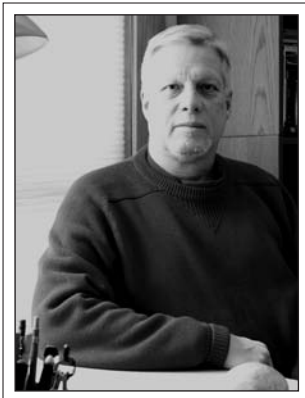




Whether going to church, the Easter parade or a summer picnic the gents are dapper and the ladies are in their finery.

Presidents Message



Jim Ege, *President,*
PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

According to Adrian Higgins of the Washington Post homes in the 1700's were not the spacious abodes we have today. Space for the average farm house family was at a premium. As we walk the picturesque streets of Pentwater Village and see the renovations on the old Pentwater homes we can try to imagine what life was like back then.

At the start of the Revolutionary War Edward Parry was required, as an enemy agent to live in Sturbridge with a state legislator and soldier named Timothy Parker. He lived in a "spacious" 700 square foot farmhouse that he shared with his wife, five children, two maids and three laborers. Parry had a room to himself but it doubled as a clothes closet, storage for foodstuffs and a place to keep yarn and linen. If the home entertained any overnight

(Continued on next page)

Amy L. Arnold to be Featured Speaker at the Pentwater Historical Society's Spring Dinner.

People interested in our local history and preservation should attend this dinner and informative presentation by Amy L. Arnold at the VFW Hall.

A professional preservation planner for Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, she has worked on a variety of facinating projects: surveying historic highway bridges in Texas, the Dorr Felt mansion in Saugatuck, the Asylum in Traverse City, the village of Homer and surveys of historic resources in state parks.

Amy currently is the project manager for a *Preserve America* cultural/heritage grant for southwest Michigan.

She has multipule degrees in history/anthropology from Western Michigan University and from Eastern Michigan University in historic preservation planning and served as the preservation planner for Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office, Michigan Historical Center, Department of History, Arts and Libraries for the past several years.

(See Details on this event on page 3)

guests Parry was required to share his bunk! (a common practice of the day).

Almost every home had a common room for family gatherings which doubled for cooking and other daily chores. The room would be cleared at night for extra beds if needed.

Family of 10 living in 450 Sq. Ft! Historian Jack Larkin compares a home of a couple of thousand square feet for a childless couple with a two dogs today to a family of 10 living in 450 square feet clustered around a chimney in the 1700's. Today new homes average approximately 2,400 square feet and 39 percent of them are larger. More than 50 percent of new homes have three bedrooms and 37 percent have four or more bedrooms and the majority have two bathrooms. The average household is 2.6 persons.

Larkin has a new book entitled "Where We Lived: Discovering The Places We Once Called Home." The book is a good insight into how people lived in the past.

I wonder when we look at homes in Pentwater if we can imagine the original sizes of the homes. Some of course will remember the homes well having lived in them in their original state. Tax records will show the original "footprint" of the homes if one is willing to do the research. I further wonder if the grandchildren of today's residents who are renovating and enlarging the homes will think that those homes are too small and need to add space to accommodate their families?

Jim Ege

What Pentwater Kids Will Miss Doing in the Twenty First Century.

By Bob O'Brien

These activities and everyday experiences are just a few of the many childhood memories that I and other Pentwater kids, remember from some eighty years ago.

- ♦ They will miss out on climbing and painting "PHS" and the year on the old water tower which stood near Bob Venn's house.
- ♦ They won't be able to enjoy sliding down the tubular fire scape at the old school house or hearing the school bell ring to let them know they will be late.
- ♦ They won't be swinging out over "Old Baldy" on a gunny sack tied onto a rope and letting go to see if they can reach the frog pond.
- ♦ They won't be taking polliwags from the frog pond to put in a fruit jar and watch them turn into frogs.
- ♦ They won't be hearing the old fire bell ringing to call the volunteers to save someone's home.
- ♦ They won't be skiing down "Sunshine Hill" in the ravine when winter comes and go home very cold but grateful that they can stick their feet in the oven of the old cookstove.
- ♦ They will miss being able to ride the old "PM" locomotive and be permitted to throw a shovel full of coal in the fire box or blow the whistle and ring the bell on the way to the Wye.



Bob O'Brien-1935

- ♦ They won't be walking along the railroad track in winter-time picking up pieces of coal for a needy friend or stick their tongue on the track in zero weather and try to get it loose.
- ♦ They won't be playing "Fox and Geese" or making "Snow Angels" in the snow outside of Miss Grants' kindergarten room.
- ♦ They won't be running on the old wooden pier on the North beach or hiding in the "cribs" or getting slivers in their feet.
- ♦ They won't see horses tied up the metal pipes on the main (Hancock) street.
- ♦ They won't hear the fish tugs warming up their engines before going out into Lake Michigan at 4:30 in the morning.
- ♦ They won't hear the Sears & Nichols canning factory whistle blow at 12 noon to remind them to get for home and don't be late.
- ♦ They won't be tying their sleds to the back of a farmer's horse drawn sleigh in the winter and go riding on Hancock street.
- ♦ These are just a few of the many acts of devilry we performed more than eighty years ago-no doubt there's many more!



*Bob's buddy
Ford Bernard-1935*

Robert O'Brien jr. lived on second street near "Rattlesnake Creek". He graduated from PHS in 1935. He now lives with Margaret in Green Cove Springs, Florida. Some of his buddies were Ford Bernard, John Maynard, Dwight Gerard, Ray Gerard, Harold Venn and Jim Jeffries.



This group is properly dressed for a boating/fishing excursion. Pentwater continues to offer first-class fishing and boating to visitors.

New Members: Nov 2006 - April 2007:

*Debbie Luero Betsy McIntyre Phillip Barrons
David and Susan Rose Susan Patterson*

Congratulations to new Life Members:

*David and Susan Rose Caroly and Harold Denlar
Robert Childers and Jean Russell Dolly Geers*

Our sympathies to the families of these PHS members who have passed away:

*Mary Ann Bates Roger Skinner Letha Corr
Brian Grant Florence Jeffries*

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Russell Blades: *Roger and Ruth Bailey
DJ Schmidt Eugene and Edna Louise Killian
John and Ashley Gannett Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hoch
John and Helen Harlan Mr. and Mrs. Dean Gustafson
Michigan Shores DAR*

In Memory of Mary Ann Bates: *Ted and Joan Cuchna*

In Memory of Letha Corr: *Dolly Geers*

In Memory of Ruth Fuller: *Donna Kolinger*

Thank You for Donations:

Richard and Sylvia Warner Dennis and Marie Gilliam

DUES ARE DUE

Membership dues for the 2006-2007 year were due September 1, 2006. If you do not see "07", "L" or "P" following your name on the mailing label, it is time to renew your membership. The dues amount is shown on the Membership Application form on the last page of the newsletter.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO:

Pentwater Historical Society,
P.O. Box 54, Pentwater, MI 49449.

You're Invited!
to the

**PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL SPRING DINNER MEETING**

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Social Hour 6:00pm (BYOB)

Dinner 7:00pm

At The Pentwater VFW Hall

This event open to the public

Guest Speaker

AMY L. ARNOLD*

Preservation Planner for Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office, Dept. of History Arts and Libraries, Michigan Historical Center

Ms. Arnold will have an informative presentation about how the *Preserve America* grant might affect Pentwater and what Pentwater can do to participate in this special two year grant.

TICKETS: \$12 PER PERSON

Tickets must be purchased by noon May 19

Tickets are on Sale from:

Society Officers, at the Pentwater Twp. Library
Wishing Well Gas Station
Pentwater Convenience Center

**This workshop is supported in part by a Preserve America Grant administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.*

**2006-2007 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES OF
THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Jim Ege - *President* Ed Bigelow - *V. President*
William O'Donnell - *Secretary* Kenneth Lindstrom - *Treasurer*

TRUSTEES: Roger Bailey, Myrna Carlin and Bob Childers

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRWOMEN: Karen Way

NEWLETTER COMMITTEE

Celene Idema Jim Pikaart Dave Rose
Editor Layout/Design Photo Editor

USE THIS FORM TO SIGN A NEW MEMBER

HOME ADDRESS _____

SUMMER ADDRESS From _____ to _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

PHONE _____

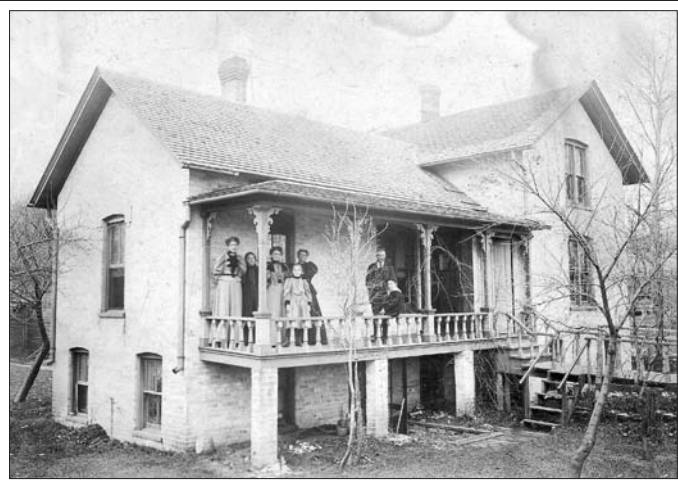
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: • Patron \$500* • Life \$125* • Sustaining \$40*
 • Annual \$10* • Student \$3 (* Includes Spouse)

STATUS: New
 Renewal

Would you like to be contacted to participate in society activities? If so, your area of interest is: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
 The Pentwater Historical Society, P.O. Box 54, Pentwater, MI 49449

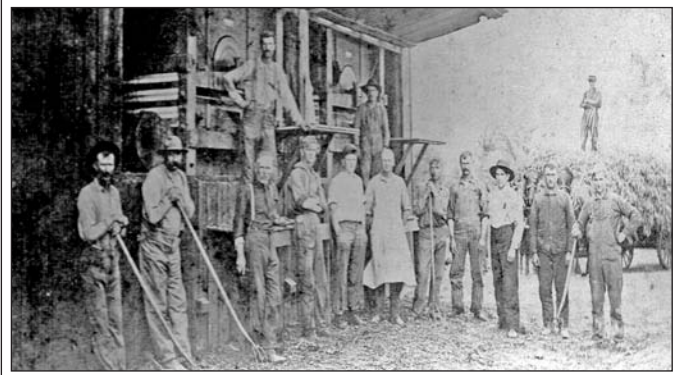
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____



A Country Home



Above Right - The old Coast Guard Lifesaving Station. After 71 years the station was closed in 1958 and later was converted into the Channel Lane Park.



Right - Men at work with pitchforks and a hay wagon. The machinery in the building is unidentified.



PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 54
 PENTWATER, MICHIGAN 49449

ANNUAL SPRING DINNER MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 23 AT THE VFW HALL