

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 15 General Membership meeting—see article below. Meeting starts at 6:30 with a pot luck dinner. Turkeys are provide by board members

Pot luck Assignments—Pot luck assignments—A—F— Sides and Salads, G—Q—Desserts, R—Z— Main Dish (turkeys provided by the board—bring main sides like dressing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, etc.

Dec 2—Museum closes for the winter.

General Meeting Programs—

Nov 15—General Membership Meeting—

Meeting to be held at the Milford United Methodist Church at 1200 Atlantic St. The meeting starts with a pot-luck dinner. For this meeting the board of directors will be supplying turkey. Please bring a dish to accompany the turkey—dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, etc. and desserts according to the assignments above in Upcoming Events..

The November program features our member, Sue Grifor, who has worked at several of the PBS series, “Antique Road Show”. Sue will fill us in on what goes on behind the scenes you see on TV and all the excitement of finding treasures.

Programs for 2019

January 17 - Show & Tell – Bring an item to show or tell us your story.

February 21 - The Ford Carburetor Plant - An inside look at the Milford Plant

March 21 - Sesquicentennial of the Village of Milford - Our History

April 18 - Pontiac’s Eastern Michigan Asylum - Intriguing history of Pontiac’s Asylum

May 16 - Victorian Mourning Customs & Jewelry - A year or more of mourning.

June 23 - Potluck Picnic at the Mary Jackson House w/ entertainment - come join the fun

November 11, 2018, is the 100 year Anniversary Commemoration of WWI, the Great War.

On this day, 1918, at 11 am the armistice to end WWI was signed. Fifty-two Milford Veterans now rest in Oak Grove Cemetery. When the museum opens in May 2019, be sure to stop and see the displays of WWI.

From Our President, *John Robinson*

To our esteemed members;

First, I want to thank the board members for doing such a fantastic job this year. Most do not realize the time and amount of work everyone does every year just to keep the Historical Society alive.

In 2018, volunteers manned events such as the ‘Teas’ at the Mary Jackson house, Keeping the Museum open (understated, this involves changing exhibits, cleaning, training and scheduling of docents, taking care and categorizing historic items, being in the museum 3 times a week or more for tours, and much more), organizing and running the 4th of July parade, organizing and running the first annual golf outing, organizing and running the Granny’s Attic sales, organizing and running the two-day Milford Home Tour, planning and running general membership meetings, attending board meetings, managing or doing the maintenance on three buildings, writing and sending out newspapers, maintaining the website, writing and sending out correspondence and many more behind-the-scenes activities.

All of that work is done by a group of volunteers who do not receive any payment or reward, but do it for their love of our history and our community.

Now, as we are winding down our year, I want to wish everyone HAPPY HOLIDAYS! You do not want to miss the November meeting with 3 of our board members cooking turkeys so bring your appetite and a plate to pass and enjoy a holiday meal!

As always, guests are welcome. Remind them to bring a plate and a drink! We are looking for volunteers, board members and museum help. If you, or someone else would like to become more involved, give one of the board members a call!

We will attempt to pass our bylaw changes at this meeting. It has been awhile since the changes were sent but you can find reference to them in this newsletter or a copy on our website.

Happy Holidays to all and see you in November!

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 -

By Sue Gumper

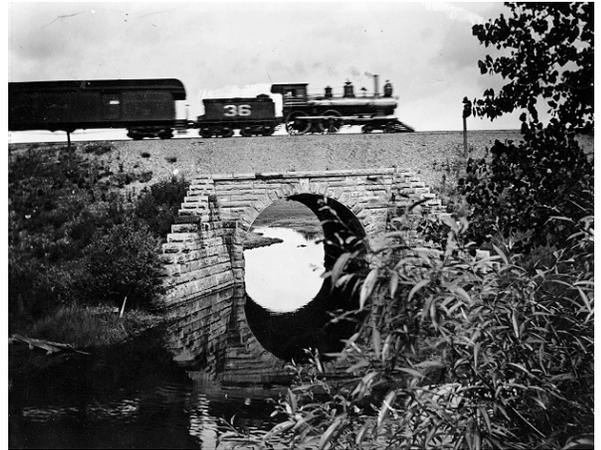
I would first like to thank members of the museum committee for working hard to fill the void left when Elaine Hunter moved on to new challenges. Sue Bullard, Linda Dagenhardt and Jackie Swenson have volunteered many hours to keep our museum open and running smoothly. They are joined by Rena Valentine, Norm Werner and me to form the Museum Committee.

The Museum Committee's major focus has been to develop a new Museum Director's job description. Once the Milford Historical Society Board approves the job description we will be looking for a new Museum Director. The new job description is very important because the Director could be a paid position. If you know someone who might be interested in hearing more about this position, please notify the committee by leaving a message at the museum or calling Sue Gumper at 248-685-2691.

The museum remains open with the help of our docent leaders, Jordan Jachim and Jenni Lubinski. They are charged with opening the museum and providing guidance to our student docents and adult volunteers, Carolyn Graves and Chuck Milne. We could not keep the museum open and provide tours without all of these dedicated people.

During October the museum has been busy providing tours to visitors and home schooled students. We have averaged 4 to 6 visitors every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday in October. Most have been first time visitors who expressed surprise at how much the museum has to offer and enjoyment in learning about Milford's history.

Many of our guests were dropping by to see the train display which features artifacts from our lost Milford Train Depot. If you have not been by to see our train display, you need to hurry.



The museum will be closing for the winter on December 2nd and the train display will be replaced with new Milford history exhibits in 2019. We hope you will find the time to drop by before the "Choo Choo" display leaves the station!

The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

Milford Historical Society

published bimonthly (six times per year)



Editor: Norm Werner

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From the Collection by Jackie Swenson

I was recently reading *TEN MINUTES AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE WORLD A History of Milford*. I found the second Forward written by Mary Jackson to be very thought provoking.

““When I was living in New York some years ago. I was talking one day with one of the executives of General Motors who headed up the Frigidaire Division in Dayton, Ohio. “I like Dayton,” he said, “because it is the center of everything.” “How’s that?” I asked. “Because, you see, if you want to go to Indianapolis, it’s only a hundred miles away; if you want to go to Columbus, it’s seventy, and if you want to go to Cincinnati, it’s sixty.”

“But who wants to go to those places?” I said. He was taken aback. Then he chided me: “I suppose you think the center of everything is New York City.”

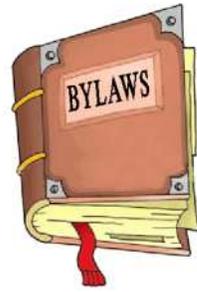
“No,” I found myself saying. “No, the center of everything is Milford, Michigan. Because,” I Explained, “if you want to go to New York City, it’s only 1,200 Miles away. Chicago is 250 Miles away, and it’s 2,000 miles to Hollywood.” I could have told him that if you wanted to go to Highland, it was four miles and Wixom was seven. But I didn’t. He can find that out for himself.

Like me, the man from Dayton is lucky. We both have something that many people seem to have lost today: the sense of a center. Those of us who wear Milford at our heart’s core can be unashamedly provincial. Some of us have lived here all our lives. Some have come from other places and have found home. Others have lived here and gone away and come back again. For all of us, Milford has a very special meaning. It is a reassuringly fixed point in an unpredictable, swiftly changing world. There is a satisfying feeling of continuity here, an old familiar beauty. (Who has not come over the south hill on a radiant autumn day without being stopped in his tracks by the maples’ fanfare of color?)”

This is only part of what Mary has to say about her “center”. Mary wrote these words in 1982. I have found that many of the people I have met in Milford and particularly at the Museum feel the same about Milford as Mary did thirty six years ago. Our Historical Museum is very important to the preservation of the history of the Milford area.

This book is full of history and photos of Milford’s past, it is available at the Museum for \$40.00. This is a lovely book, the dedication and hard work of the authors (Sue Davis Lowe, Marjorie Jackson Bourns, Barbara Bank Young and Cynthia Lathrop Barr) show from beginning to end.

Recommended changes to the By-Laws



The two page insert in the middle of this edition of the Historian contains the recommended wording changes to the current By-Laws.

These changes were extensively discussed at several board meetings before being agreed upon by the board members. The board feels that the changes are needed to allow for better governance of the Milford Historical Society.

The changes are characterized below:

The first change recommended is a change in the membership dues. The membership dues have not been changed in decades; however, the costs to run and maintain the museum have increased over time. This change also drops the student membership category that has not been used for some time.

The second recommended change establishes a standard for removing a board member who does not attend board meetings without being excused by the President of the board.

The third change clarifies the board status of paid employees as being non-voting ex-officio members of the board. This change may impact future Museum Directors or other staff members who become paid employees. Currently the Museum Director position and the Collection Manager position are unpaid volunteer positions. Adult and student docents are considered to be part-time casual labor and not employees.

The fourth recommended change establishes a set of permanent committees that reflect the current operation of the society and provides for future committees to be added.

The fifth set of recommended changes provides the definition of a quorum for a general membership meeting and establishes a new standard meeting date for the annual meeting by moving it from the second to the third Thursday of January in the new year. The attendance at General Membership meetings has fallen off in the last few years and it is now impossible to meet the old quorum requirement at most General Membership meetings.

The last recommended change establishes a new standard for a quorum in board meetings. The board of directors has changed and grown in size and this change reflects that change in size. The board now consists of 12 members, so a quorum of more than half would mean that 7 members are present.

The board of directors recommends that the general membership vote to approve these changes.

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Membership Dues for 2019

It's that time of year again when membership dues need to be paid for the 2019 season. The dues collected from the membership provide about 1/3 of the funding for the operation of the museum throughout the year, with the rest coming from fund-raising efforts during the year.



When you've finished reading this newsletter, you can clip off the membership form below and send it in with your check for the 2019 season. or just bring it to the General Membership meeting and give it to one of the

board members in attendance. We generally also have membership dues envelopes at those meetings.

We also need volunteers to work as supervisors for the student docents or as docents on week days. Those duties only take 3 hours of your time and you don't have to give tours of the museum—the student docents do the tours. See or call Sue Gumper if you are interested in volunteering to work as a decent supervisor at the museum.

There are also duties to do with the museum collection that have nothing to do with museum tours or visitors. Talk to Jackie Swenson about those needs.

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.