

Pigeon Historical Society  
History Lesson 101

Lesson Topic: Ora Labora and the Old Colony

Historical Research and Presentation by:  
Jim and Brenda Smith

Meeting at: Pigeon District Library  
7236 Nitz St, Pigeon

Date: Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

Social Time: 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Refreshments served

History Lesson: 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

What is Ora Labora and what did it mean to the western Thumb Area? The two words “Ora Labora” have a significant meaning. In Latin it means “Prayer and Work”. But what did it mean to the 1850 settlers who came onto the shores off of Saginaw Bay between Bay Port and Caseville?

Jim Smith, a 1999 Laker Graduate, while in high school had an interest in Ora Labora and the Old Colony. His wife Brenda, while attending SVSU had a Michigan History Class in which she needed to write a paper. With Jim’s help that was the beginning of some in depth research. When not in the library doing the research, they were making field trips to the area finding evidence of the settlers and the colony. Even after the term paper was complete and the History class was over, they continued to research Ora Labora and the Old Colony, even today.

The Pigeon Historical Society invites you to join us. History Lesson 101 is sure to be an interest to all from the Western Thumb Area. We have extended this invitation out to the area Historical Societies and their friends.