

RELIVING

The Rochester Era

February/March

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2011

Beerbohm RCS Mural Unveiling Success



On Friday evening, January 14, we held the Mural Unveiling/Wine Tasting event. Hopefully you were one of the more than 100 people in attendance of what many people said was a perfect evening.

Everything went just as planned with beautiful table layout highlighted by magnificent centerpieces, a long food table of fruits, crackers, cheeses, vegetables and nuts, and wine stations in three corners. We had a short program which included the unveiling of the mural. The program consisted of a few words from President Rod Wilson (he really did keep it short), a very enthusiastic presentation from LaVeré Webster, with a standing

ovation, and a few very memorable words from Marvin Beerbohm's daughter Cynthia Beerbohm Maguire.

After the program, there was a presentation showing the steps to restoring the mural that continuously played on the large screen on the stage in the Harrison Room at the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center. The atmosphere was festive and everyone had a great time.

On Sunday afternoon, January 23, we held a Community Open House for people to come in and see the mural. Over 100 people attended which exceeded even our wildest expectations.

Thank you to Jim Hop-

kins, Sue Hohf, Liz and Harold Golding, Janet Potton, Susan Wilson, Carol Tough, Bea Catherine, Eric and Gayle Bothwell, Barbara Plante, Tammy Byers and Debbi Hartman for their help to make these two events such a success.

Thank you to Bordine's, Busch's Fresh Food Market, Design Works Flowers, Gordon Food Service, Hollywood Supermarket, Kroger Fresh Fare, Meijer, Nino Salvaggio International Marketplace, Papa Joe's Market

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Upcoming...
March 1 Brown Bag...
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From the President
Rod Wilson

Hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. Shortly after the first of December, I ended up with bronchitis and fought that and a lot of congestion for the next six weeks. With the holidays mixed in that time frame, I did not get my articles written for our Jan/Feb newsletter. So we have moved our newsletters back a month and this one is Feb/Mar issue. Our next one will be Apr/May and hopefully we will keep our newsletters coming every other month after that.

Thank you to everyone who has helped over the years to restore the Marvin Beerbohm mural. Without your help and especially the expertise of LaVere Webster, this could not have been possible.

We have many other projects in process – research committee, oral history committee, historic sites website committee, appraisal day committee, representation on the heritage days committee plus all the things the board is doing all the time such as membership, programs, brown bag, publicity, and keeping track of our financials. The list goes on and on. We are a very active organization and proud to part of the Rochester Area. Thank you for your time and thoughts. It is you who make the Society what it is. If you are not involved and want to be, please give me a call at 248-651-6178.

Oral History Meeting Feb. 12—
Rochester Hills Museum, The Barn. 9:00 AM.
The Committee needs a leader and more workers. if you are interested, please come to the meeting. We need you ☛

Oakland Regional Historic Sites

This is a newly formed committee that was organized by our Society. In time this will be a separate group that we will have a representative but they will have their own leadership. The purpose of this group is to develop and maintain a website called the Oakland Regional Historic Sites. There are representatives from RAHS, Rochester Historical Commission, Rochester Hills Historic District Commission, Oakland Township Historical Society and Oakland Township Historic District Commission. Once the website is developed, you will be able to look at structures of historic significance and be able to read some history on that location. The website will be able to be expanded as time goes on. This group is also working on a mission statement and guidelines for the new organization. Hopefully by sometime this spring we will be operational.

OFFICERS

President.....	Rod Wilson
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Member-at-Large.....	James Hopkins
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Past President.....	Greg Doyle
	248.651.6076

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Historian.....	Gail Kemler
	248.651.0907
Membership.....	Carole Fischer
	248.853.0118
ERA.....	Mary Howarth
	248.375.0206
Program.....	Cary Downer
	248-652-1854
Publicity.....	Liz Golding
	248.656.1125
Publicity Assistant.....	Bea Catherino
	248-375-0808

Mural continued from Page 1 and Trader Joes for their donations that helped make the Mural Unveiling a success. Also, a big thank you to Andre Pidun and his



LaVere Webster and Rod Wilson

Cose di Lusso for the excellent handling of the wine tasting.

Thank you to the Rochester Historical Commis-

sion, the Rochester Community Schools and E. Gilbert and Sons, Inc. for their help in making the mural a reality.

It was four years ago on January 18, 2007, that the board of directors approved the mural restoration project. We thought it would be cleaned where it hung at that time. This project has taken many twists and turns over the past four years. Today the mural hangs in a new prominent location. Without LaVere Webster, this project would not have been possible.

history on that location. The website will be able to be expanded as time goes on. This group is also working on a mission statement and guidelines for the new organization.

Research Committee

Deborah J. Larsen

The Research Committee received a great Christmas gift from the Department of the Interior on December 23, when the listing of the Rochester Elevator on the National Register of Historic Places was announced.

As there are many other properties in our community that are also worthy of such recognition, the committee is working hard to advance three more National Register nominations this year.

One team working on the history of the pioneer farmstead at 1160 West South Boulevard has completed research, and Bea Catherino is presently working on the nomination paperwork for that property. Another team is wrapping up research on the Lysander Woodward house and Debbie Larsen will be writing that nomination soon.

Our largest team is continuing to research the McAleer Powder Plant/ Bunker Park property. We are still seeking photographs of the powder plant compound on South Street taken during the 1942-1946 time period.

RESEARCH continued on Page 6

Join the Rochester Avon Historical Society today!

Help to keep what is significant...

Refurbish what is historic ...

Maintain what is well-known.

- Bi-monthly newsletters
- Monthly meetings with guest speakers
- Downtown Rochester historical walking tours
- Monthly lunchtime talks by long-time area residents

Dues: Individual \$18, Family \$25, Contributor \$35. Mail your check made payable to the Society with your name, address, telephone and email address to:

Rochester Avon Historical Society, P O Box 80783, Rochester, MI 48308-0783.

Founders Day ... Al and Dave Eicher to be presenters.

The Rochester Historical Commission Founder's Day program will be held at the Rochester Hills Public Library from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, March 20th.

This special program will feature Al and Dave Eicher from Program Source International. The Eichers have given over 160 lectures and visual presentations throughout the State of Michigan. They have also produced 25 Michigan history documentaries.

Founder's Day commemorates the James Graham family's arrival in the area on March 17, 1817 and the founding of Rochester, the first permanent settlement in Oakland County. In recognition of the Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2011, the program will focus on the role of Michigan during the war and also take a look at Rochester area men who served. The Eichers will present their widely acclaimed video "Michigan in the Civil War".

The program is sponsored in cooperation with the Rochester Hills Public Library. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. No registration is required for this special program.

For more information call June Hopaluk 248-652-9242

or Gail Kemler 248-651-0907.



The Eichers

New Cat's Meow Buildings Available

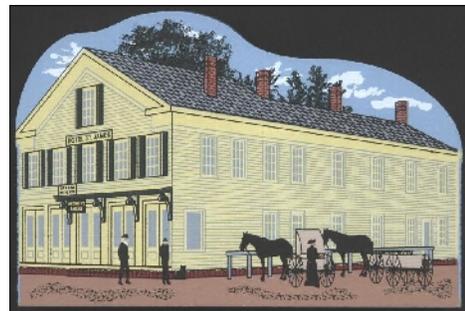
The new Cat's Meow have arrived! This year we have the St. James Hotel and the Woodward House.

The St. James Hotel was originally built by John Lambertson in 1847 and was located on the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. In 1890, the hotel became the property of J.W. Smith who modernized the facility and became well known throughout the State for the Chicken Dinners served there. The Hotel was razed in early 1963.

The Woodward House was built by Lysander Woodward ca 1850 and is located on North Main Street. Mr. Wood-

ward held several positions of honor for the town and the state. More notably, he was responsible for establishing the Detroit, Saginaw & Bay City RR of which he became its first president.

These lovely Meow's may be purchased at a cost of \$20. They will be available through Dillman & Upton, Rochester Hills Museum, Holland's Florist, Lytle's Pharmacy, Framer's Workshop, Rod and Sue Wilson or through a member of the committee: Sue Hohf, Penny Reddish, Sue Wilson, Gail Kemler and Cathy Pouls. For further information, please call (248) 651-6178 or (248) 651-4036.



St. James Hotel



Woodward House

Internet Genealogy Group upcoming meetings

Tuesday, February 15th, 1 - 3 pm at the Rochester Hills Public Library in the second floor conference room:

In keeping with the upcoming NBC series, "*Who Do You Think You Are*", those attending are asked to tell an interesting fact they found about one of their ancestors. Sharing this fact, and how or where they found it, would be interesting to all of us. Hearing others' investigative approach might spur an idea of how we might uncover an illusive fact in our own family history.

Tuesday, March 15th, same time, same place:

We will be sharing various genealogical web-sites that have been useful in our family history search. Also, suggestions on "climbing that brick wall" will be discussed.

Everyone is welcome to attend and there is no cost. Carole Fischer, RAHS leader of the Internet Genealogy Group.

Historic Webster House subject of March R.A.H.S. meeting

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society and the Rochester Hills Library will present an evening of adventure as we explore one of Rochester Hills' oldest homes. Take a

CRICKET POLAND SPEAKS TO R.A.H.S.

The Rochester - Avon Historical Society will present their Brown Bag lunch on Tuesday, March 1, from 12 noon - 1:00p.m., at the Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow Street in Rochester. Special guest speaker is Cricket Poland. Her presentation is "Reflections of a WW11 Wave".

Cricket will share her experiences in service during the war and some of the interesting and amusing incidents which happened during her enlistment.

Bring your lunch if you wish. Cookies and coffee will be provided. Admission is free. For more information, call (248) 651-6178.

journey with us from 1820 to the present in our exploration of an American Vernacular-Farm House whose owner pedigree spans 191 years.

RAHS member Beatrice Bissett Catherino, a 1960 graduate of Rochester High and former OCC faculty, has done



extensive research about the house at 1160 West South Boulevard. Now called the Webster House for the present owner, this house has been home to at least 17 owners, **House** continued on page 6

Appraisal Day 2011 Our annual Appraisal Day is again scheduled for the first Sunday in March. On Sunday, March 6th, we will have many appraisers with various specialties available to appraise and answer questions about your antiques and collectables. Appraisal Day is always at the Rochester Community House and time is noon to 4:00 pm. RAHS members are asked to volunteer their time to help and can sign-up at the next Brown Bag Lunch or monthly meeting at the Rochester Hills Library. Please check our website for more information or forward your questions to Colleen Barkham at 248-652-0712 or thsbarkham@hotmail.com.

Research continued from Page 3
 Please contact any of the Committee members if you have photos of this historic area.



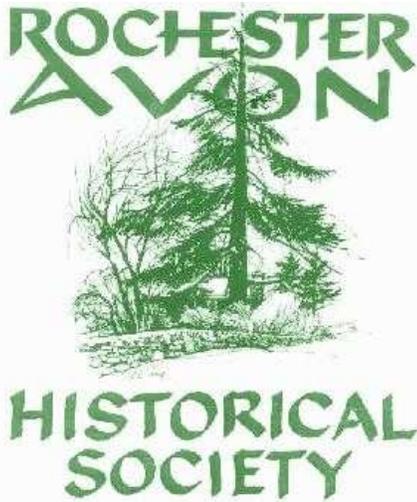
Members of the RAHS Research Committee were hard at work at the Bentley Historical Library, UOM, Ann Arbor today. Our focus was Lysander Woodward and the Detroit-Bay City RR he brought to Rochester in the 1800's. Gail and Eric Bothwell, Debbie Larsen. Jan 7 2011.

House continued from Page 5

many of them the descendents of veterans of the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

The meeting will be held at the Library, 500 Olde Town in Rochester on Thursday evening, March 3 from 7:00p.m.- 8:30p.m. The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

For more information call Rod Wilson (248)



Rochester Avon Historical Society
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*Pride in
 Preserving
 the Past*