

# The Milford Historian

VOLUME 39 / NO 3

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY / JUNE 2011

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PROGRAM: **MILFORD'S CIVIL WAR VETERANS**

THURSDAY MAY 19TH, 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: MAIN DISH  
G-Q: SALAD  
R-Z: DESSERT

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE,  
BEVERAGE AND BRING A FRIEND OR TWO

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE ON JULY 4TH

GRANNY'S ATTIC SALE JULY 8 AND 9

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2011 HOME TOUR SEPT 17 AND 18

VINTAGE TRACTOR SHOW AT THE HURON VALLEY  
STATE BANK PARKING LOT SEPT 18TH

2011 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

- SUNDAY JULY 24, PICNIC AT THE HOME  
OF JAY AND BROOK QUALMAN
- THURSDAY SEPT 8  
PROGRAM: HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR-  
SAM OFFEN
- THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17  
PROGRAM: VERNOR'S GINGER ALE STORY

DON'T FORGET TO SEE  
MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER  
**WILL YOUNG** STARRING AS **ERNIE HARWELL** IN  
MITCH ALBOM'S STAGE PLAY "ERNIE" AT THE  
CITY THEATRE IN DETROIT.  
"ERNIE" RUNS THROUGH JUNE 26TH.

## From Your President, *Norm Werner*

We are heading into the busy summer season, starting with a program by Linda Dagenhardt at our May General Membership meeting that will kick off the activities that Linda is heading up to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of America's most costly war – the Civil War. The major celebrations will take place between June 24 – June 26 and will be focused in Central Park. The weekend activities will kick off with the playing of taps at sundown in Central Park and both Cemeteries.



In addition to the Civil War re-enactors camp there will be self guided tours of various historic homes and sites in Milford for walkers and drivers. The Cemeteries – Oak Grove and St. Mary's – will be open to the public for tours. The Milford Civil War Heroes Memorial is in Oak Grove Cemetery. During the day, there will be a short ceremony for a Civil War flag that Milford is adopting for restoration. A civil war themed wedding will be held in Central Park in the afternoon. That evening taps will be played again at sundown and there is a Civil War Ball planned.

Sunday's activities will start with Revelry being played at the camp, followed by an interdenominational sunrise church service and a breakfast hosted by President Lincoln and his staff. There will be games in Central park with prizes and booths by various groups, including the Milford Historical Society. Additionally there will be self-guided walking tours, encampment activities throughout the day and an afternoon Tea for the ladies at South Side Park (next to the firehouse). A closing ceremony will be held in afternoon, before taps are played a final time to end the three-day event.

In July, we start with the Independence Day Parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We are raising funds to offset the Police and DPW overtime costs that the Village is passing through to us this year. Those costs are estimated between \$2,000 - \$3,000, depending upon the number of officers deployed for traffic and crowd control. The Village will contribute \$500 worth of services and the Township Board voted to be one of the Presenting Sponsors by contributing \$1,000. We also have agreement from The Feldman Automotive Group (Liberty Chevrolet and Jay Chevrolet) to act as co-presenting sponsors with the Township. Other local community organizations and businesses are being approached to support the parade with sponsorship contributions. Members and people in the community who wish to support the Society in the parade effort and in general, may contribute by sending a check to the Milford Historical Society, 124 E. Commerce Rd, Milford, MI 48381. Your contributions to the Society are tax deductible.

July is also the month when the annual Granny's Attic Sale takes place at the museum – July 8 & 9. On July 24<sup>th</sup> the annual Historical Society picnic will be held at the home of Jay & Brook Qualman – 508 Olivia Dr, Milford (the end of the sub behind the Huszti Dental Building on N. Milford Rd.).

In August, Milford Memories will be the big event in town and we will need volunteers to man a water station (we get half of the profits from selling bottled water to festival visitors). Then we'll have a short break before the 2011 Home Tour in September. All of these events needs volunteers, so there are plenty of opportunities to help. Please make your availability to volunteer known to any board member or the event chairperson. Also remember to invite a friend, neighbor or a total stranger to join us at our General Membership meetings and to join the Society.

# MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

### 2011 Article Deadlines:

Sat July 2 for July/Aug Issue

Sat Aug 20 for Sept/Oct Issue

Sat Oct 29 for Nov/Dec Issue

## May Program: Milford's Civil War Veterans, by Linda Dagenhardt

2011 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the beginning of the Civil War. A battle that many thought would only last a short time, ended up lasting four long years. When asked, Michigan was quick to send men who willingly enlisted to preserve the union. During the four-year battle, more than half of the State of Michigan's men of military age enlisted in the Union army, mostly out of patriotism. In battle after battle, Michigan soldiers performed with commendable skill and bravery.

At the time of the Civil War, the community of Milford was only 29 years old. Milford along with other communities sent men, young and old, to fight in the war. Oak Grove Cemetery is the final resting place for over 120 Civil War veterans. Oak Grove Historian, Linda Dagenhardt has spent countless hours researching the lives of the veterans buried there. At our next general membership meeting, Linda will give us a glimpse of the lives of those Civil War veterans.

Our evening will begin with a delicious potluck dinner at 6:30 pm at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic Street. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:30 pm 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.

## Hey, what's that bar code on the back page?



It's called a Quick Response (QR) code and you may have noticed these codes popping up everywhere. A QR code is a 2-dimensional matrix barcode which stores information, such as a website link.

If you have a smartphone and have downloaded a QR code reader app, you can scan the barcode with the phone's camera and be directed to the Milford Historical Society website link without having to type the address. Try it.



**Milford Historical Society  
would like to welcome  
our newest member:  
2 Moms and a Mop**

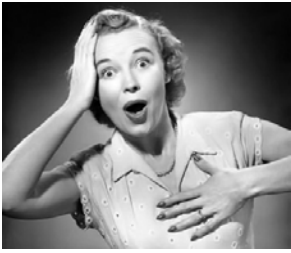
## Milford Historical Society Continues to Evolve, by Judith Reiter

The annual report presented by Judy Waara this year gives us an important perspective on the growth of the historical society over the years. Income for 2010 was significantly higher than what has supported our efforts in the recent past and we are very lucky for the vision and dedicated members who give their time for that effort.

The Milford Historical Society work that originally began as establishing and maintaining a museum has grown considerably, and our ability to support it is keeping pace. When the board made the decision not too long ago to fund a museum director assistant (app. \$3,600 in costs/year) and support grants for high school students serving as museum docents (another \$2,600 annually), as well as the Mary Jackson House commitment (around \$5,000 this year), we took a leap of faith. That leap, supported by board members who give a tremendous amount of their time, as well as society members who answer the call for support of those goals brings us to a new level of competence and accomplishment.

So, dream on, members. Bring us your ideas, your time and talents and your friends interested in enriching their community and preserving its history. We are all greatly enriched by these efforts. We need to keep the faith. If we can conceive it, we can find the resources to do it, year after year.

## Oops ... I forgot



If you haven't paid your membership dues for 2011, now is a great time to do it! If you would like to maintain your membership and continue to receive *The Milford Historian* newsletter, please consider sending in your dues (listed on the back page). Payments can be mailed to Milford Historical

Society, 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381. Your support is important and very much appreciated.

The MHS also has a donation program which you may participate in. Donations to the Historical Society are tax deductible. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact Holly Brandt.

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## Museum News from *Marlene Gomez*

We have been cleaning the museum to get ready to open on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Our four student docents have been helping along with Sue Gumpfer – thanks to everyone. We will be interviewing a new student docent, Ana Mac-Dougall, a freshman at Milford High School.



We are in the process of changing one of our exhibits from old Milford businesses to a Civil War display in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the Civil War. Sue Gumpfer and Mary Lou Gharrity are helping with this exhibit. Bill Schimmel is contributing to this display along with updating our Native Indian display.

We also have been working with Sandy Muirhead of Milford who is involved in a women's kayaking group. She wants to conduct historical tours down the Huron River, starting at Heavner's Canoe Rental and ending just before the old Hubbell Dam. She is working with Alan Heavner on this. She has written a script for her tour and brought it before the Board of Directors for approval. After a meeting with Sandy, Marlene Gomez, Sue Gumpfer, Judith Reiter, and Mary Lou Gharrity, she has come up with a script which was given a nod of approval by the Board. Sandy and Alan are going to purchase some old photos along the river (from the museum) to show on these tours. If this idea takes off and they charge for these tours, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Milford Historical Society.

We have received a request from Scott Peters of the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. They are in the process of planning an exhibit on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouting to open in March 2012. They have asked if we have any artifacts related to the first Girl Scout Senior Roundup, held at Highland State Park on June 29–July 10 of 1956 that was attended by some 5000 girl scouts. We will do some research to see what we have, but if anyone has information on this, please let us know.



Visit us on the web: [www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org) & also "like" us on Facebook.

## 8th Graders learn about alternate energy

The 8th Grade *Skills for Success* class from White Lake Middle School learned about alternate energies first hand on Friday, March 11th. As part of their science class, they are studying alternate energy and visited the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Powerhouse as well as GreenGoTek, manufacturer of alternate-energy cars, located right here in downtown Milford.

Students were amazed that Mr. Ray LeDuc is actually building alternate-energy cars right in our backyard, and showed great interest in this new technology. "I think this is the type of car we will all be driving soon" said 8th grade student Brody Clawson, "this is really cool."

In addition, some students expressed a desire to work with the Hydroelectric Power Plant restoration committee to help bring the plant back online. As part of their 8th Grade Environmental Exit Project, a group of students agreed to increase awareness about this unused energy in downtown Milford. "It seems silly we aren't using this energy. It saves money and the planet," said 8th grade student, Ken Sturm.

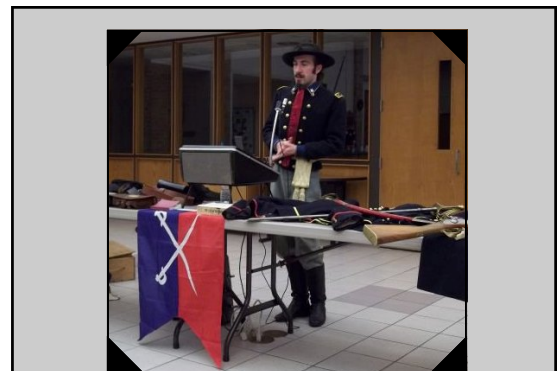
Cheryl Peters, their teacher, explained "the best way to help student understand alternate energy is to get them up close and personal with people working in the field." She also expressed her sincere gratitude to Robert Craig from D & R Energy Services who helped organize the trip. "***By building strong partnerships with business leaders in our community, my students have the best chance of finding success as adults.***"



Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station

[www.milfordpowerhouse.com](http://www.milfordpowerhouse.com)

## In case you missed the March membership meeting . . .



Dakota Starr presenting the history of General Custer

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](http://www.milfordhistory.org)