

OMENA

Timelines

Historic District
Edition

THIS PROPERTY
HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PUTNAM-CLOUD TOWER HOUSE MUSEUM

The Anchor and Crown Jewel of the
Omena Historic District

From the Editors

Keith Disselkoen and Laurie Remter

After focusing on Omena’s beautiful and historic places last year, this year’s edition of Timelines focuses on Omena’s designation as a Local Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This designation was the result of the hard work of a number of OHS members headed by Marsha Buehler. A professor and students from Eastern Michigan University and state officials also assisted in the effort.

The application for the designation generated a wealth of information that is now preserved in the National Register and our own archives. Perhaps you will be inspired to research your own historic cottage or place of business.

We are also pleased to provide a profile of Clara Pierson, a local author of children’s books. Her life is memorialized in the Museum front room and summarized here as well.

We trust you will enjoy and preserve this issue along with previous issues as you reflect and share the history and wonder of this quaint and beautiful area.

Contents

- Letter from the President 3**
- Milestones 4**
- National Register of Historic Places**
- Local Initiative 6
- The Master’s Degree Program 10
- Clara Pierson Author and Artist 14**
- Memory Lane, A Cottage by Clara Pierson . . . 17**
- The Heritage Garden 20**
- Peter Dougherty House Restoration 22**
- Omena’s Mayoral Race 24**



Timelines is the official publication of the Omena Historical Society (OHS), authorized by its Board of Directors and published annually.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 75
Omena, Michigan 49674

OHS Officers

President: Keith Disselkoen
Secretary: Dennis Armbruster
Treasurer: Mary Zeigeler
Honorary Trustee: Ed Oberndorf

Board of Directors

Helen Bradley
Marsha Buehler
Gayle Madison
Kathy Miller
John Ray
Laurie Remter
Mary Stanton
Bill Sulau
Ty Wessell

Timelines Staff

Editors: Keith Disselkoen and Laurie Remter
Historical Advisor: Joey Bensley
Editorial Staff: Joey Bensley, Joan Blount, Doni Lystra, Jim Miller, Mary Tonneberger
Photos: Jim Miller, David Leitner
Layout/Design: Kat Dakota
KatDakotaDesign.com, Suttons Bay, MI
Printing by Copy Central, Traverse City

Timelines Mission Statement

To showcase Omena’s past as we chronicle the present, with an understanding that today’s news is tomorrow’s history.
www.omenahistoricalsociety.com

From the President

Dear Friends of the Omena Historical Society,

Thank you for your continuing support working in this wonderful community. Your participation as a Caretaker Member family means a great deal to us and we are grateful.

Communication with our members is very important. Over many years OHS volunteer Bill Knorp established and maintained The CRIER – the Voice of the Omena Historical Society email list. With his permanent move back to his home in Northern California he has been unable to continue to manage and maintain the distribution list. Consequently Mary Tonneberger has volunteered to take on this role. Thank you Bill for your many years of dedicated service in this important OHS task.

In January we received notice that a substantial part of Omena was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Omena Historic District. The Omena Historic District extends from Sunset Lodge on the SouthWest part of the Village through the downtown section of the West side of the Street to the Barth House.

The District then crosses M-22 and begins with the dock area fronting on the Township Park and extends north to encompass everything up to the Northern boundary of Cherry Basket Neighbors’ orchard. Much of the work guiding and moving this process to successful fruition was the result of the voluntary effort of Marsha Buehler. Thank you Marsha.

Construction of appropriate signage and promotional materials will be completed in the spring of 2018. We anticipate a sign raising celebration in June 2018 in the downtown area. We received excellent assistance from the Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program. A profile of this program is included in this edition along with an interview with its director, Dr. Ted Ligibel.

The society has many plans for the remainder of the 2017 season and the 2018 season. 2018 will be the three-year anniversary of the Omena Mayoral Race and a new Mayor needs to be selected. Publicity, grooming and local politicking has already begun and we have an article profiling the process.

In late 2016 we received word on the death of longtime volunteer and major contributor to the development of the Putnam-Cloud Tower House Museum – Larry Bensley. A remembrance is included in this edition by his friend and companion for many years, last year’s Timelines Editor, Jim Miller.

We continue to value the relationship we have with the other outstanding organizations present in Omena, the Omena Presbyterian Church, the Omena Village Preservation Association, the Omena Traverse Yacht Club, the Omena Woods Association and the Omena Women’s Club. We treasure you all and thank you for your support.

Finally, we could not exist without a large network of Caretaker Members who provide the ongoing resources to sustain our society. We value your support and continue to do all we can to foster your continued interest in the History of our area. Thank you for your continued support.

Keith Disselkoen, President

Milestones

Tribute to a Gentleman Volunteer

Larry Bensley

April 6, 1935 – November 24, 2016

by Jim Miller

When we think of the Putnam-Cloud Tower House Museum, we think of a beautifully restored historic building, displayed artifacts, historical records and interesting exhibits. We tend to overlook the infrastructure that accommodates all the ongoing activities. The building and its interior is actually an exhibit in and of itself. None of this would be possible without volunteers.

Larry Bensley was one such volunteer that was always there ready to lend a hand when needed. It is difficult to look around the building and grounds and not see something Larry either made or saved from the burn pile. His was the gift of creativity, skilled craftsmanship, dedication and hard work. He took the old and gave it new life.

Several examples abound around the Museum: the kitchenette area was made entirely by Larry from remnants of the old Putnam-Cloud Tower House that were not salvaged with the original building; the upstairs library has bookcases Larry made; the quilt display in the library; the Cabinet in the Library that Larry carefully restored after he and I found it in a broken down Northport Barn. Today that cabinet proudly stands as a testament to Larry's commitment to craftsmanship. It is filled with precious books written by or about Omena's people. He was able to get the leaded glass replaced by another volunteer at no charge. The glass knobs came from Larry's "private collection" in his shop.

Soft-spoken and always considerate, Larry Bensley was a gentleman's gentleman. He taught me a lot about humility, courage in hard times and life in general. Like the rest of those who knew him, I will and do miss him a lot.

He will live on in the lessons he taught us, the gifts he left behind, for each of us to learn from and enjoy. If only we could have restored Larry like he restored furniture. Thanks Larry for your kindness, your hard work, your love for Omena and for taking our museum from a dream to a reality that will be enjoyed for generations to come.



Facing Page: Left to Right: Jim Miller and Larry Bensley

"Working together was always wonderful with this gentleman."

Jim Miller

James L. Centner

June 28, 1922 – June 3, 2017

Jim Centner, or "Buck", as his Omena contemporaries knew him, was one of the fabled Suttons Bay fire engine "thieves." (A local spoof) With co-conspirator Jack Stephenson, Jim was hauled off to the old brick jail in Leland. All charges were dropped by District Attorney Amelia Schaub.

Jim and other teenagers in the 1930s enjoyed the resort heyday of dances and boating at the Omena Inn and Northpoint Point. Jim reveled in recounting stories of adventures and characters of those times. Jim was the son of Mary Ann Cloud and Alexis Centner and the husband of Naomi and father of Marsha Buehler, Jim Centner Jr. and Amy Behm. Jim served in the Army, retiring as a full colonel, was a professor at Xavier University, and was retired from the armored limousine business.

Judy Knorp

July 15, 1939 - June 28, 2017

Judy Walton Knorp was a summer resident of Omena. She loved sailing and being at the Omena Traverse Yacht Club, playing tennis and bridge, entertaining, and being close to her family roots. She was raised in Traverse City and graduated from the University of Michigan. She used her accounting skills to help many non-profit organizations. Judy is survived by her husband, Bill, her children, Andrew Knorp and Becky and John Van Gundy, a grandson, and two siblings.

Robert Krist

November 28, 1941 – May 26, 2017

Bob Krist was a teacher who retired to Omena in 1999. He was active in the Omena Woods Association, the Omena Historical Society, the Omena-Traverse Yacht Club, and the Omena Men's Breakfast Club. Robert loved the outdoors and enjoyed cross-country skiing, ice boating, swimming, and bicycling with his wife, Julie, on their tandem bike. Robert is survived by Julie, his daughters, Jennifer (Justin) Goshorn and Heidi (Andrew) Neldon, four grandchildren, and two brothers.

Thomas O. Maher

March 5, 1930 – June 13, 2017

Tom Maher became an Omena summer resident who married Helen Clark Reed Gregory in 1999. He was a retired scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency in Philadelphia. He renewed his acquaintance with Helen at their 50th high school reunion, Swarthmore High School's Class of 1948. Tom contributed to local groups including the Omena Historical Society, the Omena Village Preservation Association, and the Cherry Basket Friends. He loved attending social events at the Omena Traverse Yacht Club. He is survived by Helen and two children, Tommy Maher and Becky Everett.



Omena Historical Society Museum The Putnam Cloud Tower House
Marsha Buehler and Dr. Ted Ligibel

National Register of Historic Places

Application Process

by Laurie Remter

Local Initiative

Omena has always been a special place to those of us who live or summer here. Now Omena's special place in history is being recognized with its listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Omena was listed on January 17, 2017, after years of effort by Marsha Buehler and other members of the Omena community.

The District extends from Sunset Lodge on the southwest corner, through the downtown area encompassing the Tamarack building, the Museum, Anderson House and Post Office, crosses the highway to encompass the docks area, the Church and extends through the Cherry Basket Neighbors' orchard.

Interview with Marsha Buehler

The Omena Historical Society Timelines Editor Laurie Remter interviewed Buehler about the process of obtaining the designation.

LR: What is your history in Omena?

MB: At the turn of the 20th century Leo (my great grandfather) and Frank Cloud built adjacent summer homes on land purchased by Frank from Rinaldo Putnam. Included on this land was the house now known as the Putnam-Cloud Tower (PCT) House Museum which was moved to its present location in June, 2004 and well documented in previous TIMELINES. The family began summering in Omena. Tom and I bought our cottage in 1987, and built our home and moved here full time in 1995. I have spent time in Omena every summer of my life.

LR: What inspired you to seek the historic designation for Omena?

MB: For many years Tom and I, Larry Bensley, and others in the OHS had talked about the idea that Omena should have historic designation. In 2004 I was appointed by the Leelanau Township Board to chair the Omena Local Historic District Study Committee, which included a terrific group of local historians. The committee did a lot of research, quite a bit of which was useful in the National Register nomination. The township ultimately declined to pass a historic district ordinance, and the committee report just sat on a shelf. Over the years I made a couple of false starts toward National Register nomination.

While researching the chain of title for Cherry Basket Farm in 2013, I found that the original land patent had been granted to Rev. Peter Dougherty, who transferred it to Peter and Susan Greensky in 1855. That connection with the Omena mission renewed my interest. It happened that we were working with historic architect Ken Richmond on a farm project at the time, and he suggested that I contact Dr. Ted Ligibel, director of the EMU Historic Preservation program. I did so, and Dr. Ted brought his Preservation Research Techniques class to Omena in March and April of 2014.

LR: How did you select the properties for the designation?

MB: First, a clarification of what a National Register Historic District actually is. The district itself must be a highly defined contiguous area, more than 50% comprised of properties that have historic integrity and connection to an era of significance specified in the nomination. In this case the era is 1851-1935. »



Opposite: Omena Presbyterian Church

» The district boundary discussion was held on several levels: initially on site with Dr. Ligibel's EMU class; then during a meeting with Doni Lystra and Joey Bensley on behalf of OHS and Marcia Biskupski and Mary Tonneberger for OVPA; subsequently with Michigan National Register coordinator Bob Christensen; and finally, with Michigan's State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway, when he brought a class on vernacular architecture to Omena in June of 2016. Once the boundary justification was settled, the nomination was able to be completed, and mapping finalized.

LR: How do you think the designation will help or improve Omena?

MB: A National Register listing is an honor and a source of community pride. A long litany of proud property owners and local citizens have worked hard to protect and maintain the gems that make up our Historic District. It is up to us as current citizens and owners to continue to maintain and investigate the history of our own properties and share that research with the OHS archives.

On a purely practical note, there are tax credits available for certain repairs on listed commercial properties, and some owners may choose to apply for those. These credits are designed to offset the unusual expenses of maintaining historical elements.

LR: Does the designation impose any limitations on what owners can do with their properties?

MB: None at all, other than if the historical integrity of the property is destroyed. In that case, the property would be removed from the National Register as a contributing property. It would be de-listed, so to speak.

LR: What were the major obstacles you had to overcome to get approval?

MB: My ignorance and inexperience were the major obstacles. Luckily, I didn't realize that it is uncommon for a non-professional to write a district nomination. There are a lot of instructions online, some are outdated, others very confusing. The instructions are over 130 pages long. It was a challenge to know how much information was wanted, and where in the nomination was the appropriate placement for each category of information. The process is quite precise, much of the required information fairly technical. Every detail had to be documented and double checked for accuracy. Because there are so many resources within the district, a lot of information had to be correctly keyed to a particular property, and the properties presented logically. The bibliography is extensive, and a very important part of the nomination. The nomination is, essentially, a nationally archived documentation of the district's historic elements and a resource for future research.

LR: Who were the other organizations and individuals who contributed to your efforts?

MB: So many! OHS presidents Doni Lystra and Helen Bradley, and archivists Joey Bensley and Alice Littlefield were very helpful and enthusiastic, and having them involved and interested really kept me from giving up the effort. All of the district property owners, as well as the Leelanau Township Board, were supportive of the listing- a huge advantage. Amanda Holmes had written the 2005 committee report, as well as the "Omena: A Place in Time" history book, both of which were invaluable resources.

Dr. Ted Ligibel was interested, enthusiastic and responsive. His EMU students provided research and jolts of energy to the process, and historians Kathryn Omoto

and Julie Schopieray were of great help. Kathryn, as former State Historic Preservation Officer gave me direction as I navigated the process. Bob Christensen and Brian Conway of SHPO- Bob did a great deal of work refining the nomination. Just about everyone at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) answered my email questions. The State Historic Preservation Network, ditto. Tom Buehler, who endlessly re-drew maps, and Cammie Buehler who took the nomination photos. Last, but not least, the Internet. I could not have found the people, places, and information needed- or easily communicated with any of my advisors without it.

LR: Are there other properties that should be added to the designated properties?

MB: No and yes- none that can practically be added to the recently listed district, but yes, there are some that should have been included had it not been for the boundary requirements.

I would have liked to include the Dougherty manse, the George Craker farm, the Centner cottage, the Villa Marquette Rock House, the Greene Brothers' house, and the Omena Traverse Yacht Club, as well as several other summer cottages of the era, but there are too many non-historic properties interspersed, and the requirements for a contiguous district with more than 50% historically contributing properties would not have been met. There are quite a few other properties in Omena that would likely qualify for historic listing, and those properties would have to be researched and nominated either individually or as contributing to another district.



The Master's Degree Program Historic Preservation

Editor's Note

Much of the work preparing the resource survey forms was completed by the Graduate Students from the Historic Preservation Program of Eastern Michigan University.

What follows is a summary of the Program under the leadership of Dr. Ted Ligibel as well as a replication of one component of the research – The Manse of the Omena Presbyterian Church. The research included similar documents on all the historical properties in the Omena Historic District.

Interview with Dr. Theodore Ligibel Director of Eastern Michigan University

by Mary Tonneberger

Omena is now on the National Register of Historic Places! Instrumental in acquiring this designation was the participation of students in the Master's Program in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Theodore J. Ligibel, Ph.D is the Director of the program. In 2014 the Preservation Research Techniques class came to Omena in March and April, and presented their work in June at the PCT House. Several EMU graduate classes have visited Omena since then.

The Master's Degree Program was started in 1979 and is the largest in the United States. Approximately 15-20 students graduate each year; the study time averages 2.5 years and the student receives a Master's of Science in Historic

Preservation. This is an applied program with students working on real world projects. The program offers the opportunity to help repair structures and prepare applications for historic registers at the federal and state levels.

The program is primarily centered on Michigan projects. Recent projects other than Omena included obtaining register status for Eaton Rapids, the Ruby Ellen Farm in Bingham Township, and Franklin in Oakland County as well as Ann Arbor. EMU has a 75% placement for graduates, with positions being filled at the local, state, and national levels with museums and historical centers. The program has four full time professors and is part of the Department of Geography and Geology at EMU. »



NR Listed _____ NR Eligible _____ Not NR Elig _____ More Info. Needed

Historic Name Omena Presbyterian Manse

USGS Map Title , Mich.
Area Map Title

Common Name The Manse

District Name Omena Potential Historic District
Street and Number 5066 N West-Bay Shore Drive
Sub-Unit



Omena
Presbyterian
Church Manse

Municipal Unit Omena Village
County Leelanau

Original Usage Manse
Present Usage Manse

Ownership First Presbyterian Church of Petoskey

Photography
Date March 16th, 2014
View SE Elevation

Survey /Date EMU Historic Pres. Program Survey
Winter 2014
Surveyor Matthew Wagner
Date 03/30/2014

NR _____ SR _____ NHL _____ CF _____ G _____ TR _____ ER _____ WF _____ SF

Description

The Manse of the Omena Presbyterian church is located at the foot of a hill, below and south of the church. It is a two story frame foursquare form residence. On the first floor it has white aluminum siding and on the second floor it has gray clapboard siding. The roof is a pyramidal hip roof with slate gray colored asphalt shingles. The front door is situated on the southeast corner of the façade. There is a full width front porch on the south façade of the building and an attached one car garage on the west elevation of the building as well as an open portico on the north side. The house is built atop a fieldstone foundation. There is a mixture of double hung and casement windows. The Manse appears to be a modified Aladdin Company 1917 model entitled "The Standard." It was modified by moving the front door from the right to the left, subtracting the dormer, and having one large three part window instead of three separate windows (which may be a later remodeling).

Significance

Date of Construction 1917

Architect/Builder Aladdin Homes of Bay City, MI/ Catalog home assembled locally under the supervision of Rev. Rodgers

Context(s) and History:

The potential Omena Historic District is significant for its representation of a rural bayside village that retains a tangible connection with Great Lakes maritime and resort history. The district includes both residential and small mercantile establishments built between 1858 and 1935 that are representative of mid-19th century northwest Lower Michigan

» Some of the most interesting and challenging assignments include working with Michigan Department of Transportation on its historic programs and assuming responsibility for creating the historic marker signs on designated locations.

Through the efforts of Marsha Buehler, Professor Ligibel and his program participants came to Omena initially in 2014 to begin the project. The documentation of the individual properties in the Omena Historic District that support the application to the National Park Service was prepared by this student group. Instrumental in reviewing this information prior to submission to the United States Department of the Interior was the Michigan State Historical Preservation Office of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. What follows is an example of the documentation included in a Michigan historic inventory form – The Omena Presbyterian Church Manse which is included in the District.



Opposite: Page 1 of the Omena Presbyterian Church Manse

Below: Page 2 of the Omena Presbyterian Church Manse

settlements. The predominantly two-story, vernacular structures reveal the modest aspirations of settlers who lived in the same communities they served, often living above or immediately next to their stores. The district also is significant as an example of early Euro-American settlement in the Grand Traverse Region as a result of its association with the Reverend Peter Dougherty, an early Presbyterian Missionary, and with the Chippewa Native Americans the mission served.

The Manse of the Omena Presbyterian Church, was built in 1917 to mark the arrival of Rev. Joseph M. Rodgers the church's first full time pastor since the Rev. Alonzo Barnard left in 1880. The house was a catalog home designed by Aladdin Homes of Bay City Michigan, one of the pre-eminent "kit home" producers in Michigan and the longest surviving, ceasing production in 1987, lasting forty seven years longer than their biggest rival Sears & Roebuck. At the time the house was built it stood out among the majority of cottages and farms in the area due to the fact that it had inside plumbing and a full modern bath. With a home for a full time pastor the church increased its membership and by the early 1920s was thriving and taking a central place in the community. Since the Rev. Rodgers left in 1925 the manse has hosted over fifty summer guest pastors from a number of different denominations who were offered the use of the manse for a month's vacation in exchange for their preaching.

Bibliographic Reference

Holmes, Amanda J. *Omena A Place in Time: A Sesquicentennial History, 1852-2002*. Omena Historical Society, 2003
Roth, Ronica. *Built in a Day*. Humanities. September/October 1998 | Volume 19, Number 5

CLARA PIERSON

Author and Artist

Editor's Note

Joey Bensley, the archivist of the Museum and the head of our Exhibits Committee prepared the following report on the life of Clara Pierson that is profiled in the front room of the museum this year. Th room is filled with photos, books and artwork created by Clara.

by Joey Bensley

Developing an annual feature exhibit is always a challenge and takes a good deal of thought and discussion before a theme is decided upon. The task this year was similar After meeting and considering several ideas, the committee settled on featuring Clara Pierson, a prolific writer of children's books that are still being published and sold. Many of these stories included the animals and nature so prevalent in and around Omena. The exhibit tells the life story of Clara's life.

Clara and her husband, John, built a cottage on Omena Point in 1897 with proceeds from the sale of her books. They named it 'Pencroft' since she had earned the money to buy it with her pen. The couple came from Stanton Michigan and spent most of their summers in Omena with their two sons, Howard and Harold. »



Clara Pierson



A section of the exhibit room is organized as it might have appeared when Clara was in residence and working on her books.

The south wall is covered with a type of bead board on which a replica of her wall desk, researched and built by Dennis Armbruster, is attached. One can almost imagine Clara sitting there early in the morning, pen in hand.

The story of Clara Pierson is told through the use of artifacts, images and documents. This includes some of her books, and an extensive diary documenting her very early life up to her twilight years. Clara was not only a writer but an artist as well and some of this work is also displayed. Clara Pierson was truly an amazing woman and it is our hope that the exhibit does her justice by displaying her many talents.



Memory Lane

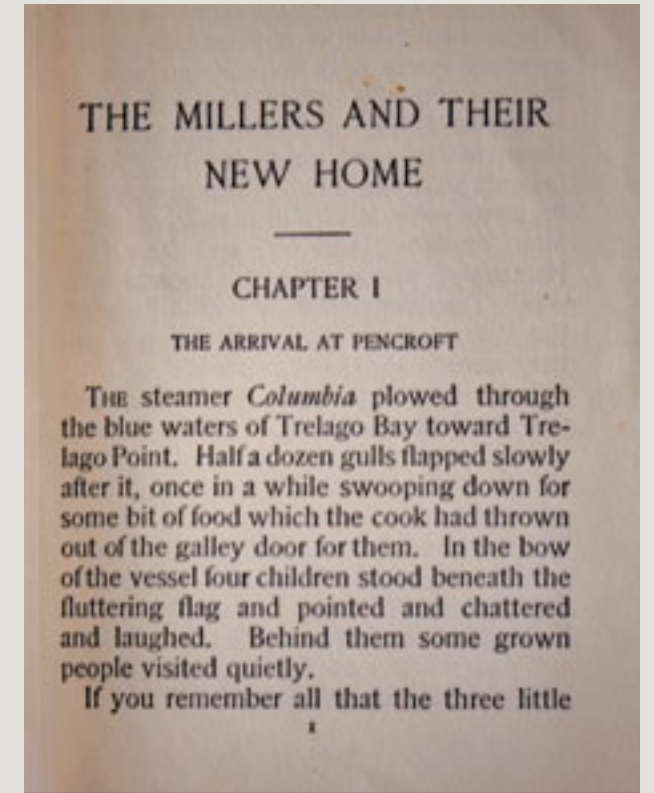
A Cottage by Clara Pierson

by Mary Helen Ray

Growing up in the summers with Clara Pierson two doors down from our house in Omena was a real privilege for a young person. Our family always had someone to turn to for answers about nature. It was much easier and more pleasant than consulting an encyclopedia. In the fall Mrs. Pierson told us to look on dead logs, after a period of rainy weather, and we'd be rewarded with a harvest of delicious mushrooms, but to bring them to her porch to be identified first, to make certain that they were edible. My love and amazement of finding a monarch butterfly chrysalis on a milkweed pod, on the beach or in the orchard, has been passed on to many members of our family.

When our birthdays and Christmas came around, my sister and I were lucky to receive autographed books she had written from Mrs. Pierson with personal letters attached. She had a simple magic of expressing the habits and quirks of various animal groups. I always wanted to see a raccoon actually washing its food before eating it. My sister and I delighted in reading her books about the Miller family, as she described two boys and their sister enjoying Omena summer fun and activities of exploring nature plus rowboat adventures to picnic on Gull Island. She captured many of the experiences that we as a family shared. My sister and I missed having grandparents, so my

One of Clara's most popular books set in Omena



parents adopted Mrs. Pierson for us to share and enjoy.

I had the daily privilege of going to her back door to ask for her mail and grocery list. I'd return home ready to make a trip to our Victory Garden, growing between the rows of apple trees on the Smith orchard on the hill overlooking Omena Point. Later after delivering and collecting her mail I'd return with a selection of veggies to keep her happy.





*Clara's Omena Cottage
on Fire Lane 8, Omena*



*Motoring around Omena
bundled in the late Fall*

The Heritage Garden

Landscape Renewal for Putnam-Cloud Tower House Museum

by Doni Lystra

The Landscaping Committee consisting of Linda Kemper, Doni Lystra, Kris Mampe, and Lynn Sutton initiated the process and management of garden enhancement and beautification resulting in the establishment of The Heritage Garden of the Omena Historical Society. Collectively the committee has served twenty years as members of the Board of Directors of the Society which afforded them a good understanding of the museum. In addition all served as docents allowing for a great deal of time to think about new possibilities.

The goal of enhancing the streetscape was perfectly timed with the long anticipated opportunity to be designated a National Register Historic District. Many people who are interested in historic sites also visit the grounds of the properties listed in the national register.



Costs were kept to a minimum by preserving as much existing planted material as possible (Bridal Wreath, Forsythia, Iris, Lilac, Spirea, and Yew). Consideration was also given to perennial plants common in a typical 1800s home garden (Baptisia Australis, Echinacea, Hydrangea, Peonies, and Roses) as well as to plants that do not need pampering. Four Boston Ferns are now hanging on the new side porch. A few plants were added to fill in -- Begonia 'Cocktail Gin', and Sedum 'Autumn Joy'.

For landscape maintenance, the Landscape Committee of four, known as the Garden Ghosts, will continue to diligently prune, water and weed. A binder describing all the plants (with pictures) is available at the Museum.



The Restoration of the Old Mission

Peter Dougherty House

Editor's note:

Because of the work done in restoring the Putnam-Cloud Tower House into the OHS Museum, we have had a very close relationship with the restoration of the original Peter Dougherty house in the Grand Traverse Region on Old Mission Peninsula.

This house was built by Rev. Dougherty and served as his home before he left 'Old Mission' for 'New Mission' (Omena). What follows is a summary and a photo of the restoration taking place of his original house built in 1842.

by Bill Cole, President,
The Peter Dougherty Society,
Old Mission

In 1839, Reverend Peter Dougherty moved to the Old Mission area to establish a Presbyterian Mission. He was the first western European settler and missionary in the Greater Grand Traverse region. In order to provide shelter for his wife and growing family, he built the "Mission House" in 1842. It is a valuable historical treasure.

The house was the focus for religious observances, schooling, farming, trading and medical care for the Native Americans residing on the northern tip of what is now the Old Mission Peninsula.

Because Native Americans were denied purchase of land on Old Mission, Dougherty sold the property and moved to Omena in 1852.

The house fell into disrepair because of neglect and lack of occupancy. On July 21, 2006, the Dougherty home was purchased and assigned to Peninsula Township. It is being administered and restored by the Peter Dougherty Society. Once restored, the Dougherty Mission House will be used as a museum.

Current plans call for the home to be opened in late summer of 2018.

Since the Mission House was vacant for over 50 years, much restoration was necessary for the house to become visitor friendly. Projects included the relocation of the 1880's ice-house, restoration of the 1880's three-hole privy, the summer kitchen/carriage shed and the cistern. Volunteers have restored all windows and replaced newer glass with antique glass. All interior and exterior doors and their antique hardware were restored and repaired. A one-half mile Heritage Trail and Handicap Trail were developed with trail markers around the property.

The Dougherty "Mission House" played a major role in the settlement of the Greater Grand Traverse region and continues to do so with the commitment of donors, historians and especially volunteers.



The Front of the Restored Peter Dougherty House on Old Mission



Omena's MAYORAL RACE

Coming Summer, 2018

Parker Joyce, the successor Vice-Mayor who succeeded the Mayor, Polly Loveless, who passed away in November, 2015.



by Joan Blount

After experiencing more than two years of the most contentious election in recent history, a bevy of candidates are being prepared, proposed, pampered and considering campaign slogans and plans. We are talking about the 2018 Omena Mayoral Race! As in the past and considering the number of potential candidates this could be a dog-eat-dog contest. Some think the winner next year could be a dark horse candidate or even one who decides to wing it. For those of you unfamiliar with our unique Omena politics, I guarantee this election is whimsically unpredictable.

In 2009, the Omena Historical Society led the call for authentic political leadership in the village with the first mayoral election for Omena. What better way to assure enthusiastic participation (and raise money for OHS), than by electing a mayor from a field of candidates represented by the beloved pets of Omena! Owners submit information and photos supporting their pet's suitability to this esteemed office.

Eligible candidates include cats, dogs, hamsters, horses, birds, turtles and fish. This is truly an open election!

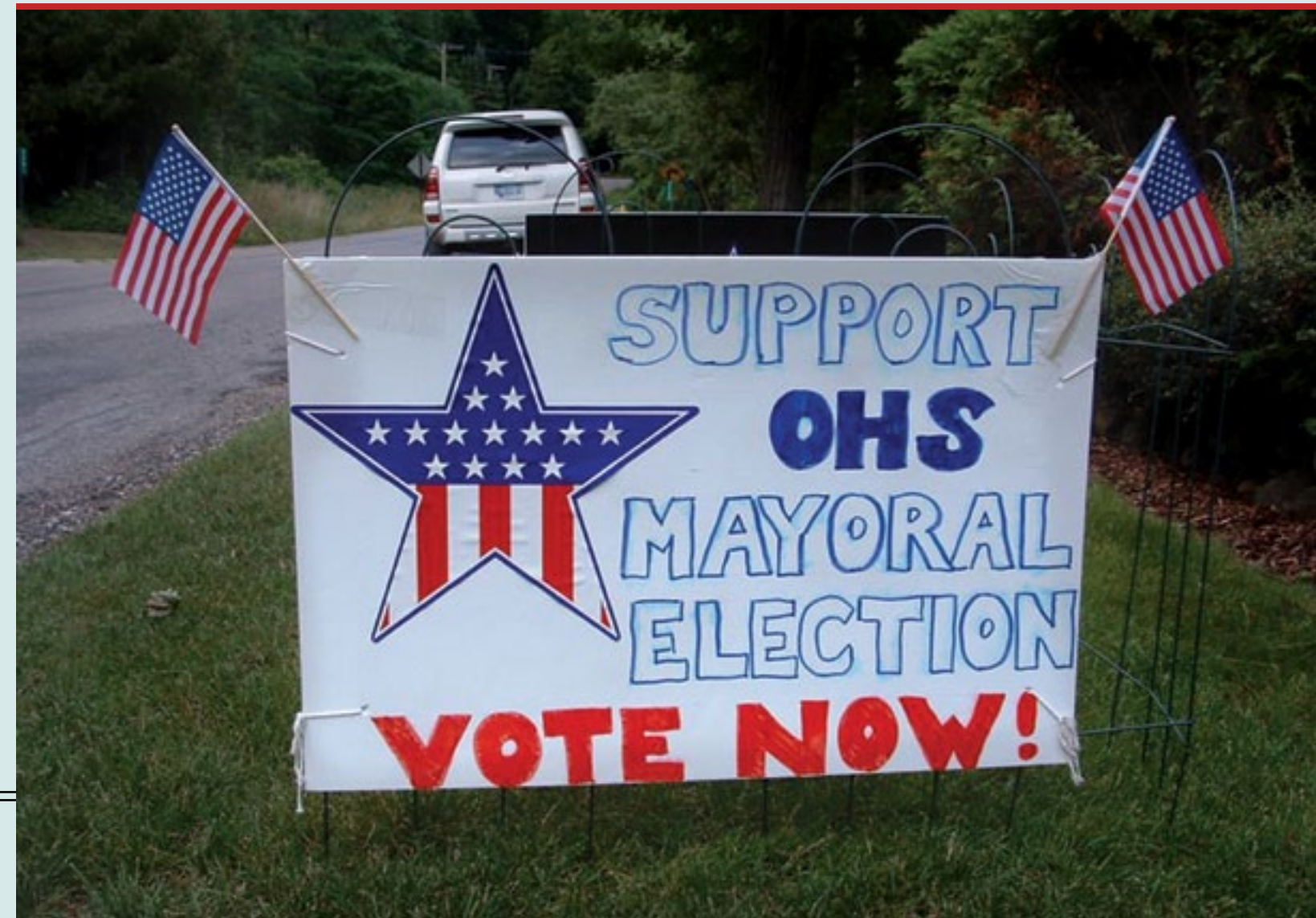
Photos and dossier for voters to peruse, along with a locked ballot box, are posted outside the OHS museum for one week. Voting is certainly not limited to Omena residents. In the past many ballots were cast by non-residents roaming the Omena streets who saw the candidate profiles and voted. The successful candidate is the highest number of dollars deposited for each candidate. ONE DOLLAR per VOTE. At the end of the election week, an Omena parade precedes the announcement of the winner followed by an ice cream social. It has been a fine fundraiser for the Historical Society.

Omena's mayor, elected for a three-year term, participates in all functions important to the village's place in Leelanau County, such as an appearance in the annual dog parade in Northport each August. Previous mayors were Tucker Joyce, a handsome golden retriever, followed by Maya Deibel, an attractive English setter. Polly Loveless, the three-legged wonder sadly passed away while in office, and was replaced by Vice-Mayor, Parker Joyce, the son of Omena's first mayor. Notice that the voters seemed to be obsessed with the look of the candidates.

It is never too early to get your candidate ready. As in the past, Chicago voting rules will still apply: vote early and vote often.



The Campaign Frenzy - 2015





Horse drawn wagons were heavily used in the transport of people, luggage and supplies to keep the many resorts running during the hay day of Omena tourism. This photo shows the wagon moving through the streets of Omena past the downtown building heading back to the docks.

Pictured in the background to the right of the tree seems to be the original home of Rev. Dougherty with the barn on the hillside behind. The water tower can be seen through the tree.



Are you going to the bar?

knot tonight!

5019 NW Bay Shore Drive
Omena, MI 49674 231 386 7393 / knotjustabar.com

Historic Omena Inn & Cottages

Celebrating Omena's listing in the
National Register of Historic Places



Picturesque properties
overlooking Omena Bay

sunsetlodgeomena.com • 231.386.9080

OPEN ALL FOUR SEASONS IN BEAUTIFUL Omena