

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 10—General Membership (one week earlier than normal) at Milford United Methodist Church, from 6:30 PM. Potluck—
A—F— Salads, G—Q - Main Dishes, R—Z— Desserts

Sep 19—20—Home Tour 11 Am until 5 PM

Oct 15—General Membership Meeting (an extra meeting for this year) at 6:30 at the Methodist Church. Potluck—
A—F— Desserts G—Q - Salads, R—Z— Main Dishes

Henry and Thomas

Our Sept. 10th (Sept. 17th misprint last newsletter) - **THIS IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL**—Potluck General Meeting is at 6:30 p. m. at the Milford Methodist Church at 1200 Atlantic St.



The Program will feature Steve Stanford. Steve is an avid researcher and founder of the H is for Henry Publications in Howell Mi. Steve is also a tour

guide and professional speaker on anything Henry.

At the Piquette St. Museum in Detroit, he takes you back in time by portraying one of Ford's earliest employees and takes you on a tour of the first place Model T's were made complete with movie and lunch. This is called Model T Tuesdays.

Henry (He was never called Hank) Ford's life spanned from Civil War to World War II, candlelight to electricity, farm to factory (Milford knew that one) and horses to automobiles.

Mr. Ford was responsible for the Carburetor Plant and the Power House in Milford Village which generated power to the Plant. Milford was very acquainted and appreciative of this genius of a man.

The Ford Assembly Plant in Wixom Mi. was at one time the largest automotive plant in the world and employed 4000 people. Dewayne

(Continued on page 2)

From Your President, Norm Werner

IIITTTT'SSS BACK—The **2015 Home Tour** is just ahead this month and the 39th annual event is going to be better than ever for the Milford Historical Society. As most members know, the Home Tour is our major fund raiser for the year and provides us with probably a little over half of our annual budget.; so it is critical to our ability to keep pursuing our mission and keeping the Milford Historical Museum open.



Village Bar & Kitchen

This year, for the first time ever, we have the support of a **Presenting Sponsor**—the **Village Bar & Kitchen**. The Village Bar & Kitchen, which opened in February of 2015, is the Presenting Sponsor of this year's event. Owners and business partners Tom Meyer and Lenny Skorcz – who both live in Milford –are well on their way to becoming an integral part of the community, through their support of local groups and causes. The Village Bar & Kitchen is located in the Mill Valley complex at 525 N. Main St. and is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday, and 11 a.m. to midnight, Thursday through Saturday.

Our Platinum Level Sponsors this year are the Milford Times and Veterinary Care Specialists – VCS Pets First. The Milford Times, the premier weekly newspaper for the Huron Valley, has been a Platinum level sponsor for many years and publishes our Home Tour Booklet.



Veterinary Care Specialists and VCS Pets First is the area's only 24-hour veterinary hospital, with staff on duty to handle emergencies 365 days of the year. VCS Pets First also provides routine veterinary care services and pet boarding and training services. Veterinarian Julie Hass grew up in the Milford area. She and her husband and clinic manager Peter Barnes are Highland residents and quite involved with community groups. Veterinary Care Specialists is located at 205 Rowe Rd, Milford, MI 48380.

At the Gold level of sponsorship we have the Milford DDA, MediLodge of Milford and Huron Valley Guns.

The **Milford DDA** is headed up by Executive Director Ann Barnette and supports a number of projects that improve Milford and benefit the downtown area. The DDA was a major player and contributor in the AMP Project which brought the LaFontaine Family Amphitheater to Milford this summer and is heading up other development efforts in the Milford business area.

Also at the Gold level is **MediLodge of Milford**, a short term care and rehabilitation facility located across from the Prospect Hill Shopping mall (Kroger's) at 555 Highland Avenue, Milford, Michigan 48381. The MediLodge philosophy is simple – Recover - Rejuvenate – Revitalize - Return Home. Visit MediLodge for a tour of the facility.

Finally at the Gold level we have **Huron Valley Guns**, located at 143 S Milford Rd, Milford, MI 48381 (in the old Farmer Jack's shopping plaza. Huron Valley

(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/MUSEUM DIRECTOR

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 Gumpper 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



Museum News

The museum opened this summer with an open house to showcase the interior improvements that were made over the winter. The Open House included entertainment, refreshments, ladies in vintage style fashions and the first look at the renovations in the foyer, including the new post office display, and the main display room.

We have received many flattering comments from those who have visited before. We have also had an abundance of visitors that have said, "I've lived here forever and never been in." I am so glad they took the time to stop in and I hope as displays change many will come again.

If you haven't been this summer, you missed our display of car parts, tools, ladies of Milford pictures and Victorian clothing items. However, visit now and you will have a chance to see our display of school items and pictures of Milford High—original, graduating classes—circa 1900 and sports teams. Those items will be on display until the museum closes at the end of November. Please do stop by. We have lots to show you.

The sale of historic pictures of Milford has gotten off to a good start. We have approximately 30 prints currently available for order. Many of them are on display at the Village Bar & Kitchen. Is there a place in Milford that is your favorite? I bet we have a picture of it just calling your name. Come on in—your history awaits.

Elaine M. Hunter, Director

Sad Passing

(Henry and Thomas—Continued from page 1)

Freitag and my father both retired from there. Thunderbirds were first assembled there and then the Lincolns and Marks were assembled later at this Plant.

If you are Ford People Proud wear anything Ford or Greenfield Village-ish and show it off.

Thomas Alva Edison was born in 1847. He began work at 12 years old as a salesman. His first invention was a telegraph repeater. In 1871 he collaborated to ameliorate the typing machine. In 1877 he patented the phonograph. He had about 80 patents to his name. Of course we all know Mr. Edison invented the first incandescent lamp which was patented in 1896. We're looking forward to learning more about this amazing Inventor and good friend of Henry Ford.

Our October 15th Potluck General Meeting will be getting to know more about Eleanor Roosevelt. What a complex woman she was. She gave so much of herself to society and had to endure all the shenanigans of her husband President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

- Sandi Muirhead

With deepest hearts we regret to inform our membership of the passing of two members of our Historical Society Family.

Margaret Hoover - Margaret and her husband Herbert were long time members of the Historical Society and were active volunteers. Margaret was a docent at the museum and was could often be found helping with accessioning artifacts and filing materials. A "right hand" to Mary Lou Gharrity. Margaret and Herb lived on the farm that belong to Margaret's grandfather David William Clark, who purchased the farm in 1865.

Wm Howard Armstrong - Howard and his wife Thelma are charter members of both the Milford Historical Society and Highland Historical Society. Among many of Howard's interest was his love of history. Howard worked tireless to gather, preserve and share the history of both Milford and Highland. Howard generously made and donated a tape of descendants sharing the memories of some of Milford's pioneer families. Keeping Milford Memories DVD are available to be purchased at the museum.

Margaret and Howard were generous members to our society and will be missed dearly.

The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

Milford Historical Society

published bimonthly (six times per year)



Editor: Norm Werner

Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org

Guns features the best selection of firearms and accessory and ammunition in the Huron Valley and a friendly staff that can answer all of your questions. Huron Valley Guns will be featuring an antique weapons display during the Home Tour weekend.

At the Silver level of Sponsorship is **Mi Zarape**, the new authentic Mexican restaurant which opened in July on the Southwest side of the Village at 131 South Milford Road in the former Tavern 131 location, and features authentic Mexican fare prepared from scratch.

Also at Silver is first time sponsor **American House** - Milford, a premier Senior Living Facility on the north side of the Village at 700 Napa Valley Dr, Milford, MI. The American House chain was founded in 1979 with the vision of providing high-quality housing for seniors at a price affordable for retirees and their families.

Our Bronze level sponsors represent a wide range of businesses.

The **Huron Valley State Bank** is a returning Bronze-level sponsor with a locations in Milford at 130 S Milford Rd, Milford, MI 48381 (248) 684-9626 and in Highland at 2920 E. Highland Rd., Highland, MI 48356. HVSb provides friendly neighborhood banking services and a complete portfolio of loan products.

The Digital Document Store, owned and operated by Carlos and Lisa Allison, is located at 1100 E Commerce St, Milford, MI 48381 and provides complete printing services and several lines of printers and printer supplies as well as scanners. They have the capability to print everything from business cards to large scale banners and feather banners for your business.

This year the **Flagstar Bank** Mortgage Lending group is sponsoring the Home Tour at the Bronze level. Senior Lending Officer Kristina Cavric works out of the local Flagstar branch at 599 General Motors Rd in Milford, as well as servicing other branches. You can discuss all of your mortgage needs with her.

The Clothing Cove returns at the Bronze level. Owners Eric and Genise Horsley have established a go-to destination clothing store in Milford at 414 N Main St, Milford, MI 48381. The buying trips that Eric and Genise make to New York and other fashion centers keep the Milford store on the fashion forefront for both formal and casual wear.

Jeffery Stark is a **Financial Advisor** with **Edward Jones** in Milford at 800 N Milford Road, Suite 400, Milford, MI. Edward Jones Ranks Highest in Investor Satisfaction, According to J.D. Power 2015 Full Service Investor Satisfaction Study. Let Jeffery Stark show you why that is true locally.

Anytime Fitness of Milford is also a returning Bronze level sponsor. Anytime Fitness is located at 141 S Milford Rd, Milford, MI 48381 (the old Farmer Jack's shopping center). Christine Wierenga is the owner and Willa Danowski is the manager, heading up a staff of personal trainers who work with each member to design a custom workout routine for them.

Main Street Art returns at the Bronze level. The store, located at 432 N. Main St, Milford, MI 48381. Main Street Art features original art works from local area artists and elsewhere, art supplies and custom framing all in a friendly and fun setting that has been in business at the same location for over 28 years.

New this year to the Bronze level of sponsorship is **Americus Conney & Grill**. Owner Nick Vulaj and his son Tony are very involved and supportive of most of the causes in the Huron Valley area. Americus in Milford is a local favorite for great breakfasts and

lunches.

Also new at the Bronze level is the newly opened **Mathnasium of West Huron Valley** at 512 Highland Ave, Milford, MI 48381 (the Prospect Hill Shopping Plaza (Kroger's)). Jeffrey Levin is the owner and Center Director. The Mathnasium center is focused upon helping school age children develop the math skills that they need to succeed in school and in life.

Another new Bronze-level sponsor is the **U of M Kellogg Eye Center** in Milford at 320 W Commerce St, Milford, MI 48381. The Kellogg Eye Center in Milford provides routine, urgent and emergent eye care for general ophthalmology, as well as cornea diseases and disorders

Finally, at the Bronze level of sponsorship for their first year is **Hector & Jimmy's** Restaurant on the north end of the Village at 780 N Milford Rd, Milford, MI 48381. Owner Jimmy Eggl just celebrated the 30th year in business in Milford for Hector & Jimmy's, so you know that they've been doing things right for a long time.



Our Supporters all have their names or company names hanging below our Home Tour Banners, as do all of the Sponsors. The 2015 list of Supporters includes, Shuler Financial Services, Village Pizza and Barbeque, The Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce, Brook and Jay Qualman, The Tyler Family, McDonald's of Milford, Acorn Farm, Downtown Garage, Wildcat Properties, Mark Khoury—State Farm, Palate restaurant, 2 Moms and a Mop, Your Nesting Place, Sparkies and The Burger Joint, Milford Feed, The Milford House, Tige Reader, Wright Renovations, The Blue Grill, Bakers of Milford Inter-Office Construction, The Monthly Shopper, Precision Tree & Shrub Services, and Allegra Printing.

A special thanks also to Mark Perry of Precision Tree and Shrub Services for his work to install and take down the Home Tour Banners.

July Picnic 2015

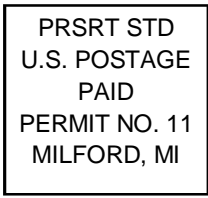
The July 16th Annual Picnic at Camp Dearborn brought back many memories for some of us longtime Milfordites.

Grilled hot dogs and delicious picnic fare was had by all.

Our Speaker was Jared Clouse a Board Member and local Historian who also was a Subcontractor at the Park in the 2000's. Jared entertained us with fun facts of the Park from the beginning to present.



Thanks Jared for the inside scoop on Camp Dearborn and to all who took the time to attend. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening and will come out for next year's picnic which will possibly be at Kensington Metro Park (assuming the road work on Milford Road is done by then) - Sandi



Fall Tea at the Mary Jackson House

Gather family and friends and plan on joining us for our annual Fall tea at the Mary Jackson House. Guests will enjoy a lovely tea filled with fall colors and scrumptious bites. The date of this year's tea will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015. Guests will be able to choose to attend either the 11 am to 1 pm sitting or the 2 pm to 4 pm sitting.

Fall was always a favorite time of the year of Mary Jackson. She did her best to arrange her schedule so she could spend Thanksgiving at her childhood home, often times bringing some of her friends from the West coast. 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, savor-ies, and scones with jam and an assortment of deserts. This year's Fall Tea will feature a Fashion show that will showcase a collection of vintage clothing belonging to the Historical Society. Young women from the Milford area will model the attire and provide a brief history of the outfits they are wearing.

The Fall 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

Please enroll me/us as a member (s) of the Milford Historical Society:

Name:

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.

The WPA and the sidewalks of Milford



If you're old enough to remember at least back to President Eisenhower or earlier you may have a good idea what the WPA that is stamped into the concrete means. I set out to find out more, even though I had a pretty good idea what this was all about.

From the late 1920's until really the middle of World War II, the United States was a part of what has been called The Great Depression. In some scholarly articles that I found this general worldwide economic malaise lasted from the late 1890's until 1943.

In the U.S. we had the Roaring-20's and Prohibition going on and then Black Monday, the day in 1929 that the U.S. stock market tumbled (not unlike our modern Internet Bubble Bust of the earlier 2000's, only much worse and more widespread for the general public), throwing the U.S. into a deep depression. Herbert Hoover was President when the balloon went up and he believed that there was little, if anything that the government could do to solve the problem.

His successor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, believed more in government taking an activist role in trying to pull the U.S. out of the depression, so he invented a number of programs to create publicly funded jobs. There were massive public infrastructure programs and work camps and the Work Projects Administration or WPA, which was a funding source for local projects that would put people who were on public assistance to work. I noticed in my research that the WPA was also referred to as the Work Programs Administration by some, even some governmental groups. The following was taken from one of the government sites that came up when I did a Google search on the initials WPA...

Work Projects Administration (WPA), former U.S. government agency, established in 1935 by executive order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as the Works Progress Administration; it was renamed the Work Projects Administration in 1939, when it was made part of the Federal Works Agency. WPA's building program included the construction of 116,000 buildings, 78,000 bridges, and 651,000 mi (1,047,000 km) of road and the improvement of 800 airports. It also included the sidewalks of Milford.

At its peak WPA had about 3.5 million persons on its payrolls. Altogether WPA employed a total of 8.5 million persons, and total federal appropriations for the program amounted to almost \$11 billion.. In June, 1943, the agency officially went out of existence.

So, obviously the WPA had been involved with the sidewalks of Milford and the date 1938 in the stampings established when this occurred. I set out to find out how this was reported at the time in The Milford Times, the best source that we have locally for written documentation of our history.

The first mention of the project occurred in the April 1, 1938 issue tucked away in the weekly feature "Little Items of Local and Nearby-News". Buried seven paragraphs down in this chatty little feature is this item...

"Councilmen and township officials are looking for WPA projects which may be advantageous to Milford, and it is likely that one or two will be found in the near future. At the council

meeting Monday night, a sidewalk project was suggested, whereby badly needed repair in village walks could be made. Whether this work can be done through WPA was not known but a delegation of councilmen will endeavor to find out. According to Mayor W. S. Lovejoy, WPA funds are available now, and a project can be had if a worthy job is found."

The worthy job that they settled upon was rebuilding the existing sidewalks of Milford and putting in quite a few new ones. The May 27, 1939, Milford Times reported—

MILFORD'S SIDEWALK PROJECT APPROVED BY WORKS PROGRESS

"Milford's new WPA sidewalk project is assured, and the Times has the following letter from Congressman George A. Dondero in regard to the matter: 'The Works Progress Administration has notified Rep. George A. Dondero that a project carrying an allotment of \$20,951 for sidewalk construction in Milford, has been approved by the President.'"

The next month, the Milford Times reported—

"Village President W. S. Lovejoy has received official notification of the acceptance of the Milford WPA project to maintain and construct village sidewalks, the confirmation coming Wednesday morning from V.E. Dangerfield, WPA official for this area. Work is scheduled to begin on Thursday morning, June 30."

On July 1 the Milford Times said—

MILFORD'S SIDEWALK PROJECT STARTED THIS THURSDAY

"Milford's \$25,000 WPA job for maintenance and construction of sidewalks began this Thursday morning when a large number of WPA workers from this and nearby sections reported for work. In all some 56 workers have been assigned to the Milford job. Most of the men have been on other projects and were transferred here..

Work was begun on Detroit Street at the corner of Main Street, along the former S. L. Rowe property now owned by Leroy Darling. By afternoon, section on Detroit street between Union and Hickory had been taken out, preparatory to rebuilding.

It will be several days before the job is really underway and running smoothly, according to Floyd Sands, foreman of construction. Lack of trucks and working tools kept many of the men in idleness this Thursday. Many of the men received transfer slips, and were therefore not eligible to be put on the job Thursday.

The project is set for five months and the federal government provides funds for all the labor, totaling \$20,951. The village supplies the material at an estimated cost of \$3,850. Village officials state that they have no jurisdiction over who is hired by WPA. According to regulations, WPA labor is taken from relief rolls, and all applicants for work on the job at Milford should apply at the relief office in Pontiac."

Now you know what the WPA 1938 stamped in our sidewalks stands for. The rest, as they say, is history. The sidewalk project resulted in great improved walkways for Milford pedestrians. Many sections of the sidewalks that the WPA workers constructed in 1938 are still in good repair today. So, as I see it, President Roosevelt, through his WPA initiative and funding provided for the renewal of the sidewalks of Milford.

Come One, Come All to the MHS 39th Home Tour

“Historic Charm with Contemporary Comforts” is the perfect description for the four beautiful homes we have on the tour this year. Have you ever wondered who the “Accepted and Free Masons” are or about the Masonic Temple? This year your questions can be answered as you tour the former Milford Methodist Episcopal Church. All the home tour sites are located in the village and are in walking distance from each other for the average walker. We hope you will be sure to join us on September 19th and 20th for another informative and inspirational Home Tour. For a sneak peek look for the “See Me in September” signs or drive past 212 Union, 234 First, 515 East Commerce, 524 Hickory, and 115 Summit.

Need more to do? The Log Cabin in South Side Park will be open and feature activities for the young and young at heart. Our beautifully refurbished museum will be open and features our new Milford Post Office display. We are also pleased to welcome back the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station as a special site on this year’s tour. The Privy Dig is returning but the sites have not yet been selected. Watch for signs to direct you to the dig sites.

On Sunday be sure to visit the antique Tractor Show located in the Huron Valley State Bank parking lot at 130 South Milford Road and the Car Show on Main Street.

Do you have a smart phone? This year’s tour will feature a QR code at two of the homes. Our tech savvy visitors will be able to meet the home owners and hear in their own words how special it is to live in and renovate a historic home.

The tour begins at 11:00 am and goes to 5:00 pm both days. Home Tour tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$13.00 for seniors (65). The tickets will be available before September 20th at Main Street Art (432 N. Main), Acorn Farm (367 N. Main), Your Nesting Place (322 N. Main), Milford Bar and Kitchen (Main Street), the Township Offices, and the Milford Historical Museum (124 E. Commerce, open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m.).

If you would like to volunteer to be a docent during the Home Tour, give Sue Gumper a call at 248-685-2691. Our Home Tour docents receive a complimentary ticket as a thank you for donating their time

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us!

Something special for the husbands

One of our Home Tour sponsors decided to do something special for the guys who aren’t into the historic homes scene. Ed Swadish, owner of Huron Valley Guns and a gun collector, will have a display of antique guns and knives from his collection out at his store in the old Farmer Jack’s shopping plaza—143 S Milford Rd, Milford . Displayed will be antique and unique revolvers and long guns, as well as a Gatling gun. The store is open both days.

The Womenless Wedding

And the story goes:

Chief Floyd Sands and sixteen firemen were taking prominent parts in a mock wedding ceremony in which all parts were played by men.

In the middle of the play an excited woman crashed in to the auditorium and yelled the downtown garage was in flames. A Bridesmaid (a male remember) yelled "Is this a joke?" Someone yelled "Look out the window... Everything's on fire!"

The firemen jumped from the stage and dashed to their apparatus. Still in dresses, heels and wigs the firemen climbed ladders, roofs and trees to prevent the fire from spreading. The embers carried to the roof of six residences, the Presbyterian Church and Eugene's Auto Repair Shop.

Motorists from Detroit passing through stood open mouthed as they gazed at old women rushing up and down ladders and trees while on the ground able-bodied men watched and did not offer any kind of help.

After the situation was explained to the visitors they continued to watch in amusement and amazement.

We bet the Fire Department got a lot of "heat" the next day in the local newspaper.

From the MHS History Book : Ten Minutes Ahead Of The Rest of the World.

- Sandi Muirhead

Welcome new members

A special welcome to our newest members

- Ms. Lynda Garrity
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sands
- Ms. Amy Louise Niendorf
- Ms. Stacie Morrison

We are so pleased that you joined our Society and look forward to meeting you at an upcoming event. There are lots of opportunities coming up to volunteer and we hope that you will.