

# Podunk Pioneer Papers

News of the Pioneer Memorial Association of Fenton and Mundy Townships  
Issue 49 Fall 2011

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### Vice President:

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### Township Liasons:

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## LOG ON TO

<http://www.podunkpioneer.com/ed.html>

for the latest news about Podunk and the Pioneer Association. Our thanks to Webmaster Betsy Davidson of Addorio Global Innovations for creating and maintaining our Web Site.

For immediate concerns and questions, write to Phyllis

[www.PodunkPioneers@aol.com](mailto:www.PodunkPioneers@aol.com)

## PIONEER DAY

### SEPT. 10, 2011

Join us for

## PIONEER DAY

and our Early Bird

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee will be served from **9:00-11:00 A.M.** Cost is **only \$5.00 per person** and those who purchase a Pancake Breakfast ticket will receive **free admission** to the rest of the day's events.

### ALL WELCOME !

## From the Editor

**Pioneer Day 2011** will feature activities and musical entertainment all day. A pancake breakfast then lunch including pulled pork sandwiches, Koegel's hot dogs, buffalo shaped cookies & tasty baked goods will be available.

**The covered wagon** used as the Pioneers' entry in the Fenton Freedom Festival July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade will be on display. Take your picture with the wagon! Browse through the new **museum displays.**

**CLEANING DAY** is Wed., Sept. 7. Please join us at 9:30 A.M. This year we need extra volunteers as we are rearranging the displays in the museum building also.

**SET UP is Fri., Sept. 9** at 3:00 P.M. Volunteers will begin putting up tents, tables and chairs. **PLEASE HELP!**

### STILL NEEDED:

**Baked goods:** (no cream pies or desserts), cookies, breads, pickles, jams, brownies, etc.

**Volunteers for:** advertising, Friday set-up., parking lot, house tours, & Sat. clean-up.

**New vendors, crafters, & hobby displays are welcome.** Call Jeanette for information.

**NEWS FROM THE  
PRESIDENT ~  
Mary Jane Pinkston**

CONGRATULATIONS! We reached our goal of increasing attendance in 2010! Our 2009 attendance was only 112 but in 2010 we had 286 visitors! This was all due to your help with advertising, notifying your friends and family – and just getting the word out! With your help, we hope to continue to see an increase in 2011. We have lots of special entertainment lined up, interesting vendors and, of course, plenty to see in our museum and pioneer home. Mark your calendar today and encourage your friends and family to join us.

Thanks to all the volunteers who faithfully donate items for the bake sale. Thanks to Ramona Green for baking her delicious buffalo-shaped cookies for Pioneer Day sales and for student tour groups.

Thanks to Phyllis Yancy, Victor Moore and Ramona for helping with tours throughout the year. Thanks to Russ and Bill Pinkston for their help with all the little “fix-it” projects that need attention.

Thanks to Esther Warzynski for her donation of an EdenPure Heater. It is coming in handy in the museum building at meeting time. We are still in hopes of heating the main house but issues with the electrical have to be addressed first.

**The money raised on Pioneer Day is used to provide educational opportunities for school children to learn about local history. Costs continue to go up and we need your support to help us continue our work of preserving local history.**

**Our New Goal**

**CAN YOU HELP?  
Our new goal is to raise enough money to purchase and/or build a storage shed to house our tents, canopies, new tables and chairs. Donations and suggestions are welcome.  
\$\$\$**

**WELCOME NEW  
TRUSTEES &  
BOARD  
MEMBERS**

Thanks to all who have accepted a position on the Board We appreciate the time that is donated on behalf of the Pioneer Assoc.

**Save your VG's Grocery  
Receipts**

As a non-profit organization, we earn money for each VG's grocery receipt we turn in as part of their Community Support Program. This helps to defray the cost of mailing and publishing our newsletters. We earn \$50 for every \$1500 in receipts. VG's also generously gives us a cash donation to use toward the purchase of food supplies for Pioneer Day.  
THANK YOU, VG's

**MUSEUM TOURS  
AVAILABLE BY  
APPOINTMENT May-Oct.  
Free Museum Tours  
for groups large and small!  
Visit our Pioneer Museum and  
Podunk House to learn more  
about the history of Fenton and  
Mundy Townships.  
+  
PAVILION RENTAL  
(Members: \$25,  
Non-members: \$50)  
PLEASE CALL Phyllis Yancy  
at 810-629-8747**

**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

**SEPT. 7 9:30 A.M.**

Museum set-up; house cleaning

**SEPT. 9 3 P.M.**

Set-Up for Pioneer Day

**SEPT. 10 Pioneer Day**

7 AM breakfast shift arrives

8:30 AM-3PM Festival hours

**SEPT. 13 \***

**OCT. 11 \***

\*7:00 PM General Membership meeting in Museum Bldg.

**PIONEER BROCHURE**

Included in this issue is a copy of the brochure that is passed out at the Fenton Parade in July. Copies of this brochure are also available at the museum.

# Photos from the Pioneer Association Archives...



Pioneer Day 2006  
Far left: Richard Halka (center)  
with granddaughter and  
brother-in-law, Ron Cobb  
Left: Richard with his  
daughter, Pam



Above: Ironstone by Davenport,  
Tea Leaf Lustre Design Pitcher:  
donated to the Pioneer Memorial  
Association in memory of Jean Rarig,  
Janice Sampson & Carol Fowler,  
Sept. 2011

Pioneer Day 1983

Carol Fowler playing her dulcimer with  
members of Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club



Pioneer Day 1981 below: Jaan Rarig (right) with  
cousins Phyllis Judson Heusted and Wayne Butts

Buffalo Dinner 1991 below:  
Eula and Don Becker



## 2011 Pioneer Day Work Schedule – Times posted on Sat.

Names have been assigned but if you are unable to help (or if you know of someone who could help, please call Phyllis H. (810-955-3336). Many have multiple jobs so hopefully with more volunteers, we can give them breaks. **Volunteers welcome:** stop in and offer assistance for any part of the day. Our hours of operation are 8:30 A.M – 3:00 P.M. Breakfast crew please arrive by 7:00 A.M. so we are ready for the Health Inspector (8:30 and to serve by 9:00 A.M.) Other early shift helpers, please arrive by 8:00 A.M. so we can have tickets ready to sell and the house and museum open for tours at 8:30 A.M. We really need more help at 3:00 for taking down tents, etc.

### **CHAIRPERSONS**

Phyllis Heusted

Bill & Mary Jane Pinkston

### **TICKETS, Newsletters, Flyers**

Phyllis Heusted, Barbara Loafman

### **CONTACT TWP.-** Bill P. Lawn Mowing,

Mosquito Spray, Handicap Porta-potty

### **NECESSARY ROOM** PhyllisH,

### **ROAD SIGNS (set-up, take down)**

Bruce & Annie Grove

### **GROUND LAY-OUT** Bill & Russ

Pinkston, Phyllis, Jeanette Butts

### **PARKING LOT /BANNERS** (Fri. set up,

Sat. take down) Eric, Brenda R.,

Chris Phillips, Jeff Judson, Ron Cobb

### **HELPERS/ERRANDS**

Chris P., Ron Cobb, Dennis, Ron Butts

### **MEMBERSHIPS/CASH BOXES**

Ramona Green/Brenda Rumschlag

### **CASHIERS**

LaVerne Heusted, Chris P., Ron B., Brenda,

Ramona, Nancy Mason

### **FOOD PERMIT**

Phyllis Heusted

### **STOCK KITCHEN**

Phyllis Heusted/Barbara Loafman

Peggy Judson (VG order), MJ Pinkston

### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST ~**

**Set-up 7:00, Serve 9:00-11:00AM+** Bill

Pinkston, Peggy Halka, Ashley, Allie, Chris

Phillips, Pam, George, Kathy & Ron Cobb,

Wendy, Noah.

### **KITCHEN (LUNCH 11:00 A.M.)**

Phyllis Heusted, Mary Jane & Donna

Pinkston, Barbara Loafman,

Peggy Halka, Kathy Cobb & Wendy

**HOME-MADE ICE CREAM** Victor?

### **ADMISSIONS**

8:00 Ramona (Memberships), LaVerne

(Breakfast); 8:30 Russ Haddon & Nancy

Mason, 11:00 Hewitt Judson, Joanne W.

Admissions), 1:00 Ron Cobb, Ramona

### **50/50 Raffle**

Chris & Julie, Phillips, Ron, Jeff Judson

### **PUBLICITY**

Jeanette & Ron Butts, Julie & Chris P,

Peggy Judson, **SCHOOLS:** Jenny Wright-

Fenton, Wilma Betts-LF

### **VENDORS** Jeanette, Phyllis

### **ENTERTAINMENT-P.A.**

Jeanette and Ron Butts

### **HOUSE TOUR DOCENTS**

8:30-11 Phyllis Yancy, Hewitt Judson

11:00-1:00 Jenny Wright, Brenda

1:00-3:00 Phyllis Yancy, Joanne Weston

### **MUSEUM Building DOCENTS**

Bill & Russ Pinkston, Jeff & Hewitt,

Victor Moore, Ron Butts

### **CHILDREN'S BOOTH**

**[need a face painter volunteer]**

Jailen Judson, Julie Phillips, Roxanne

Judson, Allie Blimka

### **DOOR PRIZES, KIDS GIFT BAGS**

Jeanette, Roxanne Judson

### **BALLOONS-?** Chris Phillips, Ron B.

### **COVERED WAGON** Hewitt, Ron B.

### **BAKE SALE** (Joyce, Mary Jane calling)

Brenda (pricing), Joyce, Frances Warner,

Marnie Hartley, Elaine Hulet, Jan McArthur

### **GIFT TABLE /JEWELRY/PIONEER**

**LOGO ITEMS** Alice Bristle, Joanne W,

**FARM ANIMALS-?** -Jeanette Butts, Noah,

Austin

### **FLAG CEREMONY** – Dennis/Scouts

# MEMBERSHIPS

Membership in the Pioneer Memorial Association is open to anyone interested in preserving the early history of Fenton and Mundy Townships.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month (May-October) at 7:00 P.M. at the Fenton Township Hall.

The Association is governed by a Board of Directors and six Trustees.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name _____   | Phone _____                                       |
| Address _____  | Email _____                                       |
| _____  | Date _____  |
| NEW <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> ; Activities in which I'd like to participate: |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member  | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising  | <input type="checkbox"/> Research                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings, Programs  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee  | <input type="checkbox"/> Open/Close Museum        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History  | <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds Maintenance      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography   | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Maintenance     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video Taping  |   |
| Other work I'd be willing to do _____  |   |
| MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE  |   |
| Single.....\$ 3.00 annually  |   |
| Family.....\$ 5.00 annually  |   |
| Contributing \$ 10.00 annually   |   |
| Sustaining...\$ 25.00 annually   |   |
| LIFE.....\$ 100.00(one time)   |   |
| SEND TO:   |   |
| Pioneer Memorial Association   |   |
| of Fenton & Mundy Twp.   |   |
| P.O. Box 154   |   |
| Fenton, MI 48430   |   |

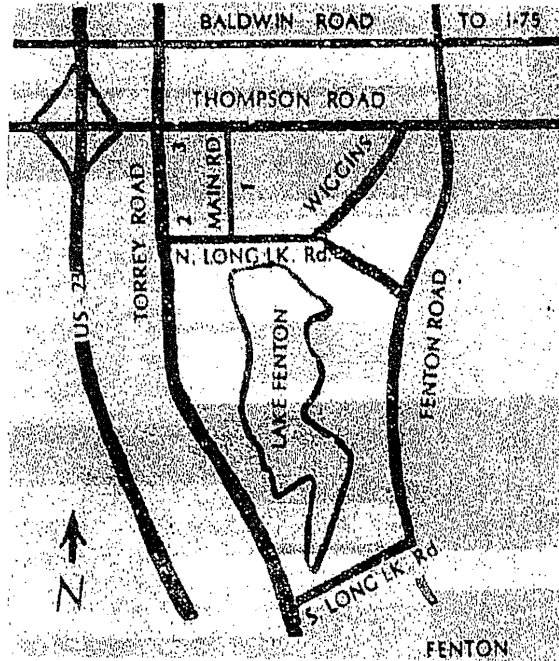
# PIONEER DAY 2011

## Saturday, SEPT. 10

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### OPERATION

The Association is funded entirely by memberships, donations and money raising projects such as Pioneer Day on the Saturday after Labor Day in September. We are a non-profit organization and, as such, any donations are tax deductible.



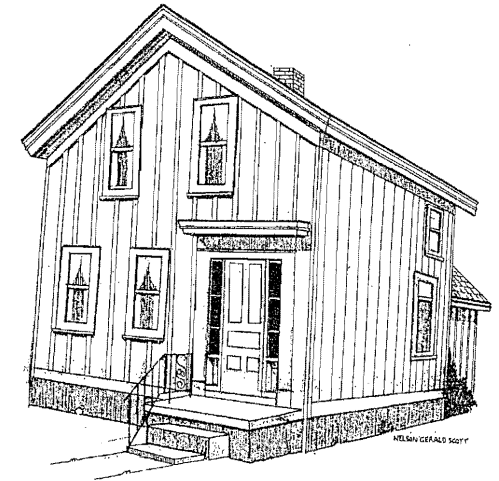
- 1 - Podunk House
  - 2 - Old Lake Fenton High School
  - 3 - Citizens Bank
- Revised 2011 / pjh

# The PIONEER MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION of FENTON & MUNDY TOWNSHIPS

11429 Main Road  
P.O. Box 154  
Fenton, MI 48430

(alternate entrance:2436 N. Long Lake Rd.)

Website: [www.addorio.com/podunk](http://www.addorio.com/podunk)  
Email: [PodunkPioneers@aol.com](mailto:PodunkPioneers@aol.com)

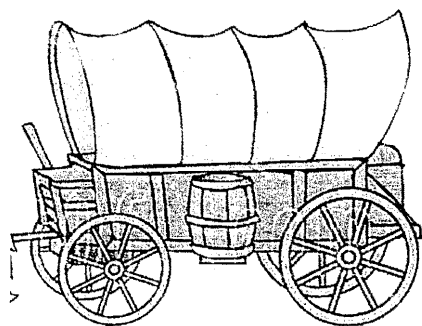


*"Preserve Yesterday,  
Honor Today,  
Plan Tomorrow"*

# HISTORY

The inspiration for this organization in the 1960s was the pending destruction of the Podunk House and Indian Trading Post which was built in 1836 by John Cook for George Thorp. The house was relocated to property on the corner of Torrey and Ray Roads and lived in for many years by John and Frances Judson.

Mr. and Mrs. William Watkins purchased the property from the Judson heirs and lived in the house for several years. The Watkins built a new house adjacent to their original home so had no further use for the old residence. They deeded it to Clarence Miller, Russell Judson and Harvey Swanebeck, with the idea, that by the concerted effort of some interested citizens, a structure of such historical value might be spared from destruction



# GOALS

The goals of the Pioneer Memorial Association, which was formed in January 1967, are to maintain the house as a Pioneer Museum, to assure that the old cemeteries in the area are improved and maintained, and to preserve the records and artifacts of the pioneers of that era.

# GROWTH

The Pioneer Association members continually strive to improve the Podunk House, Pioneer Museum, and the Indian cemetery.

They encourage greater involvement by community members.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Purchased land adjacent to the old Long Branch Cemetery.
2. Re-located the Podunk House to its present location.
3. Installed cyclone fencing around the house.
4. Re-roofed and painted the outside of the house.
5. Renovated and furnished the house with antiques of the mid-1800s.
6. Purchased another parcel of land for expansion & parking.
7. Re-opened the long-vacated "School Street" to provide a direct entrance to the house from Main Road.
8. In 1975, added a block building adjacent to the Podunk House to be used as a museum and kitchen
9. Erected a monument in Long Branch Cemetery honoring those believed to be buried there
10. Moved the cyclone fence to enlarge the enclosed area
11. Erected signs near both entrances.
12. Built a split-rail fence along the frontage on N Long Lake Rd.
13. Established a fund to honor memorial contributions.
14. Formed a partnership with Fenton Township Parks and Recreation (2007)
15. Purchased promotional items to sell (plates, T-shirts, hats, note cards, aprons, etc.)
16. Hosted annual Buffalo Dinner until 2005
17. Constructed a covered pavilion-available for rent to the public for family reunions, etc
18. Purchased canopy tents, tables&chairs,, built a stage
19. 1800s setting for the "Necessary Building" created
20. Established a website: <http://www.addorio.com/podunk>
21. Established email address: PodunkPioneers@aol.com
- 22.. Restored and installed the Watkins/Warzynski Memorial windmill (2004)
- 23.. Restored the Gillespie cupolo which came from the old one room school house on the corner of Linden & Baldwin Rds.(2006)

24. Installed a ramp and handrails on the pavilion to make it handicap accessible (2007)
25. Implemented an 'Early Bird Pancake Breakfast' on Pioneer Day (2008)
26. Installed new rag-rug carpet in vestibule (donated by Loretta Gauthier -2009)
27. 2007 participated in Fenton's July 4th Freedom Festival Parade 2009 For 175th anniversary of founding of Fenton & the Village of Podunk, Pioneer Assoc. refurbished Bannerman's covered wagon and volunteers now walk along-side horse drawn wagon every year
28. 2010 Purchased room-darkening shades for Podunk House
29. 2010 Fenton Twp. replaced Museum roof
30. Annual Lake Fenton School Volunteer Picnic held on site

# EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVORS

1. Soliciting new members and encouraging school & community involvement and support.
2. Publishing of newsletter: "Podunk Pioneer Papers"
3. Provide hands-on historical study for local students, neighboring colleges, universities and historical societies.
4. Celebrate Pioneer Day on the Saturday after Labor Day- includes tours of museum and Pioneer home
5. Field trips for school children

# "WISH LIST" of

# ONGOING & FUTURE PROJECTS

- ◆ Add climate control unit
- ◆ Repair/replace wallpaper
- ◆ Paint interior rooms as needed
- ◆ Repair window screens and building exterior
- ◆ Upgrade electrical wiring
- ◆ Update inventory of artifacts
- ◆ Add deck/ramp at back door of museum for safety and handicapped accessibility
- ◆ Improve cement configuration
- ◆ Increase community involvement

**Donations and volunteers ALWAYS welcome.**

Call Pinkstons @ 810-655-5451 to help!

**The Pioneer Memorial Association of Fenton & Mundy Townships**  
wishes to acknowledge the passing of several members. Each one helped support the  
Pioneers in one way or another. Our sympathy goes out to their families.

**Richard Halka**  
**Jean Hallitt Baker Rarig**  
**Janice Hallitt Sampson**  
**Carol Fowler**  
**Eula Carpenter Judson Becker**  
**Sally Judson Ellis**

**Richard Halka** played a big part in establishing the “Early-bird Breakfast” on Pioneer Day. He helped with the set-up, preparation and cooking. Because of him, many of his family members came along and joined in the fun! He had a great sense of humor. We will miss him serving breakfast with his ready smile. His legacy lives on as his family picks up where he left off. So, as you enjoy your breakfast this year, think of Richard.

**Jean Hallitt Baker Rarig**, Big Rapids, and **Janice Hallitt Sampson**, Sault Ste. Marie, were daughters of **Claribel Judson Hallitt**, a third generation descendant of **George Judson** (one of the original settlers in the area). Jean and Janice supported their mother’s interest in the preservation of local history and of the museum. Jean (life member since 1982) attended many Buffalo Dinners and often visited on Pioneer Day with her son, **Fred Baker** and his family of **Williamston, MI** (life member since 1983).

**Claribel’s** sister, **Adelaide Judson**, married **Charles Fowler**. They were also charter members of the Pioneers. Their son, **Paul**, married **Carol** (life members since 2008). In the late 1980s, **Carol Fowler** brought her friends from “**Uncle Carl’s Dulcimer Club**” from the Jackson area to perform on Pioneer Day. Their performance was enjoyed immensely. **Paul** and **Carol** also attended various Pioneer functions over the years.

**Eula Judson Becker** celebrated her 101st birthday on February 24, 2011 with a big party at her home in **Prestige Place** in **Clare, Michigan**. She passed away on **March 18, 2011**. Eula was first married to **Robert R. Judson** (brother of **Claribel** and **Adelaide**). Their son, **John**, and his wife, **Irene**, currently serve on the Board of the Pioneer Association (life members since 1976). **Robert** passed away in 1962. In 1964, Eula married **Don Becker**. Until **Don’s** death in 2004, Eula and **Don** were regulars at the Buffalo Dinners and on Pioneer Day. **Sally Judson Ellis**, **Las Vegas, NV**, passed away suddenly on **August 23, 2011** at the age of 57..**Sally** was Eula’s granddaughter and **John & Irene’s** daughter. **Sally** was an accomplished seamstress and she loved to travel.