

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 15—General membership meeting at MUMC. Pot Luck starts at 6:30 with a short meeting to follow. Program should start around 7:30.

Pot luck assignments— A—F— Main dishes, G—Q—Side/Salad Dishes, R—Z— Desserts



War Dogs on Program for March Meeting

March 15th War Dogs - Speaker will be Phil Weitlauf -Founder of the Michigan War Dog Memorial in 2010 and has been able to convert the abandoned pet cemetery into a park setting honoring our K9 Heroes. The War Dog Memorial is a place where ceremonial burials for Military, Police and other Service dogs are conducted in memory of their service to our country and communities.

Programs for remainder of 2018:

April 19th	Tom Neff
May 17th	Mr. Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln (Not Pam Dawson) Milford Library
July 19th	Annual Picnic at Mary Jackson House
Sept 20th	Better Made Potato chips
October 18th	Polar Express team Engine
November 15th	TBA

From Our President, John Robinson

Hello esteemed members!

I have been elected as the new President of the Milford Historical Society and could not be more proud to be associated with such a fantastic group of members!

Let me introduce myself for those who do not know me. My name is John Robinson, been around this area in some capacity most of my life. I have always had an interest in history. I am also an Army veteran who served from 1970 to 1976. My role in the Army was quite different. I rode horses (if you want more info you will need to ask me!).

Now, my view of what I believe in our Society. First, everyone has an equal voice! What this means is, we are all equal! It doesn't matter how long you have been a member, or how old (or young) you are, but your voice is every bit as important as the one next to you. I would love to see more participation across the board. You do not have on the Board of Directors to Chair, or be on a committee or volunteer some way (I bet you would even have fun!). New ideas are important, such as the Golf outing this year. First time we've had one!

Please look at the outing flyer and pass it along to others, we can use volunteers, golfers, sponsors, donations for items to be given away either as gifts or small business related items to put in golfers bags.

Our guest speaker in March is the president of the Michigan War Dog Cemetery. You don't want to miss him on March 15. Only two war dog cemeteries exist in the US, and we have one in South Lyon! Phil will give the history of some of the famous buried. I'll give away part of the secret, Admiral Byrd's dog is there.



Also, this month we all need to read and vote on suggested bylaw changes. These are included within the newsletter but also posted on our webpage.

Speaking of our webpage, how many of you actually visit it? It is fantastic and full of information. If you want to see the current bylaws, they are posted on the webpage. So many things are happening and in the works, you will have to come to the meeting to find out!

See you at the March meeting!

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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Museum Director's Report -

Ed.—Our Museum Director, Elaine Hunter, is on vacation in Spain this month. So, I asked our newly appointed Collections Manager, Jackie Swensen to bring us up to date on what she's been doing with the collection at the museum.

The position of Collections Manager is new and involves the cat-

aloging (called accessioning in museum-speak) of the collection and the caretaking of the artifacts (the physical stuff that makes up the collection). Jackie has been working away several days a week for over a month now getting caught up in the accessioning work. Below is her report.

Being a new volunteer at the Milford Historical Museum I am so excited that I can work with the collection. I have found so many wonderful artifacts, with ties to the history of the Milford area. It is so interesting to know the stories behind each item, whether it is an artifact, a document, or a photo.

Last week I prepared a beautiful wedding dress for storage, and would like to share it with you. This dress belonged to Ellen (Ella) Skeman Bennett. Ella was born February 11, 1862 and married Charles Walter Bennett on March 11, 1882. Ella died on February 26, 1948 and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. The math tells us that Ella married at age 20 and lived to be 86. Think of all the stories she could tell us about the changes she witnessed in our community.

Some interesting observations I made when working with this dress are: It is totally handmade, and the workmanship is exquisite. Ella was a petite woman. Ella did not choose to follow Queen Victoria's example of wearing white, she chose a more practical dress that could be worn after the wedding. The dress does show some wear, so we can assume that Ella wore it many times.

The photos and information that came with the dress tell us that Ella's decedents cherished this dress and the memories that went with it. We are so thankful that they chose us to continue to care for this part of their family history and the history of Milford.

The picture is of Gwendolyn Bennett Sunderson modeling her great grandmother's wedding dress in 1952. With her in the photo is her brother Charles Porter Bennett.



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100 Year Anniversary of WWI

American involvement 1917-1919

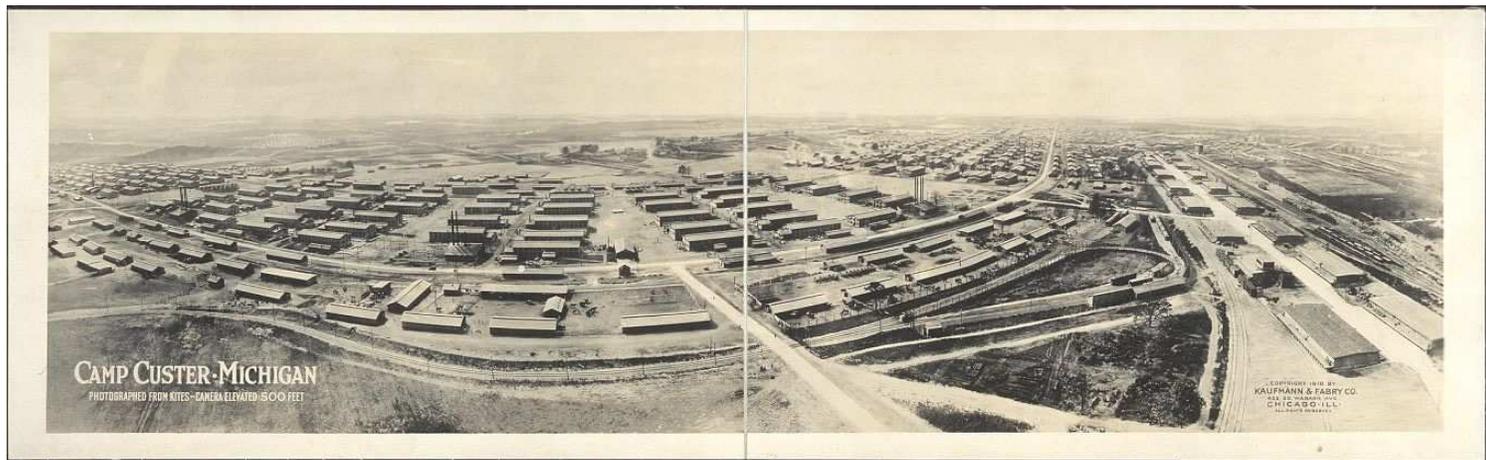
The Great War—article by Linda Dagenhardt

On April 6, 1917, the U.S. joined its allies--Britain, France, and Russia--to fight in World War I. Under the command of Major General John J. Pershing, more than 2 million U.S. soldiers fought on battlefields in France, Russia and Germany.

Mid-1918 influenza epidemic killed 20 million worldwide. Troop losses from the flu epidemic soon exceeded combat casualties.

WW I ends at 11 am, November 11, 1918

The Great War took the life of some 9 million soldiers; 21 million more were wounded. Civilian casualties caused indirectly by the war numbered close to 10 million. The two nations most affected were Germany and



Camp Custer, near Battle Creek, MI. was built in 1917 for military training during World War I. Named after Civil War cavalry officer General George Armstrong Custer, the facility trained or demobilized more than 100,000 troops during World War I. It is still in use today.

The Firsts of the Great War; fought on Land, Air and Sea, first recognition of Shell Shock, use of Medical Triage, major use of Poison Gas, Gas Masks, Tanks in Combat, widespread use of Flame Throwers. Aircraft Carriers, first use of Planes, Fighter Pilots, Steel Helmets, Field Telephones & Communications, Blood Banks were created, Submarines became a key component in naval strategy, Mobile X-Ray developed to help Dr.'s in the field, World War I was the first time in American history in which women were officially attached to arms of the American military and government agencies. Yeomen (F) served with the Navy and the Marine Corps, while the Army Nurse Corps was attached to the Army. In France, 223 American women popularly known as "Hello Girls" served as long-distance switchboard operators for the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

France, each of which sent some 80 percent of their male populations between the ages of 15 and 49 into battle.

Local residents in WWI

Theron "T" Arms served in the Polar Bear Expeditionary Force in Russia with the 337 Ambulance CO.

The American Expeditionary Force included the following men:

Fred Allen with the US Navy

Leo Lockwood 1ST. SGT. MI. BTRY B 8 FIELD ARTY.

Cecil Stettler Sgt. CO. C 313th. Field Signal Battalion

Edward Knapp LIEUTEANT Army Air Mail Corp

These Veterans rest in Oak Grove cemetery along with 47 other WW I Veterans

These men organized the American Legion Ernest F. Oldenburg Post 216 in Milford.

If you notice, Veterans day is November 11, the day WW I ended.

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Mary Jackson Spring Tea tickets now on sale



Friends and Family are invited to our annual Spring Tea hosted by the ladies of the Historical Society. Bring that special friend and relax in the beautiful childhood home of Mary Jackson.

An enjoyable afternoon is guaranteed to all those who attend. The date of this year's tea will be Saturday, April 28, 2018. Guests can choose to attend either the 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. seating or the 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. seating. A scrumptious variety of tea sandwiches, savories and deserts will be served. Guests will also enjoy a fashion show that will feature a selection of wedding gowns that have been donated to the Society. Modeling the wed-

ding gowns will be some of our students from our student docent program.

Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased at Acorn Farm and Main Street Art. Tickets are on sale now. 100% of the proceeds will go to the preservation of the childhood home of Mary Jackson. Seating is limited so purchase your tickets soon.

Long time member passes

It is with heavy heart that we share the sad news of the passing of Marv Renko. Marv and his wife Renee have been members of the Historical Society for 20 plus years and Marv will truly be missed. Our deepest sympathy to Renee and her family during this difficult time.

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	\$10	Family	\$30
Senior	\$10	Lifetime	\$250
Individual	\$20	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.