

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.*

September 7, 2006 General Meeting and Program:

“Chief Tipsico”

“Tipsico” is a name familiar to most of us living in the Milford/Highland area. At our September 7th General Membership Meeting you’ll learn in a presentation by member Bill Schimmel that Tipsico Lake and Tipsico Lake Road are namesakes of Chippewa Chief Jacob Tipsico who was born in 1827 and died in 1914 at age 87. Tipsico was an amazing athlete, strong ruler and a friend of the settlers. His many exploits were recorded in the media of the time. However, between cholera and small pox epidemics and being on the losing side in the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, the size of Tipsico’s tribe eroded significantly over time. Finally, a series of treaties in the early 1800’s pushed the Chippewa completely off their land. The story of Tipsico is the story of the decline of the Native American from absolute freedom and ruler of their environment to a stranger in his own land, without rights, property or the basic skills to survive in an increasingly industrialized society. For this reason, Chief Tipsico is best known as being the last Indian chief in Oakland County.

Our evening begins with a scrumptious potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the **Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main Street.** (Please note the location for our September meeting has changed due to a scheduling conflict with the Methodist Church.) A brief business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. followed immediately by our program. All are welcome. You don’t have to be a member to enjoy this Thursday evening with people who like history. Bring your table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown below.

September 2006 General Meeting

& Potluck Dinner

Thursday, September 7, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Milford **Presbyterian** Church

238 North Main Street

A-G

Salad

H-R

Dessert

S-Z

Main Dish

Everyone: Table service & beverage (coffee provided)



Chief Jacob Tipsico, 1827-1914

From Your President...

The following paragraph is reprinted from *The Friends of Oak Grove* newsletter:

In 1979, Mary Jackson wanted to create a fund that would provide interest income to preserve and maintain the cemetery. She hired an attorney to draw up the paperwork, pulled out her checkbook and then coerced her three best Milford friends, Ruth Wolf, Eleanor Beam and Bea Tripp to match her donation.. The Oak Grove Cemetery Fund of Milford, Inc. was established.. Mary Jackson provided the funds to remodel and finish the building in Oak Grove for a residence, making it possible for someone to watch over the cemetery around the clock. Mary Jackson, along with Wilbur Johnson, was also the driving force behind repairing and reopening the Mont Eagle Street bridge, providing access to the cemetery from the northeast. We owe Mary Jackson (1910-2005), her friends and our membership a debt of gratitude for considering the future of Oak Grove Cemetery. Our fund has grown over the years to \$73,500 and has provided us with approximately \$6000 a year in interest income to improve, preserve, and maintain the cemetery. Mary's legacy to us created a future that preserves the past.

But Mary Jackson’s generosity to Milford doesn’t end there. We recently learned that she willed to the Milford Historical Society her two homes located on Canal Street. We’ll provide more information at the September General Meeting on this golden opportunity. You’ll have to attend to learn more. *David Chase*

Henry Ford Village Industries Lecture

Learn more about Henry Ford’s village industries concept by attending a free public lecture titled “**Recasting the Machine Age: Henry Ford’s Village Industries**” by Professor Howard P. Segal, Ph.D. The lecture will be given on **Wednesday, September 20, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 1030 in the Casl Building on the Dearborn campus of the University of Michigan.**

Home Tour 2006...Most Sites Ever!



Plans are set for our 30th Home Tour. Join us **September 16th (10 am – 5 pm) or 17th (Noon – 5pm)**. The Home Tour is the Historical Society's largest fundraiser. It provides the funds necessary to operate our beautiful Museum. Tickets will be available at the Milford Times and Museum

prior to the tour. On tour days tickets may be purchased at the Museum and home sites. Ticket donations are \$13 for adults and \$11 for seniors.

Home Tour 2006 features five beautiful area homes, special visits to two sites on the inaugural 1976 Home Tour and an **Oak Grove Cemetery Walk**. Each site brings to life the rich history of our town. They include the **Eis-Yauch Home** (1936), **Reid-Skalski Home** (1930), **Lamphere-Welton Home** (1875), **Riley-Valentine Home** (1866), and **Fergin Home** (1992). Our 1976 sites include the **Ferguson-Armstrong Opera House** featuring entertainment by local musicians and artists, and the **Beam-Waara Home** featuring a display of cameras, photographs and wedding dresses.

Popular Historical Society venues will also be welcoming visitors. **The Museum** and **Log Cabin** will be open both days, the **Powerhouse** will be open Sunday, and the annual **Tractor Show 2006** will be held on Sunday. The community-sponsored "**Views and Visions**" Art Show will be open both days and Sunday's **Classic Car Show** will be on Main Street.

Our 30th anniversary celebration offers a grand total of 13 sites. **Docents and volunteers are needed**. If you are not already scheduled to help, please call Sue Gumpper (685-2691) or the museum (685-7308).

Working together we can have lots of fun raising funds to operate our museum, hopefully for another 30 years!

Sue Gumpper

New! Home Tour 2006 Raffle

Does arranging furniture give you a headache? Need a creative way to display family pictures? Wondering how to choose just the right color? Want to make your favorite room feel just right? Then enter our **Magic Makeover Raffle**. Well known and respected room stylist, Mary Lee Fergin, has generously offered to provide a room consultation for one lucky winner. As you tour Mary Lee's home during Home Tour 2006 you'll learn first hand what a terrific offer this is!

The price is \$10.00 and proceeds will be used to operate the Museum. Tickets can be purchased at the Fergin home site, 514 Grand Vista, and the Museum. The drawing will take place at the Museum on Sunday, September 17th at 6:00 pm. You need not be present to win.

Tractor Show 2006

The Society's annual Tractor Show will again be held in conjunction with the Home Tour. Get your tractor ready, or just come and enjoy the hardware. All tractors are welcome: old, new, restored, or those in regular use. Pre-registration is not required; just show up. See you there on **Sunday, September 17th, 10-4 p.m., Johnson School, 515 General Motors Road.**



New! MHS Dine Around Card

Enjoy a great meal and save 10% or 15 % with the new **Dine Around Card** being offered by the Historical Society. Save many times the \$10 donation amount when you eat at many of Milford's finest restaurants including **Five Lakes Grill, Baker's, O'Callahan's, Klancy's, Leo's Coney Island, Saint George's Café, Main Street Grill and Tavern, and Americus Cafe & Grill**. (Savings calculated on the food portion of the bill only and cannot be combined with any other discounts.)



Museum Summer Report by Marlene Gomez

It's been a busy and fun summer at the museum. Since June, we've been open the second Wednesday of the month 6-9 p.m. and it seems to be successful. Several people said they're happy we're open after working hours. We don't know if we're missing many visitors during the day, though.

Our annual fire inspection resulted in some upgrades and changes. Gale Perry (Marlene's dad) installed a new light fixture in the bathroom which was hanging from exposed wires. Thank you, Gale! Girl Scout Troop #570 was at the museum on July 28th to "help beautify a cultural institution" and earn their *community sharing* badge. Troop Leader Laura Podgorny, six girl scouts and one parent washed the siding, front and side porch and pulled many weeds. It was a very hot day and they worked hard. Thank you, girls!

A student-intern from U of M Flint, Ronny Neal, contacted the museum regarding the selection of Milford as one of three Michigan cities to be featured in a :60 commercial on WFUM-Flint public television. Mr. Neal, his producer and a videographer visited on August 9th. Their primary interest was in Milford as one of Michigan's earliest users of electricity (1892?) and also our Powerhouse. Thanks to David Chase and Judith Reiter who represented the Society. WFUM will advise when the commercial will air.

We also worked with Carol Hopkins from the Oakland Press who is doing an article titled "Kids and Museums" for the paper's Our Town section. Photographer Vaughn Gurganian photographed Jonathon MacDougall (student docent) and his 9-year-old sister, Anna, at the museum for the article which should be in the paper August 24th or 31st. Watch for it!

Lastly, three 8th graders from St. Patrick's Catholic Church in White Lake came to the museum to earn community service hours for their confirmation this fall. Each student came on a separate Saturday and helped with different duties from cleaning, to assisting with tours, to making copies. For such a young age, these students were impressive.

Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to announce that Congressman **Thaddeus McCotter** and **Bruce and Joyce Clark** are the newest members of the Milford Historical Society. Welcome Thaddeus, Bruce and Joyce!

2006 Preservation & Restoration Awards

The Milford Historical Society announces that it has selected the **Milford Powerhouse** to receive its **2006 Restoration Award**, and the residence of **Mollie and Jon Renko at 424 Hickory Street** to receive its **2006 Preservation Award**.



Judge Robbert McCay, members Jay Qualman and Will Young, and Judge Bryan Lejewski

Society President David Chase says this is the first time in the award's 19-year history that two separate awards are being given. This year's judges, Robbert McCay and Bryan Lejewski from the State of Michigan Historic Preservation Office in Lansing, supported presenting dual awards based on the quality of the Milford Powerhouse restoration and the Renko's outstanding efforts to pre-

serve the historic character of their home at 424 Hickory Street. Members of this year's MHS Preservation/Restoration Award Committee were Norm Werner, Will Young, Bob Crawford David Chase and Jay Qualman.

As Society members know, the **Milford Powerhouse** is one of only a few buildings in southeastern Michigan that remain of Henry Ford's "Village Industries" concept that integrated small Ford parts plants into rural communities so workers could have "one foot in agriculture...and the other in industry." Six years of planning, fundraising and painstaking restoration work by the Milford Historical Society, the Village of Milford and the Milford Downtown Development Authority are responsible for Powerhouse's transformation. Its dramatic exterior restoration, the largest ever undertaken in Milford, reversed decades of aging that nearly destroyed the Art Deco building designed by Albert Kahn and built in 1939 to provide electricity for the new Ford carburetor factory being constructed nearby. The judges were impressed by the reinstallation of the huge and costly picture windows that once showcased the technology of its twin generators, the replacement of scores of designer glass blocks, the extensive repair and re-pointing of all masonry, and the new front entrance and quarry tile floor. The Powerhouse's striking silhouette once again represents Milford and its proud history.

The village of Milford looked a lot different 130 years ago, but the home at 424 Hickory didn't. In selecting the 1876 Italianate home of **Mollie and Jon Renko** for the 2006 Preservation Award, judges McCay and Lejewski lauded the home as an exceptional example of historic preservation. Notable Italianate elements cited were the double-leafed front door with an elaborate scrolled hood, decorative window caps, and gracefully ornate pillars on the side porch. They commented favorably on the integrated design of the garage addition and the appropri-

ateness of the Renko's landscaping. "Overall, the home really stood out and commanded attention without raising its voice," they said.

The MHS instituted its prestigious Preservation/Restoration Award in 1986 to encourage the preservation and restoration of the historic buildings that are such an important part of Milford's character. Recipients of the 2006 Restoration and Preservation Awards will be formally recognized and presented with their awards at our September 7th General Membership Meeting.



The 2006 Preservation award goes to...the Renko Family (Porter, Jon and Mollie) of 424 Hickory with David Chase



And the 2006 Restoration Award goes to...the Powerhouse shown with Dave Chase, Village Council President Tom Nader and Glenn Rittenger of the University of Michigan.

Kelley-Fisk Farm Festival

Member Marge Sawruk advises of the 21st annual Kelley-Fisk Farm Festival on **Saturday, September 9th** and **Sunday, September 10th**, from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, at **9180 Highland Road (M59)**. Tour the 1855 farmhouse and barn and 1876 one-room school. Fun for children, grandchildren and adults too starting with crafts at 9 a.m. Other events include: storytellers, dancers, magic shows, used book sale, and lots of music and food featuring slices of homemade apple pie made on the premises during the day. Sponsored by the White Lake Historical Society. Information 887-5483.

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WHAT'S HOT

General Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 7, 2006
@ Presbyterian Church

Home Tour 2006 &
Tractor Show

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2006 Events

Sept. 7...General Meeting and Program:
"Chief Tipsico"
Sept. 16-17...Home Tour 2006
Sept. 17.....Tractor Show 2006
Nov. 16General Meeting and Program:
"An Evening With Dr.
Weldon Petz"

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685-7308

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

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Editor: Jay Qualman

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25th day of February, April,
June, August, October &
December

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