a WLHS General Store sign that was placed on the shelving behind the counter.

**Fisk Farm Welcomes Community Sharing**

On October 14, Laura Hurst with Motor City Party Bus hosted a painting party in the Fisk Barn for Community Sharing's Empty Bowl Project, their main event in 2018 was held on November 4 at Baker's of Milford

## 2018 Provided Families Full Fall Schedule of Events at Fisk Farm



With much thanks to our volunteers and our sponsors, this year's Fall Festival at the farm were fantastic! Special thanks to our key sponsors Leo's Coney Island and Flagstar Bank. Aside from the door prize sponsors mentioned in our summer newsletter, we have General RV, Meijer, Walmart, Intrastate Distributors, Absopure and Applebees to thank for their various contributions. The WLT Fire and Police Departments (Office Hartner, D.A.R.E) spent the weekend with us and we appreciate their time and attention to the Fisk Farm community.

Chief Pontiac Programs Committee had a wonderful encampment on the east side of the school. They provided this description of their group: We have taken the name Chief Pontiac Programs to honor the great Ottawa leader Pontiac, who sought to maintain his people's traditions and culture, which he saw being eroded by the other cultures that were moving into North America at the time. Our Living History organization attempts to recreate the daily life skills used during the times of Chief Pontiac, the American Revolutionary War and the early westward expansion. The Living History encampment at the Fisk Farm Festival is an attempt to show the day to day life skills that would have been used by the earliest settlers and inhabitants. These skills are the same ones taught by our organization at our Living History Village located in Kensington Metro-park. [www.chiefpontiacprograms.org](http://www.chiefpontiacprograms.org)

New to our festival this year was Prehistoric Classroom where Peter Jumping Fox, a Paleolithic hunter/gatherer, demonstrated tools and hunting methods.

At our 2017 festival, Larry Ostrowski (then Director) and Erin Kinnee (librarian) of the WLT Library did a program on Camp Library Service during World War I. Erin returned to the festival in 2018, again in self-made period dress, and displayed historic toys while interacting with young festival visitors.

Previous newsletters have introduced you to Huron Valley Community Coalition. They joined us at the festival on Saturday and provided interactive information on reducing youth substance abuse. We are looking forward to more partnerships with them in the future.

Lydia Barnes Potter, Waterford DAR Chapter, very kindly manned the beverage area of our food area both days of the festival. As you probably recall, they also sponsored our barn painting

grant. The following was copied from DAR's website: The Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization with a deeply rich history while also being truly relevant in today's world. More than 930,000 women have joined the organization since it was founded over 125 years ago. They became members to honor their heritage as well as make a difference in their communities across the country and the world. Learn more about the amazing history of the DAR and what members are doing today to continue that legacy. [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) or [www.waterford.michdar.net](http://www.waterford.michdar.net)

The Huron Valley Optimist Club did a wonderful job in the kid's activities area. They spent considerable time assembling the putt putt golf which drew crowds. Their group serves the townships of Commerce, Highland, Milford, White Lake, and the Village of Milford, but primarily the Huron Valley School District. [www.hvoptimist.org](http://www.hvoptimist.org)

North Oakland County Storytellers, Carolyn Graves and Darlene Williams, told stories in the school on Saturday afternoon. Story favorites were Wide Mouth Frog, Runaway Bunny, The Fisherman Who Tricked the Genie, The Girl Afraid of Pumpkins and multiple felt board stories. NOCS also returned to hold their Fright Night event on October 13th. All of our entertainment groups were wonderfully talented and did a great job at the festival (see schedule in fall newsletter).

Mary Garrone, pianist, was new to the line-up and played beautifully. Other music included bands with WLHS members and musicians Ana Larouche and Rick McGlew. Larry and Margie Ballard have been friends of the WLHS for countless years. Larry once again played the saw in the parlor to piano accompaniment by Roger Harvart. Ron Hinman and Hank Woods brought back the rope machine, another favorite.



Our Festival Thank You dinner was held in the Thompson School on September 20th. We enjoyed Papa John's Pizza, salad from Applebee's and root beer floats. The meeting was well attended. Valuable comments and suggestions were made for heading into the 34th Annual Kelley-Fisk Farm Festival in 2019. This event has already been posted on Facebook as we are looking at expanding the Craft Show and want to give crafters ample notice to get this show on their calendars. Thank you to everyone for their input. See meeting minutes distributed in October for more information. Please refer back to our fall newsletter and our website for a list of our door prize sponsors.

On an odd note, this year we received several door prize donations from Papa Johns in White Lake for free large pizzas. Thankfully there were several unclaimed after the festival. On Friday, September 21, this location closed its doors without notice!

Welcome to our new members! Joining us in our endeavors at Fisk Farm are Jane Easton who is also a member of Lydia Barnes Potter Chapter of DAR in Waterford, Michelle Wyse, owner of Wyse Guys Ink (silk screening, embroidery, vinyl signs) and craft show participant, and Margaret Henderson who won the new member drawing. Our renewing member drawing winner was Barb Fitzpatrick. Thank you to all of the WLHS members that worked hard before, during and after the weekend putting the festival together.



**It was a fantastic family friendly Halloween at Fisk Farm!**



**Palm reading, tea leaf reading and tons of concessions!**



**Fisk Farm is filled with pleasant ambiance, all seasons and all times of day!**

## **Halloween at Fisk Farm**

Wind, rain and cold temps, we had it all. The number in attendance at our Halloween event is testament to a winning event. Even with the inclement weather, we had approximately 20 vehicles participating in the trunk-or-treat.

Credit goes to Jason Iacoangeli with the White Lake Parks and Recreation Committee for the trunk-or-treat and outdoor movie ideas that have been successful over the past few years and that bring increased attendance every year.

We welcomed Ted Sienkiewicz, a FOHRA member, and his shadow puppet performance which received rave reviews. We hope he will return!

Always popular and this year, once again, ran by the Vanderwill Family and friends, were the games in the barn. Our outdoor movie moved to an indoor barn movie. Thank you to WLT P&R member Jean Phillippe Loew and son Tobias for taking care of the movie and then providing a larger screen.

We again appreciate the outdoor atmospheric lighting from Brilliant Systems LLC (Lennard Gumaer).

## Notable Notes to Know!

- **Reminder-** We do not have a meeting in December, but hope to see everyone at the Christmas Open House. Keep in mind that our meetings in January, February and March are potluck meetings held at the Community Center on M-59 beginning at 6:30 pm. Keep an eye out for updates as they will be canceled if the weather does not permit safe travel.
- **History Book Update-** A valuable addition to our DVD library is an interview with Jim & Marian Allen. Jim was a Marine and Marian a Navy Nurse during the Vietnam War. The book committee is wrapping up the process of collecting information for the book and is moving on to organizing and layout. New information is always welcome, however, so please contact us if you would like to make an informational contribution.
- **Pathway / Driveway Update-** White Lake Township received 2 bids on the Pathway/Driveway project in August 2018. Both bids exceeded the amount expected by a great deal. The job may go back out for bid in the spring of 2019 but at this point the project is on hold. Sidewalk staking was done on the property in September so members could get a visual of the route it is meant to take based on the engineer's drawing. The take-away from comments made by our members is that the proposed path is too intrusive on the farm property. Rerouting or installing it on the west side of Fisk Road would solve this concern. Members would like to see the driveway widening aspect of the plan go forward as a separate project for the safety of visitors to events at the farm while the sidewalk project is given further consideration.
- We want to wish Johnathon Fessler well in his new home. We know that he will remain a White Laker in his heart!

## **2019 WLHS Fisk Farm Calendar of Events**

- January 10 – General Member Meeting & Potluck 6:30 pm
- February 14 – General Member Meeting & Potluck 6:30 pm
- March 14 – General Member Meeting & Potluck 6:30 pm
- April 11 – General Member Meeting 7:00 pm
- May 9 – General Member Meeting 7:00 pm
- June 8 – Community Sale & Open House 9 am – 2 pm
- June 13 – General Member Meeting 7:00 pm
- July 11 – Member Meeting & Picnic Potluck 6:30 pm
- July 13 – Community Sale & Open House 9 am – 2 pm
- August 8 – Member Meeting 7:00 pm
- August 10 – Community Sale & Open House 9 am – 2 pm
- September 7 & 8 – Fisk Farm Festival & Craft Show 10 am – 5 pm both days
- September 12 – Festival Thank You Dinner 6:30 pm
- October 10 – Member Meeting 7:00 pm
- October 19 – Fisk Farm Halloween 6 pm – 9 pm
- November 14 – Member Meeting 7:00 pm
- December 7 & 8 – Christmas Open House & Santa at Fisk Farm 12-4 both days

### **Fisk Farm Field Trips**

On November 14, we welcomed 5 students from Donnelson Hills elementary school in Waterford for a field trip at the farm. They learned about the mastodon which walked around the farm, and the Kelley and Fisk families who built and worked the farm from 1855 to 1979. They also got to shell corn with Ron Hinman and find out what it was like to go to school in our area 100 or more years ago. Ron treated them to one of his participatory stories and Marge's homemade oatmeal cookies ended their lunch in the school. Special thanks to WLHS President Barb Allison who assisted with this trip.

We are looking forward on December 11 to seeing 32 second grade students from Our Lady of Refuge School in Orchard Lake for a special Christmas themed field trip including the making of a Christmas tree ornament in the Thompson one room school.

**\*\*\*Urgent: Please check your label for membership dues reminder\*\*\***

**Go green by requesting your newsletter arrive electronically!**

## **2018 Membership: Your renewal matters!**

Please print and mail completed form along with payment to:

White Lake Historical Society, Attention: Marilyn Baroni

7525 Highland Road, White Lake MI 48383

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Amount:

Individual Membership:	15.00 annually
Family Membership:	20.00 annually (children 18 & under)
Lifetime Single, Lifetime Family (children 18 & younger) add \$30.00 to amounts below:	
Age 0-40	\$250.00
Age 41-50	\$200.00
Age 51-60	\$150.00
Age 61-89	\$100.00
Age 90 +	Complimentary

## **Inspiring Young Historians- Please Join Us!**

Our Young Historians membership, new in 2016, is geared towards children 5-10 years of age. With this program, we hope to inspire interest in the history of White Lake, its early residents and the Fisk Farm property by engaging children with a quarterly newsletter.

We plan to have programs for Young Historians and a quarterly newsletter with puzzles, games, contests, fun farm facts, and local history trivia. Also, look for a calendar of events and special coupons for our Young Historians for events at the Fisk Farm.

Annual Membership Fee: \$3. If your child is a member under the Family Membership, for just an additional \$3.00, you may also sign them up as a Young Historian.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: White Lake Historical Society / Treasurer, 7525 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48383