

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17—General Membership Meeting at the United Methodist Church at 1200 Atlantic St, Milford. The meeting starts with a Potluck dinner at 6:30 PM The Program for this meeting is a return visit by Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln who will be reminiscing about the years preceding their time in the White House, when she met and married Abraham and they had children.

Potluck Assignments -

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

Mrs. Lincoln is Coming to Dinner

We had a record turn out (38) for a January Meeting. Lots of new smiling faces in the crowd. There were some fascinating items brought that night. Dr. Ryding's water stick measurer for oil barrels had us all stumped. Thanks to all who brought their treasures to share with us.



There was no February General Meeting; but, on Thursday, March 17th (St. Paddy's Day) at 6:30 p.m. at the Milford Methodist Church we will have a special guest for the evening. Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln (Pam Dawson) in her mourning clothes and in Mary's own words will grab your attention right from the start and transfer you back to her "Early Years". This Program includes her childhood, meeting Abraham, raising their family and up to his election to the Presidency.

Pam Dawson who has portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln for about nine years tells Mary's life story in three parts. Last year Pam spoke on Mary's "Years in the White House" and in 2017 will return to finish her somewhat tragic story with the "Dark Years" after the White House and her husband's death.

This is a ("Don't Miss") Program of 2016. I know you will thoroughly enjoy listening and learning unfamiliar facts from Pam about Mrs. President Lincoln.

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From Our President, *Rena Valentine*

I'd like to first introduce myself to those that may not know me. I have just been elected President and am very excited to start my journey for the next two years. I have served on the Board for 5+ years in other capacities and find it very rewarding work. It is so great to have met so many motivated and dedicated people that share my love of history. We are so blessed to live in such a historical town and it's also nice to hear from people outside Milford, give it such a high regard!

My husband Cal and I live in a wonderful historic home on the NW corner of Hickory and Detroit Streets. We were on the Home Tour a few years ago and plan to be on it again, once we get some remodeling projects done. You may have seen me in full period costume marching in the 4th of July Parades or during a Home Tour stop in recent years while I served as a House Captain. In the parades and at several other events I usually had my granddaughters along, who also have period costumes and enjoy dressing up in them. I've been very involved at the Museum in various projects and roles, most recently working with the student docents.

My vision for the upcoming years is to bring more people together to join our wonderful historical society and to get our name out to those that don't really know much about us and what we do. Our museum is becoming such an attraction thanks to our Museum Director, Elaine Hunter and so many volunteers who have helped to update it and continue to do so. Elaine has more wonderful plans and ideas to be worked on this Spring and, most likely, most will be done before our Grand Opening in May.



Since this is our 40th anniversary of the Historical Society this year, we plan on having a celebration at our April's General Membership Meeting. We are also hoping that our Home Tour this year will be a very special one. In addition to being the Board President this year, I am also serving this year as the Chairperson of the Home Tour Committee. We already have two homes that have committed; however, we are still in need of three more. Many letters have been sent out to

those who have shown an interest in the past, but at this point we do not have any more commitments. If any of you have an interest in having your home on the Home Tour this year or know anyone that might, please contact me at valentiner66@gmail.com or call me at 248-514-9124.

At our last Board meeting, new officers for 2016 were elected. Myself as President; John Robinson as 1st Vice President; Norm Werner as 2nd Vice President; and Norm will also take on the role of Secretary (Recording and Corresponding) until such time as someone would like to take that role on permanently. Sue Bullard will continue to be Treasurer.

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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— Can't dance and it is too wet to plow—so you may as well come to the Museum and lend a hand.

The mice have been moving things around again. It's time to freshen up and straighten up the mess they have made. We could use a hand with painting-walls and woodwork, filing pictures-neat handwriting a must, vacuuming all the stuff in the log cabin.

Before Spring actually arrives and your flights of fancy turn to thoughts of love, Spring cleaning or yard work get in touch with Elaine to help. I can be reached at 248 529-3393 or by email de-tah101@aol.com

A warm thankyou goes to Linda Dagenhardt for her speedy repair of the heat at the Museum. 50 degrees is just too chilly to get much done. The residents of American House enjoyed the informal history talk that was given on Saturday, February 20th. They even invited us back again! The new alarm system, donated by the Maria Moore Quester group has been installed. No false alarms so far.

The Museum officially opens Saturday, May 14th. Our initial display will be compliments of Al Raddi and the Numismatic Society. It will feature tokens and medals given away by past Milford businesses. We will combine that with pictures and other memorabilia from the Museum archives. In combination the display will give an interesting glimpse of the Milford business community in years gone by. Be sure to come in and tell us your memories of these places.

Our post office window and the accompanying mail boxes are an interesting addition to our foyer. But, we need to know more. Do any of you remember the post office when it was where the Village Butcher is? (Approximately 1950) We have some names from the back of the boxes but would really like a combination or two for the locks. If you or someone you know rented a box in that post office, search your memory banks for the numbers.

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Mary Lou Gharrity and Joyce Clark have the record for attendance (64) and Pam Dawson holds the record for the only standing ovation in the five years I have been doing Programs.

I will attempt to make President Lincoln's favorite almond white cake but will have a back-up just in case. So wear something GREEN and let's see who brings corned beef and cabbage. There will be no green beer!

Our April 21st General Meeting will be a Happy 40th Birthday Party for the MHS. Rumor has it there will be lots of facts, food and fun. And, oh Yeah, Birthday Cake for all!!!!

Sandi Muirhead

Church Bells, Chihuahuas and China

Since Easter is in March this year I've decided to write my Milford history stories on our local Houses of Worship.

My first story is related to the Milford Baptist Church located at Detroit and Union St. Remember when I told you about when the Baptist Church bell was used as the local town clock and death notifications? Well in 1871 the Village Council met with the Church for alterations to the Church bell to ring louder in the event of a fire. A vigorous long ringing would alert help and they'd comma running. The Council voted to give a whole dollar to the first person who rang the bell for a full fifteen minutes when there was a fire. I bet everybody in Milford got "Fired Up" when they heard they could earn a whole dollar by being the fastest to the

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The Milford Historian

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Editor: Norm Werner

Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org

Board members who will stay on to serve are Mary Lou Gharity, Sue Gumpfer, Linda Dagenhardt (Maintenance Committee), Jared Clouse (Museum Researcher), Nancy Degenfelder (Museum Researcher), Rich Harrison (Independence Day Parade Committee), Leon Shuler (Publicity Committee), Sandi Muirhead (Programs). Norm Werner will also continue to be our Historian Newsletter editor and our Webmaster, serve with Rich Harrison on the Parade Committee and reprise his role as our chief Home Tour fundraiser.

We still are in need of one more Board Member, hopefully someone who will accept the responsibilities of being our Recording and Corresponding Secretary. We also need volunteers to help at our various events and to work as docents at the museum during the days we will be open. We will again be open this year on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering. It can be a very rewarding experience!

I hope that all of our members will join us in celebrating the important milestone of our 40th anniversary and that all of you will also come out to see the improvements that have been made over the last year at the Museum. I also hope that those of you who are able will volunteer at the Museum or at one of our 2016 events. This always has been and still is your Milford Historical Society and your Museum. The members of the Board are proud of the anniversary and of the Museum and hope that you are, too.

Spring Tea At the Mary Jackson House

Celebrate the beginning of Spring by attending our Annual Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House. This year's traditional Victorian tea which



will include a Fashion Show will be held on Saturday, April 30th. Guests can choose to attend either the 11 am to 1 pm seating or 2 pm to 4 pm seating. Seating is limited, so advance ticket purchase is advised.

Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased at Acorn Farm or Main Street Art. Proceeds from the tea will go directly toward the preservation of the home built in 1873. The tea will feature a variety of sandwiches, savories and scones with jam and an assortment of desserts. Our Spring fashion show will feature a variety of wedding dresses from different time periods. Young women from the Milford area will model the wedding attire and provide a brief history of the dress they are wearing.

Our Spring Tea will provide an opportunity for guests to enjoy the home of Mary Jackson that she loved so much. It also provides a great opportunity for young and old alike to enjoy some wonderful food and warm conversation. For more information visit www.milfordhistory.org or email milfordhistory@hotmail.com

Don't forget the many items that are available at the Museum for gift giving. Christmas may be past but birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any special occasion is a good time for a unique gift. "Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World" a book of Milford's history, historic photographs of a favorite place, a delightful cookbook "Tea at the Mary Jackson House" would all be welcome items for any Milfordite past or present.

Our "little gem" of a Museum is right in the middle of downtown. As you wander Main Street and its' many places of interest be sure to head one block east on Commerce, on the corner at Union. Our hours are 1pm to 4pm Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, beginning May 14. The visit/tour is free however, donations are accepted. The funding for the Museum comes from the Milford Historical Society and its' fund raising efforts.

If you wondered, the Museum is staffed by student docents and adult volunteers. The students are offered a scholarship opportunity based on the number of hours they work at the Museum. The scholarship monies are paid upon graduation from high school. 2016 recipients will be Rebecca Darby and Nicole Manning. Each will receive \$10 for every hour worked with a maximum scholarship amount of \$1000. Anyone interested in becoming a student docent should contact Elaine M. Hunter at detah101@aol.com. Adult docents are all volunteers. We are in need of more for the 2016 season. All it really requires is enthusiasm for history and a commitment of one or two afternoons a month from 1pm to 4pm. The tour is scripted-you don't need to memorize it just point out the most interesting items in each room.

As Director of the Milford Historical Society Museum and a member of the Milford Historical Society I look forward to seeing you at the general membership meeting March 17th or in May when the Museum opens. Remember, "You don't have to be a relic to join".

Membership

Our 2016 Membership Drive is well under way. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please take a moment to fill out the membership envelope that was sent in January and return it. Misplaced your envelope? Membership renewal is located on the back page of the Historical Society Newsletter. Or send an email to Milfordhistory@hotmail.com with Membership in the subject line and we will email you with our membership information. Your membership dues really do mean a lot to our organization. With your dues and generous contributions we can continue our mission of preserving, promoting and sharing the history that means so much to our community.

Welcome New Members

A special welcome to our new members— **Kelly Wooten, Barb Muirhead, Sarah Tanner, Leon and Sheila Shuler** - now Life Time Members. We are so pleased that you joined our Society and look forward to meeting you at an upcoming event.

Milford Historical Society

124 East Commerce

Milford, Michigan 48381

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Church bell when someone yelled "Fire!"

Next, the old St. Mary's Catholic Church at E. Commerce and Hickory St. dedicated their beautiful stone Church on July 7, 1907. The stones were brought from the neighboring fields in horse drawn wagons. This story is still told at St. Mary's. We lived two houses down from the Church. One Sunday morning Mitzy, our hairless Chihuahua, was outside doing her business (where was mom?) and heard singing. So little Mitzy decided to investigate and proceeded across busy E. Commerce and down the sidewalk. She then climbed the mountain of stairs through the open doors and proceeded to walk down the center aisle like she owned the place right up to the Altar and no doubt bewildered Priest. I assume there were shocked faces

(she did look like a rat) and chuckles from the Parish. Someone there knew us and brought her back home. Talk about awkward! Well, you've got to give Mitzy credit, at least she was in the right Church. After all she was a Mexican Chihuahua!!

Last, a tragic story that happened at my Milford Presbyterian Church at Liberty and Main St. A member of the Church for thirty years, Miss Edith Fletcher on Sept. 5, 1908 arrived carrying china dishes and a cake for the evening supper they were hosting. She entered from the Liberty St. entrance and headed to the kitchen. Finding it difficult with what she was carrying, she turned and attempted to sit the cake on the window sill. Edith lost her footing and fell striking her head on the concrete floor. She passed away two days later from her injuries. So please use hand rails and make more trips. We are always in a hurry these days. So... these are my stories and I'm sticking to them. Hope you enjoyed them. See you in Church! - Sandi Muirhead

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

Name:

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.