

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8-9—Granny's Attic Sale from 9 Am until 4 PM each day at the Museum

July 21—Annual Milford Historical Society Picnic—6:30 PM at Fairgrounds Park. This is a pot luck picnic so bring a dish to pass. The MHS Board will supply Hot dogs and all the fixin's.

Programs Past and Future...

It's time for the Annual MHS picnic on July 21. This year the picnic will be held in Fairgrounds Park at the corner of E. Huron and Mont Eagle, behind the Senior Center.



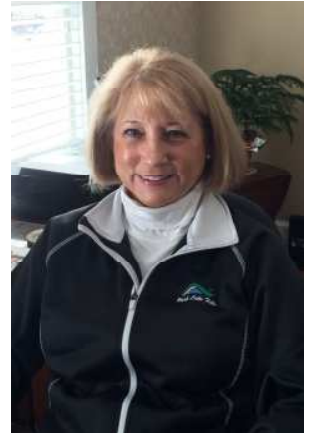
The summer picnic is always a highlight of the year. The MHS Board will supply hot dogs, buns and fixin's and potato chips. Bring your own place setting and dinnerware and something to drink, as well as a picnic dish to pass— maybe a salad or baked beans or a dessert.

You should bring your own chairs and bug spray and sunscreen, too. There are only a couple of picnic tables at this little park. If you have a portable table throw that in the car, too. The Board members will try to bring some tables, but we can never have too many tables.

(Continued on page 2)

From Our President, *Rena Valentine*

The 40th anniversary of our museum this year started with much success thanks to our new exhibits and displays. Our Museum Director, Elaine Hunter, has done a wonderful job of sprucing it up for grand opening which took place, May 14th. The Huron Valley Numismatic Society from the Highland chapter have generously loaned us their token and medal collections from various places in the Milford area from years ago. They will be on display until we close in late November this year. Please take some time to come in to see these as they are displayed in our display room as you come into the museum.



Another new display is one of the stained glass windows from the original St. Mary's Church, donated by the owner of The Bell Tower. The museum will be open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. As always, we ask that you sign up to volunteer as an adult docent as we are usually short-handed. There are always student docents on duty to give tours to people, but we need an adult to supervise and handle the money on any sales of items that are sold at the museum. At our last Board meeting, a motion was passed to hire an adult docent at the museum due to the lack of volunteers that have signed up to work.

By the time you get this newsletter, the annual 4th of July parade will be over. This year Rich Harrison and Norm Werner headed it up for the 2nd year in a row. We had many groups from Milford and Highland that signed up to walk in the parade. Thanks Rich & Norm! And, thank you, Russ Rheum, for helping out and bringing the donuts and coffee! We want to thank the many volunteers that have shown up to help! Thanks also to Sharon Mancini for bringing her vintage red pickup to represent the Milford Historical Society once again and Bill Crawford for his annual lead-off with his hard-working farm tractors.

Please join us at the next event which will be our annual picnic. This year it will be held on July 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the old fairgrounds. Hot dogs and condiments will be furnished by the Board of Directors. Hope to see you there!

Our Home Tour started out strong; however, one of our homeowners has decided to sell his house, so we are in need of one more historic home; if any of you are interested. The Home Tour is held every year the 3rd weekend in September. This year it will be September 17th and 18th. It is a great way to show off your home and complete some of the projects

(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

PRESIDENT

RENA VALENTINE 248-514-9124

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

John Robinson 248-343-7772

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

NORM WERNER 248-763-2497

TREASURER

SUE BULLARD 248-685-8321

RECORDING & CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

NORM WERNER (ACTING)

DIRECTORS

Sue Gumper 248-685-2691

Mary Lou Gharrity 248-684-8835

Sandi Muirhead 248-310-4286

Leon Shuler 248-684-5854

Rich Harrison 248-935-5556

Jared Clouse * 248-685-7308

Linda Dagenhardt 248-807-1204

Nancy Degenfelder * 248-685-7308

* - denotes Museum Researchers

MUSEUM DIRECTOR—ELAINE HUNTER
248-685-7308

The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

Milford Historical Society

published bimonthly (six times per year)



Editor: Norm Werner

Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org



Museum Report—

Happy Summer ! As we all get busy with swimming pools, popsicles, picnics, pasta salad and people we haven't seen as we vacation take a moment to think about our delightful community and all it has to offer.

There's Central Park, canoeing on the river, Thursday night concerts, Main Street shops and restaurants, a rest in the gazebo , Friday night concerts there, walking our historic district

and a lovely little gem of a museum right in the middle of it all.

Forty-four years ago a group of ordinary Milford residents decided that something needed to be done to preserve the history of this community, a way to let future residents know what it took to settle, build and grow this lovely place. It took several years and a lot of hard work, dedication and perseverance for this relatively small group to start the Milford Historical Society. Then even more effort to establish the Milford Historical Society Museum.

In case you have never visited, the museum displays how early settlers lived, how people in the Victorian era lived, cooked, took meals together and slept. Seasonally changing displays showcase our many artifacts and photos, most contributed by Milford's families. There is geneology research, answers to questions about previous businesses, information on various historic homes, historic photos and reprints and a variety of informational books and pamphlets available. All of this is made available by a volunteer staff of student and adult docents who want to honor the commitment made by those who worked so hard to establish the museum. The mu-

(Continued on page 3)

(Programs—Continued from page 1)

The picnic will kick off at 6:30 PM and last until the last person leaves.



A special guest will be Ben Franklin (as portrayed by Lloyd Baker), who will entertain us with stories from the Revolutionary times. Maybe, if it's a nice day he'll fly a kite.

Did you know that Milford once hosted what became the Oakland County Fair at this little park? Did you know that there was a race track not far from this little park?

If you are interested in how Fairgrounds Park came to be, there is a great article by Joyce Clark that appeared in the Milford Times special series Milford Moments in Time. That article is reprinted on the insert.

(President's Report—Continued from page 1)

or restorations that have been put off. Your home can be newer than 1967, if it has something that makes it of historic value; such as antiques or home décor. Please call me if you are interested in being considered for the tour this year or next. I can be reached at 248-514-9124 or valentiner66@gmail.com.



Our annual Gran-ny's Attic sale is coming up Friday, July 8th & Saturday, July 9th from 9 -4 p.m. on the museum grounds.

Many wonderful items have been donated, so please come on out and take a look. All of the proceeds from this sale will go the Milford Historical Society. Please try not to let the construction on Commerce hinder you from joining us. There are also sidewalk sales going on that weekend for the Main Street businesses.

Written by Sandi Muirhead

seum is funded by the Historical Society and it's fund raisers, mainly Granny's Attic sale-held the second weekend in July and the Home Tour. This year's tour is Saturday, September 17th and Sunday, September 18th. Tickets are \$15, seniors (60 yrs) and students \$12, children under 12 free. There is no charge to visit the museum, although donations are appreciated. The museum is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Our current main room display, put on by the Huron Valley Numismatic Society, features one of a kind tokens given by previous businesses in Milford. These tokens are the equivalent of today's coupons. There are also pictures and artifacts from several of those businesses from our collections. We also have a recently acquired stained glass window from the "Old Stone Church". It is not in its permanent home in the museum yet but looks lovely with sunlight streaming through it just off the main display room.



In order to keep the museum open three days a week- Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday—we are seeking someone to fill a paid docent position. If you know anyone who is interested in a part-time position and enjoys history, meeting new people, contributing to community awareness, working with like minded docents, please call the museum at 248 684-8703 or museum Director Elaine Hunter at 248 529-3393. You can also email the director at detah101@aol.com

As always, we hope that you will take some time to visit the museum. It is a delightful place for children and adults alike. It's a perfect spot to stop as you head to your car on a Saturday afternoon after lunch and shopping on Main Street or on a Sunday afternoon family walk. We look forward to seeing you soon.

On behalf of the Museum and the Historical Society as a whole, I would also like to ask all members to seek out their new neighbors and friends, encouraging them to become active members of the Historical Society. In order for the group to remain viable and the museum to remain open our ranks need to grow. We need new enthusiastic members of any age, bringing fresh eyes and new ideas .

Our township and the village are building new homes and expanding our population/community faster than many would like. We can/must help these new residents appreciate the history of this area. The historical society can do that by encouraging/welcoming new members to our group and sharing their knowledge with them. We all have a vested interest in keeping our history and our organization available for many to enjoy for years to come.

REMEMBER—YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A RELIC TO JOIN !

There used to be a lot more going on in the Milford Bakery Back Room in the 1960's than making the morning doughnuts. There was cigarette smoking (it was allowed in establishments back then) a few beers knocked down and no doubt some choice words spoken in the wee hours of the morning.

How do I know this you ask? Because I have to admit one of the Bad Boys "Rich Trosen" was my father.

See.. this is the Connection: My dad, Rich Trosen, and Larry Adams worked afternoons at the Ford Wixom Plant on the 3-11 shift. After their shift Larry made doughnuts from 12-6 in the morning for Dick Peel who owned the Milford Bakery on Main St. My dad used to go and keep Larry company and have a few beers and laughs.

Ironically my mom, Ginny Trosen, and Larry's wife, Helen Adams, worked next door at the D& C Store and were best friends. You couldn't get away with anything in this town!! Everybody knew each other!!

What was funny was Milford's finest MPD would always show up to chew the fat or in this case "free doughnuts "along with the Who's Who in our little Village around 5:00 A. M. every morning. It was like the Men's Breakfast Club at Americus. Ok, maybe not.....

Having a few "Cold Ones" was only done by my Dad, Larry and their Entourage. You see my Dad never liked sweets and beer has yeast in it, correct? So I guess that worked for him. And the MPD was on duty keeping us safe as we slept in our beds.

Sue Adams (Larry's daughter) told me most of this story and remembers her dad standing over the doughnut fryer with a paddle in hand turning the doughnuts over and no doubt a beer in the other. Boy have things changed.

Bill Wright and his wife purchased the Bakery from the Peels in the early 1980's. Jerry Haney and Charlie Cardinale bought the Bakery in 1985 and sold it in 1989. They were famous for their " Killer Brownies" with pecans. But when I was growing up the Bakery made brownies with cashews . I still crave those!! Someone from the Dick Purtan Show would stop by and purchase some doughnuts and would mention them on the air. Also they had accounts with the Wixom Ford Plant and GM Truck and Coach.

They sold it to two ladies and one of the owners daughters, Elaine, then operated the Milford Baking Co. After purchasing the Bakery the building next door burned down and took the Bakery with it.

The Bakery was first located on Commerce and Main St and moved a few times. For many years it has called 425 Main St. home..

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 11
MILFORD, MI

Granny’s Attic Sale for 2016

Duane Frietag has assembled a great lineup of items from various estate sales for the 2016 Granny’s Attic Sale on July 8 & 9 on the grounds of the Museum. The sale runs from 9 AM until 4 PM both days.

As always we can use more help with the sale, so stop by and volunteer for a shift if you are in town.

For more information or to volunteer, call the museum—248-685-7308.



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

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.

Milford Moments in Time

By Joyce M. Clark

Carnival rides, baseball tournaments, livestock shows, and wagon pulling contests are just a few activities many of us might enjoy when attending a summer fair. But over 120 years ago, 1880 to be exact, residents from around the area came to Milford to attend the first Milford Fair sponsored by the Milford Union Agricultural Society. For almost 70 years, children and adults from miles around flocked to Milford to participate in and enjoy this great event.

The epicenter of activity was 20 acres of land at the southeast corner of Mont Eagle and East Huron streets. Farmers proudly showcased their prime livestock while women entered their favorite canned fruits and vegetables for various judging contests. According to a Milford Times article dated October 16, 1880, the first fair had over 1000 entries in the various competitions. And much to everyone's excitement, the Milford Boys won the baseball tournament!

During that first fair, non-agricultural activities were also enjoyed. For example, music lovers listened to fine organ music from Whitney and Peninsular Organs while others wandered through the "domestics" section of the fair where sewing machines were on display.

As the years passed, the fair grew bigger and became known as the Oakland County Fair. A midway of carnival rides joined the festivities, and an Exhibition Hall was built to better house the competitions. A 1936 program from the Fair features a Horse Pulling Contest that included two classes of horses (teams over 3000 pounds and those under 3000 pounds). The first place prize was \$20.

Besides the spirit of good competition, the Agricultural Society held the contest to gather scientific data. From the winners, they studied various types of breeding selection as well as the proper methods for training and conditioning horses and mules for long, severe draft work.

Milford hosted the Oakland County Fair until 1949. At that point, Mel and Dorothy Moore purchased the fairgrounds property and hosted local events. According to Jerry Osborn, who lived near the property, midget car races were a big hit at the track behind Exhibition Hall. The Huron Valley Saddle Club also enjoyed using the track for their events.



1928 Oakland County Fair Ticket.



1928 Oakland County Fair Ticket.
Caption: Exhibition Hall at Milford's Oakland County Fairgrounds. The grandstand for the track appears behind Exhibition Hall. Photo courtesy of the Milford Historical Society.

Years after a fire burned down a local bowling alley on Main Street, Mel and Dorothy Moore decided to convert Exhibition Hall to a bowling alley. Fairground Lanes soon became the place for many locals to once again enjoy bowling leagues.

In 1967, Fairground Lanes was sold to Mike Sinacola and Frank DeMarco. Each year, from January to April, they hosted Doubles tournaments with 150 teams competing from all over the metropolitan Detroit area.

In 1976, Mott Media purchased Fairgrounds lanes and used the building for its distribution center of Religious media. (Mike and Frank opened a new bowling alley near the corner of Milford and General Motors Roads.) The building also had an office section where Mott Media would work with their authors editing material and preparing books for print. Around 1999 or 2000, a storage center took over the space from Mott Media.

Long ago the Beam family donated property on East Huron street across from the original Fairgrounds. A portion of the property was designated for a park and in 1991 the Village of Milford's Parks and Recreation Commission held a contest to name it. The winning entry called the park: Fairgrounds Park. The sign for this park proudly states: *Commemorating Oakland County Fair 1880 through 1949.*



A letter envelope that advertised the 1915 Milford Fair.

From the Milford Times: Feb. 13, 1915

A LONG AGO FOURTH

An Incident of Its Celebration in Milford

When a person undertakes to relate from memory, events that transpired seventy years previously, errors might easily creep into the narrative; still, it is my belief that this story is, as to facts, almost, if not precisely, correct.

It was on the Fourth of July, 1842 that the first Sunday school convention for the county of Oakland was held at Pontiac; and this tale is to relate the part that Milford played therein.

The village, or perhaps some patriotic individual had an old cannon that was used whenever it seemed desirable to make a noise; and there was ever a strife between the two sides of the river which should have the first use of the gun. For some time previously to the date mentioned it had been on the north side, lying on a slight elevation just east of the saw mill and distillery pond then owned by Aaron Phelps.

Some time previous to the Fourth, Albert Hubbard, George E. Andrews and the writer managed in the night to transport the cannon across the river and hide it under the floor of a small building used by the Hubbard brothers as a joiner shop, and situated about where the Presbyterian church was afterward located.

The powder to load the gun, to wake the people, to start early for Pontiac (some like the house that Jack built) was furnished mainly by Ansley S. Arms and David M. Ladd, but I have a dim recollection that Bristol, the tavern keeper, contributed.

In some way red flannel was procured to make cartridges of a size to fit the bore of the cannon when filled with powder (now don't ask why red flannel;) and as it was before the age of sewing machines, Miss Ann Fox (afterward wife of Willard Hubbard,) Miss Marie Antoinette Fox who married Austin Rankin, used needles to sew up the bags, and they also gave the boys a lunch about midnight.

Of course, it would not do to ask the north side to boost a south side celebration; and this brings to mind the fact that in 1842 most of the business was done on the south side. All that could be called business on the north side was Calvin Eaton's turning shop, Aaron Phelps' saw mill and distillery, and the Widow Edmunds' tavern, which in these days would be called a Hotel with a big H (and by the way, if I am not greatly mistaken, the widow was mother of Lewis and Job Austin by a former husband.)

On the south side were Luman Fuller's flouring mill, Ansley S. Arms and David M. Ladd's general stores at which could be purchased anything from a keg of nails to a fine tooth comb; Bristol's tavern, Schuyler Hubbell's wagon shop, and Joe Bartlett's blacksmith shop.

Now back to the Fourth of July. At 3 o'clock in the morning the cannon was carried to the public square, nearly in front of the residence of Ansley S. Arms, loaded and fired thirteen times, once for each of the original states; and in due season a procession headed by

a four-horse team driven by John L. Andrews, drawing a lumber wagon, made into an omnibus by seats along either side covered by buffalo robes and thirteen pretty girls, followed by buggies, more lumber wagons and about every sort of vehicle that could be found except wheelbarrows.

Such an auspicious beginning and long continuance of a bright midsummer day was not of the kind to awaken the thought that a tragedy was impending.

About mid afternoon, the cannon was taken back to the north side very near the place from which it was taken, the breech placed in the rotted center of a stump, and the gun slightly inclined toward the mill pond, and placed in charge of Mr. Thompkins, the gun loaded as usual excepting that after the charge was put in, stones as near the size of the bore as could readily be found until the bore was filled, and the gun touched off that the stones might fall into the pond with a splash. After a few discharges the gun burst instantly, killing Thompkins; and a large fragment passed very close to Dr. Mowry, who was passing along the street not far eastward.

This casualty cast a gloom over the little community arousing feelings far different from those of the early morning; and those returning from Pontiac, came in with saddened faces, having been told of the tragic occurrence by persons whom they had met.

To the Editor of the Milford Times:

Please edit the foregoing without mercy. Correct where needed and you will please me. And now something farther. You have been very kind to me for many years in regard to contributions to the Times; but in almost every way things have changed with the passing years and there is not now a resident of Milford that cares to read anything more that I might write. I will, however, here set down the names of good families who at different times gave me a home; perhaps not in chronological order, but nearly. Polly Hudson, sister of my father, took me into her little log house already full of children in the fall of 1836; for a time I lived with Mrs. Calvin Eaton—with the family of Hiram Scollard; (could relate a story about his serving in the army in the war of 1812;) family of Schuyler Hubbell; of Fred Bourns; of Bradford Hubbard; of Dennis the merchant, and of John Grow.

And now good-bye to Milford and the Times. Also before closing allow me to state that Ellen Andrews was the last person that tied me to Milford, and she had I known from my childhood.

Egbert F. Albright

ED. - Mr. Albright has from time to time contributed some very interesting articles for the Times, relating incidents of the earliest history of our little town. We know their perusal has been enjoyed by our readers, and we are glad to have been able to record and preserve them ere they passed completely into oblivion. Mr. Albright as a young man came to Milford, then the merest hamlet, in 1836, and is one of the very, very few Still living whose personal recollections extend back to that early day in Milford.