

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21 - Sesquicentennial of the Village of Milford — 1869 - 2019 150 years of growth.

Potluck Assignments—Pot luck assignments—A—F— Main Dish G—Q—Salads and sides, R—Z— Desserts

2019 Milford Historical Society Programs

March 21 - Sesquicentennial of the Village of Milford — 1869 - 2019 150 years of growth. Program presented by local historian Linda Dagenhardt based upon her research into the founding of the Village.

April 18 - Pontiac's Eastern Michigan Asylum—Author Bruce Annett will show pictures, facts and fiction about the asylum

May 16 - Victorian Mourning Customs and Jewelry - Pat Burgess will share her collection of jewelry and customs

July 21 - Picnic at the Mary Jackson House 2 P.M.—Chicken, Hotdogs, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Water, Plates & Silverware, Napkins and Entertainment will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and anything else you need.

September 19 - 100th Anniversary of the Ernest F Oldenburg American Legion Post 216

History of Post 216 and their service to the community - Bonnie Welbaum

October 17 - Facts and Fantasy of Halloween

!! Prize for the best costume!!

November 21 - Holiday Entertainment

From Our President, *John Robinson*

To our esteemed members;

As the Winter season is winding down, the museum committee never sleeps! Even though our museum is closed until Spring, some exciting new displays are being planned. You will see WWI items, our own American Legion Ernest F. Oldenburg Post 216 display, Village of Milford anniversary items and other new items.



At our February meeting, Ralph Mantela discussed his new book and gave his insight to the Ford Carburetor Plant. I understand it was well

received and very informative. Thank you, Ralph!

There are several board positions open and the search for a museum director is in full swing. If you are interested, please contact any MHS Board member. We have several interested as of now whom we are interviewing.

I have been out with personal health issues but should be back soon. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting. If there is something you would like to see, or change, please let us know. You can talk to any one of us, send a note to the museum or whatever method you like. I have met several folks at various places, maybe even just for a cup of coffee. It is always good to communicate in any way we can. We are only as good as our membership.

As always, guests are welcome at all general membership meetings. Remind them to bring a plate and a drink! We will attempt to pass our bylaw changes at every meeting. It has been awhile since the changes were sent but you can find reference to them on our website—www.milfordhistory.org

My very best to each of you!

John Robinson

Our Mission Statement: We are organized exclusively for educational purposes. We bring together people who are interested in history, especially the history of the

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Museum Report—

Written by Sue Bullard

It won't be long now until the museum will open for another season. Until then volunteers have been busy getting ready for new exhibits and doing some necessary updates to the museum.

Soon we will be looking for our faithful volunteer group to help clean the museum and then once the museum is open we will need docents to work at

the museum on the days that it is open.

We are all looking forward to seeing what the Collection Committee is coming up with to display some important events in our community history (see Jackie's report below). A tentative date for our museum opening will be Saturday, May 11, 2019.

When our museum is open we will need some docents to help staff the museum. Have you ever thought of becoming a docent at the museum? What is a docent? Well a Museum Docent is a title given to a guide that helps further the public understanding of cultural or historical collections. Our museum will be open from May to December on Wednesday, Saturday and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm. Docents can volunteer to work one three hour shift a month. Training will be given to our docents to learn about the history of our community as well as the items displayed at the museum.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact milfordhistory@hotmail.com.

A Year of Celebration! - written by Jackie Swensen

There is a small group of Museum volunteers who have been working on new displays in our first floor area devoted to changing exhibits. We started brainstorming last summer and realized that Milford has three significant celebrations this year.

First The Village of Milford was chartered 150 years ago. Think back to what might have been happening here, and the people that made the decision to form a government. Then think of all the changes this Village has seen over that time. Was your family here 150 years ago? Stop in at the museum to see how the Village has changed by looking at our collection of historic pictures.



Then we turn to world history, this year is the 100th anniversary of the World War I Armistice. As we have dug into our collection and researched, we find that the Milford area sent a lot of men to the front lines.



And then think about what that meant for those left here at home. The jobs that the men left had to be taken up by those here while they worried about husbands, sons, brothers and friends on the battle fields.

Then we move back home – when our service members came home they needed a place to find social and emotional fellowship. The American Legion filled those and many other needs. The Ernest F. Oldenburg American Legion Post in Milford was formed 100 years ago. So we are also celebrating the charter of this important part of our village history.

The Museum will reopen for the 2019 season in May. Stop in and learn more about these three important events in our community's history.

The Milford Historian

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Milford Historical Society

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Editor: Norm Werner

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Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House



Spend an enjoyable afternoon with family and friends at the annual Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House. Volunteers are busy planning a traditional Victorian Tea including a Fashion Show. The date of this year's

Spring Tea will be Saturday, April 27, 2019. Guests can choose to attend either an 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. sitting or the 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. sitting. Tickets will go on sale on Saturday, March 9, 2019.

Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased at Acorn Farm or Main Street Art. Proceeds from the tea will go directly towards the upkeep and preservation of the home built in 1873. The tea will feature a variety of sandwiches, savorys, and scones with jam and an assortment of deserts. This year's Spring Fashion Tea features a lovely collection of wedding dresses donated to the Historical Society. Young women from the Milford area will model the wedding attire and provide a brief history of the dress they are wearing.

The Spring Tea provides an opportunity for guests to enjoy the home Mary Jackson loved so much. It also provides a great opportunity for young and old alike to enjoy some wonderful food and warm conversation. Seating is limited, advance ticket purchase is recommended. For more information, please visit our web site at www.milfordhistory.org or email milfordhistory@hotmail.com

Mary Jackson House Update

January has been a busy month at the Jackson House. The Preservation work on the house is coming along. The wall paper has been removed from the Parlour and the Dining Room. We were pleased to see that the work under the old wallpaper was minimum. Our workers have been busy touching up the wood work and preparing the walls for the new wallpaper.

If you remember from our December newsletter, we had a generous donation from one of our members who donated money to help purchase a reproduction of the wallpaper that was used when Mary remodeled the house in the 1970's. A company called the Detroit Wall Paper Factory reproduced the wall paper and it looks great. The installation of the wall paper should take place soon.

Once the Parlor is finished our attention will turn to the Dining Room. We have found wallpaper that matches what is currently in the Dining Room and Living room. We expect work to be completed just in time for the Spring Tea on April 27th. Pictures of the preservation project can be seen at our facebook page – Mary Jackson Historic Home.

Did you know that Milford had Polar Bears?

Written by Jackie Swenson, Collections Manager

I didn't know anything about the Army's Polar Bears until a few years ago when I was working at another Michigan Museum and a photo of the Polar Bear Unit was donated. Since that time I've learned a great deal more about The American Expeditionary Force, Northern Russia.

The Polar Bears were a contingent of about 5,000 US Army troops that landed in Arkhagnelsk Russia as part of the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War. As we research for this years displays we are finding that Milford had quite a few men in that unit.



This horse feed sack was loaned to us by our Historical Society President John Robinson. It seems that John's house was owned by a Polar Bear, Lt Harry Mead. When John brought this in I looked at it and thought that's interesting, it's a bag to hang on the horse.

When I handled it to get this photo I realized how truly interesting it is.

This bag is designed so that the under side is fuller than the top to accommodate the horses lower jaw. What I thought were random frayed or chewed holes are actually intentional holes in a pattern that allows the horse to breathe. Can you tell I'm not a farm girl?

As we sorted thru our Military uniforms we have found several cavalry uniforms which makes sense when you consider that Milford was an agriculture community at that time. The only service represented in our collection of uniforms from WWI is the Army. If you have a uniform from another branch of the service from that era and would like to loan it to us for this display it would help tell a more complete story. We would also welcome information on your ancestor who played a part in the story of WWI.

If this has peaked your curiosity please stop in when we open and check out our displays.

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Renew Your Membership Now

Oops, did you forget to send in your membership dues? Our membership drive is in full swing and if you haven't renewed your membership yet, there is still time to do so. We will be sending out a friendly reminder, please take a few minutes to fill out your membership envelope and drop it in the mail. Better yet, bring your dues to the March General Membership Meeting and save on the stamp.



Your participation helps ensure that our treasures are carefully preserved and that our schoolchildren learn about the early history of our community. Your membership dues will be good until December of 2019 and will ensure that you remain on our mailing list. We appreciate your support in the past and we hope that you will continue your membership in 2019. We have so much going on you don't want you to miss out!

Do you know someone that might be interested in becoming a member? Our membership is affordable and makes a great gift

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:			
Individual	\$25	Family	\$50
Senior	\$10	Lifetime	\$250
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.