

Milford Historical Society
 124 East Commerce
 Milford, Michigan 48381

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The Milford Historian

VOLUME 41/ NO 2

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March-April 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 21 - General Membership Meeting - Speaker - Paul Kavieff - The Purple Gang - Pot luck at 6:30 pm**
 Pot Luck Assignments -
 A—F—dessert G—Q—Salad R—Z—Main Dish
- **March 27 Board of Directors meeting at the Mary Jackson house 7:30 pm**
- **April 18 - General Membership bonus meeting - Speaker Carol Watkins - Genealogy 101—See the Web site for time and place for this bonus meeting. No pot luck with this meeting.**

Detroit's Purple Gang

Our guest speaker for the March General Membership meeting is Paul Kavieff author of three Purple Gang books, who will tell the gruesome tale of this juvenile Jewish organized crime gang reigning from 1910-1945.

Paul holds degrees from Oakland and Wayne State Universities. He is a nationally recognized organized crime Historian. Using rare police photos, mug shots and group photographs the book takes you back to the days of hijacking and bootlegging. Something the Purple Gang were experts at. But they could not play nice together so power and jealousy eventually lead to their own destruction.

Our own MHS members have connections to this ruthless "show no mercy" gang of thugs. I'd tell ya but I'm not a informer or in gangster slang a RAT...Just kidding I'm one of them. Find out the other at our meeting.

Starting March meeting there will be door prizes given out to our guests and members.

Remember wear something purple or make a mobster dish to pass. Say like Gangster Goulash or Machinegun Meatballs or even better a cake with a file in it.

Sandi Muirhead
 MHS Programs

From Your President, Carol Watkins

Through cold, snow and sleet, activities continue in the Milford Historical Society. The MHS Board of Directors initiated new members at the January meeting. Leon Shuler immediately volunteered to take on Publicity for the Society. Rich Harrison has helped save money and improve our insurance coverage with his expertise. Rich will also be reactivating the Preservation and Restoration activities and Jim Crane is helping update our by-laws and legal documents with his expertise. Thank you, Gentlemen.



At our meetings in 2013, we have reviewed our Strategic Plan and updated the entire Board Manual, as well as working on some new fundraising projects and some enhancement projects for the society membership, including volunteer recognition and rewards.

I want to thank Barbara Hertz for all of her hard work and perseverance in scanning our archive of photos and loading them into the PastPerfect software. Bonnie Walworth continues to update and maintain our computers hardware, software, virus protection and files.

One of our enhancement projects is a reorganization of the student interns program. There will be a manual for each student and several willing volunteers to teach them different parts of museum work. Their primary role will still be that of docent, but they will be asked to work on the computer archives, microfilm research and complete one project during their experience. Various support materials have been gathered and evaluation forms developed.

The Fourth of July parade is already being worked on – the flyerover needs to be booked months in advance and both Russ and Kathy Rheume are already lining up horse groups, floats and more. We are always looking for bands and musical groups, so if you know of any, let us know. Our new Village Manager and the Village Council have removed the annual fee for the parade, saving us enough money for some of the storm windows we are adding to the museum.



The storm windows are now under construction – because the museum is 160 years old, most of the window frames are no longer plumb and restoration of the original wooden frames to preserve the look of the windows is custom work. We are very grateful to Gary at GC Contracting Co., LLC in White Lake for assisting us in this project – Gary's firm does both new construction and restoration – from building a new house to building custom fine furniture. They have a five-star rating on Angie's List.

(Continued on page 2)

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)

Palate

(1st year)

Gold Sponsor (7th year):

Milford DDA

Silver Sponsors

Fresco Pizza (1st year)
 Veterinary Care Specialists (1st year)

Annual Member Dues:

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

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

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 and

"like" us on Facebook.

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Carol Watkins	248-684-5045
VICE-PRESIDENT Sue Bullard	248-685-8321
VICE-PRESIDENT Sue Gumper	248-685-2691
TREASURER Nancy Lange	248-
RECORDING & CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Rena Valentine	248-684-2867
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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

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Editor: Norm Werner

Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org

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(From Your President—Continued from page 1)

An extra special thanks to Sue Bullard and Sue Gumper. Both of our Vice Presidents are working with me to create a cookbook for the Mary Jackson house. Recipes from the various Teas at the Mary Jackson house, as well as some history and photos of Mary Jackson will be offered in a three-ring binder. As more teas evolve over the coming years, we will sell the additional recipes on pages for adding to the cookbook – one packet each year with the new recipes. We plan to present our new cookbook at the April 27th Spring Tea – along with “new” old wedding dresses in our fashion show.



Enjoy Spring!

Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House

Enjoy an afternoon with friends at the next Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House. Hosted by the Milford Historical Society, Our next Spring Tea will be on Saturday, April 27th at the childhood home of Mary Jackson.

Tickets for the tea are \$25.00 with all the proceeds going directly to the preservation and upkeep of the Mary Jackson Home. Guests can choose to attend either 11 am to 1 pm or 2 pm to 4pm. Guests will enjoy sandwiches, savories (seasoned appetizers), scones with jam, assorted desserts and beverages.

The theme for this Springs Tea Fashion Show will be Wedding Dresses. Local young women will model a collection of dresses throughout the years.

Purchase tickets for the Spring Tea at Acorn Farms or Main Street Art in downtown Milford or at the Milford Township Offices located at 1100 Atlantic Street.



For more information call 248-685-7308 or visit www.milfordhistory.org or email milfordhistory@hotmail.com.

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.

Help Wanted We Need You... PLEASE



We need a volunteer to help make contacts and schedule events for the Museum Open House. Sue Bullard is in charge of this event and can be reached at MilfordHistory@hotmail.com.

We have been offered use of the upstairs of the Masonic Temple for workshops. If you wish to present, or to attend a workshop, please contact Sandi Muirhead or Carol Watkins.

We are reactivating the Preservation and Restoration services previously offered at the MHS. If you have done restoration or know of services that do restoration, we are looking to update our information files and need to gather current data. See Rich Harrison.

We are creating a “store” on our website and need photos of available items and shipping costs. If you can spare some time to take items and weigh them, photograph them and catalogue them, see Norm Werner.

Looking for a volunteer to put together a wine tasting party? Can you help?

And from the last issue... SOME THANK YOU's!

We received a donated computer from Insurance Advisors (The agency that Rich Harrison is a part of in Milford), which has been installed and is working at the museum.

We have had a volunteer to make an Excel file of the deceased at Oak Grove Cemetery. The file will be on the museum website and available for genealogists.

Our new researcher has been looking up obituaries, photos and information for people from other states with relatives that lived in Milford.

Genealogy 101

The Milford Historical Society is adding three extra presentations this year. The first will be in April on Genealogy. The presentation will cover the following topics:

- 1) History of Genealogy
- 2) Genealogy Resources
- 3) Ten Common Research Mistakes
- 4) Family interviews and tools
- 5) Ideas on making your family story come alive.
- 6) What is available in the MHS Museum and Milford Library.

The presenter has been doing Genealogy for herself, friends and family for over 15 years. She is also studying to become a certified genealogist and is involved with several Genealogy groups in the United States, such as the National Genealogy Society and the Oakland County Genealogical Society.

Whether you are just starting, or have been doing Genealogy for years, this presentation should have something of interest for anyone interested in genealogy.

Carol Watkins

For our New book—Milford in the 20th Century...

Did you attend Milford High School?

- What years did you attend?
- What did you enjoy the most? The least?
- Do you have pictures? Do you remember stories from that time?



What Stores were on Main Street in your youth?

- Which did you like the best? Why? The least? Why?
- Did any store hold any special events you remember?
- Do you have pictures?

The Milford Jelly Factory

- Did you work there? When?
- What do you remember of the work, the people you worked with, or worked for?
- Any pictures? Any stories? Was there a company picnic? Christmas party?
- Do you have one of the jelly jars? Or one of the labels?

Send your answers to normwerner@comcast.net

At the MHS Museum Open House this spring, we will have staff available to scan any photos you bring by and make copies for the book. We will also have a speech recognition program available that you can use which will take your story and turn it into computer text as you talk into a microphone. If it is more convenient, we can schedule time for you to use our equipment other than during the Open House.

