

# The Milford Historian

VOLUME 41/ NO 5

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September/October 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sept. 19 - General Membership Meeting** at the Milford United Methodist Church on Atlantic St. Potluck dinner at 6:30 with meeting at 7 pm. Guest speaker - Evolution of Bicycles by Don Wilson.  
Potluck - A—F- Salad G—Q—Deserts Q—Z—Main Dish

**Sept 21 & 22—Home Tour** (see below)

**Oct 17 - General Membership Bonus Meeting** - 7 PM at the Milford Library- Speaker from the Motor City Ghostbusters discussing paranormal activities that they investigate - no potluck dinner for this meeting

**November 16 - Fall Tea at the Mary Jackson House**

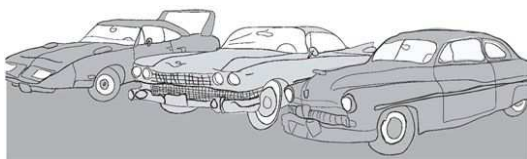
## Milford Home Tour—2013

MILFORD  
HOME  
TOUR

3RD WEEKEND  
IN SEPTEMBER

September is Home Tour month in Milford. This is the 37th annual Home Tour and takes place this year on **September 21 & 22**. The five homes on the tour this year will be open from 11 AM until 5 PM both days. Also open during the tour are the Log Cabin on W. Huron St (by the fire house) and the Pettibone Creek Powerhouse next to Central Park off W. Liberty St.

There will also be cemetery walks through Oak Grove Cemetery. Tickets are \$15 (\$13 for seniors) and may be purchased in advance at Main Street Art, Acorn Farm, Your Nesting Place, the Milford Township office, the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce office or at the Historical Museum.



On Sunday the annual **Milford Car Show** will take up Main Street from Commerce Rd to GM Rd. Over 300 cars are expected. The show starts

(Continued on page 5)

## From Your President, Carol Watkins



This is a busy and wonderful time of year for the Milford Historical Society. We were active in Milford Memories, we hosted a Chamber of Commerce Coffee Club gathering (serving dishes from the Mary Jackson Tea Cookbook) at the museum, interacted with the Haven Hills people, played characters at the Milford Country Fair, attended the Oak Grove Cemetery walk about exceptional women from Milford (Great job, Linda Dagenhardt!) and Home Tour is just weeks away (see the article opposite).

We will be in character mode at the Kensington Fall Festival, with another Tea being planned at the Mary Jackson house in November. One of our special meetings with the Motor City Ghost Hunters is planned in October at the library, plus our regular General meetings in September and November with the potluck dinners – all of these give us opportunities to learn more about history, support our community, and enjoy each other's company.

I want to thank some very special people who have been behind the scenes – Jared Clouse has been invaluable at the museum and in each event while writing his historical book. Sue Grifor and Kimberly Rinz have helped in the museum gardens (along with Jared) and, just to let you know, the herb garden will be replaced with a tree in the Fall.

As for the Board of Directors, we are planning a retreat in January to strategize events for the coming year and budget accordingly. We are active again in finishing several projects at the Powerhouse and helping, where we can, to get the Powerhouse operational (if possible), and fully integrated with the planned Amphitheater in the park.

There has been some interest expressed by some of our members in trying to acquire the old train station in the abandoned Iverson Lumber yard. We could then restore it to its original glory and add a small train museum, plus a community center for the area. Wouldn't it be great to have the old historic trains that travel through Michigan include Milford and stop at our station? Please let me know if you have an interest in that potential project.

(Continued on page 5)



**Our Mission Statement:** We are organized exclusively for educational purposes. We bring together people who are interested in history, especially the history of the village of Milford & Milford Township.

# MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rich Harrison 248-935-5556

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### MUSEUM STAFF/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-

MARLENE GOMEZ 248-685-7308

(Home Tour Weekend -Continued from page 1)

at 10 AM. To learn how to sign up for the Car Show go to [www.milfordcarshow.com](http://www.milfordcarshow.com)



Also on Sunday the Tractor Show will be out at the Huron Valley State Bank at GM Rd and S. Milford Rd from 11 AM until 5 PM

At 11 AM on Sunday the Milford Rotary Club will kick off family activities for their annual Milford Duck Race. There will be games and activities for the family. Duck Race Tickets are available from MHS Board member Rich Harrison or any Rotary Club member and are \$5 each, 6 for \$25, a bag of 30 for \$100. 1st Prize \$2000 cash! The ducks hit the water at 2 PM.



And now a word about our sponsors

## MILFORD TIMES

The Home Tour has great sponsor support with **The Milford Times** once again taking the top **Platinum level**

*Meet Me in Milford*

The **Milford DDA** returns as a **Gold level**

sponsor, joined this year at the **Gold level** by **Veterinary Care Specialists 24-Hour Veterinary Hospital & VCS Pets First.**



At the **Silver level** are our State Senator **Mike Kowall** and his wife, our State Representative **Eileen Kowall.**

The Kowall's are the first married couple to serve concurrently in the state legislature. Milford falls within the legislative Districts of the Kowalls and we certainly welcome their support and look forward to having them as members of the Society.



Also at the **Silver level** is well-known local builder **M. J. Whelan.**



New for this year is the **Bronze Level** sponsorship and we had three local companies step up to that level—



**Anytime Fitness**, out at the old

Farmer Jacks shopping center,

**The Huron Valley State Bank**, with locations in



Milford and Highland and **Blue Grill—Mediterranean Fresh—**restaurant in Downtown Milford.

All of the sponsors names will be on the shingles that hang below the Home Tour banners. In addition to their sponsorship, the Huron Valley State Bank also had a great billboard put up on the north end of town with all of the Home Tour weekend events advertised.



In addition to sponsors, there is a Supporters category which also gets a shingle on a banner. We have lots of supporters this year— 2 Moms and a Mop, Your Nesting Place, Main Street Art, Tige Reader - Remax, Acorn Farm, Interoffice Construction, Wildcat Properties, Lafontaine Buick – Cadillac - GMC, Brook & Jay Qualman, U of M Kellogg Eye Center, Norm Werner – Realtor, Kensington Dairy Queen, The Monthly Shopper, Brien's Services, the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce, Americus Coney &

(Continued on page 5)

## The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

**Milford Historical Society**

published bimonthly (six times per year)



**Editor: Norm Werner**

**Email: [Historian@milfordhistory.org](mailto:Historian@milfordhistory.org)**



## Studying the Possibilities

By Rich Harrison

The Historical Society's involvement with the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Powerhouse has had many facets since the restoration project began. The exterior restoration work and interior cleanup are largely finished, with the exception of the landscaping and signage work

yet to be completed.

As preliminary work to a possible next step, a group of local engineers has been meeting since spring of this year with the purpose of determining the integrity of the powerhouse "flume" (water supply pipe). A common misconception is the Powerhouse gets its water from the Mill Pond on the other side of Liberty. The Powerhouse actually gets its water from Moore Lake through a four foot diameter steel pipe.



If and when the Powerhouse is retrofitted to generate electricity again it will need a flume that doesn't leak or rupture. The engineering team also needs to know if there are objects such as

rocks, tree branches and trash in the flume that could get pulled into generators and damage them.

So the first step was to inspect the interior of the flume with a video camera. Now this flume begins at the South end of Moore Lake and continues Southward under the Rite Aid parking lot and continues under North Milford Road, the railroad, Commerce Road and under the Mill Pond into the Powerhouse lower level. From there the water is discharged into Pettibone Creek. This happens 24 hours a day



365 days a year for the past seventy-three years. Now you can see why the engineers wanted to check the interior integrity of the pipe.

August 23 2013 on a rainy early morning the engineers worked with Pipeline Management Company. A

Milford-based drain & sewer inspection company, owned by Ben DiPonio, which had volunteered to inspect the entire length with a video camera. They started in the Rite Aid parking lot and went North and South with the cameras. They also went to the Moore Lake Intake and

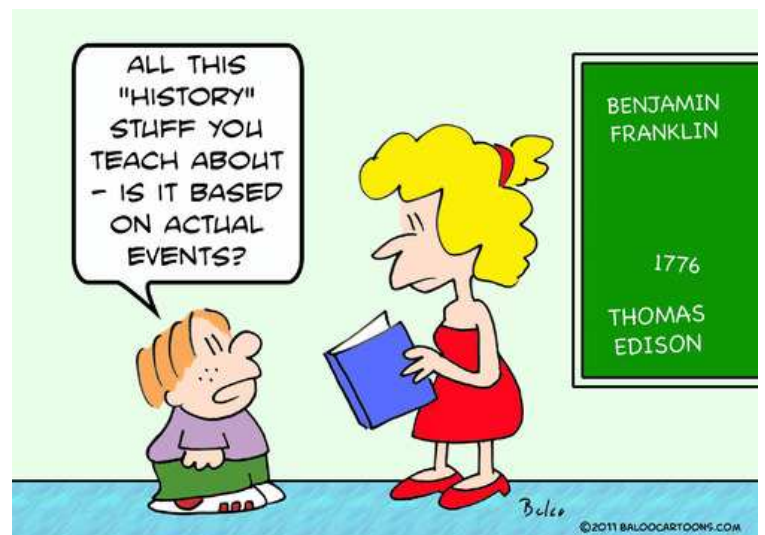


videod South from there.

This took most of the day and to passers-by it must have looked a lot like something out of a sci-fi movie, with robot cameras and operators sitting in vans chocked full of monitors. You kept expecting some movie star like Tom Cruise to pop up out of the flume at any moment.



One can be grateful that there are generous individuals with the enough passion or belief that the Powerhouse can again generate power to donate two men and a truck loaded with technology for the day. I'll continue to report the progress. on this project.



## Upcoming Meeting Programs

September Meeting Thursday Sept. 19, 2013, 6:30 P. M. at Milford Methodist Church 1200 Atlantic Street. Milford, MI - Bicycle Avenue

Do you remember where you were when you took that first solo ride on your own two wheels? I do... I remember riding my friend Jill Anderson's blue and red bike up East St. I was a little wobbly but happy and upright.

Our September Speaker Don Wilson will be speaking on The Evolution of the Bicycle. Post Master Michael Schragg could not be with us but will speak at our Nov. Meeting. Don retired from National Cash Register in 1993. He is a member of the Flushing Area Historical Society since 1984 and currently their Treasurer.



Our Speaker collected vintage bikes in the past but now only has three vintage bikes (pre-1910) in his collection, Presently he just collects photos and postcards which he had done for several years. Don will be focusing on bicycles from 1800-1930. He will share the most interesting ones with us. Also we will see pictures of what was the "in" thing to wear for bicycle riders of the time.

A Milford Moment in History: Bicycling was the latest craze in the 1890's and Milford was caught up in it like every other town. Miss Carrie Fisher new editor and a rider herself of the Times referred Liberty Street (our tree lined boulevard where Village Butcher is today) as "Bicycle Avenue". Each time a new "wheel" was purchased the Times reported it and encouraged the formation of a chapter of the League of American Wheelmen. Young ladies were not left out and in 1892 twenty-three safety bicycles were riding down Liberty Street with nine being the female kind.

### Ghosts at the Milford Library?

Thursday Oct. 17, meeting at 7:00 P.M. will be at the Milford Library. This is **NOT a Potluck** so just bring yourselves, family and friends. The Milford Historical Society and the Milford Library have joined forces to bring the Motor City Ghosthunters to Milford.

Oct. is Ghost month and co-founder and lead investigator John McCormick graciously put us down in his calendar to speak this busy month.

The month of October their group usually speaks every day. They all have day jobs and seek out ghosts (called paranormals) on their own time and do not charge a dime. Their list on line where they have spoken is quite impressive and also a list of where they have investigated activity.

With 30 years of experience MC Ghosthunters deliver an extensive range of professional services and support at absolutely no cost to their clients. John told me last year that they possibly might have

their own program on the Travel Channel. Maybe he can tell us more that evening on this subject. They have also been on newscasts, television and newspapers. You can Google MC Ghosthunters and go to their website and see for yourself what it's all about and if it's something you would be interested in listening to

Their motto is "Let us drive away your fears of the paranormal". Not recommended for children under 12. The MC Ghosthunters truly believe in what they do and will show evidence of that. There are believers and non believers, Who knows? Maybe this can change a few opinions."Are there really paranormals?" We hope you come and just enjoy the evening with the MC Ghosthunters. **Again this is NOT a Potluck.** Milford Library is off West Commerce Rd on 330 Family Drive. Milford. 248-684-0845

November 21st 2013 meeting will be back at the Methodist Church with our famous Holiday Potluck with Post Master Michael Shraggs.



### MUSEUM NEWS

We want to thank everyone who helped out during Milford Memories especially Carol Watkins and Sue Gumpfer who pulled it altogether. I also want to thank Kelly Hier, Jordyn Pair, Anna MacDougall, Jared Clouse, Kate Morgan and Mary Lou for helping out on that busy weekend.

Everyone seemed to have a good time at the Chamber of Commerce coffee social at the museum on August 16th. We had wonderful treats to serve along with the coffee, juice and water. There were many docents on hand to answer questions and show off our museum for the 30+ Chamber members in attendance (see pictures above and on page 6).

We have had four requests for historical house date plaques in the last two months. And we have three potential student docents we will be interviewing soon to start at the museum. Other than that, we will start concentrating on getting ready for our annual Homes Tour on Sept. 21 and 22.

Submitted by Marlene Gomez

(From Your President—Continued from page 1)

We are working on some National Historic Signs for certain areas of Milford and, we continue to collect stories for the 20th century book/s about Milford. There is interest in having a group of children's actors revitalize the "Milford Memories" play. There is also a list of famous people from Milford through the years that need research and people to work them into living characters – attending various events in character to teach groups about the history of Milford (and have fun!). Some of us have a wonderful time

We need you! Pick a project, and help with the research, or paperwork. You could host an event such as a wine-tasting party at your home and the wine merchant will donate a dollar for each bottle sold. Set up the actors' group. Gather stories for the book. Help publish a book about the businesses on Main Street – the research is done, but the book needs to be compiled.

Walking Tours need to be updated, too; and perhaps recorded for smart phones. And while we now have four wonderful people adding photos and information to PastPerfect (Thank you! Thank you!) there is always more to do. Be a Greeter at the General Meetings.

A big thanks to all of our membership for your support and encouragement through the years. You are our rock... talk to me, what can we do for you to bring history to life? You may email me if you'd like at [info@milfordhistory.org](mailto:info@milfordhistory.org) or just seek me out at the next general membership meeting and let's discuss your interest in helping.

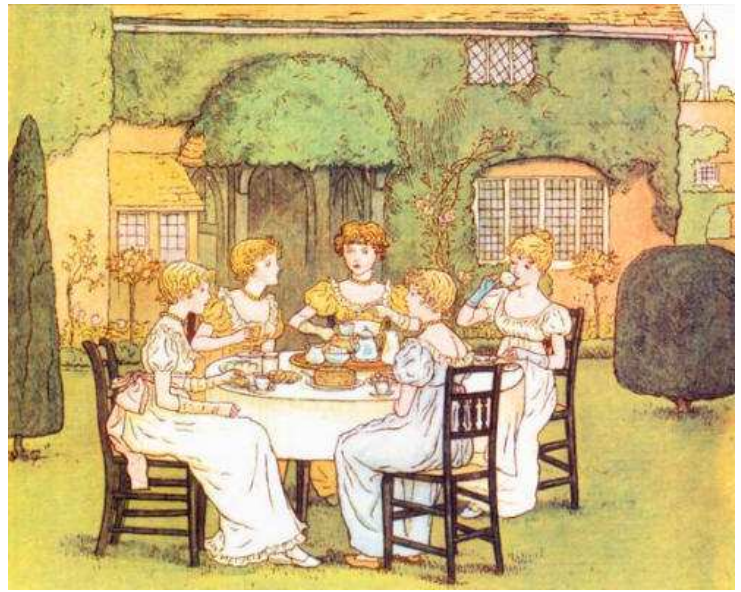
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(Home Tour—Continued from page 2)

Grill, Tavern 131, the Digital Document Store, Milford House Bar & Grill, Tequilaritas, 210 Main St, The Burger Joint, Mark Khoury – State Farm Insurance, The Horse Blanket Headquarters, Allegra Printing and Imaging, Downtown Garage, Village Pizza and BBQ, Milford Feed Store and The Tyler family, the J. Watkins Family, Bakers of Milford and Szott Auto Group.

The contributions of this group of sponsors and supporters helps fund the operation of the Museum and supports our docent scholarship program. We encourage the Historical Society membership to patronize the businesses of our sponsors.

The 2013 Home Tour will also feature a special Civil War Memorial Program honoring Milford Civil War veteran in Oak Grove Cemetery. The Log Cabin in South Side Park will be open and feature activities for the young and young at heart. Tour the Power House to view the renovations and hear about possible future uses. The museum will be open and features a display of Milford Area Civil War Memorabilia. The Privy Dig will take place on both days this year at three sites located near the tour home route— 524 Hickory both days and on Sat. and Sun. at 615 Hickory or 423 East Street with the order TBD. Watch for signs to direct you to the dig sites.



### Save the Date - Fall Tea

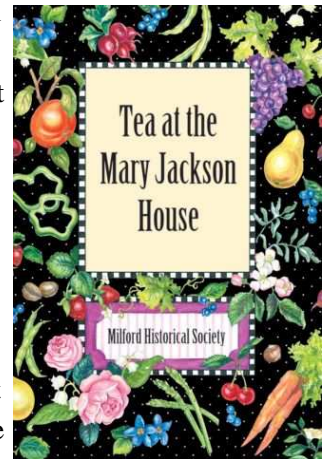
On Saturday, November 16, 2013, The Milford Historical Society will be hosting a Fall Tea fundraiser to benefit the Mary Jackson House and will be held at the childhood home of Mary Jackson. Guest can choose from two seating's— 11 AM to 1 PM and 2 PM to 4 PM.

Each guest will enjoy savories and sandwiches, scones with lemon curd, jam or cream, assorted desserts and tea, coffee and punch. A fashion show will take place during each tea.

Tickets for the Fall tea are \$25.00 and can be purchased at The Acorn Farms (367 N. Main St), Main Street Art (432 N. Main St), Milford Township Office (1100 Atlantic Street) or at the Milford Historical Museum (124 E. Commerce St.) beginning Home Tour Weekend. All proceeds will go directly to the preservation of the Mary Jackson House.

For more information, please call 248-685-7308 or email – [milfordhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:milfordhistory@hotmail.com) or visit the Historical Society web site at [www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org)

On sale at the Fall Tea will be the cook book **Tea at the Mary Jackson House**, which contains the recipes for the various goodies served at the Teas, both sweet and savory. Books are \$15 apiece and are designed to be updated by adding pages as the ladies of the Historical Society add new recipes to future Tea menus.



# Milford Historical Society

124 East Commerce

Milford, Michigan 48381

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MILFORD, MI

Pictures of visitors and hosts from the recent Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce Coffee Club visit to the Museum



**P**lease enroll me/us as a member(s) of the Milford Historical Society:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Milford Historical Society, 124 East Commerce, Milford MI 48381

Phone: 248-685-7308 Be sure to visit us on the web:

**www.milfordhistory.org and "like" us on Facebook.**

### Annual Member Dues:

Student	\$5	Family	\$25
Senior	\$10	Lifetime	\$250
Individual	\$15	Small Business	\$50
Corporation	\$250+		