

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 20—General Membership Meeting** at the United Methodist Church at 1300 Atlantic St in Milford. Guest speaker is Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln (see below). Meeting starts at 6:30 with a pot luck dinner. Dinner assignments are based upon your last name—**A—F—Desserts G—Q—Main Dish R—Z—Salads**

The event planned for April has been canceled due to a conflict with the Maundy Thursday Service at the church

The next board meeting is March 26 at 7 PM at the Mary Jackson house

## From Your President, Norm Werner



I hope that you noticed our new logo. We will be using this on all of our materials and letterhead. As we start a new year, I'm happy to be back as the President of the Board of Directors for the Milford Historical Society.

These are exciting and challenging times for the Society and for our Milford Historical Museum as we deal with the challenges of staying relevant within the community and within a society that values new things and electronic means of accessing information. The board is aware of the challenges and will be working hard to come up with new ideas and programs to keep an appreciation for Milford's history alive and to garner support for the Milford Historical Museum.

The new officers on the board for 2014 besides me include: Carol Watkins as 1st Vice President, Rena Valentine as 2nd Vice President, Sue Bullard as Treasurer, and Traci Abraham as Recording and Corresponding Secretary. Board members who have stayed on to serve are Mary Lou Gharrity, Bill Crawford, Sue Gumpper, Sandi Muirhead, Rich Harrison and Leon Schuler. I have appointed John Robinson to fill one of the vacant board seats, subject to approval by the general membership at the next General Meeting.

Most of the Committee Chairs have volunteered to head up those committees again for this year and include: Mary Lou Gharrity as acting Museum Director, Sue Gumpper as Chair of the Home Tour Committee, Duane Freitag as Chair of the Granny's Attic Sale, Russ and Kathy Rheaume, as Co-Chairs of the Independence Day Parade, Leon Schuler as Chair of Publicity, Holly Brandt as Chair of the Membership and Dues Committee, Sue Bullard as Chair of the Mary Jackson House Committee, and me as Chair of the Community Outreach and Fund Raising Committee, as well as the editor of this newsletter and the Webmaster for our web site. John Robinson has accepted the Chair position for the Maintenance Committee.

We have added a new committee that is composed of myself, Mary Lou, Sandi Muirhead and Leon Schuler. This committee has the assignment to define the job description and requirements for a new Museum Director and to define the process by which we will conduct a search for a person to fill that position. As many of you may know, Mary Lou was the Museum Director for many years; however, she "retired" last year, even though she still

*(Continued on page 2)*

## March General Membership Meeting

Come join us Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 at the United Methodist Church of Milford at 1200 Atlantic St. for Potluck and a Program. We are having a special quest for dinner that night. Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln will stop by to visit and graciously tell us about her life in the White House.



The lady who will be portraying her is Milford resident Pam Dawson. Besides being a Professional storyteller Pam is the Event Planner for Community Sharing in Highland.

Pam was told one day from a Lincoln admirer she should portray Mrs. Lincoln because she was so misunderstood. If you read Mrs. Lincoln's Dress Maker you will agree. So Pam researched her for two years and was ready to take Mrs. Lincoln on the road. And the rest is history.

Mary Todd was 5'2", eyes of blue and

*(Continued on page 3)*

**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.*

# MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Mary Lou Gharry 248-684-8835**

**Sandi Muirhead 248-684-0245**

**Leon Schuler 248-684-5854**

**Rich Harrison 248-935-5556**

**John Robinson**

### MUSEUM STAFF/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-

**MARLENE GOMEZ 248-685-7308**

(President's Report—Continued from page 1)

puts in 3-4 hours at the museum several days a week. Marlene Gomez has been the assistant director for years and will stay on in that role. Now that her husband has retired, Marlene wants to be free to travel more with him and will be cutting back her hours at the Museum a bit.

The Museum Director's job at a small, non-profit museum like ours is a combination of manager and curator, with responsibilities for running the day-to-day operations of the museum and ensuring that the museum follows best practices for the preservation and maintenance of the items entrusted into its care. The Museum Directors Committee will be creating a job description for the role, with the expected qualifications and capabilities and job responsibilities enumerated. We will then use that document as a guide for our search for a new Museum Director. We hope to find the new Director this summer, so that they can become familiar with the museum and its operation during the season that it is open.

Below is a calendar of planned MHS events for 2014 that was compiled by Rich Harrison. Cut it out and put it on your refrigerator, so that you know about upcoming events.

## 2014

January '14	February '14	March '14	April '14
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May '14	June '14	July '14	August '14
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September '14	October '14	November '14	December '14
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## 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)**

## Notes

### MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETINGS 3rd THURSDAY ODD MONTHS at METHODIST CHURCH

BOARD MEETINGS 4th WEDNESDAY\*\* OF MONTH at MARY JACKSON HOUSE

\*\*board meetings may not meet every month.

APRIL 26th VICTORIAN TEA & FASHION SHOW at MARY JACKSON HOUSE

MAY 3rd MUSEUM OPENS FOR SEASON -- CLOSES DEC 17th

MAY 17th MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

JULY 4th PARADE SPONSORED by MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 11th & 12th GRANNY'S ATTIC SALE

JULY 17th ANNUAL PICNIC

AUG 8th, 9th & 10th MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE DURING MILFORD MEMORIES

SEPT 20th & 21st MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL HOME TOUR

NOV 15th VICTORIAN TEA & FASHION SHOW at MARY JACKSON HOUSE

DEC MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE DURING CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

*Content believed to be accurate by [rich.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:rich.harrison@comcast.net)*

lovely to look at. Her parents were settlers from Kentucky. At 21 years of age Mary moved to Springfield, Illinois with her sister Anne. There she met a "poor nobody then" named Abraham Lincoln. After three stormy years, they wed.

Her years in the White House were filled with joy and misery. Considered a big spender, she was accused of unpatriotic extravagance.

I have seen Pam portray Mary and was totally taken back to those years. I know you will enjoy this evening with her and of course our famous Potluck. Our April 17th Meeting will be canceled and rescheduled for a later date. Mary Lou Gharitty was to speak on growing up on Main St., Milford. I really was looking forward to hearing her. That Thursday is Maundy Thursday and all Churches will be having their services that evening. The next Meeting will be May 15th with Annick Carthew presenting about the CCC.

Sandi Muirhead—Programs

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### Membership and Dues

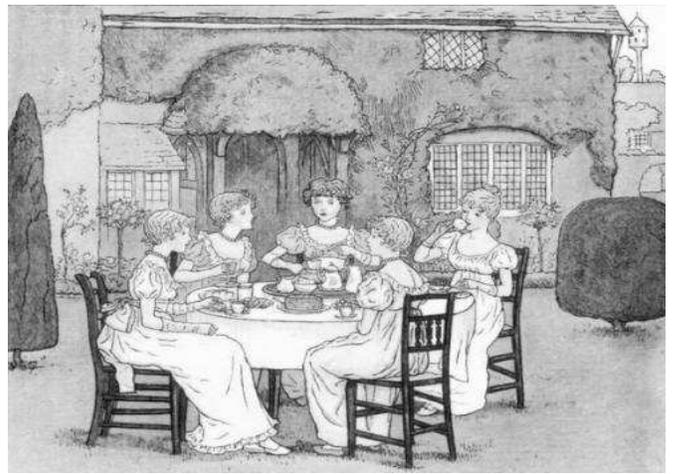
It's that time again, time to renew your membership with the Milford Historical Society. As a member your dues makes everything we do possible. Your participation and dues support makes the valuable service the Historical Society provides possible.

By participating in the Historical Society your dues will continue the commitment of bringing the history of our community by exhibits and programs. For over 10 years, the Historical Society has offered a scholarship program to local High School Students. The Historical Society also is the Main Sponsor of the Independence Day Parade for over 30 years. These are just some of the opportunities that we offer.

As members you will receive bi-monthly newsletters outlining upcoming events, programs and volunteer openings. So, please, when you receive your membership envelope return it with your dues and continue to support the Historical Society.

Please bring your envelope and dues to the April General Membership meeting if you have not already sent them in.

Don't make us have to send Sister Holly to find you.



### Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House

Once again the Milford Historical Society will be hosting a Spring Tea at the childhood home of Mary Jackson. This year's Spring Tea will be on Saturday, April 26th. Guests can choose to attend either 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets for the tea are \$25.00 and all proceeds will go directly to the preservation of the Mary Jackson Home.

Guests will enjoy a traditional Victorian tea including sandwiches, savories (appetizers), scones with jam, assorted desserts and beverages.

The theme for our Spring Tea Fashion show will be Wedding Dresses. A lovely collection of Vintage Wedding dresses will be modeled by the young ladies from our Student Docent program.

Tickets are available at Acorn Farms and Main Street Art on Main Street. Seating is limited, advance ticket purchase is recommended. For more information, please visit our web site at [www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org) or email [milfordhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:milfordhistory@hotmail.com).



For those who have attended teas in the past and purchased the Mary Jackson House Cookbook, we plan on having an update available for purchase at the Spring Tea with at least 50 new recipes for the goodies that you enjoy at the Teas. For those who have not yet purchased a Cookbook, they will be available there, too; as will be the Milford Historical Society's book on the early history of Milford, "**Five Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World**". If you live in Milford, that is a "must have" coffee table book for your home.

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**Thanks** to the people who came in on Sat, Feb. 15th to help take down the Christmas decorations at the museum. They were Sue Bullard, Mary Tata, Jared Clouse, and students: Kelly Hier, Nicole Manning and Becca Darby. - Marlene Gomez

# Milford Historical Society

124 East Commerce

Milford, Michigan 48381

## Priorities for the future

The board has had quite a bit of discussion about the future of both the Society and the Museum. We discussed that topic at our Retreat in January and at the February board meeting. The good news is that we believe that we have a future. Our challenge is to stay relative to the community at large in an age of electronic communications and a seeming lack of appreciation for history, mainly among younger people.

We will be exploring outreach programs to place displays in locations within the Village to share with the community some of the items that we have in our collection and hopefully

to spur interest in visiting the museum. We have a Facebook Page and will be strengthening that. We will be adding a Twitter Account and a Google+ account, as well as a Pinterest account. We will also be starting a Milford Historical Society blog as another channel for sharing the history of Milford. These efforts all take time to maintain, so if you have an interest and the time that you could devote to any of them, please let one of the board members know.

We will also be working hard to get an MHS Endowment Fund established and hope to be in a position to bring a motion before the General Membership to establish that fund and the by-laws for governing it by the May-June meeting.—Norm Werner

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**P**lease 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

Phone: 248-685-7308 Be sure to visit us on the web:

**[www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org) and “like” us on Facebook.**

### Annual Member Dues:

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



# The Milford Historian

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**Special Insert: The History of Milford**—These special inserts contain stories that have been researched and composed from the historical copies of the Milford Times that the Milford Historical Society maintains at the Museum for research purposes. They are offered for the enjoyment of our newsletter readers only and are subject to copy write. They may not be republished or re-used without permission of the Milford Historical Society.

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## 1932 – Milford's 100th Birthday Procession

From: Milford Times Files

There have been bigger and more pretentious parades, with floats costing thousands of dollars but for what it was intended to represent, sequence of exhibits and real heart interest it would be hard to match the procession of July 4th, 1932.

A major feature in the Centennial Celebration, the procession assembled on the south side of the public square, went west to the end of the road, then by way of Huron to Main Street, turning east on Commerce, south on First, west on Liberty and traversing the business section of Main Street a second time. Deputies on motorcycles led the way followed by Clyde Shirtcliff as Marshall and the Vocational School Band of 60 pieces.

The first float recognized the bi-centennial of Washington's birth and was prepared under direction of Mrs. Bennett Porter and Mrs. Fred Bourns. It was covered in white with two white pillars in front. M. Hewill, attired as "Uncle Sam" was driving with John Dawson as Washington, Mrs. Anna Foote as Martha, and Mary Jane McCall as Nellie Curtis.

The O.E.S. float followed with 13 ladies gowned in white representing the colonies and the Goddess of Liberty holding the lighted torch.

A float driven by Fred Sanford with Walpole Indians aboard depicted the original inhabitants.

Next came Elizur Ruggles, the first settler, afoot, impersonated by Ralph Trites.

A covered wagon driven by LeRoy Turner represented the pioneer family seeking a new home. Mrs. DeGarmo as the pioneer mother, Juliet Arms and John Culham as children, LeClaire Hicks walking beside with his dog, and Will Turner afoot as the prospector. The covered wagon had its water barrel and usual equipment of the immigrants and was

prepared by John Dawson and Perry Orvis.

A long transport truck was the foundation for the float showing a log cabin home, with a pioneer family. Mrs. Hattie Austin impersonated the grandmother, sewing carpet rags. W.S. Foote and sister, Mrs. W. W. Porter and the Foote and Porter children were all descendants of the pioneer physician Dr. H.K. Foote. Mr. and Mrs. S. L. McCall planned the float and an unexpected last minute job was to build the log cabin. It had been expected to utilize a cabin that was already constructed, but when this failed then Mr. Shirtcliff, Earl Stephens, Fred Skinner < Boy Scouts and others turned in and helped build it.

Milford's first school was the contribution of the P.T.A. The float represented Mrs. Bigelow's kitchen where the school was held. It had a fireplace and cooking utensils. Mrs. R.S. Pittenger, impersonating the teacher, rocked the cradle with one foot, operated the butter churn with one hand and held a school book with the other hand as she taught a group of quaintly clad children.

The "Women's Club of 1832", the Monday Literary Club's float prepared under the direction of Mrs. Charles Pittenger, depicted a quilting party. The ladies engaged were Mrs. May Mendham, Mrs. Iva Goodrich, Mrs. Amy Bourns and Miss Lotti Hudson, all descendants of earliest pioneers.

The Wixom Farmers Club presented "Sibley's Corners Singing School" was a happy assembly of Wixom people "to beat the band". The leader was Fred Pearsall, the organist, Mrs. Everett Pearsall, the driver Rollin Porter, and 20 Wixom ladies and gentlemen in costume constituted the school. Webb Wilson officiated as fiddler and Mr. Coe played the harmonica.

Next came the Kearage stage coach, drawn by a four-horse team with cowboy drivers, all loaned for the occasion by Henry Ford. The passengers were a bevy of

quaintly clad Milford young people and their ancient luggage reposed on top of the vehicle.

The Paris-made barouche loaned by Henry Ford was drawn by John Beaumont's team and driven by Mr. Peasley. The occupants were our centenarian Mrs. Lovisa Heath, Messers. George Sturdevant, Marvin Bogart, John Beaumont and William Sherwood – all of venerable age. Over them was a banner marked "Our Guests" and carried by Wesley Howes and Harold Sinnock.

Following the barouche was a group of riders, Mrs. S.L. McCall, Mrs. Bauer and Miss Harriett Hubbell, the two later using side saddles.

G.S. Rowe, also on horseback, represented the pioneer physician. The saddlebags carried were once used by an early Milford doctor.

Even "Amos and Andy" were in the parade. That happens to be the names of a pair of young oxen that were brought down from Holly.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hubbell on a bicycle built for two recalled memories of other days.

The "Spirit of '61" was portrayed by a group of boys, some of them no younger than those who answered the call to the colors stirring Civil War days. The fifer was James Harland, the drummers Jas. Wilson, and the other Stanley Hewitt, David Bennett and William Lovejoy.

The W.C.R. float depicted women of Civil War era scraping lint, making bandages and packing a box of supplies for the 22nd Michigan, largely recruited from this region. This was arranged by Mrs. R.B. Lockwood.

A float labelled "The Kinsman Band and Concert Troupe" brought back memories of that once important musical organization. The members were three generations of the Kinsman family and three were original members of the band – J.R. Gardner, Frank Beach and Mrs. A.B. Kinney. Mrs. Hamilton played the organ and her son, Roman Hamilton used the violin of his great-grandfather.

"The Husking Bee" was a realistic contribution of the Rebekahs arranged by Mrs. Arthur Culham and the "Red ear" was not lacking.

The second section of the procession included old-fashioned turnouts driven or furnished by John Armstrong, Alfred Legg, J.M. Whitney, B.A. Holden, Mr. and Mrs. Brock, John Sinnock, Frank Burch, and Whit-

ney Allen.

There were floats by Wilkinson's Drug Store, D.Boyle, Red Cross, J.H. Culham and Kroger Store.

Bert Vincent and Milford Chevrolet Co. showed old and new cars. There were old cars by South Side Garage, L. Bridgman and new cars by General Motors and Albert Johnson.

Overheard from Visitors:

"Centennial? Why you know that means fifty years."

"Didn't suppose a little town like this would have fire engines like that."

"I've seen a lot of parades that cost a lot of money but this has 'em beat."

REPORTER NOTES:

The Indian band gave a concert on Main Street Saturday Afternoon and also one on Saturday evening.

Horses for the parade, in addition to those indicated, were furnished according to officials by: Melbourne Hewitt, Frank Buell, William Finingsdorf, Harry Beaumont, Frank Mack, Whitney Allen, William Crawford, William Johnson, Clarence Gittins and Ira Carnes.

The car on the Chevrolet Company show floor that looked more like a buggy than an automobile, was a "Kiblinger" built in 1896. In one of the large Automobile shows, it took second prize in the oldest car contest. It was loaned by the Pontiac Auto Part Co. The 1902 Cadillac shown by Thomas H. Padley is owned by Orvis Brothers, Milford.

*\*\*Grammar and spelling have been replicated from the original printing.*

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### **This is just the beginning**

We will research the Milford Times archive that we keep at the Museum for stories such as this for all future issues.

Planned future features include a short, headline oriented piece about what was happening in Milford 150 years ago, 100 years ago and 50 years ago from the date of the issue.

As you read through these articles from the past, hopefully you can do so with your children and grandchildren and point out to them the names of some of their Milford ancestors. That's what our efforts to preserve and share the history of Milford is all about.