

# The Milford Historian

VOLUME 38 / No 3

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY / JUNE 2010

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**The Bissell Family Part II,**  
Presented by Kim Kish

Thursday May 20, 6:30 PM  
Milford United Methodist Church  
1200 Atlantic, Milford

Potluck Dinner

Bring a dish to pass based on the  
first letter of your last name:

A-F: Main Dish  
G-Q: Salad  
R-Z: Dessert

Please bring your own table  
service and beverage

### MUSEUM

Museum opens May 1st for the  
season

### SPRING TEA

Saturday June 5th at the Mary  
Jackson House

### INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Saturday July 3rd

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR JULY

Picnic will be on Sunday July 18th

## From Your President, Norm Werner

Good news about the Independence Day Parade! I spoke at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Village Council meeting, supported by Sue Bullard and Mary Lou Gharrity in the audience. There was quite a bit of discussion about the costs involved on the part of the Village to support this parade and other parades and events. With falling revenues the Village Council is exploring all ways to cut costs and events usually mean overtime for the police and DPS workers who are assigned to put up barriers and direct traffic during the events. It was fortuitous that our parade falls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July and not the 4<sup>th</sup> this year, since that means less of a premium for police overtime.



The good news is that the Village Council voted to grant us an exemption this year and to not charge us for the extra costs that they incur – estimated at about \$3,500 per event. That means that this year's parade is on as usual; however, I did have to commit that the Historical Society would explore all avenues of fundraising to pay to offset those costs for future parades.

We will be forming a committee and asking for general membership participation to explore parade funding alternatives. We have decided that we really don't want to ask parade participants to pay to be in the parade; however, seeking sponsorships from local businesses and others is a viable alternative that we will be looking into for 2011 and beyond. If you have any ideas or would like to be on the Parade Funding Committee, please be ready to speak up at the meeting in May.

A special thank you goes out to those who helped out with the Museum Spring Cleaning on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The museum opens on May 1st. Sue Bullard is doing a walking tour on Saturday, the 24th (weather permitting) of Liberty Street. She will have three of the student docents from the museum helping her out.

Also mark your calendars for the Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House which is scheduled for Saturday, June 5th.

Our thanks also go out to Richard and Chris Jeryan who provided an entertaining and educational look at the art of weaving. I'll never look at a piece of cloth the same way again.

Our next general membership meeting program is part two of the story of the Bissell family, one of Milford's early families who had significant impact on Milford at the time.



## 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

**PRESIDENT**  
Norm Werner

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Sue Bullard

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
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**MUSEUM STAFF/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
Marlene Gomez 248-685-7308

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### The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the  
**Milford Historical Society**  
published bimonthly (six times per year)



**Editor:** Diane Nossal

**Email:** [Historian@milfordhistory.org](mailto:Historian@milfordhistory.org)

#### 2010 Submission deadlines:

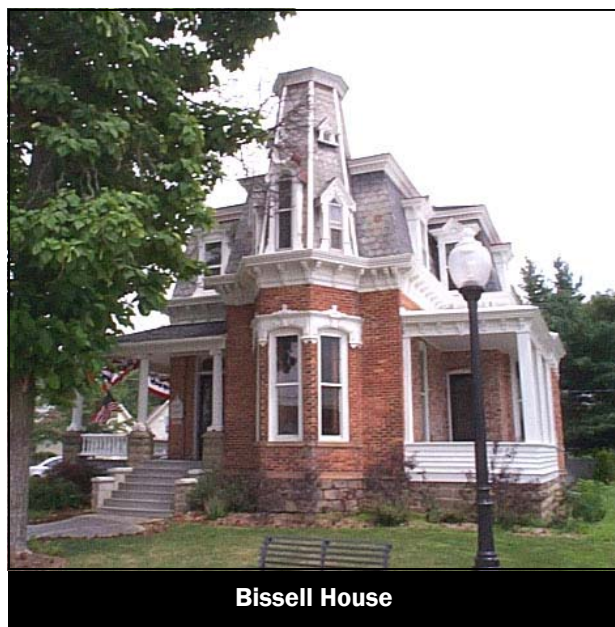
June 26 for July/Aug Issue

Aug 21 for Sept/Oct Issue

Oct 30 for Nov/Dec Issue

## General Membership Meeting—Bissell Family Part 2

The Bissell family has an interesting history. As we learned last May, the Bissell family lived in Eastern New York before arriving in Detroit and eventually moving to Milford. We also learned how they continued on from Milford to Holly and eventually to Bay City. At our May general membership meeting, Kim Kish will describe the Bissell's career path as a successful Milford attorney, businessman, council member and a County Commissioner. Our story will pick up with Edward and Carrie's son, Clarence. His life takes on many twists and turns that disrupt his law career as he finds success as a businessman.



We will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30 PM at the Milford Methodist Church (1200 Atlantic St). A brief business meeting will begin at 7:30 PM followed immediately by our program. Please feel free to invite a guest—everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. 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.

## Museum Happenings

We had our first cleaning bee at the museum on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Five students came to help out: **John Deradoorian, Jessica Gasvoda, Hannah Gasvoda, Elise Hubel** and **Hannah Lynch**. Also showing up to help were **Al Raddi, Judith Reiter** and **Sue Gumper**. We mostly worked upstairs cleaning. Al went through and dusted all the ceilings (because he is so tall). And Judith kept John busy with cleaning walls and woodwork and dusting pictures in the hallway. Hannah L. and Elise worked in the kitchen, and Hannah G. and Jessica worked in the dining room. Sue and I were all over the place. We thank everyone who showed up to help.

We are having another cleaning bee on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 AM. The museum will open for the season on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We want to thank **Bonnie Walworth** for all her help scanning our photo files into Past Perfect and working to help us with Past Perfect. She has great experience in what is the best way for us to proceed. We are having a museum council meeting on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> with Sue Bullard, Sue Gumper, Bonnie Walworth, Mary Lou and Marlene to talk about our progress.

## A BIG thank you to . . .

**Bud Kimball of Milford Glass** for helping us out with the broken window that resulted from the deer that decided to tour the museum in November. The historical society sincerely appreciates your quick response and all your hard work.



## Mary Jackson Spring Tea

On Saturday, June 5, 2010, the Milford Historical Society will host a Spring Tea at the childhood home of Mary Jackson. The late Mary Jackson was born and raised in Milford and went on to become a featured character actor in stage, screen and TV. Her most memorable role was as a Miss Emily Baldwin on the 1970's Walton TV series.



Guest 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. A fashion show will take place during each tea.

Tickets for the Spring Tea are \$25 and can be purchased at the **Acorn Farm**, 367 N. Main St., **Main Street Art**, 432 Main St., or the **Milford Museum**, 124 E. Commerce. Seating is limited, reservations are preferred.

For more information, please visit [www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org).

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## Michigan's Columbus: The Life of Douglass Houghton

On Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 pm, **Howell Carnegie District Library** hosts **Steve Lehto**, author of *Michigan's Columbus*, which was named a Michigan Notable Book for 2010. The book tells the story of Douglass Houghton. The name Houghton is well-known to Michiganders. It graces a city, a county, a lake, waterfalls, schools, and more. But what made Douglass Houghton such a star? As the fledgling state's first geologist, he found more minerals than any explorer before him, from salt springs to gypsum. His reports helped launch a rush to the Keweenaw Peninsula's Copper Country. He also found time to be elected mayor of Detroit and teach at the University of Michigan, all before the age of thirty-six. Mr. Lehto's earlier book, *Death's Door*, was named a 2007 Michigan Notable Book.

The Howell Carnegie District Library is located at 314 W. Grand River Ave. in downtown Howell. Directions are available at [www.howelllibrary.org](http://www.howelllibrary.org). The program will be held in the Meabon Room on the lower level. Enter through the Clinton Street doors. For more information, call the Howell Library, Reference Desk at 517-546-0720, Ext. 106.



Milford Historical Society  
would like to welcome  
our newest members:

BRITNEY COTHRAN  
BARBARA HERTZ  
NANCY LANG

Thank you for joining and WELCOME

# help WANTED

## Call for Museum Docents

We are looking for volunteer **docents** to assist with tours of the Milford Historical Society Museum. We would like to keep our current museum hours of operation, but we **really** need more adult docents. Even if you could donate three hours once a month (especially on Wednesdays) it would be a BIG help.

All docents receive training and are scheduled with other trained docents. A script of the museum is available to help learn the significance of each room. Previous knowledge is not necessary.

The museum is located at 124 E. Commerce and is open on Wednesday and Saturday (May - December) from 1PM to 4PM, and from 6PM to 8PM on the second Wednesday of the month.

With busy schedules, it can be hard to find time to help, but the benefits are enormous. Learn about Milford's rich history, share it with others and make new friends in the process!

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## Help simply by bringing in used ink/toner cartridges

Just drop off your empty ink and toner cartridges to the museum and **Staples** will recycle the cartridges and the Historical Society will earn rewards dollars for future computer supplies.

Not only do you help the Historical Society, but you're also reducing landfill waste and saving resources.

**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.

**PLATINUM Sponsor (6th year):**



**GOLD Sponsor (5th year):**

**Milford Downtown Development Authority**

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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](mailto:milfordhistory@hotmail.com)

Phone: 248-685-7308

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