

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan 21 General Membership meeting at the Milford United Methodist Church at 1200 Atlantic St. Potluck starts at 6:30. Meeting topic— the Unique, Ugly and Unusual Program.** Bring an item of interest either vintage or recent with a short story about it. This is also our annual vote for any new or renewing board members.

### Potluck Assignments -

A—F— Main Dish G—Q—Salads or sides, R—Z— Desserts

## PROGRAMS Past and Future

### MHS General Meeting Got Stuffed

We had a lot of gobbling (I'm talking turkey) going on at the November Turkey Potluck. Good job on the food members. It was delish. It was the second biggest attendance next to Mary Lou's. Pastor Bryant Anderson enlightened us with how the whole Christmas thing got started. I came out happy that you can say Merry Xmas without committing a sin. I stopped long ago thinking it was tabu to abbreviate the word Christmas. So you can say, or write, Xmas all you want from now on and don't feel guilty. Also Santa's reindeer is Don-der not Donner. Somebody back in the day pronounced it Donner and it kind of stuck. Google it and see for yourself.

### Unique, Ugly and Unusual Program is Back.

The third annual Three U's Program will be a Potluck on Thursday January 21 at 6:30 at 1200 Atlantic St. Methodist Church in Milford.



It's time to scour the attic,

basement or your shelf to find that perfect fun treasure to bring and share with us. Every year someone brings something that always stumps everyone. So put on your thinking caps and who knows, maybe even win a prize.



(Continued on page 2)

## From Your President, Norm Werner

### Thank you for letting me serve

I think I've now written three times about this being my swan song as President. Well, this is definitely it. At the board meeting following the January General membership meeting the board will be electing new leaders for the various officer positions. The positions of President and Treasurer are limited in the number of consecutive terms, which may be served; so, like a Michigan Politician I'm term-limited having finished my second consecutive term as President.



I've told the other board members that I'll stay on the board and maybe become the Secretary, since no one seems to want to fill that role. I will also stay involved at the museum and with the Home Tour and will co-chair the 4th of July Parade committee again this year, along with Rich Harrison. If the board desires, I'll also remain as the editor of the Historian and the webmaster for the MHS web site. Thank you to the MHS membership and the board for giving me the opportunity to serve as President.

## 2016 Membership Drive

It's that time of the year again. January kicks off our annual membership drive. Membership is the very foundation of the Milford Historical Society. By far, our greatest asset is our members. By your continued support the Milford Historical Society will continue to preserve, protect and promote the history of our community.

Each year we open our museum free of charge. Expenses such as utilities, insurance, postage and publishing take up a good amount of the society's proceeds. Your membership dues are what keeps the Society going.

In January you will receive your membership envelope. Please take the time and fill out and return as soon as possible. Your membership dues will help support the society in carrying out our goals for the 2016 season.

## Another way to support the Historical Society

Did you know that you could shop at Kroger, earn gas points and help out the Historical Society at the same time? It will cost you nothing and will not affect your benefits. You will need a Kroger Plus Card then simply register on line at [Krogercommunityrewards.com](http://Krogercommunityrewards.com). Signing up is simple and easy, then every time you shop the Historical Society will receive a donation from Kroger's.



**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**  
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\* - denotes Museum Researchers

**MUSEUM DIRECTOR—ELAINE HUNTER**  
**248-685-7308**



**Museum Report**—2015 was a good year for the Museum in so many ways, fresh paint and wallpaper, some new displays, more visitors, more donations. I would like to thank everyone who made all of those things possible. Without the Historical Society, it’s members and the many volunteers—some are not members ( yet ! ) the Museum would not be possible.

As we begin 2016, I propose a New Year’s resolution on behalf of the Museum. That we all work to give the Museum a more prominent place in the community, so there are fewer people who say “I have lived here all my life and never visited”.

To that end, as museum director I have a wish list for both the Historical Society and the Museum:

1. Special Events-help with ideas for special events to get the community more involved with the Society and the Museum.
2. Museum staff-volunteer to be an adult docent. Tours are scripted, shifts are three hours on any one of three days per week Wed., Sat., Sun.
3. Collections-input data as we organize and computerize our records and collections.
4. Painting and cleaning help as we freshen and re-purpose spaces.
5. Membership-brainstorming new ideas for increasing active membership in the Historical Society.

Anyone who would like to volunteer time or has an idea they would like to share – please contact a board member or the Museum. I hope to hear from many of you. Milford folks do not lack creativity or ambition and we hope to harness both. Hope 2016 is a good year for all.

**The Milford Historian**

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



**Editor: Norm Werner**  
**Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org**

*(Programs —Continued from page 1)*

**The Dark Years**

Our March 19th Thursday Pot-luck General Meeting, same place and time as above, will host none other than Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln herself. If you remember correctly, Mrs. Lincoln visited us in 2013 and spoke of her years in the White House. This time Mrs. President Lincoln ( she likes to be called that) will be talking on things that real-



ly bother her: Her Dark Years after the White House. Don't be surprised if you see Mrs. Lincoln shed a tear or two while she describes her dark past. I told her it needs to be told and out there for people to understand why she turned out that way she did.

I am getting to know more about her since I am now her Private Secretary and schedule all her speaking engagements. She is too busy now at the White House and doesn't have time for arranging her hectic schedule.

She received a standing ovation last time . Let's see if history repeat itself.

MHS Programs—Sandi Muirhead

## Student Docents for 2016

At this point, we have 13 student docents for the year 2016. Two of them will be graduating next year. The students are Christopher Antrim, Hunter Barnes, Margaret Cooney, Rebecca Darby, Chase Glasser, Ian Jablonka, Taryn Johnson, Nicole Manning, Shaina Parks, Chase Pronger, Callie Reno, Hannah Rohrer, and Madison Spoor. They're a great group of students with a love of history. The two that will be graduating in 2016 are Rebecca Darby and Nicole Manning.

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## Home Tour 2016

Our Home Tour in September, 2016 will mark our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this yearly event. We are starting early by trying to procure homes for this special year. At this point, we do have two that are committed; however, we would like to find three more. We also are in great need of docents that will work a given shift during the weekend of the tour. If you, or anyone you know, has a historic home 1950 or older or would like to volunteer your time as a docent, please have them call Rena Valentine, Home Tour Coordinator at 248-514-9124 or e-mail at [rvalentine@gmail.com](mailto:rvalentine@gmail.com).

If you volunteer your home, we will contact you to arrange an appointment to visit your home and to help you understand the whole process. We are limited to 5 homes on the Tour each year, so it is possible that we would not be able to get all of the homes that are volunteered on the 2016 Home Tour. If that should happen, we hope that you will still be ready for the 2017 event.

There is nothing special that you have to do to host your home on the Tour; however, some view this time as one that they might get those projects completed around the house that have been on the back burner. It is a great event in which to show off your home to people that are interested in seeing historic homes or ones that have historical artifacts in them. If your home is chosen, there will be a few members from our Board of Directors that will meet with you and write your home's history to present to visitors on the weekend of the Tour. A House Captain will be assigned to your home and will work with you to plan the tour of your home and write the tour script for our docents. On the weekend of the tour, the House Captain and tour docents will be present to run the home tour in your home. You may make the choice for yourself about whether you wish to stay and help with the tours or just let the House Captain and docents handle it all. My home was on the Home Tour a few years ago and I enjoyed taking part in the tours through it. It can be lots of fun.

The Home Tour began as a fundraiser for the Milford Historical Society in 1976. The Tour helps the society pay for the ongoing needs at the Milford Historical Museum at 124 E. Commerce St. and to fund other events sponsored by the Society. The Milford Historical Society is a 501©3 non-profit organization. The funds made from the Home Tour will go directly back into the organization.

## " I Miss the Dime Store"

That is the most common quote of Milfordites when they are referring to the Main Street D & C Store.

You could find anything you needed there. Yarn, toys, thread or craft items for the last minute school project your child forgot about. A big draw was the candy counter with all the candy displayed in glass cubbies. The things I remember most were the creaky wooden floors, spooky basement (it really wasn't that bad) and the wonderful people who worked there. Our own June Watson worked there for many years and always had a smile and a real interest in everyone she talked to. June still works on Main Street but now across the street..

I know a lot about the D & C due to my mom working there twenty six years starting in 1959, the longest of any employee. I still have the article from the Milford Times when she retired.

Among her many friends in town were Mary Lou Gharritty, Wilbur Johnson and Jerry Breen. Jerry would let my mom (who did not drive) take home a shopping cart on Thursday nights and bring back when she could. Now that is hometown kindness.

The store was renovated in the seventies with glass and metal. Out with the charm and in with the chrome. The Ladies at the Dimestore, as what they were called, probably liked the new modern sleek look.

Items purchased there are now considered to be "vintage". I have my mom's Roseville Dutch Girl cookie jar for which she paid under five dollars. During Christmas ( my mom's favorite season at the D & C) moms would leave their children with the Ladies at the Dimestore, along with their Christmas lists for their families. The Ladies would go around with the child and find something for everyone on their list. You could never do that now. That can only happen in a small town.

The store closed in the early nineties and my mom came back to help close it with Mr. Jeff Dean her wonderful Manager who still lives in Milford. It became The Next Generation children clothing store and is now The Clothing Cove.

I remember in the summer my sister Sue and I would get the EVIL eye from our mother when we walked in the store. We would be wearing short cut off jeans, halter tops and barefoot. Yup, no shoes, no problem back then. Our mom was the "Candy Lady" and gave free candy to two generations of kids. No wonder she only brought ONE full paycheck home in 26 years.

The quote "I Miss the Dime Store" lives on and brings back many fond memories.

Sandi Muirhead

Milford History Geek.

# Milford Historical Society

124 East Commerce

Milford, Michigan 48381

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### Thank you


The Fall Tea at the Mary Jackson House took place on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for both settings sold out quickly, giving us a full house on the day of the tea. Special thanks go out to Sue Gumper, Mary Lou Gharrity, Joyce Clark, Nancy Lang, Sharon Mancini and Rena Valentine who helped plan and prepare the food.

As always the highlight of each tea is the fashion show. For our fall tea we featured dresses donated to the Historical Society. We featured 7 young ladies modeling the dresses that were all from the 1880 to 1910's that were donated to the Historical Society. Finding models to fit these tiny outfits was a challenge. Special thanks to Alyssa Huff, Jenni Lipinski, Lauren Nixon,

Shania Parks, Callie Reno, Chloe Reno and Hannah Rohrer

Special thanks to the following individuals for their contributions that helped make our day successful- Betty Bullard, Linda Dagenhardt, Sue Gumper, Main Street Art, Sharon Mancini, Marge Sawruk and Rena Valentine for setting beautiful tables. Chris Acker, Joyce Clark, Linda Dagenhardt, Mary Lou Gharrity, Sue Gumper, Nancy Lang, Grace Lipinski and Britney Pelland who helped out the day of the tea. Acorn Farm and Main Street Art for selling tickets and The Village Florist for donating flowers for each table.

Our Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson house will be Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>.

 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

#### Annual Member Dues:

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

Please let us know if you would prefer to receive your copy of the bi-monthly Historian via email. It saves us the postage and will get it to you sooner.