

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- General Membership Meeting- Jan 17 at Milford United Methodist Church 6 PM Pot Luck Dinner and 7 PM meeting
- Museum is closed for the winter- will reopen sometime in May
- Collecting stories and pictures for "The New Book" - right now focusing on the 1950's (See story inside.)

## From Your President, Carol Watkins

Here's hoping you had a wonderful holiday season and that your new year is full of everything you wish for and need. May I say I am extremely grateful for each and every one of you who have cheerfully volunteered your time and energy to all that was accomplished in 2012. You are amazing people and I am very proud to serve and work at your side.



Back to business... Although the museum is closed for the season, tours may be arranged by appointment and many of us are working within on various projects (mentioned elsewhere in this paper).

Our Board of Directors lost several members in the past year and the ballot for Board members at the January General Meeting will include the following proposed new members to fill three open positions:

- o Jim Crane, lawyer
- o Rich Harrison, Powerhouse maven and Village liaison
- o Leon Shuler, CPA

Norm Werner has added a PayPal account on our website and is designing our new museum store. You will be able to order items and books, as well as make any donations you would like, even pay your dues using a credit card, even if you do not have a PayPal account.

I am also working with eBay to list several items for sale through their non-profit entity known as MissionFish. If you buy or sell on eBay, you can donate a portion of your earnings to the Milford Historical Society.




In addition, if you use Ancestry.com, or are planning to purchase (or renew) your Ancestry.com subscription, you will be able to do it through the museum website which, as an affiliate of Ancestry.com, will again, leave a percentage of your payment to the museum as a donation (not at your cost, but as a donation from Ancestry.com)


To motivate each of you to help with our new book, I created a timeline of the 1950s (See insert page inside). This brought back many memories for me and was a wonderful way to get through the holidays. I hope you enjoy it.

**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.

## 2012 Home Tour Sponsors

**PLATINUM Sponsors**

 (8th year)

 (1st year)

**Gold Sponsor (7th year):**  
*Milford DDA*

**Silver Sponsors**  
 Fresco Pizza (1st year)  
 Veterinary Care Specialists (1st year)

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

### Annual Member Dues:

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

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

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

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

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

Email: milfordhistory@hotmail.com

Phone: 248-685-7308

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

"like" us on Facebook.

### First Membership Meeting of 2013

Our January 17th General Meeting will be "Let There Be Light". Our Speaker is a gentleman named Mike Forrester from Hartland. Mike has been collecting since he was five years old and I will just say he is over 49.

Antique clocks, music boxes and lighting are a few of Mike's passions. Mike will be speaking on lighting and has lamps that go back 2000 years to biblical times. You read right - 2000 years! Maybe it's an Aladdin lamp with a genie inside when you rub it. Hey we can dream can't we?

Mike's lighting collection spans the 1700's to the present 20th century also..



Mike will show us his impressive collection and will answer questions. after. If you have a light fixture you are curious about the age, if it is worth fixing etc. bring it to the general meeting to ask Mike.

Remember Mike is a collector in this field not an Appraiser or professional Speaker; still he can probably answer your questions about your light.

## MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
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### NON-OFFICER DIRECTORS

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Sandi Muirhead 248-684-0245  
Norm Werner 248-763-2497

**MUSEUM STAFF/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-**  
MARLENE GOMEZ 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](mailto:Historian@milfordhistory.org)

Be sure to visit us on the web:  
[www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org)  
and "like" us on Face book.

## Our New History Book...

Compiling our new history book has many aspects to it. The most important is collecting the stories, photos and facts from the last century. You each are key to this project. Here is how you can help:



1. Contact your church, club, company or social organization if it is in the Village or Township of Milford. Ask them to put together their history from 1900-2000 (or even to the present). Offer to help pull the data and photos together.
2. Look through your own memorabilia – copy old photos (label them, please), event books, such as prom booklets, posters, date related information (house, auto, building, fashion photos).
3. If possible, digitalize your information. (If not, please copy the information and give us copies.)
4. Volunteer to review donated information and sort at museum.
5. Volunteer to contact and follow-up with all organizations – schools, churches, businesses, non-profits, clubs, etc. and help them with their histories.

Did you belong to an organization that no longer exists? Perhaps the Eastern Stars or something similar? Do you know of businesses that are no longer in business? We want their stories. Please let us know where we need to look and whom to contact.

To contact us with any ideas, information, contacts, etc:  
Email: [info@milfordhistory.org](mailto:info@milfordhistory.org)  
Phone: 248-  
Mail: 124 E. Commerce St. / Milford, MI 48381

## MUSEUM PROJECTS THAT NEED YOU!

Ten storm windows are missing from the museum and there are four broken panes on existing windows. Most of the windows are no longer plumb (the museum is 161 years old) and replacing them takes skilled labor. We have located a master carpenter and he can restore the windows to the original format. This will require \$1500 in supplies and much of the work is being donated. If you wish to contribute, please contact Norm Werner at 248-763-2497.



Microfilm project – One of our volunteer researchers will be searching the microfilm archives for genealogy and historical information for the new book. However, the large microfilm instrument is not working and needs repair. We do not know the costs yet, but if you wish to help with this endeavor, please contact Nancy Degenfelder at [ndegenfelder@comcast.net](mailto:ndegenfelder@comcast.net).

Audio tapes with Oral Histories – We have many, many cassette tapes with recorded oral histories from residents in Milford. These tapes are disintegrating and we need to copy them to CDs and add them to our Past Perfect program so they will be accessible by internet on our computer. A local Company can do these for us and the cost is about \$10 per tape. If you wish

to support this endeavor, please contact Norm Werner at 248-763-2497, you can also donate on our website using PayPal.

Speaking of Oral Histories – the small office in the museum is being rearranged. We hope to have two comfy chairs and a computer with Dragon naturally speaking software and a microphone so you can bring in your elder friend or relative and record their history of Milford. There will be a script to help focus the questions and you can record a CD of their history for the museum and one for yourself.



To do this project, we need to finish rearranging the current focus of the room, restore the desk (shelves are warped and no longer serviceable), add the software (Dragon Naturally Speaking – comes with microphone and script from Ancestry.com), a computer (which will also be loaded with the Family Search information, as well as Ancestry.com) and two comfy chairs.

Oak Grove Cemetery – as part of our project to digitize the museum information, we need someone to enter the Oak Grove Cemetery information onto the computer. We have 3 x 5 cards of everyone buried in the cemetery. These are searched whenever someone requests information, usually in a genealogy search. If we find the individual's name – Linda Dagenhardt is contacted and she researches the person and up to three generations, at no cost. If the person is not in Oak Grove Cemetery, then the museum volunteers search our records for information. An Excel file of this information would be wonderful for searches. Contact [info@milfordhistory.org](mailto:info@milfordhistory.org).



Glass doors for book shelves – Storage of reference books and paper records is part of our purpose. Current recommendations are to store the books behind glass doors. Our archival books are on open shelves that could be easily converted to shelves behind glass doors, if someone is willing to make and install them. Special museum paint must be used to prevent any chemicals from leeching from the paint and further damaging the books and papers. Contact [info@milfordhistory.org](mailto:info@milfordhistory.org).

Remember also that you can go to our MissionFish eBay page and donate on-line by using your credit card. The address is— [http://donations.ebay.com/charity/charity.jsp?NP\\_ID=57771](http://donations.ebay.com/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=57771). or just go to our Web site [MilfordHistory.org](http://MilfordHistory.org) and click on the MissionFish logo, then use the Donate button there to make your donation.

## Time to Renew!

Please support the MHS through membership. The 2013 annual membership dues can be paid by check and mailed to the Milford Historical Society at 124 E. Commerce Street, Milford, Michigan, 48381. Memberships are as follows:

Student	\$ 5.00
Individual	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Lifetime Membership	\$250.00
Small Business	\$ 50.00
Corporation	\$250.00 - \$1,000.00

The MHS also has a donation program, which you may participate in. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact Holly Brandt, Membership Committee at 248 684-2248.

## Current Projects that need funding.

There seem to always be current needs or projects at the Museum that need funding in order to continue. Right now the biggest need is for funding to replace 10 storm windows that have either already fallen apart or are about to fall apart. The estimated cost for that project is \$1,500. We are off to a good start in the fundraising efforts for that project, with a \$500. gift from the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce. If you can give to support this project, please contact Norm Werner at 248-763-2497.

The other need at the Museum was caused by the failure of one of our main computer servers that is used to accession the contents of the Museum. Fortunately all the data that it contained was backed up, so all of that data is safe. Since this is a server for other computers in the museum it can be a larger, desk-side computer and not a laptop. If you would like to contribute to replace our failed computer also contact Norm Werner.

## Other General Meetings and Speaker topics for 2013 Dates subject to change, so watch the Web site for updates

**March 21** - General Membership Meeting - Speaker - Paul Kaviuff - The Purple Gang

**May 16** - General Membership Meeting - Speaker - Carol Mull - Michigan Underground Railroad

**July 18** - Annual Picnic

**Sept. 19** - General Membership Meeting - Speaker - Michael Schragg - Marshall Post Office Museum

**Nov. 21** - General Membership Meeting - Speaker - George Sluder - Indian Re-enactor and Nationally Known Quill Master

## 1950s WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN MILFORD?

To help you put together your memories for the MHS book – we will feature a timeline of each decade . Our first decade featured is the 1950s.

Perhaps one of the things which most characterize the 1950's was the strong element of conservatism and anticommunist feeling which ran throughout much of society. One of the best indicators of the conservative frame of mind was the addition of the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance. Religion was seen as an indicator of anti-communism. Fifties clothing was conservative. Men wore gray flannel suits and women wore dresses with pinched in waists and high heels. French fashion designers such as Dior, Chanel and Givenchy were popular and copied in America.

Families worked together, played together and vacationed together at family themed entertainment areas like national parks and the new Disneyland. Gender roles were strongly held, girls played with Barbie dolls and Dale Evans gear, boys with Roy Rogers and Davy Crockett paraphernalia. Drive-in movies became popular for families and teens. Cars were seen as an indicator of prosperity and coolness. Highways were built to take people quickly from one place to another, by-passing small towns and helping to create central marketing areas or shopping malls.

Fashion successes were Bill Blass and his blue jeans, poodle skirts made of felt and decorated with sequins and poodle appliques, pony tails for girls, and flat tops and crew cuts for guys. Saddle shoes and blue suede loafers were popular. Teenagers were defined as a separate generation and were represented by James Dean who wore blue jeans in Rebel Without a Cause and created a fashion and attitude sensation. Activities we liked were flying saucer watching , and watching and dancing to Dick Clark's American Bandstand . Fad hits with kids were toys like hula hoops and Hopalong Cassidy guns and western gear, Davy Crockett coon skin hats and silly putty .

Perhaps the most far reaching change in communications worldwide was the advancement in the area of television broadcasting. During the 1950s, television became the dominant mass media as more people brought television into their homes in greater numbers of hours per week than ever before. In the early fifties, the number of hours young people watched TV steadily increased, a trend which has not changed greatly since that time. What was portrayed on television became accepted as normal. The ideal family, the ideal schools and neighborhoods, the world, were all seen in a way which had only partial basis in reality. People began to accept what was heard and seen on television because they were "eye witnesses" to events as never before.

Programs such as You Are There brought historical events into the living rooms of many Americans. The effect on print news media and entertainment media was felt in lower attendance at movies and greater reliance on TV news sources for information. And then, in 1954, black and white broadcasts became color broadcasts. Shows called "sitcoms " like The Honeymooners , Lassie, Father Knows Best, The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet, and I Love Lucy featured popular characters whose lives thousands of viewers watched and copied. Families enjoyed variety shows like Disneyland and The Ed Sullivan Show on Sunday evenings. Daytime programs like Guiding Light, a "soap opera" were popular and helped advertisers sell many products to the homemakers of America. News broadcasting changed from newsmen simply reading the news to shows which included

videotaped pictures of events which had occurred anywhere in the world, and then to more and more live broadcasts of events happening at the time of viewing. This was made possible in 1951 with the development of coaxial cable and microwave relays coast to coast. When Edward R. Murrow began offering his weekly radio program (called "Hear It Now") on TV as "See It Now," the world of news broadcasting was irrevocably changed (eyewitness recounts the change)

### 1950

- Michigan's population is 6,371,766.
- Detroit is the 4th largest city in the U.S., with 1.8 million people
- Ruth Thompson\* of Muskegon is the first Michigan woman elected to Congress, in the House of Representatives where she is the first woman member of the House Judiciary Committee.
- Ferris Institute, founded in 1884, becomes a state institution.
- The Detroit Red Wings win the Stanley Cup.
- Pres. Harry Truman ( 'til 1952) approves production of the hydrogen bomb and sends air force and navy to Korea in June.

### 1951

- Color TV Introduced
- Truman Signs Peace Treaty With Japan, Officially Ending WWII
- Winston Churchill Again Prime Minister of Great Britain
- Fire destroys much of the State Office Building in Lansing.

### 1952

- The Detroit Lions win the first of three world championships in professional football in the decade (also 1953 and 1957).
- Charline Rainey White of Detroit is the first African-American woman elected to the Michigan House of Representatives.
- Cora Mae Brown of Detroit is the first African-American woman elected to the Michigan Senate
- Car Seat Belts Introduced
- Polio Vaccine Created
- Princess Elizabeth Becomes Queen at Age 25

### 1953

- Irene Auberlin of Detroit founds World Medical Relief, an organization that has provided medical supplies throughout the world for more than 40 years.
- About 250,000 Michigan men and women see military service during the Korean War (1950-1953).

- DNA Discovered
- First Playboy Magazine
- Joseph Stalin Dies
- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg Executed for Espionage

#### 1954

- Britain Sponsors an Expedition to Search for the Abominable Snowman
- First Atomic Submarine Launched
- American Motors Corporation is formed by the merger of Hudson Motor Car Company and Nash-Kelvinator Corporation.
- The first slogan — Water Wonderland — appears on Michigan license plates.
- Construction begins on the Mackinac Bridge.
- Report Says Cigarettes Cause Cancer
- Segregation Ruled Illegal in U.S.

#### 1955

- Disneyland Opens
- During its centennial year, Michigan State College becomes a university.
- The White Pine is adopted as the official State Tree.
- The American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merge making the new AFL-CIO an organization with 15 million members.
- McDonald's Corporation Founded
- Rosa Parks Refuses to Give Up Her Seat on a Bus
- Warsaw Pact Signed

#### 1956

- Elvis Gyrate on Ed Sullivan's Show
- Grace Kelly Marries Prince Rainier III of Monaco
- Hungarian Revolution
- Wayne University in Detroit becomes a state university.
- The Interstate Highway Act is passed. It provided for federal-state cooperation in highway construction.
- Khrushchev Denounces Stalin
- Suez Crisis
- T.V. Remote Control Invented
- Velcro Introduced 19

#### 1957

- Oakland University founded.
- After ages of dreams and efforts in the 1930s halted by the war, the five-mile-long
- Mackinac Bridge is completed, finally uniting Michigan's two peninsulas.
- Professional basketball comes to Michigan when the Fort Wayne Pistons move to Detroit.
- Dr. Seuss Publishes The Cat in the Hat
- European Economic Community Established
- Soviet Satellite Sputnik Launches Space Age
- Laika Becomes the First Living Animal to Enter Orbit

#### 1958

- Chinese Leader Mao Zedong Launches the "Great Leap Forward"
- G. Mennen Williams, a native of Detroit, is elected to an unprecedented sixth term as
- governor.
- Computers are first used by state government.
- Explorer I, the first U.S. satellite, successfully orbits the earth.
- Hula Hoops Become Popular
- LEGO Toy Bricks First Introduced
- NASA Founded
- Peace Symbol Created
- The first domestic jet-airline passenger service is begun by National Airlines between New York City and Miami.

#### 1959

- Motown music begins recording in Detroit
- Detroit and the entire Great Lakes region gains access to world markets with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.
- First annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge walk is held
- Castro Becomes Dictator of Cuba
- International Treaty Makes Antarctica Scientific Preserve
- The Sound of Music Opens on Broadway
- U.S. Quiz Shows Found to be Fixed
- Alaska and Hawaii become the forty-ninth and fiftieth states.