

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 16 General Membership Meeting—at the Christ Lutheran Church on GM Rd**
- **May 18 - Museum Open House**
- **June 20 - General Membership bonus meeting - Speaker Ron Campbell—topic Train Depots**
- **July 4th - Independence Day Parade**
- **July 12 & 13 - Granny's Attic Sale**

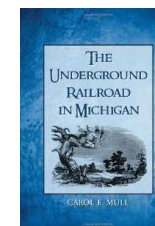
### May General Membership Meeting

Our May 16h meeting only will be at the Christ Lutheran Church on General Motors Rd. across from the Taco Bell on the South side of town. As always we will have our famous potluck.

Potluck assignments

**A—F Main Dish G—Q—Dessert R—Z—Salad**

Author Carol Mull (alumna achievement award recipient) will tell the tale of how Michigan was involved in the anti-slavery society in the mid-nineteenth century.



Her book published in 2010 The Underground Railroad in Michigan focuses mainly on individuals whom connections were found to be the underground railroad or who were involved in anti-slavery activities. Mind boggling to think what danger they put themselves in to help perfect strangers. Carol has served as tour leaders and curatorial consultant for Ann Arbor Kempf House Museum. In 2012 the Governor appointed her to the Michigan Freedom Trails Commission.

Myths about the railroad are dispelled and facts were written on how the railroad operated, who assisted travels and the consequences of escaping and being captured.

In the 1840's prominent abolitionists from Illinois crossed the line to Michigan to establish underground railroad stations. Michigan was the last stop before freedom to Canada, having the easy access across the Detroit River.

Her book will be available to purchase that evening. So please join us that night to see how our Pure Michigan was truly a asset to this cause.

## From Your President, Carol Watkins

Dressed in my 1860s day dress and bonnet, I traveled Ladies Day on Main Street April 25th, having a wonderful time talking to store owners and staff, meeting other members of the Milford Historical Society. I recommend that more of you consider dressing in historical clothing for this event. You will never lack for conversation when you meet with strangers, or friends. Gentlemen – this includes you!



I was asked recently what could be done with a Victorian porch. Very simply, the porch was the favorite spot of the Victorians who believed that outdoor air was much healthier than indoor air. Porches were mainly of wood planks with wood-turned spindle columns. If you have a concrete floor, use patterned tiles, perhaps continued into your entryway. Spandrels along the top of the porch and wooden spindle railings would be accurate. Paint the ceiling a sky blue and the wood floor a dark brown. Add a rag rug in summer. Use wicker or wrought iron furniture - the more ornate, the better. A porch swing is ideal. Hang potted ferns between the columns. Cushions, beaded lampshades, the rug, doilies, and a knitted wrap for cooler days – all should be in mismatched, bright colors. Victorians spent as much time outdoors as they could, so a table for books, a fan, or refreshments and perhaps a basket for your knitting, crochet, beading, whatever. If yours is a long porch, add a trellis on the short wall(s) with vines.

Our June “Bonus” general meeting will focus on restoration and preservation. We are contacting several leads for a workshop(s) and creating more resources for you on our website, [www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org).

Many have worked to get the museum cleaned and ready for the new season. Thank you.

Gerry Mandel is adding shelves to the office area and has done many chores throughout the winter season, fixing “sticking” locks, mending holes in walls, etc. etc. Thank you so much, Gerry!

The Board has put together a list of several potential fund-raising projects for the season.

If you have any ideas, please let us know. With the large expense to reprint the MHS book “Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World”, capital expense to print our new cookbook “Tea at the Mary Jackson House”, and some potentially major repairs needed this summer, we are trying to not invest in products that are saleable. Rather, we are looking at ideas that do not require capital outlay.

Ideas for Milford Memories: Last year we had very little notice to get ready for Milford Memories, but this year we are looking for ideas. We could feature the projects and plans for the Milford Historical Society to educate the community. For example: A Powerhouse

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 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)**

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

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Phone: 248-685-7308

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

“like” us on Facebook.

**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.

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## The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

Milford Historical Society

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Exhibit, an exhibit of signs – both for houses and locations, Educational exhibit of our programs and resources; Fourth of July parade exhibit, Home Tour exhibit, Museum Open house exhibit. Each exhibit would have pictures, maybe a video running, and someone to answer questions. Another idea would be to use the activities from the Open House in May and offer hands-on exhibits and speakers. What do you think? (Send me an email at [info@milfordhistory.org](mailto:info@milfordhistory.org).)

Pam Dawson, the Director of Community sharing, and Mary Todd Lincoln re-enactor, has offered to help a group of Society members to form a troupe of characters. Mary Lou Gharrity is making a list of famous people from Milford – opera singers, William and Marie Carl, Bertha Baker and others. Our group will choose a character each and spend a year researching the character, the times they lived in and the period in Milford culture they represent. We will meet with Pam to learn the techniques. We will then practice to represent these individuals in character, just as Pam does in her guise of Mary Todd Lincoln. Do you have a favorite? Want to join us? Just send me an email or call the museum to leave a message.

Do you remember the Post Office? In the basement of the museum we have the teller's windows and brass mailboxes from the old Milford Post Office. The Maria Moore Questers Group #432 has selected a project this year to research the postal system in Milford from 1832 to now, and restore the Post Office pieces into an exhibit in the front hall at the museum. We need a volunteer with woodworking and metal skills to cut the pieces and frame them to size, and, of course, any information, stories, and resources you have about the Post Office in Milford. The Questers #492 will be holding fundraisers to pay for this project, so we will add the events to our web calendar and our newsletters.

Do you have a poster board and easel? I would like to have one in the museum listing available projects that you can be involved in. There are many "behind the scenes" little things that would not take too much of your time, and help the entire society at the same time. We can keep a copy on the website as well. You know how to reach me.

### Dog's Playing Poker starts at Historic Milford Hydroelectric Powerhouse

The fifth annual Dogs Playing Poker fundraiser in Milford is just around the corner, and organizers said it is guaranteed to be a great event to benefit the Pet Pantry at Community Sharing.

The pantry helps as many as 500 pets a month with pet food, vaccinations and veterinary visits for those in need. Last year, this event helped raise more than \$2,000, along with more than 100 pounds of food. This year's event takes place Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., starting at the Milford Powerhouse at Central Park in downtown Milford. Participants can begin their adventure at any time.

Dogs Playing Poker sends participants out in the community to play poker, picking up cards from participating downtown merchants. The person with the winning poker hand wins a grand prize and their names engraved on the perpetual trophy displayed at Veterinary Care Specialists, the organizer of the fundraiser.

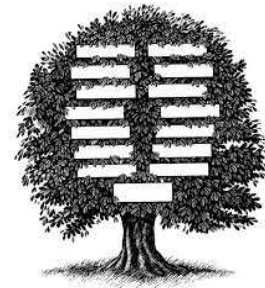
This year to help celebrate the YMCA's birthday, an extra-credit stop is planned at the YMCA. You and your pet will receive the Healthy Pet Card for going the extra distance and collecting a card at the Y. Healthy Pet Card winners will receive a special event T-shirt and a bandana for your poker playing dog.

The first 100 participants will receive a gift bag with more than \$100 worth of savings and giveaways. The cost is \$20 per scorecard, and additional cards to improve your hand can be purchased for \$5 each. Call (248) 684-0468 for more information.



### Carol Watkins Genealogy 101 Class

We would like to thank Carol Watkins for her in-depth program on Genealogy 101 at our April meeting. I never knew how much time goes into a family tree.



Carol remarked you could spend a whole day on just one person. Carol has thousands of leaves sort to speak on her family trees. My family tree would have more nuts than leaves. The internet really made things so much easier to start this massive undertaking. Carol is involved with many genealogy groups and is branching out and will be certified in the near future. We

really enjoyed that evening and I know everyone was totally impressed with Carol and her family trees. Most people have one or two family trees. Carol has an orchard!

Also many thanks for all you do for our Milford Historical Society. You might not know that Carol is an awesome seamstress and has done many breathtaking Period dresses for herself, members and friends. Many examples can be seen at the MHS Home Tour. Rena Valentine's Gone With The Wind dress is my favorite so far. Thanks Madame President.....



### The Extra June General Membership Meeting



Reminder: The June 20th meeting will take place at the Methodist Church, but it will NOT be potluck. If you would like to bring a dessert for yourself only that would be fine.

Our extra June 20th meeting will be on Train Depots. When you think of train depots you think of platforms, passengers, or maybe a freight or power house. South Lyon Witches Hat is a great example. My favorite is Greenfield Village where they tell me that the new train starting in St. Louis will stop there as a train station stop. Birmingham's Train Depot is the Big Rock Restaurant.

Oakland County Principal Planner and Preservation Architect Ron Campbell will be our June Speaker. Say that three times real fast!! Ron speaks on many topics and I picked this one. Last month we went underground and now we are back up on the train platform. Ron provides technical assistance for Oakland County's eleven Main St. communities. Can you name them? Have to think about those. Ron teaches at Lansing Community College and if that is not enough, he is a vocational trainer with Detroit Public Schools and teaches high school preservation at Fort Wayne. Ron does not charge for this lecture and that deserves three train blasts for sure!

Ron will discuss different depots around Michigan and will end up with our own Huron St. depot at Iverson's. The railroad came to Milford in 1871. 500 men and 100 team of horses put their blood, sweat and backs into building this railroad. Passengers would walk across the tracks over the Huron River to the Oakland County Fairgrounds to the fair and horse races. It is now a new subdivision behind the Milford Police Dept. The Huron River Bridge (the Arch) is the oldest bridge in continuous use in Michigan. Try to wear something railroad-ish. A hat, scarf, or like Bill Crawford wears: blue jean overalls.

Ron's and his co-author's book on Train Depots will be for purchase and \$2.00 from each book will be given back to our own MHS. Write down any questions you would like to ask.

### Museum News



The museum opened on Wed. May 1st for the season. Thanks so much to everyone who helped to get the museum clean and ready, including students Kelly Hier, Alex Golich and Jack Prey. The other volunteer cleaners included Carol Watkins, Sue Gumper, Sue Grifor, Cathy Hodson, Elaine Hunter, Nancy Degenfelder, Al Raddi, Brook Qualman and Mary Lou Gharrity. We also had help from Margaret Hoover's housecleaner, Patty – thanks Margaret!

And thank you to Carol Watkins for the nice new blinds throughout the museum.

Tiger Den #315 visited the museum on April 23rd under the leadership of Karissa Karanth. The boys were from Kurtz and Johnson elementary schools. Duane Freitag and Marlene conducted the tours.

We've already had a request for some school tours, so it looks like we'll be off to a busy start. And don't forget the museum's Open House on Sat. May 18th from 1-4:00 pm.

There will be fun activities for young and old alike – stop by and see us!