

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 19—General Membership at Milford United Methodist Church. Potluck at 6:30 PM. Program starts at 7:30—The history of Christmas in the U.S. Potluck Assignments - A—F— Main Dish G—Q—Salads or sides, R—Z— Desserts

No Meeting in December

Next General Membership meeting will be Jan 21, 2016. Check the Jan-Feb Historian for Potluck assignments

Programs past and future

Thank you all who attended our September and October General Meetings.

September Meeting had Steve Stanford who talked on Henry Ford and Thomas Edison. Steve was fun, informative and had a true passion for what he loves.

October Meeting with Anna Lopez, a retired Drama teacher, kept us laughing with her imitations of Eleanor and Franklin's mothers Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Delano. Anita let it be known she was not a fan of either one.

Reminder there is no December Meeting but January 21st, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church 1200 Atlantic St. will be the annual Unique, Ugly and Unusual Program. Bring an item of interest either vintage or recent with a short story about it. Maybe even win a prize. It's always fun to see what everyone brings to the table (literally).

Our Thursday November 19th General Meeting, at the same time and location as above, will be our Stuff Your Self With Turkey Potluck. The Board will be providing the turkeys and gravy. See letter chart for others to see what to bring. Think Turkey Dinner.

Our Guest Speaker is Pastor Bryant Anderson. He is many of our members' Pastor from the Milford Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Bryant studied religion and philosophy at the University of Florida and got his Master

(Continued on page 2)

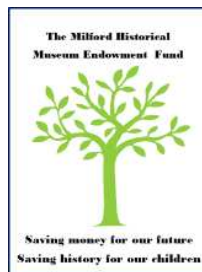
From Your President, Norm Werner

Another successful year for the Milford Historical Society and the Milford Historical Museum will soon draw to a close. We had a very good 4th of July Parade and Granny's Attic Sale in July and a great Home Tour in September, with good weather for the most part. Bill Crawford put on another successful Tractor Show on Sunday of Home Tour weekend. The Fall Tea at the Mary Jackson House was another sell-out, as was the Spring Tea earlier in the year. The Museum renovation was completed and the Museum has been enjoying good traffic ever since, with lots of long-time Milford residents making their first visit this year. Our student docent program is currently full, with 12 young people doing docent duties on the weekends. All-in-all it has been a great year.



I'm proud of the work that we do to preserve and share the history of Milford. This past year we got the first half of the microfilmed records of the Milford Times that we have digitized and up on-line at the Clarke History Library on the Central Michigan University campus. You can see them by going to http://libforms.cmich.edu/condor/newspaper_portal.php and choosing to look at the Oakland County newspapers. There are papers from Lake Orion and South Lyon there, too.

This missive will be my last as President of the Board of Directors for the Society. Like a Michigan politician, I am term limited; so there will be new leadership starting in January. I feel good about the state of the organization that I will be turning over to the new leader. I will stay on the Board and continue to support the Society and the various events that it runs.



One of the accomplishments of this past year was the establishment of an Endowment Fund. We at least got the official framework established, with a set of guidelines for the governance of the fund and the approval of a set of investment guidelines. The endowment fund was established so that one day we could fund the student docent scholarships that we award each year without impacting our operating budget.

Now all we need is some money to manage and invest. To that end, I have established an Internet funding site for the endowment. The site is at <https://www.crowdrise.com/themilfordhistorical>. You can sign on there and make a donation to the endowment fund. Just a reminder that there is a provision for naming the scholarships after the names of individuals who donate \$20,000 or more in a single gift. The scholarships are awarded at the end of each school year, based upon the completion of a required amount of docent time at the Museum by the scholarship recipient.

A reminder also that we are a Kroger Plus Shoppers Card partner. If you sign on to the Kroger Community rewards site—<https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> you can sign up to allow your Kroger Plus points to earn money for the Milford Historical Society. The money that Kroger sends to us does not impact your points totals in any way;



(Continued on page 3)

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

NORM WERNER 248-763-2497

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

RENA VALENTINE 248-514-9124

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

John Robinson 248-343-7772

TREASURER

SUE BULLARD 248-685-8321

RECORDING & CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

OPEN

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



Rena Valentine and Nancy Degenfelder.

Also to be mentioned is the funding of the museum. Many guests donated generously when they came to visit. However, we would be remiss not to mention the hard work that goes into the two major fund raisers the Milford Historical Society has to support the museum. The Granny's Attic sale headed by Dwayne Freitag and the Milford Home Tour, chaired for the last twelve years by Sue Gumper. Both of these events take hours of planning, organizing and recruiting volunteers to be presented each year.

We began with an open house to welcome the community to the "new look" of the museum. We will close the museum with an open house to celebrate our thanks for our community, our history and our many volunteers. Please join us on Sunday, November 29th from 1:00 to 4:00 for fun and refreshments.

We will make butter, corn husk dolls, listen to music, snack and enjoy the company of members of our community. This family event is a wonderful way to end both the holiday weekend and the season at the museum.—Elaine Hunter Museum Director

(Programs —Continued from page 1)

of Divinity Degree at Princeton Theological Seminary. He was a Pastor along with many other Pastors at a church in Doylestown, Pennsylvania before coming to Michigan. His wife, Kristen, is a former teacher and they had three darling children Owen, Ellery and Emmi.



Pastor Bryant will be discussing Christmas in the United States. The Christmas season brings the past and tradition together this time of year.

Interestingly, many traditions America celebrates at Christmas are recent inventions. Though something similar to Christmas has been celebrated for millennia in almost every culture, our particular way of celebrating—though it feels as old as Old St. Nick himself—is an innovation of the 20th century and a radical departure from what had come before. This sounds like a whole new way of thinking of the Holiday Season.

The MHS Board wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Historic Holiday.

Museum Report—Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to pause and acknowledge all that we have to be thankful for. The museum is no exception, having had an exciting 2015 season. We began the year with renovation of the foyer and main floor display area, construction expertise volunteered by Linda Dagenhardt and her skilled staff. The flowers continued to bloom outside thanks to master gardener, volunteer Sue Grifor. Staffing the museum, all volunteers, was deftly handled by

Student Docent Update

At this point, we have 12 students that are enrolled in the Student Docent Scholarship Program. Two of them will be graduating in 2016, which will mean that we will have to find two more to replace them in 2017. Our Student Services Coordinator at Huron Valley Schools, Maureen Schneider, has done a great job in reaching out to the parents in hopes to find new interest in our program. Hopefully, we will find two new candidates for the 2017 season at the museum.

As you may know, our Student Docent Scholarship Program is a paid program that pays \$10 hour from 30 minimum hours to a maximum of 100 hours during a student's time in school; paid out in their senior year. Duties include, (but are not limited to), giving tours at the museum; working at our events such as Granny's Attic Garage Sale, our two teas at the Mary Jackson House, and our Home Tour.

Please contact me by Education@milfordhistory.org or call 248-514-9124 to reach Rena Valentine, Student Docent Coordinator.

it's just a way that Kroger has to keep track of things and to give back to the community. You must sign up each year, so go there and sign up for the remainder of this year.

Just a reminder also that with Christmas coming up there are some great gifts that you can buy for people on your list at the Museum. We have our book on the history of Milford—**Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World**. This is a must have coffee table book for every Milford home. We have several other books, including the Mary Jackson Teas Cookbook.

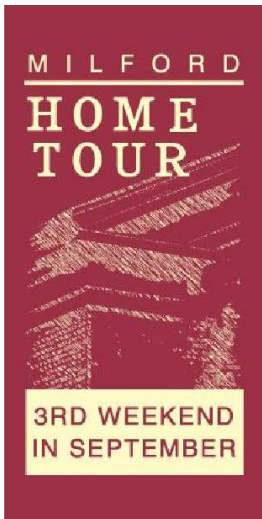
This year we also have a great selection of prints of some of the historic pictures that we have at the Museum. Prints are available in a variety of sizes and come un-matted and unframed. Our supporters at Main Street Art would be happy to mat and frame them for you in time for Christmas. You really should include the Museum on your Christmas shopping schedule. You won't find the unique gifts we have to offer at Kohl's or Walmart.

Finally, as part of my swan song; I'd like to thank the other members of the Board and of the Society who have been so supportive and helpful during my term as President. Almost nothing gets done that doesn't involve a lot of hard work by the board members and Society members. I encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to our general membership meetings and to visit the Museum. We need new members and we need the youth of our community, so that Milford's rich history can be passed on to them.

As a community we do a great job responding to the appeals made by organizations like Community Sharing or groups like Team Huron Valley Special Olympics and to individual appeals from people in need. That response shows the character of the community that we live in

Small volunteer organizations like the Milford Historical Society are the real backbone of cultural life in the community. This includes our community churches and organizations like the Village Fine Arts Association and the Huron Valley Council of the Arts. I encourage you to also support these cultural organizations.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Home Tour 2015 was a Success!



The Milford Historical Society Home Tour requires a large team of dedicated volunteers to be successful. As HT Chair, Sue Gumper, sends out a big thank you to all of our volunteers. I know you worked hard and hope you had fun.

First, our home tour would not be possible without the generous support of a special organization and our homeowners. This year's sites belong to the Masonic Lodge, Candy and Sean Freiberg, John Gatti, Stacey Mazarra, and Marge Sawruk. Our heartfelt thanks go to each one for allowing the Historical Society to share their beautiful historic lodge and homes with over 650 curious visitors.

With every successful event comes a group of individuals that work countless hours planning. The Historical Society would

like to acknowledge the Home Tour Committee members and supporters who took charge of home and volunteer procurement, publicity, entertainment, hospitality, signage, finance, historic research, setup and sponsorships. Sue Bullard, Joyce Clark, Linda Dagenhardt, Nancy Degenfelder, Sandi Muirhead, Sheila and Leon Shuler, Rena Valentine and Norm Werner. You did an outstanding job and you have our sincere appreciation. The weekend could not have happened without your hard work and enthusiasm.

Each year a few volunteers agree to be a House Captain and work closely with our homeowners making sure everything runs smoothly during the weekend. Thank you to this year's House Captains: Carolyn Graves, Brook Qualman, Susan Smith, and Judy Waara. Their dedication and hard work made this a successful home tour.

A special thank you goes out to our members who planned and presented activities during the home tour: Bill Crawford organized the Antique Tractor Show; Suzanne Bailey created a great Powerhouse presentation, Museum Director Elaine Hunter, Tami Averill and Don Sleek for taking us back in history at the South Park Log Cabin and Tony Panepucci, John Miller and Nic Meyer who spent many hours trying to find a Privy Digging location.

Other indispensable volunteers are Acorn Farm, Danielle DeLonge, Mary Lou Gharrity, Rich Harrison, Jared Clouse, Nancy Lang, Main Street Art, Judith Reiter, John Robinson, and Your Nesting Place. Their hard work behind the scenes and time spent with the public certainly helped to make this year's tour a success.

The tour could not happen without our largest group of volunteers, the home tour docents. About 125 community members donated 3 or more hours to welcome our visitors and guide them through the homes. They help to make the tour an informative, fun experience.

I would like to thank all the businesses and organizations who participated in our Sponsorship Program. Please refer to our Sponsorship article to see who helped out the Historical Society and consider giving them your business.

Lastly, I thank all of our home tour visitors. I hope you enjoyed the tour and learned some interesting Milford history.

2015 Home Tour Report

The annual Home Tour provides the funding for the operation and upkeep of the Milford Historical Museum and other project's sponsored by the Historical Society including student docent scholarships, copying the Milford Times, the Mary Jackson house and the Fourth of July parade. This is why we greatly appreciate everyone who volunteers their time and expertise to the Home Tour.

This year's Home Tour was successful. We sold approximately 450 tickets and offered complimentary tickets to 150 docents and sponsors. The gross profit from ticket sales equaled \$7,000.00. Our Home Tour Sponsorship Program totaled \$12,000.00 after expenses. The 2015 Home Tour raised a grossed \$19,000.00. This will certainly go a long way in helping us maintain and operate the museum and supporting the Society's many projects.

2016 Home Tour

The 2016 Home Tour will be on the weekend of September 17-18 and is the 40th Home Tour conducted by the Milford Historical Society, which makes it one of the oldest continuously presented Home Tour events in Southeastern Michigan, if not the oldest. Put it on your 2016 calendars as soon as you get them.

Milford Historical Society

124 East Commerce

Milford, Michigan 48381

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

A Dam Good Story - Researched and written by Sandi Muirhead

Every summer in the 1800's the Huron River would dry up in the months of July and August causing Aque (a malaria type disease causing fever and violent chills). Quinine pills were taken and did help somewhat.

There would be less water in the Summer and the Huron River would become a swampland. The farmers thought at the time it was the mud and stench that was the culprit.

The farmers in 1855 begged Major Hughes who bought the Armstrong grist mill and dam to let the water go in the Spring to eliminate the drying up in the Summer months when there was less rain fall.


Hughes Refused!! So one day when Major Hughes was in Ohio the farmers had a Bee (gathering) and decided to take matters into their own hands. They harnessed their teams of horses and drove to the Armstrong Dam and knocked every last dam log down into the Huron River.

When Major Hughes came back he had a mill but it wasn't worth a dam.

The town folk were on the right page blaming it on the mud. It was years later that modern science discovered it was the mosquitos breeding in the stench and mud that carried malaria.

History books show that Milford was as healthy as any other town it's size after the dam was destroyed.

(Ed.— A dam fine story Sandi)

 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.