

# The Milford Historian

VOLUME 39 / No 1

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

#### PROGRAM:

**THE TOLEDO WAR** BY DONALD FABER  
"THE FIRST MICH-OHIO RIVALRY"

THURSDAY JANUARY 20TH, 6:30 PM  
MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1200 ATLANTIC ST, MILFORD

#### POTLUCK DINNER—

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS BASED ON THE  
FIRST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME:

A-F: DESSERT  
G-Q: MAIN DISH  
R-Z: SALAD

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TABLE  
SERVICE, BEVERAGE AND BRING A FRIEND

### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### 2011 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

ALL THURSDAY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE  
MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

POTLUCK DINNER 6:30 PM  
BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING AT 7:30 PM,  
FOLLOWED BY THE PROGRAM:

- THURSDAY JAN 20  
PROGRAM: THE TOLEDO WAR
- THURSDAY MARCH 17  
PROGRAM: GENERAL CUSTER
- THURSDAY MAY 19  
PROGRAM: MILFORD'S CIVIL WAR VETERANS
- SATURDAY JULY 24, PICNIC
- THURSDAY SEPT 8  
PROGRAM: HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR-SAM OFFEN
- NOVEMBER PROGRAM TBD

### From Your President, *Norm Werner*

It's a New Year and that brings new opportunities for all members of the Milford Historical Society to serve. The MHS is always in need of more volunteers for the various activities throughout the year. We need volunteers for the 4th of July Parade Staff. We need donations and volunteers for the Granny's Attic Sale. We need people to volunteer their homes and to volunteer to be docents for the Home Tour. We need volunteers docents at the museum and we need volunteers to help with the work on the Mary Jackson house to keep it up. So you can see that there are plenty of opportunities to serve.



Last year, we were able to get quite a few rotted areas on the museum repaired (through the kind generosity of Phil Rashid) and had it painted. We also had the furnace replaced (thanks to the generosity of Matheson Heating and Cooling) and we had the basement floor repaired (thanks to a grant from the Questers). This year we will be trying to raise money and/or find a generous donor to help re-roof the museum. There always seems to be something that needs to be done at the museum, so please contact museum director, Marlene Gomez if you'd like to volunteer to help with something.

The Mary Jackson house also has many projects that need volunteer help. We have plans to replace the west side deck (and perhaps the doorway there) and we still need work on the front porch and new gutters for the whole house. There is quite a bit of yard and tree work that needs to be done and several other projects, for which Sue Bullard will continue to provide the leadership. Call Sue if you can help there.

The other thing that I would ask all members to help with is growing the MHS. Please invite friends, neighbors and anyone else that you can to join the MHS and to attend our general membership meetings and to get involved. Before there were social media sites like Facebook or Twitter, there were groups and clubs in small towns all over America where people actually came together face-to-face to share some interest or passion. You didn't need to text someone; you just talked to them at the meetings. Those opportunities for real human interaction still exist in groups like MHS all over America. Perhaps that's one bit of history that we are preserving just by existing. I look forward to 2011 and to seeing more of you at our meetings and volunteering for our activities.

### A Tribute to Milford's *Oakland Hotel* of Long Ago, once located at W Huron & N Main Street



# MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Norm Werner

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Sue Bullard

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
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**MUSEUM STAFF/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
Marlene Gomez 248-685-7308

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## The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

**Milford Historical Society**

published bimonthly (six times per year)



**Editor:** Diane Nossal

**Email:** [Historian@milfordhistory.org](mailto:Historian@milfordhistory.org)

## Mary Jackson House Update

2010 was a busy and productive year at the Mary Jackson house. With the generosity of many groups and individuals, we were able to complete some of the much needed work to the exterior.



**Andrew Young** from Boy Scout troop 72 completed work on the house to fulfill his requirements to earn his Eagle Scout Badge this past summer. During the month of August, Andrew and his crew scraped, repaired and painted the outside windows. The project was completed in plenty of time for our home tour.

In August, Historical Society member **Don Sleek** trimmed and pruned many of the trees and shrubs around the house and garage. Many of these trees were hanging over the house and garage causing a potential hazard to both structures. The tree pruning will make a big difference to the house and the yard.

Over the summer, historical society member **Andy Lynch** volunteered to mow the lawn.

**Maria Moore Questers** group received a grant in the amount of \$1,500 to repair some of the damaged wood work along the west side of the house. Work that was completed included repairing the door frames on the kitchen door, repairing the doorstep on the laundry room, repairing the wood along a couple of the windows, scraping, and painting some of eaves. The Maria Moore Questers group is planning an additional fundraiser to raise funds to complete more repairs.

**Matheson Heating & Air Conditioning** donated a much-needed furnace to the Mary Jackson House. During the installation, it became apparent that the existing water heater was not compatible with the furnace and they generously donated a water heater as well.

The house recently had its yearly inspection with a representative from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and received a favorable report. Representatives were thrilled to see the progress that we have made.

To each individual and organization that has donated their time and generosity to the preservation of the Mary Jackson House, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your kindness has been incredibly helpful and has allowed us to be one-step closer to its preservation.

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## *Thank you from Sue Bullard*

**T**he Mary Jackson committee recently hosted another successful fundraiser at the Mary Jackson House. On November 13, 2010, the MHS hosted a Victorian tea at the childhood home of Mary Jackson. Sixty-two guests enjoyed an afternoon of great food and entertainment.

Guests enjoyed a spray of delicious food prepared by **Cindy Kometh, Sue Gumpper, Sharon Mancini, Sweet and Savory Bakery** and **Klancy's of Milford**. Each table was cheerful decorated with a holiday theme by **Judy Waara, Barbara Tresler, Marge Sawruk, Sue Gumpper, Lee Johnson** and **Klancy's of Milford**. Guests also enjoyed a Victorian fashion show. **Carol Watkins** loaned Victorian reproduction dresses to the Historical Society for the fashion show. Wearing the vintage reproductions were **Nate Anderson, Victoria Anderson, Elsie Hubal, Jenni Lubinski, Hannah Lynch** and **Freya Morene**.

Helping out during the day's fundraiser were **Mary Lou Gharrity, Sue Gumpper, Joyce Clark, Nancy Lang, Britney Corthan** and **Bonnie Lynch**.

Our fundraiser was extremely successful and we are grateful for everyone's support in helping us reach our fundraising goal. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go directly to the preservation of the Mary Jackson House.

## Museum News from Marlene Gomez



We finally slowed down at the museum for November and December. I want to thank all the students who helped us decorate for Christmas on November 20<sup>th</sup>. They were: **Hannah Lynch, Elise Hubel, Jessica Gasvoda, Nate Anderson, Jenni Lubinski and John Deradoorian.** John Deradoorian's brother **Josh** also helped out that day. I

also want to thank **Larry Green** for being there every Wednesday to help out with everything at the museum. We closed for the season on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We receive many requests for information – either by phone or e-mail. One of the requests was from Nicholas Hill of Connecticut who wanted information on “**Findley Highlands**” from back in the late 1800's. We didn't find much information for him, so if anyone out there can help, please call the museum at 248-685-7308 and leave a message.

We also received a request from Charlie Gragg who lives in Bloomfield Twp. He and his two children helped to take down some of the buildings from the Louis and Marjorie Jackson Bourns farm. That was the farm where they also moved one of the barns out to the Children's Farm at Kensington Park. He wondered if anyone had old photos of their farm or any other historical information.

We will be getting the Milford Times for 2009 and 2010 ready to ship to Wooster, Ohio to be microfilmed. The Milford High School Class of 1961 will be having their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion next year and a couple of the students from that class have contacted us asking for old pictures, etc. They also bought our history book, “*Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World.*” **Bonnie Walworth** has written up a guideline on how to inventory photos on our Past Perfect Program for our students or anyone else who will be working on that project. Thanks Bonnie!

### January Program: The Toledo War – the first Mich-Ohio Rivalry

When Michigan sought statehood in the early 1830's it sought to include a 468 sq. mile area that included the newly incorporated city of Toledo on Lake Erie. Ohio's governor Robert Lucas and Michigan's Territorial governor Steve T. Mason were both unwilling to cede jurisdiction of the strip, so both raised militias but never exchanged fire. By December 1836 the Michigan territorial government was facing dire financial conditions and surrendered the land under pressure from Congress and President Andrew Jackson. Under the compromise, Michigan gave up its claim to the strip of land in exchange for its statehood. Congress awarded Michigan with the Upper Peninsula. At the time, residents were outraged with the outcome – of course, later it became a profitable outcome with the discovery of cooper and iron deposits and the abundance of lumber. On January 26, 1837, Michigan joined the Union as the nation's 26<sup>th</sup> state.

At our next general membership meeting, author **Donald Faber** will explain to us the engaging account of the Toledo War of 1835, a serious confrontation whose outcome established the borders of the State and the colorful personalities involved with the territory dispute that included the President of the United States.

Our evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30pm at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic St. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:30pm followed immediately by our program. All are welcome; you do not have to be a member to enjoy this Thursday evening with people who like history. We ask that you bring your own table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown on the front page.

**The Milford Historical Society** gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the following memorials:

In memory of Mrs. Hilda Lawrence:  
Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson

In memory of Michael Burkland:  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay & Brook Qualman

In memory of Robert Gharrity:  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond & Barbara Bergin  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Farley  
Ms. Kay Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Bev & Don Deman  
Mrs. David Augustine  
Mr. & Mrs. Margaret & Herbert Hoover  
Ms. Helga Mann  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale & Sherry Feigley  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry & Karol Breen  
Ms. Elsie Garner  
Ms. Barbara Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim & Holly Brandt  
Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Tyler  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon & Billie McLeod  
Mr. Muriel Stacey  
Mr. & Mrs. Vern & Dorothy Hass  
Mr. Bill Wooton  
Mr. & Mrs. Ned & June Watson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay & Brook Qualman  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce & Joyce Clark  
Ms. Sue Gumpfer  
The Bullard Family  
Mr. & Mrs. James & Joyce Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Elaine Skarritt  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Marlene Gunther  
Mr. & Mrs. David & Mary Burley  
Mr. & Mrs. James & Phyllis Gandol  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee & Tom Fisher  
Ms. Hannelore Bishop  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Lee Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted & Kelly Holloway  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Pat Mooney  
Ms. Irene Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Randal & Judith Busick  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald & Virginia Mantela  
Ms. Lynda Garrity  
Mr. & Mrs. William & Lesley Gunther  
Mr. & Mrs. David & Donna Gramlich  
Mr. & Mrs. Brion & Judy Waara  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Judith Reiter  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Trudy Johnson  
Ms. Ann Piotrowski  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Trombley  
Milford Presbyterian Church  
Zonta Club of Milford

Milford Historical Society would like to welcome our newest members:

Rob Reading

John & Doris Breniser

Richard Harrison

Anthony & Nevada Verrino



**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 for future generations.

**PLATINUM Sponsor (7th year) :**  
  
online at [hometooursite.com](http://hometooursite.com)

**Gold Sponsor (6th year) :**  
**Milford Downtown Development Authority**

**Supporters:**

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- **The Burger Joint, Steve & Natalene Suser (6th year)**
- **Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce (7th year)**
- **Huron Valley State Bank (6th year)**
- **Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (2nd year)**
- **Inter-Office Construction, Inc. (3rd year)**
- **Kensington Dairy Queen (5th year)**
- **Monthly Shoppers (7th year)**
- **Re/Max Platinum, Tige Reader Team (4th year)**
- **University of Michigan/Kellogg Eye Center (4th year)**
- **The Watkins Family (1st year)**
- **Wildcat Properties (2nd year)**
- **Your Nesting Place, Chris Meredith (6th year)**

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

<b>Annual Member Dues:</b>	
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)