

RECORDER

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Fall 2021 • Issue No. 29

Pigeon, Michigan



"If Only The Walls Could Talk"

I guess that I do not have to mention that the past year and 9 months have been a bit weird. What with Covid-19, wearing masks, all kinds of services and businesses being restricted or shut-down, and staying isolated in our homes has made this a very trying experience for all of us.

The Pigeon Historical Society was no exception. We stopped having meetings for a while, and when we did start, we met at the village hall conference room sitting six feet or more apart. All our activities came to a halt and we wondered if there would be any activities at all through the coming year.

Being in a holding pattern left us with little to plan. We did acquire a few items, the Mosely Folding Bath Tub, for one. (If you have not seen it yet, stop by Berne Junction). We did get Berne Junction setup in its' current layout; a flat screen TV with a lot of historical videos, had the model farm buildings laid out for Christmas, Dorothy Thuemmel dedicatedly popping corn, and rotating displays in the front window.

But now that the Covid situation has eased up, it's time to get back to work. The Pigeon High School Arch project details have been laid out, the 2 Ora Labora cabins are in process with the cabin from Baur's dismantled, in storage, and a site chosen, a list of oral interviews in place, and the list goes on. See **PROJECTS** on page 6.

Paul Schuette, editor

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

Denny Esch, President
Andra Schaaf, Vice President
Paul Schuette, Secretary
David Fichler, Treasurer

~: Trustees ~:

Jim Leinbach - Steven Schulze
Tim Voss - Joyce Kretzschmer

Six Regular Meetings:
Second Monday of the month
May - July - Sept. -
Oct. - Nov. - Jan. - Mar. 10:00 a.m.

Board Meetings:
Fourth Monday of every month
All meetings at 10:00 a.m.
Meeting Location:

Our Founding Families - The Diebels

Pioneer Families in the Pigeon Area

Starting with the Summer issue of the Recorder a local pioneer family will be briefly highlighted. This issue will focus on the Diebel family and some of their descendants.

John Diebel, born in Canada, and Louise Leyrer, a native of Germany met on the boat bringing them from Bay City to Sebewaing. They married and eventually moved to what was then the swampy, little town of Berne Junction.

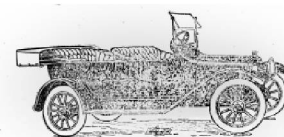
John was a farmer and in the off-season he and his family made their living by doing carpentry, mill work and butchering. He operated a lumber camp south of Mud Creek and later built a stave mill which was Pigeon's first industry. An entrepreneur, John was also involved in a local flax mill, a mercantile establishment and cider mill. Among other things, he served as a justice of the peace and township treasurer for a number of years.

John's son, Frank, took over the mill and later started one of the first automotive centers in the Thumb. The "Diebel Auto Company" began selling automobiles and even offered driver's education courses to increase sales. The upstairs portion of the company building was known as "Diebel Hall" and served as the social and civic center of the town for many years. Frank was an accomplished mechanic and "fixer" and could restore almost anything the local folks needed repaired. One of his children, Mrs. Mary Dast, was a registered nurse at Scheurer Clinic. Five generations of Diebel's have contributed to the modernization and development of our village.

A deal was closed this week whereby John Diebel Jr., purchase the John Diebel Sr., interest in the Diebel & Smith hardware store.

The store has always enjoyed a good business and we welcome John into the business circles of Pigeon. John was recently discharged from the Army after serving about a year in France.

From The Pigeon Progress, July 25, 1919



Chevrolet "Four-Ninety"

THE "FOUR-NINETY" is a real automobile. It has a quiet, powerful, VALVE-IN-HEAD Motor. It has looks—it has style—it is beautifully finished and rides like a cradle.

THE "FOUR-NINETY" has the following, novel and superior features not found in any other car built:

(1) Shock-absorbing duplex front springs; (2) Self-lubricating clutch collar; (3) Hub construction with triple size bearings, preventing "wobble" of wheels and wear on tires; (4) Compound spur steering gear attached to body—the simplest and safest ever invented; (5) Unit power plant carrying transmission on open brackets, which accessibility to clutch and allows removal of all transmission, if necessary, in twenty minutes. [Patents granted or applied for on the above.]

BESIDES THESE EXCLUSIVE FEATURES, THE "FOUR-NINETY" HAS

(1) Streamline front; (2) Crown fenders; (3) Cellular radiator; (4) Body with flush sides and concealed hinges; (5) Three-speed transmission; (6) Three-quarter floating axle; (7) Cantilever springs; (8) Ventilating windshield; (9) Mohair top; (10) The world-famous Zenith carburetor; (11) Auto-Lite electric starting and lighting system.

MANY OTHER THINGS WORTH KNOWING

THE "FOUR-NINETY" does not have a single hinged joint to squeak or a spring shackle to rattle—add you will find only six grease cups on the entire car.

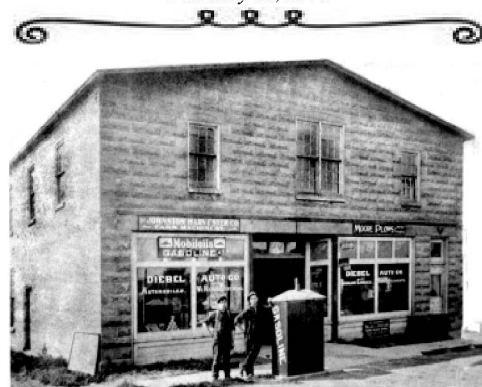
READ THIS OVER TWICE

What More Do You Want For \$550

We will have three car loads of these famous Autos before the roads become good in the spring. You will not be fair with yourself if you don't look them over before you place your order for another car.

DIEBEL AUTO COMPANY, Pigeon

*From The Pigeon Progress
February 18, 1916*



When the site now occupied by Pigeon Co-op's office was the Diebel Auto Company, a public hall upstairs served as a graduation hall, the community center, and opera house.



The Diebel home located on the southwest corner of East Michigan Ave. and John St. in the Diebel addition. Chuck Deming (son of Louise Diebel Deming) is the source of the photo. Picture provided by Audrey (Diebel) McMullen.

Contributors

Jim Leinbach - Jim is a board member who has written and contributed many articles for The Recorder.

George Keim - has written extensively for The Progress-Advance in his articles 'Recollections of By-Gone Days'.

Audrey (Diebel) McMullen - a former resident of Pigeon, Audrey was active in the community. She is the daughter of Clayton and Edna Diebel.

Ardra Schaaf - Ardra is a board member and archivist who keeps track of the resources at the Woelke Research Center. She has compiled the Past In Print.

Anyone can contribute articles, pictures, and other items to be published in The Recorder.

ROLLER SKATING

at the PIGEON ROLLER RINK.

I have made arrangements with the management of the Pigeon Wood Novelty Mfg. Co. to have roller skating in the factory building every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights until further notice. Come and enjoy it while it lasts.

Frank Diebel,
PIGEON, MICH.

From The Pigeon Progress, January 25, 1912



Frank Diebel, the son of John Diebel, made arrangements with the management of the Pigeon Wood Novelty Mfg. Co. to have a roller rink in the factory building. The factory building referred to was the former Black's Big Store. The building was first the buggy factory, then the Pigeon Wood Novelty Mfg. Co., and Black's Store.

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Seventy-seven years ago, September 1, 1944: New athletic director at Pigeon High School will be Karl V. Emerson of Walled Lake, who has been secured to coach athletics and teach social studies at the high school.

Our Business Men

We will hereafter run a brief history of our business men under this head, one each week.

JOHN DIEBEL

was born in 1858, in Victoriaburg county of Waterloo Ont[ario] where he was brought up and worked on a farm until he was 21 years of age.

In 1879, on the day that Garfield was elected president of the United States, he came to Sebawaing, where he lived eight years during which time he owned and run a steam threshing machine, the first one in Sebawaing township. In the spring he worked at carpenter work and in the winter, he did sawing in Ernest Kleinhold's mill. In 1887 he came to what was then known as Berne Junction, which was nothing more than a dense wilderness and laid the foundation for the now flourishing village of Pigeon, by together with his partner and brother-in-law Henry Ruppert, building what is now known as the Liken & Bach saw mill. Ever since he has remained in our village and has held many offices of trust.

He was elected justice of the peace for three successive terms and has been township treasurer for two years. He was also instrumental in obtaining the first post office in this village, which project was then bitterly opposed by the citizens of Berne.

In 1892 he built a small planing mill on the sight of his present mill, which three years later he lost by fire. In 1896 he together with his brother Henry, rebuilt the present mill, where John is now doing a prosperous business.

From The Pigeon Progress, August 5, 1898

Hello There!

Where are you going?

Why I'am going to the Pigeon Plain-
ing mill

Where you can get Flooring, Siding, Ceiling, Door and Window Frames, Sash Doors, Screen Doors and Windows, Moldings, Brackets, Turned Work, Bee Supplies, Cisterns, or a beautiful hand made glass Cupboard, or Kitchen Sink, on shortest notice and at lowest living prices.

I have just received a large stock of good Seasoned Pine lumber and am better than ever prepared to furnish house furnishing material. Thanking the public for their past liberal patronage, I assure you one and all, that if honorable dealing and courteous treatment will merit a continuance of the same, I am bound to have it Yours Truly,

John Deibel, Pigeon

From The Pigeon Progress, June 17, 1898

Towns in the area that do not exist today.

Chesterfield, Ivanhoe, Palms, Popple, Rapson, Ribble, Tarry, Wolfon - Near Owendale.



Frank Diebel's family, from left to right, front row; Mary, Norris, Frances and Mrs. Alice Diebel. In the second row are Thaddeus, Clayton, William, and Florence.

A deal was closed this week whereby John Diebel Jr., purchase the John Diebel Sr., interest in the Diebel & Smith hardware store. The store has always enjoyed a good business and we welcome John into the business circles of Pigeon. John was recently discharged from the Army after serving about a year in France.

From The Pigeon Progress, September 21, 1917

Irvin D.-- "Mildred, let's go for a ride."
Mildred M.-- "No, you know what happened last time."
Irvin D.-- "Oh but we'll be more careful."
Mildred-- "No, I will not go so don't ask me."

So poor Irvin jumped on the merry-go-round and rode alone.

From the 1926 Pigeon High School yearbook

After numerous requests I have decided to set up and operate a saw mill and shingle mill in Pigeon again this spring, so bring along your logs and shingle timber. JOHN DIEBEL.

From The Progress Advance, December 24, 1908

European War News

The German offensive in Russia is growing in intensity. Official reports from Berlin Tuesday any that the Russians are in retreat along their entire line.

* * *

It is understood in Berlin that Germany's course with regard to the Arabic case has been decided on, and that it is in line with the recent conciliatory statement by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg.

* * *

The Amsterdam Telegraf Tuesday quoted a traveler from Belgium as authority for the statement that 600 persons were killed during the recent bombardment of Zeebrugge by British ships.

* * *

Passengers who arrived at Amsterdam, says a dispatch, from Berlin on the Holland-American Steamship Ryndam brought a report that a British transport carrying 2,000 Canadian troops was torpedoed on August 15 off the Scilly islands. It is said that about 1,000 were saved.

* * *

From The Pigeon Progress, September 3, 1915

The First Methodist Memorial Cemetery

by Jim Leinbach

On the northwest corner of Caseville Road and Berne Road is a parcel of neatly-mowed, apparently vacant land. Close to the road sits a large granite marker flanked by some shrubbery and small American flags. Hundreds of people drive by this plot of land each day perhaps unaware that under its soil rests many of our community's early settlers.

This is the original First Methodist Memorial Cemetery and on its marker are the names of the people buried there. The marker was donated by Mrs. Minnie Schaffer and marks the interments of persons who died between 1875 and 1910. There are no birth/death dates for those listed on the stone nor is there a plat readily available to locate the placement of those who passed. The church, now located in Pigeon on East Michigan Avenue, probably could provide one if asked.

The spot is a simple tribute to the hardy people who lived and died during that era, some of whom have ancestors still living in our area.

Listed below are the names of the persons buried there:

Jonnie Ackerman, Albert Ackerman, Albert Boess, Engelbert Draher, Anna Draher, Luella Draher, Christian Diefenbach Sr., Christian Diefenbach Jr., Walter F. Diefenbach, Lydia Diefenbach, Rosa Diefenbach, Ruth Domine, William Finger, Sophia Finger, Sophia Finger, Robert Finger, Vina Glasser, Emma Glasser, Louisa Geiger, Minnie Harholz, Carl Heinzalman, Jacob Frederick Sr., Jacob Frederick Jr., Christine Jacob, Wilhalmina Jacob, Letha Koehn, Carl Koehn, Fredrick Keehlar, Anna Muentener, Henry Muentener, Christian Muentener, Elizabeth Muentener, George Muentener, Sophia Muller, Julia Schaffer, Edward Schaffer, Jennie Schaffer, Emil Schaffer, Julian Schaffer, Rosa A. Schaffer, Ernest F. Schaffer, Charles Schaffer, Adalena Schaffer, Elizabeth Stortz, John Stortz, William Stortz, Marie Stortz, Charlotte Soldan, Victor Soldan, August Sturm, Marie Sturm, Michael Schue, Dorothy Schue, Gustine Schue, Marie Schue, Walter Webster, Martin Wolf, Wilhalmina Wolf, Barbara Zinser, George Zinser.

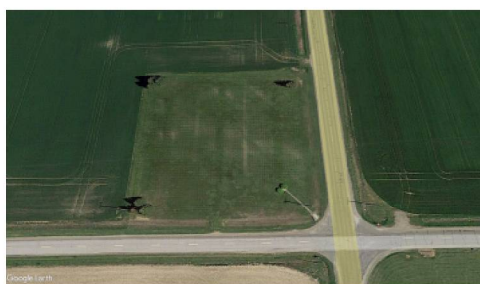
Arnold -- "There's my girl. What do you think of her?"

Merlin -- "I can't say."

Arnold -- "Why?"

Merlin -- "She's your girl."

From the 1926 Pigeon High School yearbook



Smokers who light their cigars pipes and cigarettes with the Swedish "sandstrickers," or safety matches have found of late that while the matches flare as readily as ever the fire does not catch the wood. As a result half a dozen matches often have to be used. Blame it on the war. It's the result of the European shortage of oils and fats. The parafine which formerly held the flame long enough for the wood to catch, has been eliminated.

From The Pigeon Progress, September 21, 1917

The farmer is the greatest gambler in the world. The man in the wheat pit in Chicago or on Wall Street in New York is a conservative investor along side of the man who bought seed beans at \$10 per bushel to bury in the ground. The market gambler has some data to base his judgement on, the farmer gambles upon weather conditions, rainfall, the prevalence of insect enemies, the availability of help, the cost of machinery, twine and threshing along with the condition of the market. Everything might be favorable and the prospects bright and an early frost comes such as happened this year, and the crop is lost in the twinkling of an eye, as it were. Nearly every element in his game of chance is beyond his control. The farmer is the greatest gambler of them all.

Cured Him.

Mrs. Naggs -- My husband used to find fault with the coffee, but he doesn't any more. Mrs. Howells -- How did you break him of the habit? Mrs. Naggs -- I induced him to make it himself one morning.

From The Pigeon Progress, December 24, 1908

Miss Gogarn -- "You'll have to remain with me an hour after school closes."

Merlin Beck -- "I don't care on my account, but ain't you afraid you'll be talked about?"

From the 1926 Pigeon High School Yearbook

KAISER & CUTTING EARS OFF

by George Keim, *Recollections of By-Gone Days*

Once in a while when I write, I have to think myself "Did I write about this before or is this the first time I've written about it?"

Well, I've been around a long time and a lot of things have happened in 80 years. I sure remember nearly everything that happened in that time.

Once a well-meaning boy asked me if I can remember about the Great Fire of 1881. Well, that's one thing I don't remember, but I did talk with several people who were here when it happened.

I can remember when World War I was going full blast and I remember the teacher told us kids that if we lose the war, the Kaiser would come and get us.

Well, I didn't know who the Kaiser was, but somebody told me the Kaiser was the German King.

Once when I was in Amsterdam, Holland, my daughter took me to a wax museum and there was the Kaiser standing there along with Jack Kennedy, Elvis Presley, the Queen of Holland and Jimmy Carter. I told the Kaiser I wasn't scared of him when I was just a little kid and he just looked at me! I've been to several wax museums and the things look real natural. I know one thing that scared kids as much as anything and that was if a man told you if you didn't behave, he'd cut your ears off.

Once, I and two other boys were playing around the cattle yards, which were where the Co-op fertilizer plant is now. There was a little calf in one of the pens and one of the boys went in and scared the calf. The owner came and told us to go home or he'd cut our ears off.

Well, we ran as fast as we could and I fell down. We got back of a barn and looked every once in awhile to see if the man was coming. We stayed away from him for awhile.

Back in those days, we respected the older people and when we went to school, if the teacher told us to behave, we behaved. If you didn't, she'd get her strap or rubber hose out and use it. If you went home and told your parents about it chances were that you'd get another licking. Now a lot of teachers are afraid of the kids or their parents, but the kids aren't afraid of anybody.

In Proverbs 10:7 it says, "The memory of the just is blessed."





Recollection of By-Gone Days by George Keim

This time of the year the farmers are busy getting their crops in from the fields and I don't remember a nicer fall than we've had this fall for harvesting.

Of course, it's a lot different than it was years ago. Even when I started to farm on my own in the early 1940s, we used to

try and get all the hay we could into the barn and we'd save all the bean straw we could and make a straw stack in the back of the barn. We cut our corn and shocked it up and shredded it in December and filled our silos. I remember real well when we filled silo they used to put three men in the silo, tramp the silage down and because I was heavy it was usually my job.

Once a man had me sit on top of the silo with a pole hooked on the distributor pipe to spread the silage. The ladder was in bad shape and I almost fell off, so I asked him to fix it. Well, he said it would take some nails and he didn't have any. I had some in my pocket and I found a hammer and I fixed. I know he had to use a wrecking bar to get it open!

Back in the 1920s, a lot of people used to help people haul their sugar beets to the beet stations. They got paid by the ton and the sugar company used to pay them, so they were sure of getting their money. If they had a good team and wagon, they could make a little money.

In those days, everybody tried to have a good team of horses. Going to a country school, a lot of us boys used to brag on how good our dad's team was.

A man beside our school had a big field of beets out and a lot of people came to haul them away. We boys watched them pull out of the field. On boy bragged on his dad's team. He said they could pull the biggest load out.

Well, we saw his dad coming out of the field pulling another load out. Then my dad came out with a good size load. His team was small but they could pull a big load and the boy said, "Wait 'til my dad comes out and you'll see something".

Well, out came his dad being pulled by another team and all the boys laughed. Of course, I felt like a hero because my dad's team pulled its own load. The boy told me if didn't shut up he'd beat me up on the way home. As soon as school was out, I ran home as fast as I could and got home without getting hurt.

Nowadays you see these big loads of

sugar beets go past and the combines going through the bean fields and corn fields.

They get almost again as much per acre as we used to, but things cost three times what they did, so they aren't a bit ahead.

In Psalms 37:27 it says, "I was young but now I'm old, but I have not seen the righteous begging bread." So, if we try to live a good life, we don't have to farm the world and the moon for a living.



Too Suggestive.

Wimbleton—Hello, Simpeltton! How did you enjoy your visit to the insane asylum the other day? Simpeltton—Oh, so-so. It was all right enough, I guess. Wimbleton—Well, you don't talk as though you were impressed with it. Did you give the superintendent my note of introduction? Simpeltton—Yes, I gave it to him. Wimbleton—Well, what did he say? Simpeltton—Oh, he just looked at me and said, "Make yourself at home."—Lippincott's.

From The Progress Advance, December 24, 1908



New Boom Town In Alaska.

Letters received at Seattle, Wash., say: "Skaguay is the boom town of Alaska. Every man whose heart failed him when he encountered the first hardship has turned town site boomer. Four weeks ago, Skaguay was not known; today there are not less than 4,000 people in addition to those on ships in the harbor. They have surveyed off the town site, the first comers having first choice. Skaguay all the useful accompaniments of a frontier mining town.

Dance halls, roulette, faro, stud poker and craps find devotees ready to tempt fortune's smiles. There is no danger of famine here, though there may be shortages in certain lines. Great piles of hay, grain, flour, bacon, sugar and all the necessities of life are in stock, apparently for some time to come."

From The Pigeon Progress September 10, 1897

Quite a company of Pigeonites have determined to start for Klondike early in the spring. They will pool their interests and go prepared to overcome all obstacles. New recruits are being added every few days and the party will by its strength reduce the perils of the trip to a minimum.

From The Pigeon Progress, September 10, 1897

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Eighty-seven years ago, September 7, 1934: Ervin Doecker purchased the Eicher's Cleaning and Pressing establishment in Pigeon and took possession Tuesday.

Words used in the Newspaper and then replaced in time with a new word.

Goods	- Merchandise
Citizen	- Person
Refitted	- Remodeled
Lad	- Boy
Crowed	- Full
Community	- Town
Enterprising	- Successful
Gentleman	- Man
Lady	- Women
Severed	- Quit
Interment	- Burial
Preparatory	- Before
Ceremonies	- Program
Sole Agent	- Only Agent
Pushing	- Active or Prosperous
Perpetrator	- Criminal
Bought	- Purchased
Hustling	- Busy
Saloon	- Bar
Immense	- Huge
Stand	- Store
Dressed	- Decorated
Capitalists	- Investors
Limbs	- Arms or Legs
Sample Room	- Bars



Bad Fire

The John Diebel Planing Mill Burned Saturday Evening

About 7:30 o'clock last Saturday evening an alarm of fire was given and our citizens found a small blaze in the engine room of John Diebel's planing mill. In only a few moments a large grows were on the scene and it was thought that with the aid of a few pails of water the fire could be extinguished, but owing to the large amount of shavens, etc. and the unfavorable place to fight it, the fire soon was beyond control. All attention was then turned toward saving the stock which was owned by Charles Prast who has been operating the planing mill department for the past two years, and by great effort a large amount was saved, although many thousand feet piled about the yard was damaged and destroyed. The loss to Mr. Diebel the owner of the property will reach about \$1500 and Mr. Prast's loss will be near \$1000. Neither of the parties carried any insurance.

This is the second mill Mr. Diebel has lost by fire and the loss bears quite heavily. The cause of the fire is unknown.

From The Pigeon Progress, August 16, 1901

Men's First Names in 1899 not used much today

Valentine, Jos., Casper, Hi, Ambros, Christian, Alzora, Gilliam, Zene, Alphonzo, Sebastien, Lafayette.

Woman's First Name used in 1899 not used much today

Amiel, Sophia, Lavina, Orythia, Addie, Allie, Corinne.

From the pages of *The Pigeon Progress*, One hundred five years ago, September 11, 1914: The firm of Diebel & Brown purchased the T. L. Thiel stock of general merchandise at Pigeon and will continue the business.

Michigan Second as a Sugar State

The observations of William A. French on the beet sugar industry in Michigan form a feature of the annual report of the state land commissioner which will soon be issued. "The person who three years ago would have asserted that Michigan would stand second as a beet sugar producing state," says the report, "would have been classed as a crank, but he would have been speaking correctly, as that is Michigan's standing at present.

When the legislature of 1897 made an appropriation of \$10,000 for the payment of bounty upon sugar manufactured during the years 1897 and 1898 some of the lawmakers thought the amount too large, yet it fell short \$24,262.99, with only one factory in operation."

From *The Pigeon Progress*, September 21, 1900

Will cost the State \$30,000

It is estimated that it will cost the state \$30,000 to appraise the value of Michigan railroads and other corporate property paying specific taxes in the state. The state board of auditors will be called on to foot the bills but the state tax commission has power under the law to make the appraisal and the expense must be paid. Several men are now at work under the direction of Prof. Cooley.

From *The Pigeon Progress*, September 21, 1900

Very few owners of traction engines in Alpena County are following the law by having a man precede the machine.

From *The Pigeon Progress*, September 21, 1900



To market, to market, to buy a fresh fish!
Serve it for dinner as Hoover would wish!
To market, to market, to purchase some beans!
Bake 'em and learn what economy means.

USE HONEY, SAVE SUGAR.

The keeping of bees is becoming a greater money-maker for both men and women. The late sugar shortage brought many to realize the value of a good working bee hive. Men who are busy in offices all day find the care

of bees both healthful and interesting, keeping them out-doors and affording some recreation.

Honey is an unknown sweet to many of our families, due to the scarcity and often the price. Honey is equal in sweetness to sugar and may be used as a substitute. In using honey the liquid in any recipe is reduced one-quarter of a cup. Honey contains protein and some soluble minerals which are invaluable in rebuilding the broken-down tissues of the body. It is a good substitute for fats, which are scarce, high-priced and hence precious, and may be used on cereals and breakfast foods in place of sugar and cream.



Fall and Winter Goods Arriving

Some of the early arrivals of Fall Clothing

are here and ready for your inspection. Our line of Ladies' Coats for the coming season will be one of the finest ever shown in Huron county. The ladies are requested to call and look at this line.

A. HIRSHBERG & SON

PIGEON, MICHIGAN

From *The Pigeon Progress*, September 3, 1915

Disease In Michigan

Reports to the state board of health show that diarrhea, rheumatism, neuralgia, cholera morbus and dysentery, in the order named, caused the most sickness in Michigan, during the past week. Smallpox was reported at 3 places, cerebro-spinal meningitis at 6, whooping cough at 16, measles at 20, diphtheria at 30, scarlet fever at 58, typhoid fever at 125 and consumption at 171.

From *The Pigeon Progress*, September 21, 1900

Wedding Anniversary Occasion For Party

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Farver were pleasantly surprised Saturday evening when 20 members of their family gathered in the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson, to help them observe their 48th wedding anniversary.

A delicious lunch was served, and Mr. and Mrs. Farver were presented with a gift from the group.

HURON COUNTY PAYS BIG MOTHER'S PENSION.

Statistics compiled by Secretary Murray of the state board of corrections and charities, show that \$95,541.94 was paid in awards by the various counties of the state under the so-called mothers' pension law for the last fiscal year.

According to Secretary Murray's report 1,514 pensions were filed, and the provisions of the law were applied the cases of 3,241 children.

County	No. Children	Amt.
Bay	99	\$4,184
Genesee	33	4,714
Huron	110	3,702
Lapeer	2	192
Saginaw	202	6,788
Sanilac	33	936
Tuscola	47	949
Wayne	420	16,110

In several counties no applications were filed and no money disbursed for that purpose.

From *The Pigeon Progress*, September 3, 1915

From the pages of *The Pigeon Progress*, One hundred twenty two years ago, December 8, 1899: Owing to a slight change in the editor's way of living this week, the paper will not reach our subscribers until next Monday. We hope our readers will pardon us this time and promise to be more prompt in the future.



West Michigan Avenue (Looking East)
John Diebel General Merchandise (Deutscher Laden-German Spoken), Harness Shop,
T. L. Thiel Groceries & Dry Goods, Bank, A. Hirschberg's & Son



THE DIEBEL PLANING AND SHINGLE MILL, was built in the Held between Michigan Ave., the RR track and Frank St., about 1891. Destroyed by fire c 1902, it was rebuilt about 1905, and a cement block building erected in front of it became the Diebel Auto Co., owned and operated by John and his son Frank. The building was sold to the Co-op elevator in 1961, after Frank's death, demolished, and the current Co-op elevator office was built facing East Michigan Avenue.

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred seven years ago, December 5, 1914:

A.M. Wilson has opened up an upholstering room in the rear of the Holtzman building in Pigeon. All kinds of repairing done and supplies. Also sewing machines and organs repaired.

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred seventeen years ago, December 9, 1904: Wallace & Orr Co., Bay Port, grain elevators at Bay Port, Pigeon, Elkton and Grassmere. In our large Bay Port store we have toys, Christmas tree ornaments, nuts and candies; also largest line of fancy china and glassware, gloves, handkerchiefs, fancy ladies' collars, fancy slippers, etc. Adv.

Bryan's Letter of Acceptance

William Jennings Bryans' letter of acceptance of the Democratic presidential nomination was made public on the 17th. He pledges himself not to run at second time if elected; denounces trusts and the Dingley tariff law; defends the 16 to 1 plank; favors direct legislation and the election of U. S. senators by the people; the building of the Nicaragua canal by the U. S., and the payment of liberal pensions.

Roosevelt's Letter of Acceptance

Gov. Theodore Roosevelt's letter of acceptance was given to the public on the 17th. In accepting the Republican vice-presidential nomination Mr. Roosevelt says he does so with a deep sense of honor. He deals with the 16 to 1 policy, the trusts, the expansion question and the Filipino problem.

From The Pigeon Progress, September 21, 1900

PROJECTS from Page 1.

Projects Planned or In Process

1. Depot Museum
 - a. New entrance for Depot Museum
 - b. Museum Painting, Repairs & Update
 - c. Need volunteers during open hours
 - d. Add Ring doorbell at museum for assistance
 2. Historical Presentations
 3. PastPerfect
 - a. Artifacts & photos entered in PastPerfect
 - b. enter pictures – work on artifacts; get pics – get locations setup
 - c. Girl Scout book with artifact pictures to be entered
 4. Woelke Center
 - a. use new projection equipment to show scanned newspapers
 - b. Continue cataloging books
 - c. Eaves trough / High-water Alarm for crawl space
 5. Berne Junction
 - a. use new projection equipment to show scanned newspapers
 - b. setup reference PC for guests
 - c. Need volunteers for store
 6. Country Garden – monthly program speakers
 7. Ideas/articles for Recorder
 8. Pigeon High School Arch Project – Funerals, PHS benches with names of past members
 9. Historical Site marker from State
 10. Stone Quarry, School, & Train Bells
 11. Catalog local cemeteries
- Contact any board member to help out.



Stage show at the Diebel Opera House circa 1908

BASE BALL

Below we submit the official standing of the clubs of the National and American leagues up to and including Monday, September 17th:

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	Won	Lost	Per ct.
Brooklyn	72	45	.615
Pittsburgh	68	51	.571
Philadelphia	62	55	.523
Boston	58	59	.493
Chicago	57	65	.467
St. Louis	53	61	.453
Cincinnati	53	66	.445
New York	59	68	.421

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	Won	Lost	Per ct.
Chicago	82	52	.612
Milwaukee	78	58	.574
Indianapolis	76	61	.522
Detroit	69	68	.501
Kansas City	68	70	.493
Cleveland	63	73	.463
Buffalo	61	77	.442
Minneapolis	54	83	.391

From The Pigeon Progress; September 21, 1900

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred seventeen years ago, December 9, 1904: Dr. P.L. Fritz, dentist. Office over Clabuesch's harness shop, Pigeon. At the Poss House in Caseville Tuesday afternoons.

CHOICE

Farming Lands For Sale.

We have about 12,000 acres of excellent farming lands unsold, located in several of the townships adjacent to Port Austin. (the terminus of the Port Huron and Northwestern Railroad), which we offer for sale to the actual settler upon terms and conditions favorable to farmers of small means who are energetic and industrious enough to persevere and make for themselves permanent homes in our midst. Some of these lands have been swept nearly clean of timber by the terrific fires of 1871, '81 that devastated our county, so that the pioneer farmer can, at a small outlay, prepare the virgin soil for his first crop.

Come, see, and buy a farm is our suggestion. It will cost you little to examine the land, and it may be that you will deem it best to make your home here.

**A YRES & CO,
Port Austin,
Huron Co.,
Michigan.**

From The Huron Tribune, Autumn, 1883

Some Pigeon Genealogy Sources in Huron County, MI

The following are some sources made available to those persons who desire a closer look at their ancestry. Although not the most user-friendly sites these contacts are quite helpful in determining the "Who, What, When and Where" of your family heritage. Your search will be simplified if you possess some basic criteria regarding your ancestor. Go to your computer and type in the following and good luck.

Pigeon, Michigan Birth Records

- 1) 1867-1911 Michigan Births and Christenings index ancestry
- 2) Michigan Birth Records, 1867 to the present at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- 3) Michigan, County Births 1867-1917 Family Search
- Pigeon Cemetery Records
 - 1) Cross Lutheran Cemetery Find A Grave
 - 2) First Methodist Memorial Cemetery Find a Grave
 - 3) Grand Lawn Cemetery Find a Grave
 - 4) Grand Lawn Cemetery Interment
 - 5) Grand Lawn Cemetery Winsor Township, Pigeon, Michigan, WorldCat
 - 6) Michigan Avenue Mennonite Cemetery Find a Grave
 - 7) Saint Francis Borgia Cemetery Find A Grave
 - 8) Saint Johns Lutheran Cemetery Find a Grave

Pigeon Census Records

- 1) U.S. Federal Census 1790-1940 Ancestry
- 2) U.S. Federal Census 1790-1940 MyHeritage
- 3) United States Federal Census 1790-1940 Family Search

Pigeon Death Records

- 1) 1867-1952 Michigan Death Records Ancestry
- 2) Michigan Death Records 1867-present Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Pigeon Immigration Records
 - 1) Index to the Huron County Naturalization Files Michigan History Center
 - 2) Michigan Federal Naturalization Records 1887-1931 Ancestry
 - 3) Naturalization Records, 1864-1958 Family History Library

Pigeon Land Records

- 1) Deed Records, 1837-1946 index 1848-1904 Family History Library
- Pigeon Map Records
 - 1) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Pigeon, Huron County, Michigan June 1924 Library of Congress

Pigeon Marriage Records

- 1) 1867-1952 Michigan Marriage Records Ancestry
- 2) Michigan County Marriages 1822-1940 Ancestry
- 3) Michigan Marriage Records 1867-present Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Pigeon School Records

- 1) Pigeon High School Yearbook 1951, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 (included in US Yearbooks Collection MyHeritage)

Obituaries

- 1) Pigeon District Library - <https://www.pigeondistrictlibrary.com/obituaries.html>

A Brief Look at Our River

The Pigeon River, also known as the East Branch Pigeon River, is a 37.9 mile-long stream in Huron County, in the Thumb of Michigan.

The river rises from the confluence of Appin and Livingston drains in southern Sheridan Township. It flows north and west where it empties into Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron in Caseville, Michigan.

Several other drains (ditches) rank as tributaries to the river and were given names by local inhabitants and the county:

Rush Lake Drain	Beaubien Drain
Fisher Drain	Mud Lake
Thompson Drain	Moore Drain
Van Drain	McComb Drain
Fluegge Drain	Crawford Drain (Tuscola County)
Bechler Drain	Rawson Drain
Newman Drain	Knight Drain (Tuscola County)
Gorke Drain	Muntz Drain (Tuscola County)
Hinton Drain	Blair Drain
Schultz Drain	Elk Drain
Hartman Drain	Patterson Drain

These ditches are the source of our mild, meandering river which are so necessary in eliminating water from our farm fields. A few decades ago, the ditches were also a source of water for cattle and several species of fish, crawfish, and clams could be found in their depths.

Who Won The Softball Championship? Why S. & S. Motor Sales

After a lapse of two weeks we were able to dig up the result of the Pigeon softball league play-off.

The top honors went to the S. & S. Motor Sales, when they soundly trounced the Pigeon Evans 9 to 2. Albrecht did the pitching and E. Beachy the receiving for the S. & S, while Jacobs and Ellenbaum did the twirling and Miller the catching for the Evans.

From *The Pigeon Progress*, September 28, 1951

From the pages of *The Pigeon Progress*, One hundred twenty two years ago, December 15, 1899:

Mandolins \$3.50, violins from \$1.50, gold rings 40c to \$10, Rogers knives and forks \$4 per set, guitars from \$10, gold watches from \$8 to \$75, gold chains \$1 to \$10. J.J. Campbell, drugs, jewelry and optical goods.



From <https://www.anyplaceamerica.com/directory/mi/huron-county-26063/streams/new-river-633338/>

We'd love to see you on our Team!

An individual or business can become a member by contracting any active member or by sending your tax deductible cash or check to Pigeon Historical Society, 59 S. Main St. / P. O. Box 523, Pigeon, MI 48755. Dues are renewed at the annual meeting each year.

Individual Membership: \$20.00 (active member with voting privileges)

Life Membership: \$120.00 (active voting member with lifetime privileges)

Supporting Membership: \$15.00 (non-active supporting member)

Business Membership: \$20.00 or more (contributing member non-voting)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Be our guest and become a member!