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Issue No. 22
Pigeon, MI.

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Farmer's SummerFest - Summer, 2019

Join Us For A Celebration

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.

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 computer access to several genealogy web sites to help in your search.

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

Denny Esch, President
Ardra Schaaf, Vice President
Paul Schuette, Secretary
David Eichler, Treasurer

~: Trustees ~:

Jim Leinbach • Steven Schulze
Duane Wurst • Joyce Kretzschmer

Six Regular Meetings:

Second Monday of the month

May - July - Sept. -

Oct. - Nov. - Jan. - Mar. 3:30 pm

Board Meetings

Fourth Monday of the month

Sept. through March: 3:30 pm

April through August: 6:30 pm

Meeting Location

Woelke Historical Research Center.

Pigeon Depot Museum & Historical Society

Sunday, July 21

**ICE CREAM
SOCIAL**

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

Berne Junction Museum & Gift Shop

This year we are celebrating the Grand Opening of The Pigeon Historical Society's new museum and gift shop. Berne Junction, located next to Orr's Drugs, in the former Linda's Basket Case store.

The new museum will feature displays that change over time. Today we are displaying graduation picture from Pigeon High School dating 1920s to

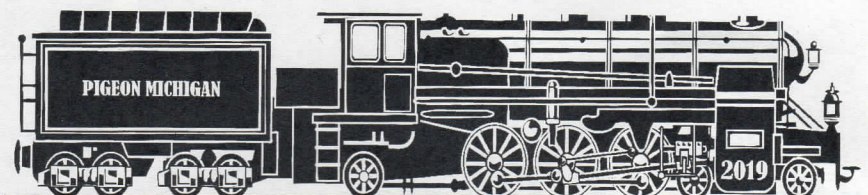
1940s

Stop in for a chat, watch a slide show on our big screen TV, and check out the Gift Shop, featuring hand-crafted Michigan Made art, crafts and other great gift ideas.

Festival Hours:

Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9am-4pm

Sat. 10am - 2pm



Berne Junction

Museum and Gift Shop

Pigeon Historical Society

Berne Junction - Grand Opening

Join us for our Grand Opening, during the Farmer's SummerFest. Our festival hours are: Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9am-4pm and Sat. 10am - 2pm.

The building was built in 1933 by Norman Schaaf for Mrs. Fanny

Gascho. Steve Schulze manages the Museum and with Kenny Licht and Jim Leinbach has worked hard to restore the building and original store fixtures. Steve worked miracles and his love of history and Pigeon show through that

labor of love.

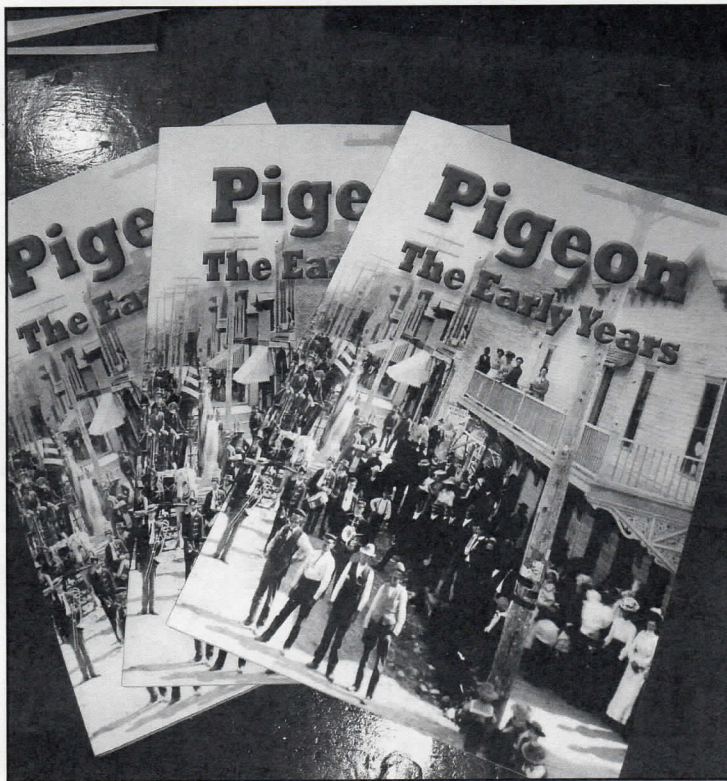
Stop in to see the new museum and we urge you to use the new gift shop. This is a non-profit store, run by volunteers. The efforts of our members help us make Pigeon's History come alive.



Pillows, Jellies, and Jams... what fun it is at Berne Junction.



Paintings, prints, photography, woodwork, and more!



History books, photographs and greeting cards are featured.



Greeting Cards for every occasion. Handcrafted for YOU!

A special thank you to all the volunteers and members of the Pigeon Historical Society.

Pigeon's History Starts With Family

We all enjoy the stories of our town and the old buildings and forgotten factories. But it all comes down to our families. Whether your family was a late addition to the area or an early settler, we are all here because our forefathers wanted more for their children.

We've selected an early settler who's family touched many aspects of our early history. This article is from the 1978 Diamond Jubilee book. (Available at Berne Junction.)

Frederick Clabuesch Family



The era of the harness shop as a part of the Pigeon business community ended during the period of World War II, when the horse as a source of power for fanning equipment.

The Clabuesch Harness Shop holds many fond memories for the

Frederick J. Clabuesch family. Frederick J. Clabuesch, born in Kblau, Hanover, Germany, on June 29, 1874, was ten years of age when he came to the United States with his parents, Jurgen Heinrich and Dorothea Elizabeth Clabuesch.

Family records indicate that Jurgen Heinrich Clabuesch was 65 years of age when he disposed of farm lands consisting of approximately 140 acres in Hanover, Germany and decided to seek a new beginning in America. Five of the family members, William, Herman, Frederick J., Adolf and Otto, came with their parents to America. Henry Clabuesch and Dorothea Clabuesch, two other children, arrived in the United States approximately one year earlier than their parents. A younger son, Ernest Clabuesch, was born in the United States about one year after the arrival of the family.

A tract of land consisting of 160 acres located about one mile west of Pigeon (farms



Above picture taken about 1894 of farm home located on M-142, which is now the Alvin J. Rathje farm. Shown on picture left to right: Frederick J. Clabuesch, parents, Jurgen Heinrich and Dorothea Elizabeth Clabuesch, are seated with son Otto in middle and son Ernest to the right of his mother. Standing sons: Adolf, Henry I. William and Herman.

now owned by Eldon Beachy and Alvin J. Rathje were purchased and cleared of timber for farming.

At the age of eighteen, Frederick J. Clabuesch traveled to Sebewaing to learn the harness making trade and was employed later at Morley Brothers in Saginaw and Flint, Michigan, in the same occupation. In 1899, he purchased the harness making business in Pigeon from W. J. Stevens, and continued in the same occupation until his death, May 26, 1940. His youngest son, Wendolin Clabuesch, who had assisted his father in this business, continued thereafter, until his entry into the armed services in 1942, and reopened the business as a shoe sales and repair shop after the termination of his Army services. Walter Clabuesch also assisted his father in the operation of the harness shop prior to the commencement of his own business known

as Clabuesch Electric. In 1961,

Jack Oesch purchased the Clabuesch Shoe Store; and thereafter, Wendolin Clabuesch founded the Scenic Realty with offices at Pigeon and Sand Point. Jack Oesch has continued the operation of the business since that date, known as the Oesch Shoe Store.

The original harness shop was located at 82 Main Street, on premises which are now a portion of the Polewach Store; and in 1927, Frederick J. Clabuesch erected a new structure at 92 S. Main Street, which is the present location of the Oesch Shoe Store. This address was formerly occupied by the Farmers & Merchants Bank in Pigeon.

Frederick J. Clabuesch was married to Hulda Beyer on May 8, 1903. The family consists of Ruth Clabuesch, and Raymond Clabuesch (twins), and Walter, Werner and Wendolin.

Pigeon Historical Society

www.pigeonhistoricalsociety.com

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Great Locations... Pigeon... One Great Town



Berne Junction

Pigeon Depot Museum

Woelke Historical Research Center

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 Schulze 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.



Monday morning the new sign was placed on the Berne Junction Museum and Gift Shop. Here, Steve Schulze proudly stands in the doorway.

Please stop in and say *HI* to the volunteers.