

- EST. 1958 -

WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

VOLUME 4



PISANKI

Incredibly, the oldest surviving pisanki dates back to the 10th century. Pisanki are created by drawing on the eggs with the melted wax (natural beeswax is the best for this method) and then dipping them into dyes. This method is known as batik. Various tools were used for applying the wax on the eggs, such as pins, needles, penknives (koziki), different types of awls or simple straws, and pieces of wood.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

It is that time of year! The snow has melted, birds are singing, and trees are starting to bud. It's a great indication that spring is here! However with spring also comes weeds. They are a nuisance if you like to garden or enjoy your lawn looking pristine. Purple Dead Nettle, henbit, and dandelions are normally the first to appear. You could spray them with weed killer and hope for the best or you could pick them and use them to your benefit.

Purple Dead Nettle (pictured to the right) has many health benefits. It can help to gently cleanse the body and boost immunity because it is anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, and anti-fungal.



Once there is an abundance of it growing in my yard, I pick it. The majority of it will air dry so I can make teas, add it to pasta sauce and use it for everyday cooking. With the fresh dead nettle I love to make pesto and here is my recipe for it:

Purple Dead Nettle Pesto

- * 2 cups of purple dead nettle (flowers and leaves)
- * 5 cloves of garlic (I love garlic so tend to add more) 1/3 cup of olive oil
- * zest from 1 lemon
- * a pinch of salt
- * 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese (optional)

Rinse the purple dead nettle and set it aside.

Put your garlic in the food processor for 20-30 seconds .

Add the dead nettle, lemon zest, salt and cheese to your food processor until you have a paste.

Slowly mix in the olive oil and then you are ready to serve it and enjoy! We like to eat it on pasta or spread out on toast.

We are still collecting recipes, family stories, and pictures for a cookbook. Please email yours to us at wyandottehistory@gmail.com or mail them to:

Wyandotte Historical Society
 2624 Biddle Ave.
 Wyandotte, MI 48192-5208

Mary-Johna Wein, President

UPCOMING TOUR

Tour the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Saturday May 7, 2022 at 1:00 pm with the Wyandotte Historical Society!

Email wyandottehistory@gmail.com or call 734-324-7299 to reserve your spot. Spots are limited to the first 30 people. Please note transportation is not provided by the Historical Society.

Your visit will start on the battlefield, please meet at the pavilion with picnic tables under it. The tour will start on the battlefield and be given by Rusty Davis, whom is a well know historian. There will be a short walk and tour of the River Raisin Battlefield, which is the home to the largest battle fought in Michigan.

The Visitor Center is OPEN and offers a Diorama of the River Raisin settlement, orientation maps, ranger programs, basic park orientation, gift shop and theater. In the brand-new state of the art theatre, you can view the park's new film "The Untold Story of the River Raisin." For the theatre there is a charge of \$3:00 per person , \$5.00 per couple or \$10 per family (all from the same household) . The fees are charged by the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation with proceeds benefiting visitor education and interpretation and battlefield preservation. Education Center interactive exhibits.

The new Education Center is not open yet but as part of your tour and your Wyandotte connection you will be able to see the work that has been finished up to this point, which includes exhibits pertaining to the Old Northwest Territory, Great Lakes History, French settlement, Battles of the River Raisin and much more. The new Education Center Museum which will open later in 2022.

Marty Betera

What's Happening?



Work on restoring the exterior of the historic Ford MacNichol Home has begun. It is going to be a process. Stay tuned for detailed updates in future newsletters.

Ann Marston in Miss America

We all know Ann Marston – Wyandotte’s Golden Girl. If you do not, she was quite the lady. Born in England in 1938, she was trained as an archer from the time she was a small child by her father, Frank. She was named “England’s Most Perfect Baby” at two months old and she rocketed to stardom fast. She appeared in films and magazines as a child model and archer before moving to Wyandotte in 1951 where she lived with her parents.

She became a national archery champion and competed in pageants, before retiring from both in 1964 due to complications from an injury while bull riding and deteriorating blindness from diabetes.



During her archery and pageant years, she appeared in many TV shows and magazines, including the cover of Sport Illustrated on August 8, 1955. She managed the MC5 and other local bands until her vision rapidly deteriorated. She passed on March 6, 1971 at the age of 32 and is buried at Michigan Memorial Cemetery.

Her largest accomplishment in pageantry was her stint as Miss Michigan from 1959 into 1960, which gave her the opportunity to compete at Miss America. Alana Paluszewski, the author of *Shooting Star: The Amazing Life of Ann Marston*, recently donated her Ann Marston collection to the museum. The part of her collection that intrigued me was a large binder filled with photos and information from the 1959-60 Miss America pageant – including an original Miss America Pageant magazine.



The pageant took place at the Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey from September 9-11, 1959. Ann’s “vital statistics” state she was 5’7”, 118 pounds, had a 35” bust, 23” waist, 35” hips, was 21 at the time, and had blonde hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion. The judges panel consisted of six men and five women, including Major General Anthony J. Drexel Biddle (possibly related to John Biddle? – research for another day).

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PISANKI

(continued from the cover page)

The process of dyeing has to be organized from the lightest to the darkest colors of the dyes. The wax protects the parts of the eggshells underneath it from being dyed, and when it’s melted the patterns are revealed. The best eggs for this method are those with white eggshells. (In the past many housewives were putting the eggs into water with vinegar for a short time to make the eggshells whiter.)

When using many colors, application of the wax has to be planned precisely. First, you need to draw the lines that have to stay in the white color of the shells and then you put the egg into a dye (e.g., a yellow dye). Let it dry. Then, draw further lines on the dyed yellow parts with the wax. (Those parts will later stay yellow.) Put the egg into another dye (e.g., a red dye). Then, draw lines on the egg that will stay red – and so on. The last layer of dye was often either dark brown or black. In the end, the wax is melted or scratched off, revealing all the layers from the phases of dyeing in their respective colors.

Various regions of Poland had their own styles of decorations, but regardless of the ornament’s styling, this technique was the most widespread and therefore over time the word ‘pisanki’ became common as a reference to all kinds of the decorated Easter eggs in general. This method is also popular across other countries in Central and Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, Romania, Hungary, and so on).

Join us Friday April 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Marx home and learn how to make your very own pisanki. The class will be taught by Sue and Josh Halasy and the cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non members. Due to the limited seating please reserve a spot by emailing the Historical Society at wyandottehistory@gmail.com or leaving a phone message at (734) 324-7299.

Article written by Josh Halasy

Please Give a Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Honor Shoemaker
Michael Weber

Ann Marston in Miss America

(continued from page 3)

A Miss America parade took place on September 8th with Ann appearing almost right in the middle and her float was sponsored by the Merchants of Wyandotte. She appeared in the swimsuit competition on September 9, the evening gown competition on September 10, and the talent competition on September 11. Naturally, her talent was an archery demonstration, where she appeared in a sparkly Peter Pan-esque costume.



Her talent was by far the most unique of them all! Most of the 54 contestants did talents like “dramatic reading,” singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or acting (including a “dramatic impersonation of a Beatnik” by Miss New Jersey), but Ann was the only one to do any kind of sports demonstration.

Archery won her the talent award for the pageant and a \$1,000 scholarship (equivalent to about \$9,200 today), but sadly, she did not place in the overall competition and the crown went to Miss Mississippi, Lynda Lee Mead.



Still, she made great friends along the way, including Miss Nevada,



Dawn Wells, who later starred in *Gilligan’s Island* as Mary Ann Summers. The contestants would trade knick-knacks with each other during the pageant. We were lucky that Alana donated Miss Nevada’s button that was given to Ann, which included an engraved piece of silver with her name.

This is just a tiny snippet of Ann’s fantastic life – if you’re interested in more, buy *Shooting Star: The Amazing Life of Ann Marston!* Also check out other fascinating books written by Alana regarding Wyandotte history, including *Wyandotte at War: A Michigan Town Fights Back in WWII*.

Audrey Wicklander, Museum Assistant

Beloved Wife and Dearest Sister

Kathleen Rose Parish



Kathleen, born on July 9, 1953, lived in Wyandotte and was a long time member of our society. We are saddened that she is no longer with us. She was Howard’s wife for 50 years and Doug Golema’s sister, also members of our society, living in Wyandotte. Kathleen was a loving mother and a cherished grandmother.

To all of her family we wish moments of peace and comfort as you remember her life with you.

WANDERING OAKWOOD CEMETERY The Stielers

As you enter the far gates at Oakwood Cemetery you can't help but notice the Stielers. They are right by the street and greet you as you enter the cemetery.

Frank Stielers Sr. was born on March 13, 1838 in Germany. Frank Sr. was a merchant who owned and operated Stielers Market, a grocery store known for selling candy and tobacco. Frank Sr. married Augusta Martha Thon and together they had several children, one of them being George.



George was born around 1870 and died in 1872 at the age of two. In May 1873, Augusta gave birth to another son. They also gave him the name of George. (Today some might think it is strange but, in the past, it was done as a way of honoring your deceased.) In 1913 Frank Sr. passed away and in 1914 Augusta died too.

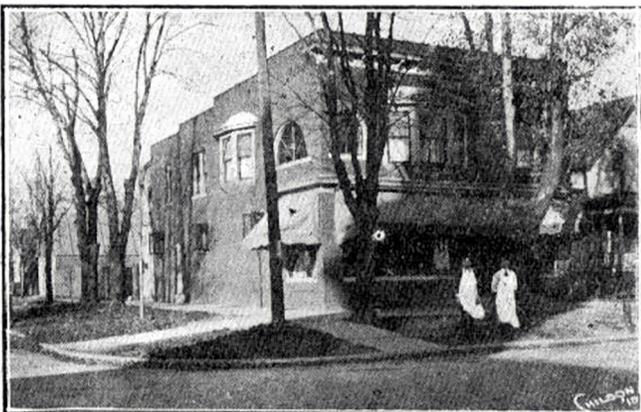
After the passing of Frank Stielers Sr, his son Frank took over the family grocery store at 464 Oak Street. Frank was born on November 27, 1864 in Wyandotte. Prior to running the family grocery store he worked in the iron mill and on November 15, 1888 he married Ms. Augusta Schamburg. Shortly after they were married, they started a family.



Once Frank retired his son Louis took over the family store, then eventually Louis's son Earl Stielers took over the family business.

Frank passed away on March 7, 1944. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit. His wife Augusta passed on March 10, 1951. She is buried right next to him in the family plot.

After 4 generations of Stielers and 75 years of service Stielers Market closed down. The doors closed in 1958 due to competition of Kroger and A&P moving into the area. Today the building no longer stands due to a fire; however, the Stielers name plate was salvaged from the building. The name plate was placed near the family headstones in the cemetery—and there are still pictures to remember the family store.



Mary-Johna Wein and Chris Stielers

Return Service Requested

Wyandotte Historical Society

Burns Home

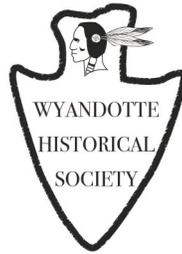
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Phone: (734) 324-7299

Email: wyandottehistory@gmail.com

Website: wyandottehistory.org



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Address Label

- **APRIL 8:** Make Your Own Pisanki at the Marx Home at 7:00 pm (*reservations only*; call or email the Wyandotte Historical Society)
- **APRIL 30 & MAY 1:** Local Artists Show, at the Ford-MacNichol Home at 11:00 am
- **MAY 7:** River Raisin Battlefield Museum in Monroe Michigan at 1:00 pm (*reservations only*; call or email the Wyandotte Historical Society)
- **MAY 13 thru 15:** Spring City Wide Garage Sale

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