**History of the Oakland County Flag**

| Year/Date | |
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| March 1940 | In honor of the first Citizenship Day observed in Oakland County on May 19, 1940, a competition was held that was open to all Oakland County residents. The goal was to have people submit a design for an Oakland County "emblem" which could be adapted to for use on both 'shield and flag'<br><br>The emblem was to be used at a ceremony of the induction of new voters (21 year olds) as well as decorations for 'the cities and towns' on that day.<br><br>Judging was based on two criteria:<br>1. The idea presented – specifically its value as an Oakland County emblem<br>2. The design – specifically its value as decoration and adaptability for use on a County flag. |
| April 1940 | Five people, including Marshall Fredericks a famous sculptor, were chosen to serve as the 'jury' to judge the Oakland Couty Emblem Competition. When they met in April of 1940, the group decided that no submitted design could be adapted in a way that could be used on both the county shield and flag. The committee's major complaint about the majority of the designs was that they were too complex and complicated.<br><br>However, they awarded the $5.00 prize to Sidney D. Strong, Village Manager of Oak Park. His design consisted of a white shield with an oak leaf and flaming torch as its symbols. The jury apparently hoped his design could be further developed into something that could be used for Citizenship Day.<br><br><br>Marshall Fredericks - https://marshallfredericks.org/ |

September, 1940

The J. L. Hudson Company of Detroit created a county flag for each of Michigan's 83 counties. The company reported that the designs were created with the cooperation of county schools, county clerks, community groups and others.

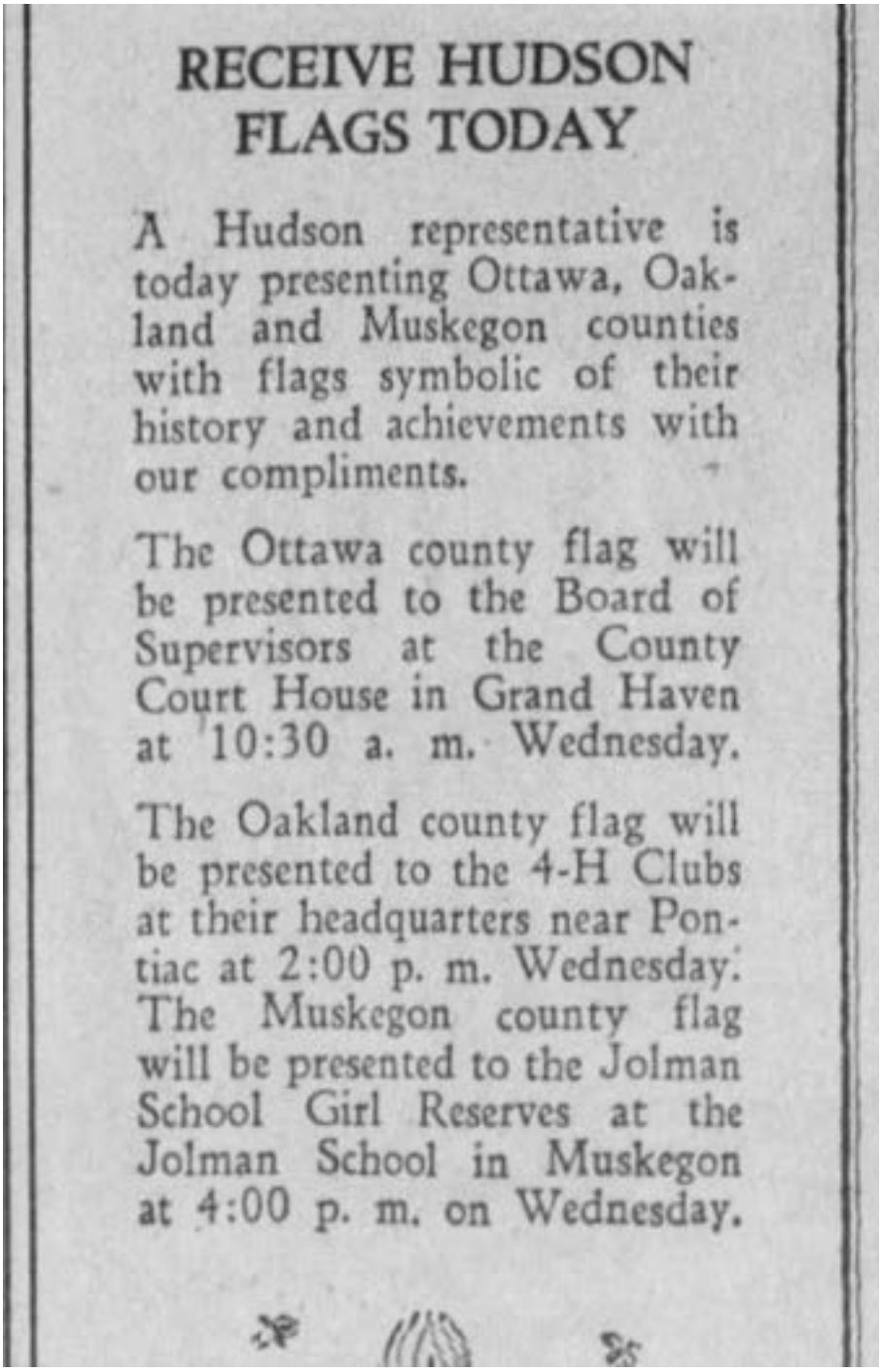



A booklet was published with a black and white photo of each flag. It appears that Sidney Strong's design was used in the Oakland County flag that was created by the J.L. Hudson company.

The shield of the flag was outlined in blue and surrounded by white and red squares. The shield itself was gold. See



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| August 13, 1941 | A representative of the J.L. Hudson company presented the Oakland County flag to the 4-H Clubs at their headquarters near Pontiac. This flag which was made of silk and measured 5 feet by 8 feet in size but seems to have disappeared. |



## RECEIVE HUDSON FLAGS TODAY

A Hudson representative is today presenting Ottawa, Oakland and Muskegon counties with flags symbolic of their history and achievements with our compliments.

The Ottawa county flag will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at the County Court House in Grand Haven at 10:30 a. m. Wednesday.

The Oakland county flag will be presented to the 4-H Clubs at their headquarters near Pontiac at 2:00 p. m. Wednesday. The Muskegon county flag will be presented to the Jolman School Girl Reserves at the Jolman School in Muskegon at 4:00 p. m. on Wednesday.

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| | However, two smaller flags of the same design but of coarser material somehow ended up in a box in the court house attic.<br> |
| 1962 | During the demolition of the court house the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society (OCPHS) salvaged some boxes from the attic including the one with the two flags. A member of the Society described the boxes as being filled with 'odds and ends.' The box was stored away by the OCPHS and the flags were forgotten.<br> |

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| 1965 | Henry Booth who had been one of the original members of the jury selected for the Citizenship Day Emblem contest, presented the OCPHS with a flag that was apparently a smaller version of the one created by the J.L Hudson company and even smaller than the two from the court house.<br> |
| 1965 | William H. McCann, an elementary teacher in Madison Heights, found one of the books the J.L. Hudson Company had created with the Michigan county flags. He began a search to try and locate the Oakland County flag. Eventually he made contact with Mrs. Donald E. Adams, president of Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. She told him she thought the flag he was looking for might be in the box that had been 'gathering dust.' |
| 1966 | Mrs. Adams presented one of the flags to Delos Hamlin, chairman of the County Board of Supervisors. It appears she chose the smallest flag which had been donated to OCPHS by Mr. Booth. |
| 1970 | The Local Affairs Committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners was given the task of reviewing designs for a county flag. As part of the process, they reviewed the flag that had been given to Chairman Hamlin. In addition, they considered 8 additional designs. They narrowed the choices down to four designs which were submitted to the Board of Commissioners for the final selection. The flag with the emblem designed in 1940 was not one of the four. A flag with a green background and a maize oak tree was selected by the Board of Commissioners. |
| May 21, 1970 | The Board of Commissioners officially adopted the green and maize flag as the Oakland County Flag<br> |
| 2026 | Currently the location of two flags found in the court house attic are unknown. |