

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan 11—12—MHS Board of Directors Strategic planning retreat at the M J house.**

**Jan 16—General Membership Meeting at the United Methodist Church of Milford—6:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner, followed by the meeting. Program—The Unusual, The Unique and The Ugly. Bring your favorite family heirloom, collectible or great garage sale find and show it off. Tell us a little about it and maybe win a prize for it. Potluck assignments:**

Pot luck - A—F— Main Dish G—Q—Salad R—Z—Desserts

**Jan 22—Board Meeting—7 pm at the M J House.**

**Feb 26—Board Meeting—7 pm at the M J House**

### Two Historical Society members pass

How sad it was to hear of the recent passing of two members of our Historical Society.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Larry Green passed away after a long time battle with cancer. Larry supported all of the Society events and was a docent at the museum. He loved giving tours at the museum, always greeting each guest with a big smile and a warm welcome. During Home Tour, Larry entertained everyone with his talent of playing the dulcimer.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, a member of our Board of Directors, Craig Baker passed away after a long illness. Craig was a lifelong resident of Milford and the grandson of Bertha Baker for whom the recently demolished Baker Elementary School was named. Craig was always there to help with whatever needed to be done, Craig was there with the tools needed to get the job done. For the last two years he was a member of the Board Of Directors of the Milford Historical Society and was the Society's handyman at the Museum and the Mary Jackson House.

Both of these men were genuine, kindhearted and true friends of the Historical Society. We will be forever grateful for their contributions. Larry and Craig will be sadly missed by everyone.

### From Your President, Carol Watkins

Dr. Thomas A Wood says *“People develop a sense of place” through experience and knowledge of a particular area. A sense of place emerges through knowledge of the **history, geography and geology** of an area, its **flora and fauna**, the **legends** of a place, and a growing sense of the land and its **history** after living there for a time.”*



In the Milford Historical Society, our mission is to educate others about the history of Milford...the movie studios that became Kensington Park; the Powerhouse that stands as a monument to Henry Ford's industrial villages project; the Annual Home Tour with insights into how our ancestors developed our community; Victorian Teas at the Mary Jackson house to experience old customs and see historic fashions; our museum with the simulated Victorian homestead and exhibits on the main floor, which include a facsimile of an early log home in which the first teacher in Milford lived with her six children and husband while teaching the neighborhood children.

There is such a rich heritage in Milford – it is what makes this a place where we want to live, shop, and enjoy our lives. There is also more of Milford's history that can be presented. There is the abandoned train station that could be restored. There is the adjacent site of the first automotive plant – making parts for Chevrolet in the 1800's. It became a jelly factory – what a great place for GM and Ford memorabilia. Did you know that the Proving Grounds were developed to test safety measures on cars – and were the first of their kind? Do you know where “Little Egypt” was located in Milford Village? Do you know the old swimming hole which children called “Pike Town” in the early 1900's?

The history of the doorknob factory, furniture makers, whiskey distillers, as well as famous inhabitants – international opera singers, movie stars (2), entrepreneurs who founded international companies, etc.... these are items which need to be documented, exhibited, and preserved for our community.

We need you to help preserve Milford history – please consider taking

*(Continued on page 2)*

**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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### VICE-PRESIDENT

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Rich Harrison 248-935-5556

Tracey Abraham 248-462-4611

### MUSEUM STAFF/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-

MARLENE GOMEZ 248-685-7308

(From The President—Continued from page 1)

on one task this year to help capture and preserve our “place”, our community’s past... for our community’s future. “Many hands make light work” – as my mother said, so even one day a year at one task helps us all.

The Board is having a planning retreat in early January and will bring results to the annual January General Meeting. We need another Board member, we will be voting for Board positions, and we will be presenting a plan for the coming year. If you have worked as a docent, in the museum, at Granny’s Attic, in the garden, or at one of the Teas – perhaps you can stretch and try one more venture. We will have a list of possible areas that need attention on the website and in the museum.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Below is a calendar of planned MHS events for 2014 that was compiled by Rich Harrison. Cut it out and put it on your refrigerator, so that you know about upcoming events.

## 2014

January '14	February '14	March '14	April '14
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September '14	October '14	November '14	December '14
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## The Milford Historian

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



Editor: Norm Werner

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## Notes

### MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- GENERAL MEETINGS 3rd THURSDAY ODD MONTHS at METHODIST CHURCH
- BOARD MEETINGS 4th WEDNESDAY\*\* OF MONTH at MARY JACKSON HOUSE
- \*\*board meetings may not meet every month.
- APRIL 26th VICTORIAN TEA & FASHION SHOW at MARY JACKSON HOUSE
- MAY 3rd MUSEUM OPENS FOR SEASON -- CLOSSES DEC 17th
- MAY 17th MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE
- JULY 4th PARADE SPONSORED by MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- JULY 11th & 12th GRANNY'S ATTIC SALE
- JULY 17th ANNUAL PICNIC
- AUG 8th, 9th & 10th MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE DURING MILFORD MEMORIES
- SEPT 20th & 21st MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL HOME TOUR
- NOV 15th VICTORIAN TEA & FASHION SHOW at MARY JACKSON HOUSE
- DEC MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE DURING CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Content believed to be accurate by [rich.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:rich.harrison@comcast.net)

## Good programs ahead in 2014

Our Thursday January 16th Meeting will be Potluck. Long time members said they always had a Show and Tell in the past but then stopped for some reason. It's back and now called - Unique, Unusual and Ugly. Bring to the meeting your favorite unusual, ugly or most beautiful treasure. Items that members do not know what the heck it is are the most fun. Bring it, display it and tell a little history story with it, if you like. We may even pick a winning story/item.

The potluck diner assignments for January are as follows:

A—F—Main Dish G—Q—Salad R—Z—Desserts

Sneak peak at other 2014 programs—

There is no meeting in February 2014.

March 20th (Potluck) meeting will have a special guest. Mrs. Lincoln will drop in to tell us about her ups and downs while in the White House.

April 17th (No Potluck) MaryLou and Main Street.. Our own MaryLou will tell her great stories about Main Street, Milford.

May 15th (Potluck) Annick Hewarth will return and tell about the iconic CCC. Her book tells the stories from the men who worked those jobs.

July 17th (Potluck) Powerhouse Picnic Potluck (say that three times real fast). A tour of this historic building will be included.

Sept. 18th (Potluck) The Chelsea Jiffy Mix Story complete with free recipe books. (I have one and really is fun to use.)

Oct. 16th (Milford Library, No Potluck) Phyllis Barkey will speak on the famous downtown J. L. Hudson Building.

Nov. 20th. (Fall Potluck) Milford's own Joe Salvia will be telling his war and military stories after eating a delicious turkey dinner.

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### Update on the Mary Jackson House and Caretaker Home

We have had some major repairs that were needed at the caretaker's home resulting in expenditures. Repairs to the tub and shower were needed which resulted in retiling the bath area after the repair work was completed. Another issue that happened over the Christmas weekend was problems with the boiler furnace. Fortunately the repairs were somewhat easy to complete with only a few parts needed for the repair. After the first of the year, we will be working on replacing the sewer line coming into the house. Oh the joy of being a landlord!

On the brighter side, the Mary Jackson House recently had its annual inspection from the National Trust of Historic Preservation. Because the house has a Historic Easement on it, we are required to have a yearly inspection from a member of the National Trust of Historic Preservation. I am happy to report that the representative from the Trust is pleased with the upkeep of the house! This past year we have rented the house out for a Baby Shower and a Family Reunion. Plans are in the works for our Spring Tea which will be Saturday, April 26th as well as other events for 2014.—Sue B



### MUSEUM NEWS—Submitted by Marlene Gomez

We closed out the year at the museum with two school visits (Lakewood Elementary and Johnson Elementary(see back page for pictures and more)) and also two Tiger Den groups (#315 and #52). The kids at that age seem to really enjoy all the old things we have at the museum.

We want to thank Bonnie Walworth and Marla Schalow for continuing to scan our photos into Past Perfect. We also need to thank Sue Grifor for all her garden work and outdoor Christmas decorations she did at the museum, and Linda Dagenhardt for some electrical work she is always willing to do for us, and also a big thank you to Jared Clouse for all of his help – especially getting at the museum early to clear the sidewalks and porch – that is a lot of shoveling.

We will surely miss Craig Baker and Larry Green and their presence at the museum.

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### Membership renewal time

It's that time again, time to renew your membership with the Milford Historical Society. As a member your dues make everything we do possible. By participating in the Historical Society your dues will continue our commitment of bringing the history of our community through exhibits and programs.

The maintenance and operation of the Milford Historical Museum is the primary focus of the Society; however, for over 10 years, the Historical Society has offered a scholarship program to local High School Students who volunteer as docents at the Museum. The Historical Society also is the organizer of the Independence Day Parade for over 30 years and has presented the Milford Home Tour for 37 years. These are just some of the opportunities that we offer our members and the community, supported by your dues.

As members you will receive bi-monthly newsletters with information about upcoming events, programs and volunteer openings. So, please, when you receive your membership envelope; return it with your dues and continue to support the Historical Society. Bring your envelope and dues check to the January 16th meeting and start the new year off right.

- Sue Bullard

# Milford Historical Society

124 East Commerce

Milford, Michigan 48381

This is what our mission is all about—passing on the history of Milford to the next generation. These groups from Johnson Elementary School showed up to visit the Museum on the last month that it was open in 2013 and on a day that the Museum is not normally open. Russ Rheaum jumped in to help the Museum staff with the tour and entertain the kids. Russ told them the stereoscope was the original 3-d TV.



Please 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+		