

Friends of Oak Ridge Cemetery

P. O. Box 142, Buchanan, Michigan 49107

NEWSLETTER

April 2010: Vol. V, № 2

Meetings:

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, except December. Unless a different location is announced, all meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church, 115 W. Front St., Buchanan. (Use the parking lot entrance, off Charles Ct.) Visitors are welcome!

Membership:

Annual membership (Jan.-Dec.) is \$15 for an individual, or \$25 for a family. (Other membership categories: Contributing, \$35, Sustaining, \$50, Business, \$50, and Life, \$250.) Dues can be paid at a meeting, or mailed to us at our post office box, using the form on the last page of this newsletter. Donations to the Friends of Oak Ridge Cemetery are tax deductible.

Work Days:

Work Days—cleaning and repairing grave stones at the cemetery—will resume in May. Our primary work days are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month (usually 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). In addition we often get together by arrangement one day during the week (Wednesday).

We may have workdays on May 8 and 22 depending on the weather--or they may be in the afternoon instead of the morning to try to get warmer temperatures. Call Bob at 574-288-2514 or Donna at 269-695-5676 to confirm whether we will hold any workdays in May (or call if the weather is questionable on any summer work day).

Our Website is www.friendsofoakridge.org.

Publications:

(1) *The Story of Portage Prairie* by Alma (Vite) Hartline. (Reprint, 440 pages.) The cost is \$30 (not including shipping). (2) Copies of the Chadderdon census of Oak Ridge Cemetery (which includes interments though Dec. 2004, about 8,000 names). Cost: \$20 (not including shipping).

Future Meetings:

● **Tuesday, April 20:** Our discussion will be based on Chapter 6, “Transportation,” in *Greetings from Buchanan* by Goodsell & Myers. If time permits we will also discuss origination of Buchanan city and township street and road names.

● **Tuesday, May 18:** **This meeting will be held at the American Legion** (403 E. Front St.) rather than in the church. Our featured speaker will be Pam O’Connor. She will talk about both the completed research for the downtown historical district, and the in-progress research for the residential area in Buchanan.

● **Tuesday, June 15:** This meeting will be our annual “Show & Tell” meeting. Members are asked bring an item, perhaps a family heirloom or something related to Buchanan and tell the group about it. (Anything you think might be of interest to the group.) As always, visitors are welcome – either to join in the program or just listen.

Meetings held during previous Quarters:

Tuesday, January 19: The meeting topic was a discussion of the first three chapters of *Greetings from Buchanan* by Leo J. Goodsell & Robert C. Myers: (1) "James Buchanan," (2) "Early History" (primarily 'The Founding of Buchanan' and 'The Paper Village of Benton'), and, (3) "Agriculture." [Note: This book is available from the *Berrien County Record* in Buchanan or from the Berrien County Historical Association in Berrien Springs (its publisher).]

- **Tuesday, February 16:** The focus of this meeting was Chapter 4, "Downtown," in *Greetings from Buchanan*.

- **Tuesday, March 16:** We continued with the next chapter of *Greetings from Buchanan*, "Domestic Architecture," and also the map of W. Front St. (1890) on page 24 of *Buchanan's Heritage* by Don Ryman (BPS, 1984).

- Our Cemetery Walk will be on Sunday, September 12th this year. Additional details will be in the July newsletter.

- Our Sept. 2009 meeting topic was the Floral Hall and Skating Rink (and other buildings in that area). As was noted then, the Floral Hall and the nearby race track were constructed by a private group called the Buchanan Park Association. In the 1871 Directory is the following entry: "The grounds of the Association, consisting of 27 acres, and containing a half mile track, lie east of the village, within the corporation limits. Floral Hall is one of the most elegant in the State. Officers: Charles Clark, President; A. C. Day, Vice President; S. W. Redden, Treas.; L. P. Alexander, Sec'y; Wm. Pears, W. F. Molsberry, Solomon Rough, Charles Blake, Charles Clark, Wm. B. Hoag, Directors."

- Michiana Regional History Day will be held on Saturday, June 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., under a tent near the Pears Mill. This event went very well last year, with over 15 history-oriented organizations being represented. Friends of Oak Ridge will again have a booth at this event.

- The Bakertown Cemetery is located south of the Galien-Buchanan Road, about ¾ mile SW of where that road begins at Bakertown Rd. It is partly in Buchanan Twp. and partly in Bertrand Twp. On page 1 of the Feb. 18 issue of the *Berrien County Record*, it is stated that the Bertrand Twp. Board voted to acquire the ½ acre of the cemetery that is in Buchanan Twp. (on private land). The owner, Norris Young, is willing to donate the land if all transfer fees are paid by the township. Bertrand Twp. has maintained the cemetery for more than 30 years, except for a short period last year when it stopped mowing the part in Buchanan Twp.

- The Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society has a new (redesigned) web site, with a new site address: www.vbrgs.org. There is a lot on this site. A partial listing of the site's subdivisions include: Book Store, Cemeteries, Local History Dept. (of the Decatur library—which is also where the VBRGS usually meets), Pedigree Chart Index, Research Tools, School House Collection (Bess Britton), and Yearbooks.

Two additional subdivisions are for the Society's military documentation projects: (1) Military Registry Project and (2) World War II Project. The WW II project is for soldiers/veterans of that war who resided in Van Buren Co. at some point in their life. The Military Registry project is wider in scope, including all military service and residence in any of five southwestern Michigan counties: Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo and Van Buren.

- In an article titled, “Funeral, burial services for homeless, indigent veterans” (South Bend Tribune, 3/20/2010, p. A1 & A2), it was noted that a local South Bend group headed by retired county judge Robert Miller, Sr., plans to offer free funeral and burial services to St. Joseph County’s homeless and indigent military veterans. Three local funeral homes—Palmer, Welshimer and Kaniewski—have agreed to donate their services, and the group will purchase locally-made caskets. The county’s Board of Commissioners and the counter Center for the Homeless recently agreed on establishing a veterans burial site at Portage Manor Cemetery. (Portage Manor is located on Portage Ave., north of Riverside and Highland cemeteries and south of Cleveland Ave.) *The article stated that more than 1,000 people are currently buried at Portage Manor Cemetery, although it is not known how many of these served in the military.*

- The *Berrien County Record* has started reprinting a series of articles from 1967 written by Norma (Yoder) Stevens under the title of “The Real McCoy.” This is an excellent history of Buchanan. Norma not only consulted the usual sources, but interviewed some longtime residents to get additional information. The series was later (1975) published in book form (64 pages) as *The Real McCoy, The Story of a Creek and Its Town*. The first installment of the reprinting was in the March 11th (2010) issue of the *Berrien County Record*.

Incidentally, one of the minor cemeteries in Buchanan Twp. was on the farm of Earl and Norma Stevens (in Sect. 20 of the township). It only has six documented burials, and is usually referred to as the Wagner-Crum Cemetery. Wagner because it is near Wagner Road, and Crum because four of the six names documented by David Savage were in the Crum family—the other two names were A. Wray and J. C. Weaver.

- Mention of Norma Stevens’ book brings to mind another excellent short history of Buchanan: *Buchanan - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: A Fourth Grade History of Buchanan*, which was published by the Buchanan Community Schools about 20 years ago. The 38 short chapters are a very readable introduction to the history of the area.

The first several chapters cover the native population, followed by chapters on the arrival of the first white settlers. Most of the chapters are very short and concise, but one of the longer chapters is a very interesting chapter on “Jack Knight, Buchanan’s Own Hero,” – after whom the Knight Chapel at the cemetery was named.

The very short (one page) chapter on “Buchanan and the Civil War” just covers the two units that were organized in the village. It says, for example, that John Albert (the first name on the list on pages 5-7 of this newsletter) organized Co. C of the 12th Michigan Infantry. The other local unit was Co. K, 25th Michigan Infantry.

The last several chapters cover the architectural styles that are represented in Buchanan’s homes and buildings.

The Buchanan Library has copies of this book as well as Norma Stevens’ book.

- Pages 5-7 of this newsletter contain information from three different Business Directories (1860-1864) for the Village of Buchanan. The first (1860) was contained on a wall map of Cass, Berrien and Van Buren Counties published by Geil, Harley & Severd. (It was reprinted in atlas form in June 1983 by Clark Equipment Co.—and the atlas version contains an index to all the landowner names.) The second (1860) and third (1863-64) were contained in State of Michigan Gazetteers.

The 1860 Wall Map contains fewer entries (34) than the two Gazetteer/Directories (77 and 65 names), possibly due to inclusion on the map being limited to those who paid a fee, while inclusion in the Gazetteers may have been free or at least cost less. The 1860 Gazetteer contains quite a few stone & brick masons and carpenters. This may have been due to a building boom, or may just reflect input from a labor organization.

Only eight names are listed in all three directories: William H. Bainton is listed as miller, or as proprietor of a flouring mill (or water flouring mill). Michael Hess is a carpenter and joiner, or carpenter and builder. J. N. Post is the proprietor of the American Hotel (or at least a hotel) in all three directories. The others listed in all three are John M. Albert (attorney/lawyer), Erasmus S. Dodd (physician), William Rooke (cooper), Julius M. Russell (livery stable), and Hiram F. Strong (boot and shoe maker).

Sometimes there were minor changes in emphasis between the directories: William Baker was a shingle maker in 1860 and ran a saw mill in 1863-64, though what he actually did may not have changed. C. Clark & Co. was Hardware & Cutlery in one directory, but just Hardware in another. Josiah Chandler is listed as a carriage maker in 1860, but his occupation has changed to "Bent Felloes" in 1863-64, which apparently meant he just made the wheels. Leander P. Fox changed from "Patent Right Agent" to "Hardware."

Buchanan boasted a Daguerreotypist in both Gazetteers! (L. J. Needham in 1860 and C. V. McKinney in 1863-64.) Lorenzo Alexander was an agent for the Aetna Life Insurance Co., and George Treat was an agent for both Federal Express and the Michigan Central Railroad. H. Weese was Postmaster and Town Clerk in 1860.

There are five different milliners listed (Mary Barmore, Maria S. Crofoot, Maria Dutton, Louisa Grain, and Mrs. H. Wilson), but only one dress maker (Miss R. Gilbert), and one tailor (Samuel W. Epley). Boswell & Terriere, G. Mitchell, and Hiram Strong all sold or manufactured boots and shoes.

As might be expected, there were several blacksmiths in town: Stephen Atwood (Atwood & Mowery), Philo Ingersoll, John Kelley, Hiram N. Mowery, and William Streets. James M. Matthews, first President of the Village, is listed twice in the 1860 Gazetteer directory, first under "Foundry" and also under "Agricultural Implements."

There were four different (flouring) millers listed. In addition to Bainton they were: Levi Broadhurst, Robert Mead (and R&W Mead), and William Pears, who, of course, gave his name to the only mill that still stands in Buchanan—although Bainton is the one given credit for actually building this mill.

Buchanan's reputation as a manufacturing center for wood products really came later, but even at this time there were a large number, at least eight, who would fit in this category: William Baker (shingle maker, Black & Sohrum (lath & shingle factory), Binns Chair Manuf. and B. E. and Joseph P. Binns (both listed as cabinet makers), Jos. Elias (sash manuf.), F. Hagie (cabinet maker), Eli J. Roe & Co. (sash, blind & door), and J. M. Roe (cabinet maker). This does not include the many who were listed as carpenters or as running a saw mill or lumberyard (T. L. Ross & Co.).

In any case, a comparison of these three business directories gives an interesting snapshot of what the village's industries and downtown businesses were at the time of the Civil War, only 2-6 years after Buchanan's incorporation as a village in 1858.

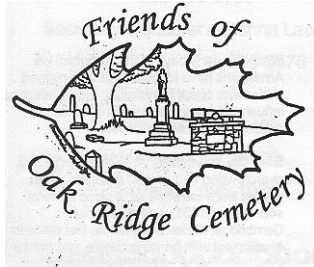
Buchanan Business Directories: 1860 and 1863/64

Name	1860 (Wall Map)	1860 (Gazetteer)	1863/64
Albert, John M.	Attorney at Law	Atty., Notary	Lawyer
Alexander, Lorenzo P.	—	Atty., Notary; Ins. (Aetna)	Insurance
Allen, D. R.	—	Stone & brick mason	—
Allen, Elisha	—	Stone & brick mason	—
Alward, Cyrus M.	—	—	Lawyer
American Hotel	—	J.N. Post, proprietor	—
Anderson, John	—	—	Physician
Ashcraft, C. E.	Cooper	—	—
Atwood, Stephen	—	Blacksmith	Blacksmith* ¹
Atwood, S. & Mowry, H.	—	—	Blacksmiths
Bainton, Wm. H.	Miller	Water flouring mill	Flouring mill ²
Baker, William	—	Shingle maker	Saw mill
Barmore, Mrs. Mary	—	Milliner	—
Bennett, Alonzo	—	—	Lawyer
Black, H. & Soham, Wm.	—	—	Lath & Shingle Fact.
Binns (no first name)	—	Chair manufacturer	—
Binns, B. E.	—	Cabinet maker	—
Binns, Joseph P.	—	—	Cabinet maker
Bishop, Sylvester	—	—	Saloon
Boswell, Wm. G.	—	—	Boot & Shoe Manuf.*
Broadhurst, Levi	—	—	Flouring mill
Buchanan Independent	—	—	[newspaper]
Chandler, Josiah	Carriage maker	—	Bent felloes ³
Churchill, Cyrus B.	—	—	Jeweler
Clark, C. & Co.	—	Stoves & tinware	—
Clark, C. & Co.	Hardware	Hardware and cutlery	—
Cormish, N. B.	—	Carpenter & builder	—
Cottrell, G. B.	—	Carpenter & builder	—
Cottrell, G. N.	—	Carpenter & builder	—
Crofoot, Maria S.	—	—	Milliner
Dancy, G.	—	Baker & confectioner	—
Day, A. C.	Farmer	—	—
Dearmond, John & Fulton	—	—	General store*
Dodd, Erasmus S.	Physician & Sur.	Physician	Physician
Dodd, T. A.	—	Physician	—
Dumbolton, S.	—	Stone & brick mason	Masons (& Co.)
Dutton, George	Grocer	—	—
Dutton, Mrs. Maria	—	Milliner	Milliner
Edmonds, Rev.	—	—	(Methodist)
Elias, Jos.	Sash Manuf.	—	—
Epley, Samuel W.	—	Tailor	Merchant tailor
Faucher, Jonathan	—	—	Cooper
Ferson, W. G.	—	General merchant	—
Foster (no first name)	—	Barber	—

Foster, Andrew	—	—	Physician
Fox, Leander P.	—	Patent Right Agent	Hardware* ⁴
Fulton, Thomas	—	—	General store* ⁵
Gilbert, F.	—	Stone & brick mason	—
Gilbert, Miss R.	—	Dress maker	—
Grain, Louisa	—	—	Milliner
Griffin, Wal.	Brickmaker	—	—
Guyberson, Andrew B.	—	Saddle & harness maker	Harness maker
Hahn (Halm), J. (Jacob F.)	—	Cabinet maker	Cabinet maker
Hall, H. J.	Carpenter & Joiner	—	—
Hamilton, N.	Deputy Sheriff	Auctioneer	—
Harrison, W. C.	—	Physician & Druggist	—
Hagie, F.	—	Cabinet maker	—
Hemingway, George F.	—	—	Lawyer
Hess, Michael	Carpenter & Joiner	Carpenter & builder	Carpenter
Hollinger (no first name)	—	Grocer	—
Honiker, F.	—	Butcher	—
Ingalls, A.	—	Carpenter & builder	—
Ingersoll, Philo T. (P. F.)	—	Blacksmith	Blacksmith
Johnson, Rev. W. W.	—	(Methodist)	—
Kelley, John	—	—	Blacksmith
Knight, H. B.	Produce Dealer	—	—
Lauman, P.	Farmer	—	—
Lehman, E. & R.	—	Painters*	—
Littlefield, Charles G.	—	—	General store
Lyon, Z.	—	Justice of the Peace	—
McCollum, E.	—	Carpenter & builder	—
McIntire, M. F.	Carpenter & Joiner	—	—
McKinney, C. V.	—	—	Daguerreotypist
Mansfield, Rev. Daniel	—	—	[minister or pastor]
Martin, Henry	—	—	Saloon
Matthews, J. M.	—	Foundry	—
Matthews, J. M.	—	Agricultural Implements	—
Mead, Myron L.	—	—	Foundry
Mead, R. & W.	Miller (Robt.)	Flouring mill	—
Merrill, William S.	—	Justice of the Peace	Justice of the Peace
Miller, A. [Aaron]	—	Stone & brick mason	Mason
Miller, John D.	—	Carriage & Wagon maker	Carriage maker
Miller, S. [Samuel]	—	—	Carpenter & builder
Mitchell, G.	—	Boots, shoes, hats, caps	—
Molsberry, W. F.	—	Livery Stable	—
Morris, G. [Garrett]	Produce Dealer	Grocer	—
Mowery, Hiram N.	Blacksmith	—	Blacksmiths* ⁶
Needham, L. J.	—	Daguerreotypist	—
Newton, John	—	—	Justice of the Peace
Patten, J. M.	[newspaper] ⁷	—	—
Paxton, William T.	—	—	Mason
Pears, William	Miller	—	—

Perrott, John	—	Carpenter & builder	—
Post, John M.	Prop. Amer. Hotel	American Hotel (propr.)	Hotel
Price, James	—	—	Saw mill
Redden, S. W. & Mead	—	—	Grocers* ⁸
Rinker, Henry H.	Wagon maker	Painter	—
Roe, Charles	—	—	Saw mill
Roe, Eli J. (& Co.)	—	Sash, blind & door	Sash & blind factory
Roe, J. Harvey (J.J.&J.H.)	—	Druggists (J. J. & J. H.)	Druggist (J. Harvey)
Roe, J. J. & J. H.	—	Jewelry, watches, clocks	—
Roe, J. M.	—	Cabinet maker	—
Roe, John M.	Physician & Sur.	—	Physician
Roe, Rev. William	—	—	[minister, pastor]
Rooke, William	Cooper	Cooper	Cooper
Ross, Alexander & Co.	Merchant	General merchants	—
Ross, Enoch	—	—	Lawyer
Ross, T. L. & Co.	Merchant	General merchants	—
Ross, T. L. & Co.	—	Lumber yard	—
Russell, Julius M.	Prop. Livery stable	Livery stable	Livery stable
Sheppardson & Penwell	—	—	Saw mill* ⁹
Sherman, H.	Cooper	—	—
Sherwood, Rev.	Pastor, Presbyterian	(Presbyterian)	—
Slater, Jennings (N. J.)	Carriage maker	*	Carriage maker
Slater & Buhland [Bulhand]	—	Carriage, wagon makers*	—
Smith, Philo	—	Hide & Leather Dealer	—
Snider (Snyder), Charles	—	Stone & brick mason	Mason
Sparks & Lawman	—	Stave Manuf. & Dealers	—
Streets, William	—	Blacksmith	—
Strong, Hiram F.	Shoemaker	Boot & shoe maker	Boot & shoe Manuf.
Taylor, J.	—	Painter	—
Terriere, D.	Merchant	—	—
Terriere, Edward	—	—	Boot, Shoe Manuf.* ¹⁰
Treat, G. R. [Geo. Royal]	—	Agent, M. C. R. R.	—
Treat, George R. [Royal]	—	Agent, Amer. Express Co.	—
Weaver, Eli	—	—	Saw mill
Weaver, Philander & Fox	—	—	Hardware*
Weese, H.	P. M. & Town Clerk	—	—
Wilson, Mrs. H.	—	Milliner	—
Wilson, E.	—	Carpenter & builder	—
Wilber, John M.	—	Carpenter & builder	—
Wilcox, Rev.	—	(United Brethren)	—
Wood, William	—	Carpenter & builder	—

Notes and Footnotes: **1.** Asterisk (*) means two names are listed as a partnership. **2.** Listed as "Brainton, William" rather than Bainton. **3.** Apparently he made wheels for wagons. (Felloe refers to the rim of a wheel, or especially to the curved pieces which join together to form the rim.) **4.** Weaver & Fox (Philander M. Weaver and Leander P. Fox) **5.** Dearmond & Fulton. **6.** Atwood and Mowery, Blacksmiths. **7.** Ed. & Prop. Buchanan Vindicator. **8.** Samuel W. Redden and John G. Mead, grocers **9.** Ira Sheppardson and Eli Penwell, sawmill. **10.** Boswell & Terriere, Boot & Shoe Manufactory.



**Founding President
Lyle G. Sumerix (1931-2009)**

Contact Information: Communications to Friends of Oak Ridge Cemetery may be mailed to us at: P. O. Box 142, Buchanan, MI 49107. Our e-mail address is: info@friendsofoakridge.org or, our officers and board members can be reached by telephone or e-mail as listed:

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MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Memberships in Friends of Oak Ridge Cemetery run from January to December. Please renew your membership at the April meeting if you have not already done so, or you may mail the information on this form. We also welcome new members. Send your name, address, e-mail address, and/or telephone, with a check, to us at **P. O. Box 142, Buchanan, MI 49107-0142**

Name(s) _____ e-mail (if you have one):

Address _____ telephone (optional):

Categories: Individual (\$15) Family (\$25) Contributing (\$35) Sustaining (\$50)

The newsletter is sent as an e-mail attachment to anyone who requests being added to our list, but members may request a printed/mailed copy. Donations to Friends of Oak Ridge Cemetery are tax-deductible.
