

The Milford Historian

VOLUME 39 / NO 2

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH / APRIL 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

PROGRAM:

GENERAL CUSTER BY DAKOTA STARR

**THURSDAY MARCH 17TH, 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: SALAD

G-Q: DESSERT

R-Z: MAIN DISH

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

**SPRING TEA AT THE MARY JACKSON HOUSE
SATURDAY APRIL 30TH, 2011
TWO SETTINGS: 11AM-1PM AND 2PM-4PM**

2011 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

■ **THURSDAY MAY 19**

PROGRAM: MILFORD'S CIVIL WAR VETERANS

■ **SATURDAY JULY 24, PICNIC**

■ **THURSDAY SEPT 8**

PROGRAM: HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR-SAM OFFEN

■ **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17**

PROGRAM: VERNOR'S GINGER ALE STORY

"ERNIE" THE PLAY

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER, WILL YOUNG
WILL PLAY ERNIE HARWELL IN THE UPCOMING
PLAY "ERNIE" AT DETROIT'S CITY THEATRE. IF
ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF A
GROUP OUTING TO SEE THE PLAY (DATE TBD),
PLEASE CONTACT SUE BULLARD AT
MILFORDHISTORY@HOTMAIL.COM**

From Your President, *Norm Werner*

Our Board of Directors is off to a flying start for 2011. We had our first board meeting the week after the January General Membership meeting. Officers and Committee Chairs for 2011 were elected. I "volunteered" for another year as President and Sue Bullard and Sue Gumpfer agreed to serve as Vice Presidents again. Bill Schimmel will remain as our Recording Secretary and will add the role of Corresponding Secretary as well.



Judy Waara has completed three years as Treasurer, upon which the bylaws require that someone else take over. Judy has done a great job for us, but she has recently taken on new project management responsibilities at her day job and can't put in the time that the Treasurers job requires. Jim Gabel has agreed to take on that task, with some training and transition support from Judy. Thanks Jim and thanks Judy for a job well done.

Our newest board member, Nancy Lang, agreed to take on the position as Publicity Chair, with a charter from the board to get the publicity for our activities better integrated with the publicity and activities of the Downtown Merchants Group, The Downtown Development Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, the Village and the Township. We also hope to do a more coordinated job on publicity for all of the events that surround the annual Home Tour.

Sue Bullard will again head up the MHS involvement with the Mary Jackson House, planning and coordinating events and working to maintain the structure to a level satisfactory to the National Historic Preservation Board, which has the ultimate oversight role. Sue already has a Spring Tea planned and has inquiries from several people who would like to hold events at the house. Sue can use your help with events and maintenance of the house, so give her a call.

The Rheumes, Kathy and Russ, have agreed to another year as the organizers of the annual Independence Day Parade. Russ has assured me that, when he runs down the street with the bull horn yelling, "the jets are coming," they will be flying this year and not delivering pizzas. Russ has also volunteered to plan the 2012 programs, taking over from Sue Bullard who already has the 2011 programs locked in. Thanks Sue.

Duane Freitag agreed to head up the Grannies Attic Sale and is trying to figure out how and where to hold a winter time version before we run out of storage space for donated items. Please contact Duane if you have items to donate.

Sue Gumpfer and Sue Bullard will be in charge of our premier fund-raising event—the Milford Home Tour again this year and Bill Crawford will again organize and run the Annual Tractor Show. Please think about being a docent for this year's tour.

Our Membership Committee will be chaired by a non-board member — Holly Brandt, the Clerk for the Village of Milford. Please thank Holly for volunteering and help her reach out to current members and to find new members who enjoy the history of Milford.

Marlene Gomez will continue as Assistant Museum Director with help from the Museum Council Members Sue Gumpfer, Sue Bullard, Margaret Hoover and Mary Lou Gharriety.

I'm excited about what 2011 has in store for the MHS. We have great programs lined up for our general membership meetings and we have energized and enthusiastic leaders for our events throughout the year. The board members all hope that everyone in the general membership will volunteer and show up to help with this year's events. Together we can make this a great year for the MHS and for Milford.

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Norm Werner

VICE-PRESIDENT
Sue Bullard

VICE-PRESIDENT
Sue Gumpfer

TREASURER
Judy Waara

**CORRESPONDING/RECORDING
SECRETARY**
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DIRECTORS
Judith Reiter
Russ Rheaume
Kathy Rheaume
Bill Crawford
MaryLou Gharrity
Jim Gabel
Brian Mooney
Nancy Lang

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: Diane Nossal

Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org

2011 Article Deadlines:

Sat April 30 for May/June Issue

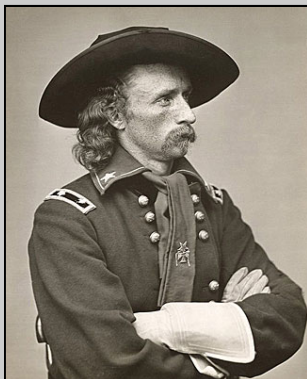
Sat July 2 for July/Aug Issue

Sat Aug 20 for Sept/Oct Issue

Sat Oct 29 for Nov/Dec Issue

March Program: General George Armstrong Custer By Dakota Starr

George Armstrong Custer was one of the best-known figures in American history. Born in 1839 in Ohio, Custer was sent to live with his half-sister in Monroe, Michigan. After finishing school, Custer enrolled in West Point. Not being the best student in his class, Custer graduated in 1861 where he finished last in his class. Nevertheless, Custer benefited from the outbreak of the Civil War. Trained officers were in need.



Custer's fearless aggression in battle and a willing to take personal risks soon earned him the respect of his commanding generals and put him the public eye. After the Civil War ended, Custer was re-assigned to the seventh Cavalry on the Western Plains. It was there in June of 1876 where Custer would lead an attack on a large Indian Village in the Montana Territory. Custer and his army were outnumbered and he died along with his 208-man force.

Our speaker for our March general membership meeting will be Dakota Starr. Dakota is the Director of the Grand Blanc Living Historical Society and portrays Brigadier

General George Custer. Dakota has been reenacting for several years starting with the USS Michigan Marine Guard and then with the Fourth Texas Infantry Regiment. He has a passion for providing the history of Custer with a true to life portrayal of this famous Army general.

Our evening will begin with a delicious potluck dinner at 6:30PM at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic Street. 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.



Milford Historical Society would like to welcome our newest members:

Pam Dawson

Richard & Irene Ralph

Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House: April 30th

The Milford Historical Society will be hosting a Spring Tea at the childhood home of Mary Jackson on Saturday, April 30th, 2011. The third annual spring tea will feature a fashion show of wedding dresses from the past. Proceeds from the afternoon tea will help continue the preservation efforts of the Mary Jackson House.



Guests can choose from two settings to attend: 11AM to 1PM and 2PM to 4PM. Each guest will enjoy savories and sandwiches, scones with lemon curd, jam or cream, assorted desserts and tea, coffee and punch.

Tickets for the Spring Tea are \$25 and can be purchased at the Acorn Farm, 367 N. Main St., or Main St. Art, 432 Main St. Seating is limited, reservations are recommended. For more information, visit www.milfordhistory.org.

The Milford Historical Society extends our deepest condolences to Board Member, **Judith Reiter** on the loss of her mother, **Olga Grzesiek**. Our hearts go out to Judith and her family during this very difficult time.

Civil War Remembrance

The Milford Historical Society will be participating in a Civil War remembrance that will take place June 25th and 26th. The Huron Valley Civil War Commemoration Committee is planning a weekend of events that will honor and pay tribute to the men and women from the Huron Valley area that served during the four-year battle. The MHS is to be an active partner with this group and we are planning to have a booth in Central Park with a Civil War display as well as old-fashion children's games.

During the two-day event, we will need volunteers to help. If you are interested in helping, please call Sue Bullard or send an email to: milfordhistory@hotmail.com.

We need your help...

Jim Gabel, the board member who was going to assume the duties of Treasurer has had to resign from the board for personal reasons. Most of the current board members are in charge of one or more important committees (things like the Home Tour Committee). Our current Treasurer, Judy Waara, has served the maximum number of terms that our bylaws allow for a Treasurer. We need someone in the Society to pick up the role of Treasurer.

Please contact Norm Werner, the board President, or either Vice-President, Sue Bullard or Sue Gumpfer if you have an interest in helping. **Thanks.**

Time to Renew!

Please support the MHS through membership. The annual membership dues can be paid by check and mailed to the Milford Historical Society at 124 E. Commerce St, Milford, MI 48381.

Memberships are as follows:

Student	\$5
Individual	\$15 (Senior \$10)
Family	\$25
Lifetime Membership	\$250
Small Business	\$50
Corporation	\$250-\$1,000

The MHS also has a donation program which you may participate in. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact Holly Brandt.

On February 11th, the Milford Historical Society International Symphony Fundraiser at Kahuna Coffee in Hartland was a complete success. Bill Schimmel (Percussion) and Russ Rheume (Guitar and Skunk Hat) wowed the crowd with their songs and corny jokes. We strongly recommend members attend any future scheduled programs.



MHS International Symphony

What's happenin' at the POWERHOUSE?

Activity has been flowing through the historic Hydroelectric Power Station this past year. In order to meet the requirements of the Transportation Grant received, the Village is required to send an annual report to the State Historic Preservation Office, detailing the improvements and required events of the year.

The improvement for 2010 was the installation of guardrails placed around turbines in the lower level thus allowing guests to tour the lower turbine area. Until this was done, guests were not allowed in the lower level and could only observe turbines through two glass inserts in the main floor. This improvement was completed July 4th, 2010 and was a huge success.



Some of the 2010 Hydro Station events that took place were:

- The Annual Milford Historical Society Home Tour
- The Second Annual "Dogs Playing Poker Run"
- The First Annual "Pet Pictures with Santa" weekend
- The Annual Fourth of July Open House

Other events included a full-blown July wedding with an overflowing number of guests and a special visit from the *Flaming Pistons*, a vintage car club. The entire area surrounding the Hydro Station was filled with old cars! What a thrill to have their cars photographed in front of Henry Ford's Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Power Station.



Flaming Pistons Car Club gathers at the Hydro Station

Did You Happen to Know...

- The Hydro Station was used as a backdrop and base camp for a movie shoot.
- The Hydro Station has been used as a backdrop for Milford High School senior pictures.
- The www.milfordpowerhouse.com website was visited **1,401** times with 72 hits from Belgium, 19 from UK, 9 from Australia, Russia and France.

Information provided by:

Richard Harrison

Volunteer Milford Hydroelectric Power Station

www.milfordpowerhouse.com

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) :



Gold Sponsor (6th year) :

Milford Downtown Development Authority

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 Phone: 248-685-7308

Be sure to visit us on the web: www.milfordhistory.org