

# JHA NEWSLETTER



## Issue 4, Oct/Nov/Dec 2018

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## JHA Update

We had two presentations at the Georgetown Twp. Connections [Senior Center] that were both well received. The Open Houses have been busy especially on the Tuesday Open Houses. The Grand Lady Boat Ride on Saturday was enjoyed by all. The sun was out and it was not raining, although it was a bit chilly. A beautiful autumn day for a lazy boat ride down the Grand River!

A big plus for us this year was the installation of a new furnace and air conditioning. It was due and we are so happy to have this project done.

Also, we are gearing up for the Christmas decorating. Can you believe its that time of the year already?? Hope you visit.

## Autumn In The City

When the leaves begin to fall on the sward,  
There's a mess that doth appeal in the yard.

Poets sing of autumn themes and wax glad,  
But it just means work, it seems, for poor old  
Dad! — W. S. A.

*Grand Rapids Press,  
October 1, 1917, page 6*



## Ohler Family & Store

### - Ohler Family -

Adam Ohler [b. Maryland 1836] married Mary Noel [b.1832 Pennsylvania] in Pennsylvania. They had a son, Jerome, born in 1854. This young couple with their son made their way from Pennsylvania to Grandville, Kent County, Michigan. In 1860, they are living in Grandville and Adam is listed as a blacksmith. In addition to Jerome, they had seven more children: Emma, Lydia, Mary A., Sherman, Benjamin F., Elizabeth and Agnes. Adam served in Company H., Michigan 21st Infantry Regiment from August 1864 mustering out in June 1865 at Washington DC. Adam returned to his family and his occupation as a blacksmith. Mary Noel Ohler died in 1885 at Grandville. Its unclear where and when Adam Ohler died.

Their son, Jerome Ohler [b. 1854, d.1925 Grandville] married in 1877 to Nellie Freeman [b.1854, d.1915 Grandville]. Jerome followed his father into the blacksmith trade. Jerome and Nellie had seven children: Louis P., Fred J., Claude T., Adam, Bertha [1884-1887], Mabel [1887-1888] and Charles, his dates unknown but known to have died young.

Louis P. Ohler [b.1878] married March 1901 to Amber Agnes Hansen of Jenison. On the marriage record Louis is listed as a "bookkeeper." They resided in Jenison. Fred J. Ohler [b.1880] ] married in June 1897 to Abbie Stilwell of Jamestown and they also resided at Jenison. Claude T. Ohler [b.1883] married Lila L. Simpson of Grand Rapids in May 1910 and they resided in Grandville. Adam W. Ohler [b. 1885] married in 1908 to Elsie M. Neumeister of Ohio. Adam left Michigan prior to 1908. He became co-owner in



a prosperous firm they called Ohler & Holzhauser Plumbing, which is still in operation today. He was electrocuted on the job and died, at age 43.



### **Thrown from Wagon.**

(Special to The Evening Press.)

Jenison, May 18.—While unloading fence wire at his warehouse Louis P. Ohler, senior partner of Ohler Bros., general merchants, was thrown from the wagon when his horses became frightened and sustained severe bruises and other injuries.

- Ohler Bros. General Store -

These are the facts of the property ownership: On May 20, 1884, L & L Jenison sold Lot #171 of Jenisonville to Hiram Andre, [Liber 54, page 273]. Jacob Andre sold it to Cornelius Andre Sept. 22, 1900, [Liber 102, page 55]. Ida Andre sold to Cassie Andre

Bouma Nov. 12, 1901, [Liber 107, page 427]. Cassie Andre Bouma then sold it to Louis Ohler January 1, 1904 [Liber 115, page 210].

In the book, *Andre's Crossing*, it states that Hiram Andre set up his sons, John and Cornelius, in business in 1884. Its not known if the building was already there or if the Andres built it. The book says that John and Cornelius was having a problem with "balancing the cash register" and Hiram closed the business down.

Fred J. Ohler's obituary states that Fred and Louis Ohler formed a co-partnership on January 5, 1904, just four days after Louis bought the property. By 1910, younger brother, Claude, was working in the store and living with Louis and family. During their ownership, when a Republican was in office, the post office was located in the Ohler store. Its also said that the Ohlers were always "generous with the free candy rations." The Ohler Bros. General Store stood next to the old boarding house in which Luman Jenison lived for many years and across the road from the L&L Store.



After Fred died. Louis and Claude carried on the business until 1927/8 when they sold the business. In 1929, the building was torn down and replaced with a new brick building.

Fred J. Ohler died in 1916, Claude T. Ohler died in 1930, Louis P. Ohler died in 1939 and their brother Adam Ohler died in Ohio in 1929. For 24 years the Ohler Brothers ran a successful grocery store and left their mark on Jenison.

## DECLARES CITY SEEMS TO DISCOURAGE TRADE

F. J. Ohler of Ohler Bros., general merchants of Jenison, does not find fault with the amount which the city collects in license fee from produce wholesalers, but he objects to the principle of being taxed for coming here to do business. The license fee is \$5. "I come to town about twice a week to deliver butter and eggs to regular customers and then I make the rounds of the wholesale houses to buy from \$100 to \$500 worth of stock for the store," he said Monday morning. "The amount of stuff I bring in to sell is insignificant compared with the goods I buy. To make me pay a license seems an imposition. Cities usually try to encourage trade but the policy here seems to be to drive it away."

-July 13, 1914-



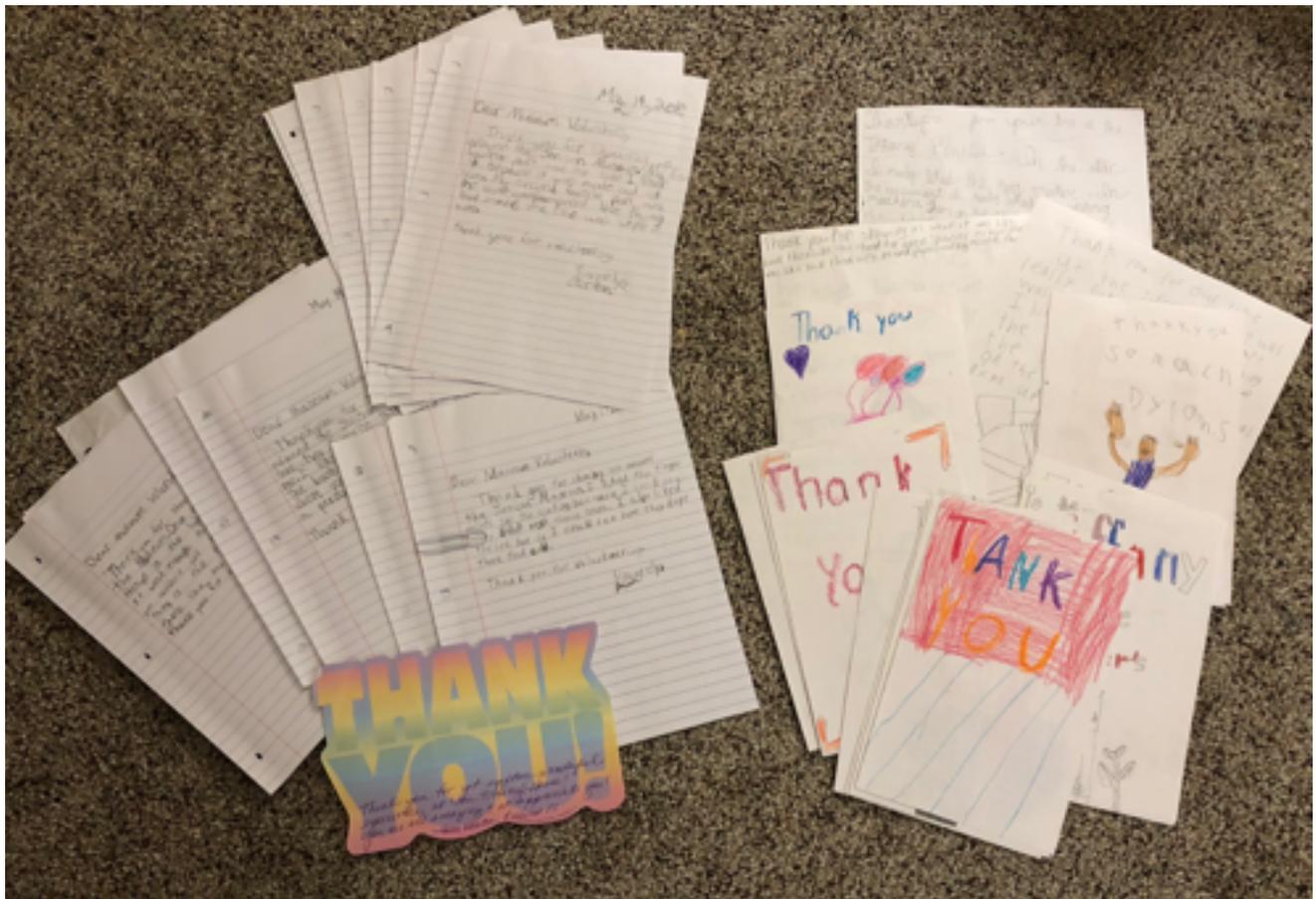
**L - R:  
livery stable; L&L Store; Ohler Bros. Store**

*Sources for this story: Death Records, Obituaries, Marriage Records, Census Records, "Bend In the River" & "Andre's Crossing" books, JHA Files, Grand Rapids Press, The News-Messenger, Sandusky Ohio.*

## Editor's Desk

Have questions or suggestions? please email me at: [grmira@yahoo.com](mailto:grmira@yahoo.com)

Would like to give a shout out to last year's 3rd graders from Pinewood and Rosewood schools. We received your wonderful Thank You letters and cards. We have enjoyed all your comments and drawings. Your letters have made us feel very good. Its nice to know that our work is enjoyed and appreciated. Please come for another visit sometime.



## JHA Trustees

**Chair** - Liz Timmer [2019]  
457-3708

**Vice Chair/Curator/Tours** -  
Ken Williams [2019]  
772-6523

**Treasurer** - Ruth Lowing [2019]  
540-4709

**Social Secretary** -  
Nellie DeLaat [2019]  
457-1193

**Recording Secretary** -  
Linda Droog [2018]  
457-3016

**Archivist** - Barb Semeyn [2019]  
457-9343

**Maintenance/Historian** -  
Mike Timmer [2019]  
531-1218

**Trustees** -  
Yvonne Williams [2019]  
772-6523

**Gene Kort [2019]**  
534-6769

**Township Rep-** Becky Steele

**Editor** - Ronnie Aungst  
780-1056

## Museum Location

28 Port Sheldon Road - Jenison, MI. 49428  
Phone: 616-457-4398

## Meeting Schedule

Meetings are open to the public and held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:45 pm. Please note the location.

### **Dates for 2018/19:**

October 18 - Georgetown Twp. Library  
November 15 - Georgetown Twp. Library  
December - no meeting  
January 17, 2019 - TBD

## Contact Information

Contact Trustees at their phone number or leave a message at 457-4398 or [info@jenisonhistory.org](mailto:info@jenisonhistory.org) or find us on Facebook at Jenison History Association.

## Membership

Become a member and support the local history and museum. We have members from the teens into the 80s. Please join us.

Membership is just \$10 per year.

Forms on last page.

## **JHA Museum Open Houses**

**Also by Appointment - call 616-457-4398 or 774-6523 [Ken Williams]**

### **GRAND RIVER LANDINGS**

**October 20 - 2 to 4 pm.**

**November 6 - 10 to Noon**

### **CHRISTMAS AT THE JENISON MUSEUM**

**December 8 - 1 to 4 pm**

**January 5, 2019 - 2 to 4 pm.**

### **Volunteer**

Come to any meeting or open house or you can contact us at 616-457-4398 to leave a message. There's plenty of opportunities. We can help you find your niche.

### **Gift Shop**

We have many Jenison History items available for purchase. They make great presents for your history lover and support the museum. Some items include: Bend In The River book, ornaments, historical drawings and stationary.

Find us on the registry of the Historical Society of Michigan at [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org)

**MEMBERSHIP or GIFT FORMS**

Yes, I wish to support the Jenison Historical Association (JHA) and Museum.

**MEMBERSHIP -**

Contact Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for 2019 JHA membership. [\$10.00 per year]  
*Membership runs January through December.*

**GIFT -**

This gift is made in memory/honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail an acknowledgement to:

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL enclosed.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO - Jenison Historical Association

**MAIL TO:**

28 Port Sheldon, Box PO. 664, Jenison, MI. 49428