

# The Milford Historian

VOLUME 38 / No 1

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

## Upcoming 2010 Events...

### ► MEMBERSHIP DUES

January means that it is time to renew your membership to the Milford Historical Society.

Envelopes are being mailed out to members right now. Please take the time and renew your membership soon.

Our Society depends on these dues to help maintain the Museum, publish this newsletter and execute events benefiting the community.

If you haven't already paid, dues can be paid at the January General Membership meeting and save the 44 cents!



### ► GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Potluck Dinner  
Thursday, January 21, 6:30 PM

Milford United Methodist Church  
1200 Atlantic, Milford

A-F: Dessert  
G-Q: Main Dish  
R-Z: Salad

All: table service/beverage

## From Your President

As we start a new Year and a new decade, lets check the two photos out below. In 1910, although automobiles were being made, no one in Milford seemed to have one. I see that one hundred years later, the Harness Shop on the right has been replaced with a parking entrance. I tried to exactly duplicate the first photo by getting permission to go upstairs from both Eric Horsley owner of the Clothing Cove and John Doliber owner of The Shutter Shop. However, there were either big tree branches in my way or I risked breaking a window by opening it in the freezing rain. Whoever the 1910 photographer was, he or she obviously leaned way out an upstairs window. The weather was also nicer.

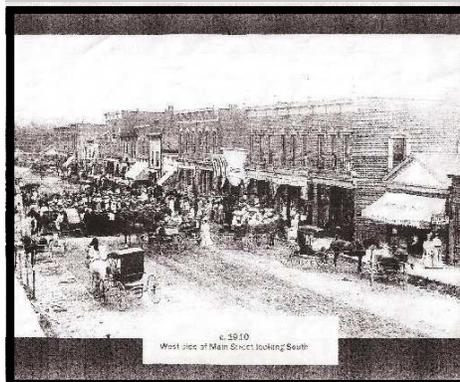


I wonder if there will be a goofy Milford "Hysterical" President in 2110, leaning out the window. Time sure flies by—it seems like I just became President a few months ago. I want to thank the Board for propping me up. We are still in the black, all the 2009 tasks have been successfully accomplished and I can pass on the torch without a scandal (except for that rogue deer museum visit). Whew.

Our General Potluck Dinner Meeting on Thursday, January 21st will be held at the United Methodist Church at 6:30 PM. The topic will be *Show & Tell*. For the last time, I will don my presidential Skunk Hat and play you all a swan song. I will remain active as a Board Member.

Long live the new President.

Russ Rheaume, President



1910



1-11-2010 West side of Main Street Looking South

### 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 and Milford Township.

## MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the **Milford Historical Society**  
published bimonthly (six times per year)

**Editor:** Diane Nossal

**Email:** [dnossal@gmail.com](mailto:dnossal@gmail.com)



### Submission deadlines:

Last day of February, April, June, August,  
October & December

## It's Show & Tell Time

Happy New Year! For our first meeting in 2010 we are opening the "floor" to our membership. It's been a while since our last Show and Tell program that has always been popular. It's simple, just like show and tell in elementary school; bring in an item or a story to share with your fellow members. It could be anything, something you inherited and you're not sure what it is or something you purchased at Granny's Attic Sale. It doesn't have to be old; it could be something new too. Our members have a large range of interests and in the past we have had fascinating items to share with the group. Maybe you have a story to share about Uncle George and his civil war experience. There are no rules, the sky is the limit!

Our evening will begin with a scrumptious potluck dinner at 6:30 PM at the Milford United Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic Street. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:30 PM followed immediately by our program. Please feel free to invite a guest. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. All are welcome. You don't have to be a member to enjoy this Thursday evening with people who like history. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown on the sidebar on the front page.



## Milford Historical Society Museum

The main vehicle for sharing Milford's heritage is the Milford Historic Museum which was established in 1976 and is run by the Society. If you have pictures or other historic memorabilia from Milford's past, please consider donating it to the Milford Historical Society.

The museum may be visited May through November on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Visit the website: [www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org)



## Holly Day Tea Party a BIG success

Our most recent fundraiser for the Mary Jackson house was held on November 14, 2009. The theme for the tea party was Holly Day and once again we had a sellout crowd. With any fundraiser, there are a group of people that are responsible for organizing this event. Thank you to Fiona Hammock, Cindy Kometh and Joyce Clark for the time put into this event.

Each table was individually decorated with a festive Holiday theme. Thank you to Barbara Treasler, Sue Gumpfer, Judy Waara and Marge Sawruk for adding a special touch on each table.

A special thank you to the following local businesses that made contributions to the tea party: Abby Park, Milford Baking Company, Colassanti's Market, Tribles Confectionery, Klancy's of Milford, Hector and Jimmy's and the Village Florist.

Once again, a vintage fashion show featured clothing that has been donated to the Historical Society. The Vintage dresses have become a popular feature with our guest. Thank you to Stephanie Thorpe, Elise Hubbell, Hanna Lynch, Jessica Gasvoda and Britney Cothran for being models during the tea party.

And finally thank you to everyone that came out and supported the Mary Jackson House. One hundred percent of the ticket price will go into the preservation of the Mary Jackson House.



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## Virgene E. Wright, 1923 – 2009

We were sad to learn that Virgene passed away on November 21, 2009. She was a Milford Historical Society member and an active Home Tour supporter. Over the years she served as house captain, tour docent, tating demonstrator and graciously opened the doors of two beautiful homes to home tour visitors.

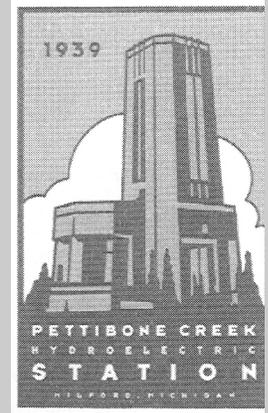
According to her family, Virgene was born May 24, 1923 in Detroit, Michigan. Virgene spent her girlhood in the Redford area where she attended high school. After high school, Virgene attended Nurses Training at Harper Hospital in Detroit. While in Detroit, Virgene met the love of her life Bruce A. Wright. They married in 1944 and were blessed by the births of five children Dorothy, Bruce, William, Katherine and Doug. Virgene was a dedicated wife, mother and homemaker.

After the passing of her husband in 1980 and the raising of her children, Virgene dedicated herself to volunteerism. She was actively involved with the Milford Senior Center, Milford Historical Society and served as a long-time election official for the Village of Milford. As a volunteer at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Virgene served in many capacities including her knitting projects, fundraising; she was on the auxiliary board and was a greeter both at the Cancer Center and the outpatient Pharmacy Department. She even worked to design a bedside bag for patients to keep their glasses, dentures, hearing aids and other personal belongings within reach. In 2004, Virgene was honored as an Outstanding Volunteer at the annual Thanks for Giving luncheon.

We at the Milford Historical Society wish to express our sympathy to Virgene's family and friends. She will certainly be missed.

**Glenn Rittenger** received an award at the November membership meeting acknowledging

the many, many hours of work and professional expertise he contributed toward the Ford Powerhouse restoration project. The only original, in-tact glass block from the Powerhouse tower was



mounted on a base with a brass plaque thanking Glenn for his contribution to the community.

The Village Parks and Recreation Commission has included the Powerhouse in their revised master plan, indicating an interest in finding a use for the building. As such, the Powerhouse could be eligible for available grants toward completing the interior restoration.

# POWERHOUSE

Milford Historical Society  
124 East Commerce  
Milford, Michigan 48381

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## Many Thanks to our Home Tour Sponsors

The Milford Historical Society is especially appreciative for the donations of our Home Tour sponsors. With the support of these businesses, as well as your important individual contributions, we are able to continue working to preserve Milford's long and rich history.

**PLATINUM Sponsor (6th year):**   
**PLATINUM Sponsor (2nd year):**   
**GOLD Sponsor (5th year):** **Milford Downtown  
Development Authority**

**SUPPORTERS:**  
**Bakers of Milford, Chris Baker (4th year)**  
**The Burger Joint, Steve & Natalene Suser (4th year)**  
**Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce (5th year)**  
**Huron Valley State Bank (3rd year)**  
**Inter-Office Construction Inc. (1st year)**  
**Kensington Dairy Queen (3rd year)**  
**Monthly Shoppers (5th year)**  
**Re/Max Platinum, Tige Reader Team (2nd year)**  
**Your Nesting Place, Chris Meredith (4th year)**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Member Dues:

Student	\$5
Senior	\$10
Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Lifetime	\$250
Small Business	\$50
Corporation	\$250+

**Mail to:** Milford Historical Society, 124 East Commerce, Milford MI 48381

Email: [milfordhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:milfordhistory@hotmail.com)

Phone: 248-685-7308

Be sure to visit us on the web: [www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org)