

The Milford Historian

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 and Milford Township.*

July 2007 Picnic

It's time once again for our annual picnic, and there's no better way to enjoy a pleasant summer afternoon than with our historical society family. This year we will be the guests of Russ and Katherine Rheume. The Rheume's home is located at 12311 Will Mill Drive in Brighton Township. Directions to our picnic spot will be available at the museum and on our website (www.milfordhistory.org). Our potluck lunch will begin at 2:00 p.m. and, because it is a picnic, you will need to bring a lawn chair or two.

So pack your picnic basket and bring your favorite summertime dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name, as shown below. Remember, you don't have to be a member of the Society to enjoy a pleasant summer afternoon with people interested in history. All are welcome!

July 2007 Picnic

Sunday, July 22, 2007
2:00 p.m.



Russ and Kathy Rheume's Home
12311 Will Mill Drive, Brighton Twp

<u>A-G</u>	<u>H-R</u>	<u>S-Z</u>
Dessert	Hot Side Dish	Salad
Everyone: lawn chairs, table service & beverage		

From Your President

"The Right Place at the Right Time," is the title of the second chapter in our history book *Ten Minutes Ahead of the World*. For many of us, Milford holds a special place in our heart. No matter where we travel, most of us find our way back to this community. Recently, I had a chance to speak with descendants of our founding fathers and listen to the stories of their families. Each time, I could sense their pride in their family heritage and this community.

Mary Jackson once said that she believed Milford was the center of everything. It was the midway point between California and New York. She felt lucky that, no matter where she went, she could always find comfort in her home in Milford, Michigan.

When the MHS Board of Directors was considering a celebration for Milford Township's 175th anniversary, we knew we would be taking on a big task. Summer is always a difficult time to execute an event of any kind. Add to this the difficulty of finding volunteers to plan and staff such a party. Then came the question, how do we fund such an undertaking? But this community came through. A committee was formed and local businesses were happy to chip in. That's what makes living in our small community so special.

Although smaller than some past celebrations, we had a quality event centering around the historical society's 4th of July Parade that featured two wagons carrying descendants of Milford's early settlers. This was followed by an excellent 1880's style musical concert in Central Park. Cooperating weather and the largest parade crowd ever made for a great celebration of both our community's beginning and our country's independence. Milford's founding fathers gathered in this location because they believed it was the "right place," and today, with the many families moving to our community, it continues to be the "right place!"

So I tip my hat to the 4th of July Parade Committee lead by **Kathy and Russ Rheume** and their band of helpers, as well as to the 175th Anniversary Committee of **Robert Crawford, Dave Chase, Lee Johnson and Sue Gumper**. Job well done, everyone! Also, a special "thank you" goes to the businesses and families that donated to our celebration. They are **Leon and Shela Shuler, Ned and June Watkins, Milford Florist, Milford Township, National Bank, Lynch and Sons Funeral Directors, Ripples on the Lake, CSX Railroad, White Lake Supermarket, Century 21 Meck, Arms Brothers, St. George's Café, Clothing Cove, Milford Bakery, Rottermonds, Jewelry, Health Mart, Milford Mane Care, and Colasanti's**.

So, here we are in mid-July. You'd think we could now take a well-deserved breather and relax. But, while the last six months have been hectic, the next six months will be equally busy. Mid-July means we are in the midst of planning Home Tour 2007. And, by the time you receive your newsletter, this year's homes will have been selected and we'll be researching their history. I'm also happy to say that, once again, the Milford Historical Society will partner with Oak Grove Cemetery to include a cemetery walk on that weekend. This year's walk will feature the graves and stories of our founding fathers, extending our 175th Celebration into September. This should be a spectacular weekend.

Many people have asked whether Mary Jackson's home will be on this year's home tour. This question has received much consideration along with a related and larger question. Specifically, what is the best way to pay tribute to Mary Jackson and her gracious gift to this community? A committee was formed and the decision was made to honor Mary and her home with a separate and special open house. Saturday, October 13, 2007 was selected as the date and tickets will be sold during the weekend of Home Tour 2007. Details are still being worked out. Stay tuned. More information will follow in our September newsletter.

In closing I would like to thank our many volunteers. In an organization such as ours, volunteers are the heart and soul of our group. We truly could not operate without you. Some of you have contributed your valuable time to us for years. I sincerely thank you for your unfailing support. This year new contributors have stepped forward within our family. To you, I extend a special thank you. There are many worthwhile groups in our town looking for help. Knowing you chose to help the Historical Society makes me a blessed President.

Sue Bullard, President

See the Mary Jackson home for free

Sue Bullard has put together work sessions at the Mary Jackson home at 10:00 a.m. on both Saturday, July 28th and Sunday, July 29th. Your considerable talents and skills are requested to clean windows, trim shrubs and perform numerous other important tasks in preparation for the home's special debut open house on Saturday, October 13th. This is an ideal way to volunteer in support of your historical society...and see the home up close and personal.

Granny's Attic Sale July 13th & 14th

Don't miss it

The event you've been waiting for is finally here! There are some especially great treasures this year, so shop early. The sale starts at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 13th and continues on Saturday, July 14th. Importantly, remember that your Historical Society receives the proceeds from every sale. Granny thanks you.



Museum reopened for 2007

Visit our new display honoring military service

The Museum reopened on May 2nd. Our 2007 May through December hours follow: Wednesday and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. New evening hours will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month the museum is open.

Museum news

We would like to thank **Will Young** for his help cleaning the second story windows at the Museum. No one else wanted to get up there – but he didn't mind. Now we can see out of those windows! Thanks a lot Will!

We also thank **Beverly DeMan** for volunteering at the Museum every couple of Wednesdays while she is off for the summer. She's been a big help and is very enthusiastic. She worked especially hard trimming and pulling weeds all around the Museum. The place looks so nice – thanks Beverly!

We are pleased to welcome two new student docents: **Catherine Heykoop** from Lakeland High School and **Kari Boyd** from Milford High School. We look forward to working with them.

We had school tours on five Wednesdays in May and June – Kurtz Elementary had two days and Country Oaks Elementary had three days. These were second-graders. They were very lively, but fun.

We also had fun with the Highland Historical Society who came in on a Tuesday evening for their "Mystery Tour." **Dick Bohl** set this up and surprised them. Sue Bullard and Marlene Gomez had fun showing them around the museum. Many of them told us things we didn't know. It was a fun night for everyone. **Howard Armstrong** took some pictures and gave them to us. Thanks Howard!

Marlene Gomez

Appreciation for a great 175th

A big **THANK YOU** to all who helped put on the 175th Celebration.

Bob Crawford

Log Cabin will be open

Visit during Home Tour 2007

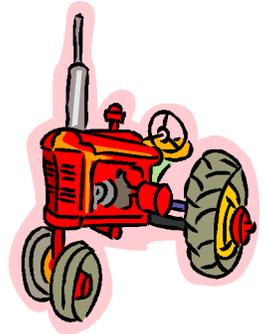
Once again the Log Cabin will be open during Home Tour. Located in the South Side Park by the fire station, visitors will be able to step back in time and visit with members of the Milford Historical Society who will be recreating the life of Milford's founding fathers. They will observe the preparation of a traditional meal over an open fire with vegetables freshly harvested from the garden. Kids of all ages will be able to join in the games of long ago. Help with the chores, make an old-fashioned toy or join in a traditional harvest contest. Be sure to stop by and join in the fun on September 16th and 17th.!



Tractor Show

Visit during Home Tour 2007

Our annual tractor show will again be part of the Society's Home Tour 2007 weekend. And it's fast approaching. Now's the time to get your tractor ready and encourage your friends and family members to do the same. The more tractors the better - new, old, restored or in "working clothes." All are welcome! If you don't have a tractor, just stop by the show and enjoy. Pass the word. We like lots of spectators.



We're looking forward to seeing you on **Sunday, September 16th, 10-4 p.m., Johnson School, 515 General Motors Road, Milford.**

Outbuilding free to a good home

Judith Reiter advises that **Judy and Roger Clemens** are willing to donate a small outbuilding to any taker. Originally a wash house, the shed is on the property line at their home on the corner First Street and East Liberty and must be removed. It could be a fun project converting it to a potting shed, play house or storage shed.

Your Society needs your help!

The most important resource of any business are it's employees or, in the case of a non-profit organization, it's volunteers. Accordingly, such groups must continually address a fundamental issue. How do we attract sufficient volunteers to sustain and grow our organization? Well, the Milford Historical Society is no exception. Volunteers are our life blood. We simply will cease to exist without them.

To contribute your free time is a valuable gift. Why do volunteers volunteer? Most feel that it's rewarding and satisfying to support an organization they believe in. And having a lot of fun in the process is a great bonus.

Here are areas where your Society needs your help.

- Computer input
- Accessioning items for the Museum and Mary Jackson home
- Researching homes in the Milford area
- Museum cleanup (April, 2008)
- Garden work at the Museum and Mary Jackson home
- Docents for the Museum, May Through December:
 - Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Wednesday evenings, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Fundraising events:
 - Granny's Attic Sale (July 13th & 14th)
 - Home Tour (September 15th & 16th)
 - Mary Jackson home cleanup (September 28 & 29) and Open House (October 13th)
 - Independence Day celebration (4th of July, 2008)
 - Preservation and Restoration Award Committee (meets a couple of times during July/August)

White Lake Historical Society Picnic

The White Lake Historical Society invites our membership to their annual Potluck Picnic on Thursday, July 12th at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at Ron and Mary Voorheis' historic barn. 6700 Brendel Rd.



White Lake. They will supply beverages, paper products and utensils and ask that we bring a dish to pass. Weather permitting, Ron will take us on a hayride through his property. This will be purely social—no business meeting. **RSVP to Ron or Mary Voorheis at 248-887-5483 or e-mail Voorheis@oakland-info.com.** (Directions: M-59 to Ormond Rd., right on White Lake Rd. to right on McKeachie Rd. to left on Brendel: look for big barn on right.)

Potential Powerhouse funds

Powerhouse applies for History Channel Grant

Over a short, but hectic two-week period, Sue Fleming Bailey and Dorothy Kane, a retired HVS teacher, worked together to produce a plan and formal application for a "Save Our History" grant offered by the History Channel. Attached is a copy of Sue's work submitted on the June 1 deadline. It's an exciting submission. Keep your fingers crossed. We'll let you know when we hear the results.

Judith Reiter

Partnering with the Milford Historical Society, Huron Valley Schools students will discover and study the historic significance of the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station with the purpose of producing educational/promotional materials aimed at increasing general understanding and awareness of the building and its history, and of encouraging tourism from within and outside the community. Students will produce a DVD, which includes videos, photographs, visuals, oral histories and narrative text contributed by the students, focusing on the history of the Hydroelectric Station and designed for visitors of all ages.

Milford's Hydroelectric Station was designed by Albert Kahn and built by Ford Motor Company in 1939 to provide hydroelectric power for a new carburetor factory. These buildings comprised Henry Ford's twelfth Village Industry, one of 23 such factory sites that utilized historic mill sites to generate electrical power for small, rural, manufacturing plants.

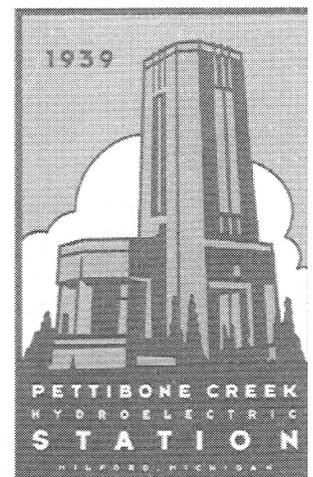
This project will involve various grade levels within the local schools to create a reusable educational product for use within the schools and the community.

The Milford Historical Society will provide access to: the Hydroelectric Station; the Historical Museum's Archives of newspapers, personal stories and photographs related to the building; personnel who will direct the study from within the organization; links to outside resources and academics and local preservationists as well as persons in the community with personal stories to tell about the building.

The students will research historic aspects of the station, work within the framework of the HVS curriculum to produce products with an educational component which may include but are not limited to the creation of poetry, visual arts, essays, walking tour, oral histories, virtual museum, 3-D renderings and a video production/DVD.

Welcome new members!

We are pleased to announce that the newest members of the Milford historical Society are **Patsy and Roy Patterson**. Welcome Patsy and Roy.



Phone: 248-685-7308
 E-mail: milfordhistory@yahoo.com
 Website: www.milfordhistory.org

WHAT'S HOT

Picnic
Sunday, July 22, 2007
At the Rheumes

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2007 Events

July 13 & 14... Granny's Attic Sale

July 22... MHS Annual Picnic: 2 pm at the Rheume's home

Aug. 10, 11, 12... Powerhouse open during Milford Memories

Sept. 15 & 16 ... Home Tour 2007; Log Cabin and Powerhouse open

Sept. 15 & 16... Tractor Show

Board of Directors

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Milford Museum Staff

Marlene Gomez Assistant Director

685-7308

The Milford Historian

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 Newsletter of the Milford Historical Society published bimonthly (six times per year)

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Annual Member Dues

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

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

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City-State-Zip _____
 Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: Milford Historical Society, 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381