

Join Us For Ice Cream and Recollections

By Duane Wurst - Board Secretary

For the past several years the Pigeon Historical Society has hosted an Ice Cream Social during the Sunday car show in Downtown Pigeon. This year is no exception.

As you check out the great cars along main street we ask you to visit the Depot Museum and stop into the Farmer's Market for some of the best ice cream available. While your eating, you can watch as we show images from the past on our large screen television.

From the first days in Pigeon, our town has been known for it's hospitality. Farmers came to town to sell their grain and buy seed. Over the years Pigeon has been home to many farm implement dealers, hardware stores, departments stores as well as banks, lawyers, doctors, dentists, and a host of services.

Thanks to a group of dedicated members, The Pigeon Historical Society is recording and preserving this rich history. What started as a small museum in the old First Methodist Church parsonage, has developed into the saving of the Pigeon Depot and the establishment of the Woelke Historical Research Center where you can research the past. You can find your family members in our records and if you want to search deeper for your roots, we offer a genealogy club that meets every month on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Pigeon Depot Museum & Historical Society

Sunday, July 22

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**At Depot & Farmer's Market
Open House: 12 - 3
Ice Cream Social: 12 - 3**

In the spring of 2018 we received a grant from the Huron Community Foundation that allowed us to purchase a Laptop and software for our genealogy group. We now have a few of these laptops available for those members who do not have a laptop or notebook to use during our meetings.

By working together we can learn about our past. Why bother? Because understanding where we have been gives us a grasp on where we are headed. Our grandparents strived for freedom and risked their lives

to build a community here. Our farmers took the land and through remarkable innovation they helped feed a nation and the world. We owe it to them to remember and to learn what they passed down to us.

Family, Friends, & Community

We invite you to join at the Ice Cream Social, The Genealogy Group Meeting, and as a member of the Pigeon Historical Society. It's easy, and fun to be involved in our history.

PIGEON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 523 • Pigeon, Michigan 48755
989-453-3242

Denny Esch, President
Ardra Schaaf, Vice President
Duane Wurst, Secretary
David Eichler, Treasurer
~: Trustees ~:

Jim Leinbach • Steven Schulze
Dorothy Thuemmel • Joyce Kretschmer
Six Regular Meetings:

Jan. - Mar. - May - July - Sept. - Oct. - Nov.
Second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Board Meetings

Fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location

Woelke Historical Research Center.

EVERY FRIDAY!

The Pigeon Historical Society manages the Pigeon Farmers' Market. The market is held every Friday from 9-4, from May through October.

Vendors are welcome to apply. There is a small rental charge during the June, July, and August market. Other months are free of charge.

See you in May, 2018. Call 989-545-5240 or visit our web site: www.pigeonfarmersmarket.com

SEE YOU AT THE MARKET!



Toy Show At Pigeon Depot Museum

Submitted by Jean Sturm

Pigeon is lucky to have it's historic depot as a museum. Located in the heart of town, along the last remaining railroad line, Pigeon Depot Museum is filled with fascinating artifacts from the Village and surrounding areas.

This year we have rearranged the museum and updated our displays. Each year we take our large-

est antique display case and fill it with a collection of artifacts following a special theme. This year the theme is Toys From Days Gone By.

The antique toys are from the collections of many families including, Robert Haist, Lois Dast, Ardra Schaaf, Jack Sturm, and others. Please stop in and bring your family and friends to enjoy this special display.

If you have a collection of items you would

like to share with our patrons, please let us know. We are always looking of fresh ideas and display items. We like to change the display case every one or two years and would love your input.

Through many donations of time, money, and various articles, the museum holds treasures that we urge you to see. There is no charge to visit the Depot Museum. We only ask that you sign our guest book and consider a donation.



Toys From Days Gone By

This display case holds memories from years gone by. What young girl wouldn't love a doll and doll house or toy tractor to play in the sand box. Come and see the wonderful display of toys on display at the Pigeon Depot Museum.

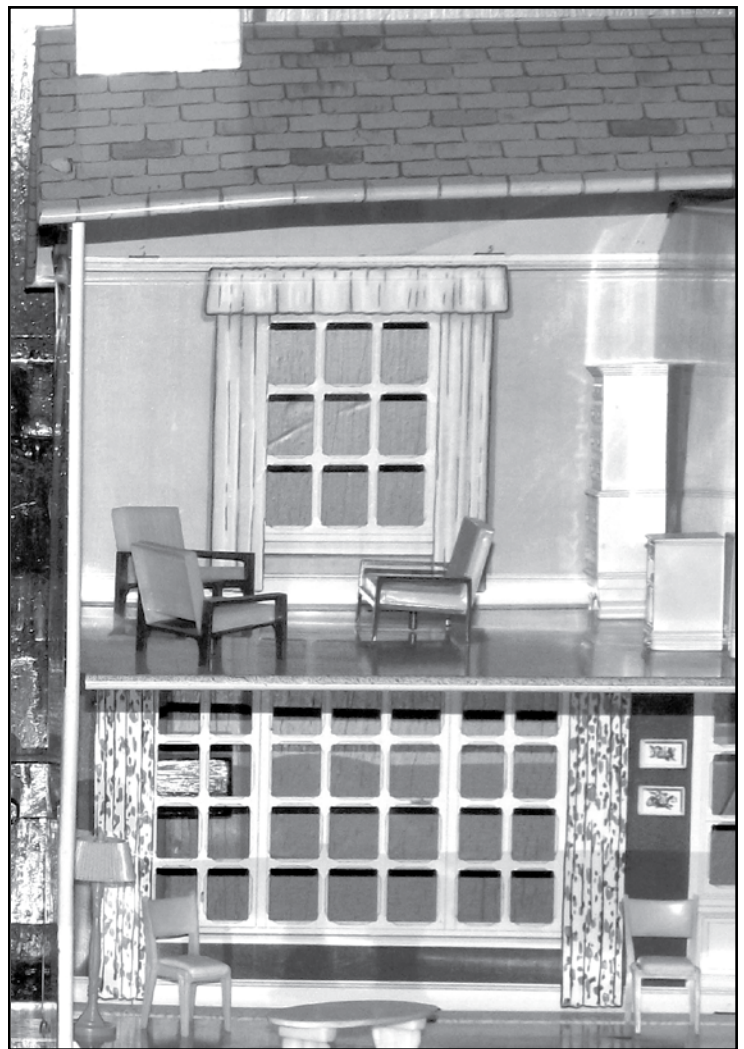


Schoenhut Antique Toy Piano Circa 1889

This toy piano was for the enjoyment of Era (Goetz) Maxwell and her daughter, Lea Margaret (Maxwell) Haist
Donated by: Robert Haist



**This antique doll is from 1938 and was donated by:
Mrs. Al (Kathryn) Eicher.
The rocking chair was loaned by:
Jeanette Bach, Sebewaing.**



**A close up image of the doll house. Any child (or adult) could
spend hours playing with this wonderful doll house.**

NOVEL POLISH WEDDING

Lots of Broken China And \$172 in Cash for the Bride.

Kinde, Oct. 15.—Frank Lerash and Hattie Miller, a popular young Polish couple of Dwight Twp., were united in marriage at the Port Austin Catholic church, from whence the bridal couple and a host of guests adjourned to the home of the bride's parents, where a genuine Polish wedding celebration took place. The guests indulged in all the good things that usually accompany such occasions.

A dance was given and the bride reaped a harvest of silver dollars, being the proceeds of a plate breaking contest, in which over two hundred pieces of china were demolished. The donors not only had the pleasure of seeing the china fly, but were also rewarded by the privilege of a dance with the bride. The bride received upward of \$172 by this novel scheme. The couple will reside in the future on Mr. Lerash's fine farm.

Bad Axe Tribune and Sebewaing Blade - OCT. 25, 1907

NEW DEPOT FOR PIGEON

Will be Built This Fall to Replace the One Burned a Year Ago.

Pigeon people have received notice that the Pere Marquette and P. O. & N. Railroads will (in a very short time) begin the erection of a new union depot at that place. Pigeon has been without a depot for nearly a year (when the old one was destroyed by fire) and there naturally is general rejoicing.

The new depot will have a separate office for each agent of the two railroad companies, and the offices and waiting room will be heated by the hot water system. The waiting room will be roomy, it being the intention to build it 24x24 feet in size.

The freight houses will be separate from the passenger department and there will be cement floors throughout, and there will be a substantial foundation upon which the structure, which is to cost \$3,000 or more, will rest.

The buildings will probably be completed about December 15.
Sebewaing Blade - OCT. 25, 1907

Family Photos - Part Of Community's Heritage

The Pigeon Historical Society has a large collection of historical postcards and photographs. Many of these images have been enlarged, and are on display in the Depot Museum and the Arthur J. Woelke Historical Research Center. We are always on the look-out for other pictures that are not in our collection. It is true that a picture is worth a thousand words, and we are in search of those images.

If you have family photographs which show something that you would consider of interest to the community, please contact a board member. We have a scanner in the Research Center and can scan photographs and negatives.

We are always looking for old photographs, negatives or slides, and old postcards like the one shown here. If you have any old boxes or albums of pictures, don't throw them away until we are given the opportunity to view them for potential inclusion into our collection.

Call the museum at: 989-453-3242,

Duane Wurst or Steve Schulz can help scan your photographs, slides and negatives. Before you throw away grandma's photo album, let us see it. There may be an unknown treasure lurking behind those family images.



We love this image of an Oliver 70 tractor cutting hay. The driver is Mr. Licht and the image is from a family member.



A 1924 photograph of Mildred Crammer and Jerry Dondineu standing on Main Street in front of the Pigeon Elevator Company. Often photographs of residents were taken in front of businesses, schools, or churches.

We are still looking for this type of photograph. Not only for the building, but for residents of interest.



Mose Haist Taylor Shop

This image is from an early 1900 photograph.

Mr. Freeland was a photographer in Pigeon. He took many of these images that we find on early post cards. It was common for the photographer to offer prints of pictures on a postcard backing. By doing this, the customer could send pictures of themselves of their businesses to friends and family without having to put them in an envelope.

Mose Haist is pictured on the right.



Orr's Drug Store, the Rexall Drugs on the left is pictured next to the A & P Store. This photograph would have been taken in the late 1940s. Many older residents remember when these stores were here. Orr's later moved the store north and the grocery store moved to the west end of town, later to become an IGA.

Niebel Grocery opened in the Orr's store. Many of us "Seniors" remember Leonard Niebel and enjoyed stopping in for a chat and a good cold soda from his cooler. The buildings along Main Street ring with history as each generation finds another business idea.

Pigeon still features Pigeon Hardware, Ben Franklin, Orr's Drugs, Amy's Women's Clothing, Haist's Flowers, Auto Parts, Osentoski's Farm Equipment, The Turner Arts Center, Pigeon Market IGA, Self-Serve Lumber, McCormick Auto, Walsh's Meat Market, several fine eating and drinking establishments, A Dollar Store, Insurance Agents, Telephone Company, Thumb Cellular, A & D Health Care, Scheurer Hospital, Co-Op Elevator, Active Feed, Pigeon Library, AVS Tech Team, and the list goes on, and on. Pigeon's history is filled with successes and failures, but like the 1950s, we will carry on with business and keep our community a vital part of Huron County and Michigan.



Pigeon was home to many auto dealers. From the earliest Model T to the latest Chevy or Buick, you could always find a car or truck deal in Pigeon.



During the 1950s the Co-Op ran a Gulf Station on the Corner of Nitz and Main Street. (The Library is now located here) Guys from this era have fond memories of this service station, and would spend hours chatting about how fast their cars and hot rods were, or could be, or will be when they get the new carburetors.

2017 Haunted Depot Tour



These children were at a party in 1928. They dressed in costume for Harold Paul's birthday. You can dress up too, and join the Pigeon Depot's 2018 HAUNTED DEPOT tour in October. Watch for details.

On October 31, 2017 the members of The Pigeon Historical Society opened the doors of the Depot Museum and invited ghosts and goblins, dressed as children and their parents, walk though the **HAUNTED DEPOT**. It was dark, it was spooky, and it was fun. And at the end of the tour each guest received a treat.

The event was on the night of the Pigeon Trunk and Treats party at the Farmers Market in the Heritage Park. There were hotdogs by the Winsor Fire Department and treat handed out by area businesses and community organizations.

The Pigeon Historical Society will be offering this event again in 2018, so be brave, be adventurous, and be sure to walk though the museum. In fact, why not do that today. Visit the Depot and Research Center and be surprised by what we have to offer.

Area News

PIGEON, MICH., AUGUST 18, 1898.

While Sam Dunn was riding his wheel Sunday, out in the country he undertook to pass a team and while in the act a vicious dog, which was walking under the wagon, attacked him and as a result Sam found himself in the ditch, accompanied by a sprained wrist a few seconds afterwards.

A very enjoyable party was held at at the home of Mr. & Mrs.- J. W. Leipprandt Tuesday evening . About fifteen of their friends were in attendance. The evening was spent in games and music, and at midnight refreshments was served, after which all departed to their respective homes.

We now have a band and in a few weeks our village will be enjoying some good outdoor music. As the boys have started, let every citizen in town do what he can to encourage them. Following are the members. A. Fruuer, manager, Chus. Czaplá, Chas. Maier, Louis Davis, Frank Iloltz- man, Richard Hchroeder, Joseph Maier, Osker Schroeder, and Otto Schwarz.

Here is a straight tip from a newspaper called Brains. It says: "There is but one way to advertise, and that is to hammer your name, your occupation your business so thoroughly into the people's heads that if they walk in their sleep they will constantly turn their steps toward your store. The newspaper is your friend in spite of your criticism. It helps to build up the community that supports you."

All who can should not fail to attend the fraternal picnic at Sebe-

Gardening Time

Let us supply your wants

4 packages seeds.....	05c
Good Hoes	17c
Good Rakes.	21c
Good Shovels.....	32c

For Your House Cleaning

Wall-Paper, double roll.....	05c
18 bars of Soap.....	05c
8 lbs. Washing Soda.....	05c

To Make Soap

10 lb. can Caustic soda.....	88c
6 cans Lye.....	25c

We never before were able to offer such bargains in Shoes and Clothing.

\$1.25 Ladies Shoes.....	89c
\$1.50 Ladies shoes.....	1.08
\$2.00 Ladies shoes warranted.....	1.25
\$3.60 Men's patent Leather shoes.....	2.00
\$3.00 Men's patent leather shoes.....	1.79
\$2.25 Men's Vici Kid Shoes.....	1.39
Girls fine shoes.	60c
Children's shoes with sole.....	25c

Others price Our price.

\$3.75 Men's Suits	1.99
\$7 00 Men's Suits	3.75
\$10 00 Men's Suits	4.90
\$15.00 Men's Suits.....	7.85
\$2.50 Boy's Suits.....	1.38

DISHES

1-2 doz. Cups, Saucers and Plates.....	35c
Sauce Dishes each	01c
Large Cream Pitchers.....	05c
Side Dishes.....	01c

**You will find nothing but bargains
in our store, watch our list each week.**

BLACKS

**Dept.
Store**

BERNE, MICH.

Pigeon Progress, August 18, 1898

waing next Thursday, August 25. No pains are being spared to make this the most successful picnic ever held in Huron County. A large list of prizes are to be given away and the admittance to the grounds is free to all. Rich and poor, black and white; all are treated alike. This picnic does not belong to Sebewaing any more than any other town on earth. It belongs to every place and every one. There will be ball games, races and several other sports to numerous to mention. The S. T. & H. Railway will give low rates for this occasion.

Genealogy Club In Pigeon

Grandmother used to tell us stories of her family when we were young. We listened with intense interest but never wrote anything down. Now, as we grow older, we wish he could remember who Aunt Millie married. What was Uncle Pat's wife's name? If only we could find our history. Where do we start? Do we have to pay for information on the internet?

Whether you are a novice at genealogy or a seasoned professional, we welcome you to join our genealogy club. The club meets in the Woelke Research Building the third Thursday each month, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining, stop into the Woelke Building. There is no charge. We do have internet, so bring your laptop or tablet.

No computer? We now have extra laptops for our Genealogy Group!

Pigeon Historical Society

59 S. Main St. / P. O. Box 523, Pigeon, MI 48755

989-453-3242 (Leave Message)

Visit our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/124844244905031/members/>

**We Don't KEEP
GROCERIES AND
HARDWARE**

We SELL Them,

Always selling. Always busy.

Always satisfying my patrons.

**COMPLETE LINE OF ICE CREAM
FREEZERS**

John McLean

Pigeon

Pigeon Progress 08-18-1898



My Special Line

—OF—

**MIDSUMMER
SHOES**

Are Complete and my prices are the
Lowest. Don't fail to see the
finest line of Shoes in town

LOUIS STAUBUS,

The Only Exclusive Shoe Dealer in
PIGEON.

The ad to the left is from the August 18, 1889 Pigeon Progress Newspaper. Above we have a 1927 image of the interior of the Staubus Shoe Store. We would consider this to be a well stocked store with the latest electric lights and heat from the pot belly stove at the front of the store.

Many business open and soon go out of business. We find this to be quite common today as it was years ago. Staubus knew that if he had quality merchandise and a large inventory, he would win over customers. It's apparent here since he was still in business, 38 years later.