

The Milford Historian

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 and Milford Township.*

May 15, 2008 General Meeting and Program: “Rare and Antique Books”

Barbara Parks

*“either write things worth reading
or do things worth the writing”*

Benjamin Franklin, Antiquarian



Reading is an enjoyable past time. The study of history can be enthralling. Add the popularity of collecting rare books, and what you have is an Antiquarian.

In 1812, Isaiah Thomas (no, not the ex-Detroit Piston) founded the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester Massachusetts. Originally, the organization’s goal was to document the life of the American people, collecting artifacts from the colonial era to the Civil War era. In the early 20th century the society decided to focus its collection on printed materials. Today, the collection includes books, pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, manuscripts, local histories and more. Their current goal is to promote ethical standards and professionalism in the trade.

At our May 15th General Membership Meeting we will learn more about the collection of antique books and tips on adding them to our collection. Our speaker will be Barbara Parks, a member of the American Antiquarian Society. Barbara will discuss antique books and how to determine their value.

Note that the location for the meeting will be at the **Christ Lutheran Church** at 620 General Motors Road. Our potluck dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting at 7:30 p.m., followed immediately by our program. Please invite a guest. You don’t have to be a member to enjoy an evening with people who like history. Bring table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown below.

From Your President...

Since our March General Membership meeting I have been blessed to be present at the weddings of two of my nieces, one in Texas and one here in Michigan. And, while enjoying the festivities it made me think about traditions that families have. If your family is like mine, these traditions are memorized and not written down. It seems like our family lives are so busy with our crazy and wild schedules that we don’t have time to squeeze out time for those traditions. But just when I think that the younger generation hasn’t been paying attention to these stories, they (pleasantly) surprise me.

Each time I think of these traditions, I get out the pencil and paper and start writing things down, only to tire early and never finish documenting these traditions or stories from the generations before me. I always think that there will be time later for it. But time passes, things change, memories fade and I later regret that that I missed an important opportunity.


A few years ago, one of my nieces had a homework assignment to describe a family tradition. So this niece (identity is being protected) wrote a nice story about how our family would gather together for special occasions and have a meal together. She described the meal that was prepared, the recipes created by my grandmother that we still use three generations later. She explained how my brother (her dad) sat at the head of the table and how my Mom (her grandmother) sat at the other end. She also wrote about the stories we told around the table, especially the humorous ones.

For example, she wrote about how her grandmother (my Mom) often wished that she could simply open up the kitchen window after dinner and toss out the dirty dishes rather than wash them. Just for the record, we do not throw any dishes out the window. But now years later, we still laugh telling that story.

So celebrate the traditions, whether they are a grandmother passing down wisdom to the newlyweds or singing the Texas A&M fight song at the reception. Enjoy them; they are what make family’s traditions so special.

Sue Bullard, President






May General Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Thursday, May 15, 2008
6:30 p.m.

➤ **Christ Lutheran Church**
620 GM Road, Milford



Location Change

<u>A-G</u>	<u>H-R</u>	<u>S-Z</u>
Salad	Dessert	Main Dish

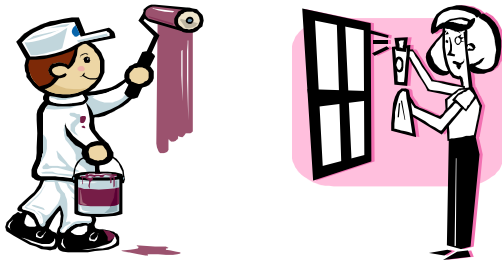
Everyone: Table service & beverage (coffee provided)

Museum News

There has been a lot of activity going on at the historical museum to get ready to open on Saturday, May 3rd. Mary Lou and Marlene spent an afternoon getting everything "in order" to clean. Our first cleaning day was Saturday, April 19th and we had a great turn-out of volunteers: Brook Qualman, Sue Gumper, Judy Waara, Marlene Gomez, Margaret Hoover, Murray Burley and Russ Rheume along with student docents Michelle Hier and Kari Boyd. Murray and Margaret worked outside in the beautiful weather, picking up litter and raking the flower beds. Russ Rheume put a nice white coat of paint on the two porch railings after scraping the rust off. Everyone else worked upstairs wiping down the ceilings and walls; dusting all the pictures, knick-knacks and fixtures; vacuuming and washing floors and cleaning woodwork and windows.



On Wednesday, April 23rd we had a smaller crew of Donna White, Gerry Mantela and Marlene Gomez. Gerry went to work cleaning and painting the porch. He brought his own cleaning and painting supplies along with his radio - now there's a man who knows how to work! Donna and Marlene worked upstairs finishing up the cleaning there.



We cleaned again on Saturday, April 26th with another good turn-out of volunteers. Three of our student docents showed up early to get started: Catherine Heykoop, Jessica Powers and Kari Boyd. Murray Burley also came and got to work outside raking and cleaning out the flower beds. Judy Waara and Brook Qualman came again and got to work washing windows and more. Brion Waara also came to install some trim work on our front sign. We finished most of the cleaning downstairs and should be in good shape for opening on Saturday, May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who helped out - it's really appreciated and makes it more fun..

So, you're all welcome to stop in to see us on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 - 4:00 pm and also on the second Wednesday of each month in the evening from 6 - 8:00 pm.

Marlene Gomez, Asst. Director

Our Community Blacksmith

Jeff Spoor, Milford Historical Society board member, has been teaching blacksmithing a Lakeland High School on Saturdays for the past several months. Importantly Jeff says he's also been getting the students interested in their local history and some have even expressed interest in becoming docents at the Museum. Good work, Jeff!



Jeff also wanted to share some blacksmith humor. He asks, "What's a blacksmith's favorite store?" Answer...Kohls (as in the coals used in blacksmithing).

Help Earn Money for the Society

Suppose the Milford Historical Society earned a penny every time you searched the internet? Or, how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can! GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered



search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Milford Historical Society as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

Final Call for 2008 Dues

Dues renewal notices for 2008 were mailed four months ago. To those that have responded, thank you. To those that haven't, please do so immediately.

This will be a very full year for the society that depends on your dues to maintain the Museum, publish this newsletter and execute several events, such as the Fourth of July Parade and the Home Tour, benefiting the Milford community. Your 2008 dues can be mailed to the Museum at 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381. Or, bring them to our May 15th General Membership Meeting...and save 41 cents. Thank you.



HISTORY FEATURE

Mary Jackson Eagle Scout Project

An Eagle Scout badge is the highest honor that a scout can achieve. Not only is this an accomplishment that will last a life time, but often results in a service that will benefit the community. The Milford Historical Society is the fortunate beneficiary of such an Eagle Scout project. Specifically, Andrew Sergeant from Troop 172 in Milford choose repairing a portion of the Mary Jackson House as his project.

Before work could begin, Andrew was required to write a proposal for review and approval by our board of directors. Once approved, he had to earn the funds for the project, make a plan as to what needed to be done, recruit and organize the help and give the guidance to the workers, including adults. On April 26th a group of 15 Boy Scouts met at the Mary Jackson House and began work on the front porch. They began by removing wood trim that was rotten, sanding down the remaining wood, replacing what was missing and then painting the trim. The work crew began at 8 am and continued throughout the day with the last person leaving at 6 pm. The work is now complete and the front porch looks great. Many thanks to Andrew Sergeant, members of Troop 172, and all of the other volunteers that came to help. Your efforts will be enjoyed by Historical Society members and visitors for years to come.



Meet Our Docents

The Milford Historical Society currently has five student docents earning scholarship money working with the historical society at the museum and Mary Jackson house. Here is a little information about each of the students:

Lisa White is a senior at Hartland High School and will attend Central Michigan University in the fall of 2008. She plans to major in history and minor in museum studies and would like to pursue a career in that area. She was also part of the Youth Group at the Cromaine Library in Hartland. She has been at the museum since the summer of 2006 and works part-time at the McDonalds restaurant in Highland.



Michelle Hier is a junior at Milford High School and has been with the museum since the spring of 2006. Michelle is the captain of the swim team at MHS and also works part-time at the Carl's Family YMCA as a lifeguard and swim instructor. She coaches the Huron Valley West Swim Team that is made up of middle school students. She has taken on a leadership role with her French Club and went to France last year.



Kari Boyd is a junior at Milford High School and started at the museum in the spring of 2007. She got dressed up and walked in our 4th of July parade last year. She is on the ski team at Milford High School and also enjoys umpiring little league games and writing poetry. Kari won a historical society contest back when she was in 5th grade for writing an essay on "Why History is Important to Us" which was printed in the Milford Times.



Jessica Powers is a junior at Milford High School and started with the museum in the fall of 2007. She has also helped out with the Mary Jackson open house. She is involved with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) at school.



Catherine Heykoop is a sophomore at Lakeland High School and started at the museum in the spring of 2007. She also dressed up and walked in the 4th of July parade last year. She is on the bowling team at Lakeland High School and is our youngest student docent.



We are lucky to have all of these talented young women working with us. They are a big help with giving tours at the museum and Mary Jackson house, putting up and taking down Christmas decorations, cleaning and doing computer work, and whatever else needs to be done.

Thank you, Marlene, for putting this information together for the newsletter.

Support *The Milford Times*

The Milford Times has been a Platinum Sponsor of the Historical Society Home Tour for the past three years. In appreciation for their generous support, all members should return the favor by supporting them.



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WHAT'S HOT

General Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Christ Lutheran Church
620 GM Road

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2008 Events

May 15...General Meeting and Program

July 11....Granny's Attic Sale (Museum & 12 Lawn)

July 20....MHS Annual Picnic:
Tea J's Tea Room, 314 S Main

Sept 11....General Meeting and Program
"Barn Preservation"

Board of Directors

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Sue Gumper	Vice-President
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Milford Museum Staff

Marlene Gomez Assistant Director 685-7308

The Milford Historian

–
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April, June, August, Oc-
tober & December

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: _____
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Mail to: Milford Historical Society, 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381