

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next General Membership meeting is Thursday, November 17th. Our guest speaker will be talking about the History of Baskets. There will be a pot luck dinner, of course; but the Board members will be providing the main dish—turkey. The pot luck dinner will start at 6:30. For this one potluck only members with last names starting with A to M should bring side dishes that go with turkey or salads. Members with last names starting with N through Z should bring desserts.

We Had A Meeting?

Due to an earlier meeting date in September, combined with late newsletters and absent the normal e-mail reminder in October, our General Membership Meetings was missing many of our regular members.

Now remember the General Membership Meeting dates are always in your newsletter but people put them away and forget them and wait for the e-mail to jog their memory. You can also find information about them on our web site www.milfordhistory.org.

I suggest two things;

- 1) When the newsletter arrives get your calendar out and write down the dates right then.
- 2) I will bring copies to the November and January General Meetings of all the 2017 General Meeting dates and Speakers. Let's see if that helps. Remember that I also remind you about upcoming meetings at each General Meetings .

Remember we are visitors.

I was asked to remind members and guests that we are guests at the Methodist Church. We are not to use any of their silverware, trays, plates, food or coffee supplies. You are responsible for your own place settings and drinks. We do supply coffee and tea when it is brought to the Meeting. Please refrain from using any of the Church's kitchen items. I will bring some extra paper plates, plastic silverware and serving

(Continued on page 3)

From Our President, *Rena Valentine*

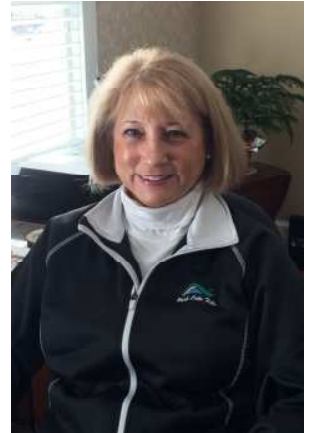
Fall is certainly in the air and so are all of the leaves. Even though this is a beautiful time of the year, we do have our work cut out for us in the way of raking them. In addition to that, we do have our museum to tend to so that we can close it up for the winter. We do have several projects that we would have to work on over the winter, so that our opening in the spring is a special one again. Please see our Museum Director's report later in the newsletter. Please let us know if you can help in closing it up.

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered and attended our annual Home Tour. This year was our 40th, and it was a very special one. We had five beautiful homes to see and it was well attended. Even with the rain on Saturday, there was a steady flow of people that went to see the houses. With the beautiful weather on Sunday, the tractor show downtown that our own Bill Crawford puts on had its best turnout ever. There were 24 tractors that were shown and many people attended. There were also at least 270 cars that were shown at the Milford Car Show on Sunday, which was a huge success.

A big thank you should go out to our many sponsors that make our Home Tour what it is today. We can't thank you enough. Norm Werner has sent out a wonderful thank you e-mail to all sponsors that support our event. Without our sponsors and volunteers, this would not be our most valuable fund raising event.

Our next fund raiser is the Mary Jackson Tea which is being held at the Mary Jackson House at the corner of Houghton and Canal St. This event will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2016. Please see Sue Bullard's article later in the newsletter on the details.

In 2017, we are pleased to announce that we are having pianist, Bob Milne back for a concert at the Milford Presbyterian Church. This event took place for the first time last year and was a huge success. The date is set for March 28, 2017. Details to follow.



Don't forget that our next General Membership meeting is Thursday, November 17th. Our guest speaker will be talking about the History of Baskets. There will be a pot luck dinner, of course; but the Board members will be providing the turkey. Hope you can come. It will start at 6:30.

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—

Milford Historical Society Museum—
by Elaine M. Hunter, Director

Summer is gone, there is a briskness in the air and the leaves are falling fast. Won't be long and we will be saying "Brrrr-baby it's cold outside". The Museum is a perfect place to stop on your walk around town to see all of the Fall foliage, have a cup of hot chocolate and a cookie on us and en-

joy a look at the "Ladies Fancy Work" of days gone by.

In our main display- you will find a display of many items, all but a few from the cupboards and closets of the museum that showcase what women did in their "free time". Have you ever seen Bobbin Lace or Tatting done with a shuttle just two inches long? Do you know what a darning egg is? Did you know that ladies used to carry two hankies "one for show and one for blow". Many of these talents, crocheting, knitting, rug hooking, embroidery, needle point and quilting are becoming lost arts.

In years gone by these skills were learned at an early age and many became quite proficient at them. The finished results served a decorative purpose on clothing, pillows or hankies. However, there was also a practical need for these creations in the form of blankets (quilts) scarves, mittens, hats and socks. It is unfortunate that in these days of television and many social media outlets people do not take the time to pursue these quiet endeavors. Without renewed interest before the knowledgeable ladies are gone many of these "handmade" lovelies will only be available to look at in museums.

(Continued on page 3)

Fall Tea at the Mary Jackson House

Spend an enjoyable afternoon as the Milford Historical Society will once again host a Fall Tea at the childhood home of



Mary Jackson at 642 Canal St.

Ms. Jackson was born and raised in Milford. A graduate of Milford High School class of 1927, Ms. Jackson went on star in theater productions, television programs and several motion pictures. Her most prominent role was of Ms. Emily Baldwin of the 1970's program The Walton's.

Mary Jackson loved the fall season in Milford and often brought her Hollywood friends back to enjoy the fall season. The date of this year's Fall Tea is

Saturday, November 12, 2016.

Two tea settings will be offered, the first from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the second from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Each guest will enjoy savories and sandwiches, scones and assorted desserts along with tea, coffee and punch. Guests will also enjoy a fashion show of vintage clothing modeled by local High School Students.

Tickets for the Fall Tea are \$25.00 and may be purchased at the Milford Historical Museum, 124 E. Commerce Street beginning Home Tour Weekend. Tickets can still be purchased at Acorn Farms located at 367 N. Main Street and Main Street Art located at 432 N. Main Street.

There are only a few tickets left for both settings. For more information, please call 248-685-7308 or visit www.milfordhistory.org or visit our Facebook page.

spoons. If you HAPPEN to forget your place setting for a meeting come see me for those things. Do not venture into the kitchen. If you come more than once you should know what to bring with you to the Meeting. Thank you.

Make no Bones About It!!!!

September General Meeting was a grave ordeal. Russ showed us not only what famous people were laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery but what they were buried in or under. It brought a lot of memories back hearing their names again. Thanks Russ. I know my Quester Group wants you to give us the tour complete with your overalls and skunk skin cap.



Bear Bait

Sorry.... you had to be at the October General Meeting to get this story.

Mike Jewel, a native Anishnaabe Indian and Master Bead Worker, had us laughing our heads off with his Indian jokes and stories. No one wanted him to stop except his wife who kept nudging me to get Mike to quit talking. Just like a wife. His blanket and hide collection all had interesting stories behind them. Due to lots of people not being able to attend I have asked him to come next March again with more stories and laughs. He said he'd love to.

Joan's a Basket Case

Our November 17th 6:30 Meeting at the Methodist Church is our annual Turkey Dinner. The Board will again supply the Turkey. I will bring my green bean casserole. Please check front page for what to bring. Think Turkey Dinner stuff. In fact, maybe someone can think stuffing.



Joan Moore, a nationally known basket weaver, will take us through the history of baskets.

Her house is full of her beautiful baskets in every size and shape. From huge laundry baskets to tiny two inch baskets you can't believe she wove. Come and marvel at her history lesson and her baskets. She has been asked to speak across the United States because of her God given talent.

There is no December Meeting but Thursday, January 19th we will be finish the program on 40 years of the MHS Museum with Mary Lou Gharrity. Due to technical difficulties last Spring we postponed this Program to January 2017. The meeting will be at the Methodist Church as usual; starting at 6:30, with a potluck diner. Potluck assignments—A-F—Main Dish, G-O—side dishes and salads, P-Z desserts.

We hope to see you all at the November 17th General Meeting and if not have a Happy Healthy Historic Holiday from the MHS Board.

Sandii Muirhead, Programs.

(Museum Report -Continued from page 2)

The Museum will close this year on Sunday, December 4th. That still gives you lots of time to shop for that special Christmas gift. Any current, new or former Milford resident would love to receive a copy of "10 Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World". We also have a cookbook "Tea at the Mary Jackson House" that contains all of the recipes for the scrumptious treats served twice yearly at the Historical Society sponsored teas. We have several books "Echoes of Laughter" and "Collection of Milford Photos" that offer selections of photos on a smaller scale. We also have prints of historic photos for sale. Some have already been scanned in however, if you have a particular photo that you would like-stop in and we can look together for that "special one" of your favorite memory or place.

Future plans at the Museum include continuing to "freshen" the various rooms and rearrange items that have been on display and add new items from our stored collections. Sometimes just putting an item in a new location helps you see what was there all along. In the main display room we try and change what is in our showcases twice a season. We have three showcases to fill. I would like to hear from any member that would be willing to share one of their collections in one of the showcases. Though the Museum has many treasures, so do many of our members. These private collections gathered from grandma's attic, antique sales, flea markets and chance finds offer us a little peak at what other members find interesting. Please contact me-Elaine M. Hunter, Director if you would be willing to share any part - large or small - of something you have a passion for.

In the Spring we will again be recruiting student docents. These students must be of high school age and willing to commit to working a minimum of one day a month at the Museum. Upon graduation these student docents receive a scholarship from the Milford Historical Society. A minimum of thirty hours to a maximum of 100 hours must be worked from the time they join until graduation to qualify. Please encourage your child/grandchild to consider this opportunity.

As always we will also be seeking adult help for a variety of activities both at the Museum and during Granny's Attic sale, the Home Tour, the Teas at Mary Jackson house. There are many opportunities for behind the scenes help with maintenance, cleaning in addition to being a docent.

The Milford Historical Society Museum is our own "Little Gem" right in the middle of downtown. Don't continue to be one of the residents I hear say, "I have lived here a long time and have never been there". The Museum is free to visit (donations accepted) and we have well informed docents to give you a tour or just answer your questions. I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have about improving the Museum or its displays. Contact me, Elaine M. Hunter, Director at the Museum 248 685-7308 at home 248 529-3393 or by email donr4619@gmail.com

Milford Historical Society

124 East Commerce

Milford, Michigan 48381

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

EXCITING NEWS! MARK MARCH 24, 2017 ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Back by popular demand, the one and only BOB MILNE, the number one ragtime pianist in the world, is coming back to MILFORD. The concert will be hosted by the MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY and held at the



MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Bob Milne is considered by many to be the best Ragtime/Boogie-Woogie pianist in the world, Bob specializes in this music style that developed in

America in the late 1800's and early 1900's. It comes as no surprise that the Library of Congress designated him as a "National Treasure" when they documented his expertise for future generations, and that the U.S. State Department has utilized him as a "Musical Ambassador" in Japan and Switzerland.

Reserve the date and pass this on to friends, you do not want to miss this one! Bob Milne brings endless enthusiasm, enchanting ease of playing, and an engaging manner while telling stories about Ragtime and Boogie Woogie music with warmth and humor.

Submitted by John Robinson

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

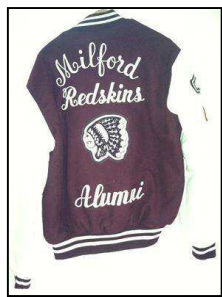
Annual Member Dues:

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.

Once a Redskin Always A Redskin

If you graduated before 2002-2003 from Milford High School that is your Catch Phrase. Both my sons are Mavericks but not Mom or Aunt Susan!! I was proud to be a Milford Redskin and still am today. There were many Indians way before that in the area and we associate Indians with Thanksgiving, so I decide to write this month on Milford's own Indians.



Michigan became a territory in 1805 and in 1807 Governor William Hull negotiated the purchase of a huge parcel of land in southeast Michigan with the Ottawa, Chippewa, Wyandot and Pottawatomie Indians. This included Milford Township. This signed treaty of 1807 guaranteed that the Indians would receive \$10,000 plus annual annuities of \$2400 for their lands.

Southeast Michigan, before the first white settler came, was ideal Indian country. Rivers and lakes provided waterfowl, excellent fishing and abundant trapping. Wild berries, cherries, grapes and nuts were for the taking. Bear, deer, wild turkey and squirrels meant meat on the table. Who doesn't love squirrel stew!!

In lower Michigan Ottawa, Huron, Wyandots and Chippewa all united loosely under the Ottawa Chief, Chief Pontiac. Pontiac was dead for fifty years when the first settlers came to this region.

They were peaceful, camping in their sacred spots, trading skins and venison for rifles and the wicked "fire water". One of their favorite spots was on Indian Garden Lake on Rowe Rd.

Mary Openo Diehl wrote in the autumn of 1834 about witnessing seeing nearly all the Indians in the Michigan territory on their way to Detroit to receive their yearly payments. From early dawn to dusk the Indian trail was packed solid with Indians on their ponies.

In 1835 she wrote: generally our Indians after returning from Milford to their campgrounds were "feeling no pain"!. Their poor wives or squaws would come looking for them only to find them three sheets (in their case skins) to the wind. Ashamed, the women folk would return to the forest with heads hanging low. Soon the forest was chopped down by the settlers and the Indians started to fade. A few who were still in the area would come to call to borrow maybe a pail, tin cup or a coffee pot. They were always returned but not always to the correct owners and not in the best condition.

The Best Milford Indian Story Ever.....stop me if you heard this one.....

Margaret Grindlay Loughray and husband William came from Scotland and settled near Sleeth and Duck Lake Rd. Their young son Willy had a head full of beautiful blond hair.

One day Margaret and Willy were home alone when a few Indians came to their home and insisted that they have the boy for the day. They assured the mother that they would return him unharmed at dusk. She trusted the Indians (not sure that would happen today). They kept passing him from one hand to another touching his blond hair all day. And yes indeed they returned Willy that evening in good shape. You see the Indians thought a blond haired child was a stroke of good luck. So the Indians received their luck, Willy was spoiled for a day and Margaret could breathe easier knowing her son was safe at home. So see it is true: Blondes Do Have More Fun!!!



You can purchase a local book called Chief Tipsico (The lake was named after him) at our Museum written by the late Bill Schimmel and edited by Joyce Clark. A Great Read. Chief Tipsico was a hot looking brave in his day they say.

Sandi Muirhead, MHS Historian

Save the Milford Railroad Depot



The Depot is on the MOVE!

The Village Council has approved locating the depot in the Southside Park and submitting a site plan to the Planning Commission. The fundraising train is on track, building up steam, to bring you all aboard and get this Depot moved.

The Parks and Rec committee is very supportive in this venture and is planning to restore the area into a heritage park designating its significance as the first village plat and public square.

The Depot will be located on the NE corner of the park and

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

the Log Cabin will be moved to the west side of the park creating an open area between the Depot and the Cabin for gatherings and events.

The Cabin needs restoration and that will be taken care of as part of the Depot move, a new roof, chinking and a few other repairs.



Once the depot is relocated and restored, it will be the only building in any park in Milford that will be totally enclosed, heated and available for events or meetings throughout the winter. We hope you will “Jump on Board” and help us save the 1871 Milford Depot.

Visit our new web site—www.milforddepot.org

To Donate:

Mail a Check to Milford Historical Society or watch for our campaign to raise funds.

124 E. Commerce St.

Milford, MI 48381

Write “DEPOT” on the memo line

- Linda Dagenhardt

An Open Letter to Historical Society Members

To everyone,

I have only lived in Milford twelve years. I joined the Milford Historical Society (MHS) for rather selfish reasons. I wanted to learn more about my home and tap into the renovation experiences and knowledge of other members who had been in my position with a house that needed renovation. I accomplished those things but I also experienced a growth in my personal interest in history in general, Milford specifically.

During the ensuing years I have seen declining attendance at the general membership meetings, a less than welcoming greeting to new members and much of the work of the Historical Society being done by the same small group of people. Many similar organizations and smaller local churches are grappling with the same problems and struggle, as we do, to find solutions.

The mission of the Historical Society is to preserve and promote the rich history of Milford and its founders, and its primary venue the Museum. Early mills, factories and businesses are no longer visible. The only way the new residents of Milford, and there are many, will be able to learn of our past is by the sharing of that history through ACTIVE participation in the Historical Society. This includes, but is by no means limited to, attendance at the general membership meetings. This is a social event that new residents should be encouraged to attend. Good food and an interesting speaker are always a great way to break the ice with a new neighbor.

Any organization, to survive, needs to grow. Growth depends on recognition of what has come before but even more on a willingness to listen to new ideas and an acceptance that change, though difficult, is not always a bad thing; especially if that change helps to continue the stated mission of the group.

I would hope to see a collaborative effort on the part of every member of the MHS to invite one new person to each general membership meeting. Would someone be willing to step up and spearhead a membership drive, write short articles for the local papers promoting us, our meetings and accompanying speakers? There must be members out there with ideas to insure our continued existence and hopefully growth. Speak up, attend, be active -as someone once said, “it takes a village” and we have a wonderful one with a rich history we need to preserve and share with as many as possible.

Promote, be involved and remember-----YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A RELIC TO JOIN !!!

- Elaine Hunter, Museum Director

Ed.—Like Elaine, I initially joined the Historical Society for reasons other than just a love on local history. I was relatively new to the community and I 'm a Realtor; so I thought that it would be a good way to learn about and research the old homes in the Village. Since then, I have been very active in the MHS, serving first as its Webmaster and on the Board of Directors and more recently as an officer and past-President of the Board. I, too, am concerned that the MHS, like the small church that I attend, has an aging membership that is shrinking. I encourage all our members to invite a friend or neighbor to our General Membership meetings and also to visit the Museum.

Norm Werner