

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1—Museum Opens for 2014 season

May 15—General Membership Meeting—at  
Christ Lutheran Church on GM Rd. 6:30 PM

Pot Luck Assignments - A—F— Salads G—Q—  
Deserts R—Z—Main Dish

July 4th—Fourth of July Parade

July 11 & 12 Granny's Attic Sale

July 17—Annual Picnic at the Powerhouse

## Meeting speaker talks about the CCC

Our Thursday, May 15th Potluck Meeting at 6:30 p.m. will be held at the **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** in Milford this month only. Christ Lutheran Church is located on 620 GM Road across from Taco Bell. Please check chart for what to bring to pass

Our guest Speaker is a return guest. Annick Hivert-Carthew spoke to us on Cadillac awhile back.

She has many topics and stories to tell and has one titled "How Elizabeth I cleaned her teeth and Shakespeare healed his wounds."

She has hiked the thousand mile El Camino (also called "The Way") from Southern France to Santiago, Spain. She is a Speaker, Author, Adventurer and one amazing person. She is French but knows



more about American history than many of us.

Annick will be teaching us about the Michigan Civilian

Conservation Corps also known as the CCC. Annick actually got to interview men who worked for the CCC. They are all deceased now and Annick was fortunate to record their tales. Her book is titled **Proud to Work** complete with never before

(Continued on page 3)

## From Your President, Norm Werner



The 2014 season For the Milford Historical Museum kicks off with the opening on May 3; although there have been people working away in the museum for most of the winter, cataloguing photos and accessioning items in the Museum's collection. Our thanks as always to Mary Lou Gharrity for her tireless efforts. Others helping out at the Museum with this database work during the winter months included Bonnie Walworth and Marla Schalow.

Our Historical Researcher, Nancy Degenfelder, has been busy too, responding to requests that come in from far and wide for research on people's ancestors who may have lived in Milford at one time or maybe are buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery. Nancy also fields questions about our historic homes, such as who owned them and when. Although Nancy is a volunteer, her services are fee based and we do make a little for the Museum from her efforts. Thank you Nancy.

Our first community event of the new season will be the Fourth of July Parade, which Kathy and Russ Rheaum are working on already. I'm sure that Russ has already put his order in for donuts for the morning crew that puts out the parade position stakes on the streets where the participants line up.

I introduced the resolution to create an endowment fund to support the Historical Museum at the April Board meeting and the board will be voting on it at the May meeting. The Milford Historical Museum Endowment Fund will establish a permanent fund that is separate from the General Fund and which will initially be aimed at supporting the scholarships that the Society awards to student docents who have completed the required amount of service at the museum.

If you are interested in being a charter donor to the endowment fund please contact me. The endowment will also welcome being named as a beneficiary in wills and for memorial donations. Information about how to donate to the endowment fund will be forthcoming.

The Granny's Attic Sale is July 11 & 12, so start thinking about getting your stuff ready to donate for that.

This year's picnic will be held at the Powerhouse on July 17th. Remember that this is a potluck meeting too; however, picnic fare is recommended.

There will be a tour of the Powerhouse as part of the meeting. Since this is also a Concert in the Park day, plan on bringing your concert seating and move over to the concert area after the picnic. The FCB Big Band will be playing Big Band era music from 7—9 PM.

**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

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### MUSEUM STAFF/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-

**MARLENE GOMEZ 248-685-7308**

## 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)**

## Spring Tea Thanks

Our Recent Spring Tea was held on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> and was an overwhelming success. Guests enjoyed good food, good company and a fashion show. Special thanks to Acorn Farm and Main Street Art for selling tickets. Village Florist for donating the beautiful flowers on each table. And our faithful volunteers for organizing, preparing and working the day of the tea. Thank you to Joyce Clark, Cindy Dagenhardt, Mary Lou Gharrity, Sue Gumper, Sharon Hubbard, Nancy Lang, Grace Lubinski, Jenni Lubinski, Sharon Mancini, Rena Valentine, Carol Watkins and Carolyn Werner for all your support. Big thanks goes to our models who wore wedding dresses with in Internation Flair - Kelly Heir, Mary Dreslinski, Nicole Manning, Jordyn Pair, Chloe Reno and Callie Reno. Planning is underway for the Fall Tea at the Mary Jackson house on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for ticket information

## Tea at the Mary Jackson House Cook Book

Have you been to our tea and enjoyed the food? Now you can purchase a cook book with all of the recipes used at the Teas. With over 200 recipes varying from sandwiches, savories, deserts and beverages. Our recipe book are \$20.00 and can be purchased at the Historical Society Museum, Acorn Farm and Main Street Art. If you purchased the recipe book already we have added 100 new recipes to add to your collection. The packet of new recipes is \$5.00.

## 2014

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## 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)

## SAVE THE DATE—MHS presents a Piano concert

On October 24, 2014, MHS is bringing into Milford the world pianist **BOB MILNE!** Bob Milne is considered to be the best ragtime/boogie-woogie pianist in the world. He was filmed and documented for future generations in 2004 during three days of interviews at the Library of Congress, and was declared a “National Treasure” at the conclusion.



Mr. Milne is an active “Musical Ambassador” for the United States Dept. of State, and has performed numerous times in Japan, including the Okinawan Islands and Hokkaido. He has also performed in this capacity for members of the Swiss Parliament at the U.S. Embassy in Berne.

Mr. Milne plays worldwide every year. A comment often heard following one of his performanc-

es is, “unbelievable.” He teaches music history at various universities around the country, and is also the founder and director of the Frankenmuth Ragtime Festival in Michigan.

Bob Milne teaches music and music history at Florida/Atlantic University every winter for Lifelong Learning. His courses are among the most popular in the curriculum.

Tickets will be available starting in June and limited to 350 tickets. The Performance will be held in the Historic Milford Presbyterian Church.

After the concert will be a ‘**After Glow with Bob**’ for an additional charge featuring your chance to have Bob Milne sit at your table, meet him and enjoy light snacks with non-alcoholic beverages.

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## MUSEUM NEWS—MAY/JUNE 2014

The museum will open this year on Sat. May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We will have a student docent meeting on that day at noon before the museum opens. We will be cleaning at the museum on Wed, Thurs and Friday of that week.

We already have a Tiger Den group coming in on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> in the evening.

We have some new displays this year which are in process right now.

So please stop in to see us this year!

Submitted by Marlene Gomez

(May General Meeting -Continued from page 1)

published photos, personal stories and histories galore. Her book will be on hand to purchase.

Many men were poor, young and hopeless until FDR implemented the CCC in 1933. They were handed a shovel and were paid thirty dollars a month. \$5.00 for them and \$25.00 was sent home to families. There were 500,000 men in the ranks. About seventy per cent never had a job and were under fed. These men helped shape our beautiful landscapes of America. Many National Parks were built by these men. Being a National Park Geek I praise these men who created such beauty as Yellowstone in Wyoming or Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

Jobs included fighting forest fires, building campgrounds and planting more than three billion trees. Three BILLION trees!!!!!!

I know we will enjoy hearing this fascinating story told by the Michigan men who helped plant those three BILLION trees. Did I mention they planted three BILLION trees?

Here I go again...but maybe make a dish you would take to a Park picnic and wear something you would wear outdoors. Like National Park logo clothing or hooded sweatshirts and hiking boots. Best outfit wins a prize...

Pot Luck Assignments - A—F—Salads G—Q—Deserts R—Z—Main Dish

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## What was happening back when...

The first of a series by Tracey Abraham that will appear in future issues focusing upon things that were happening way back. Since information is sketchy about the really early days, this series will focus mainly upon what was happening 50 and 100 years ago.

In 1832 the Township of Milford was established. In 1869 the Village of Milford was incorporated. The area is comprised of 2.5 square miles.

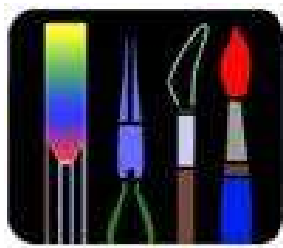
In 1917 Milford was becoming an industrialized town. In place were sawmills, wool and evaporated fruit factories, as well as the first 'horseless carriage'- invented here in Milford by Frank A. Orvis. Unfortunately his efforts proved unsuccessful for mass production, however this served as a platform for the first automobile Henry Ford would soon produce.

Published in the Milford Times on June 4, 1964: GM Proving Grounds announces it's annual 'Durability Run'. The testing of 40 different production cars will commence on the 4.011 acres, where part by part and under various harsh conditions, running day and night for a million miles, knowledge will be gained as to how well these cars and their parts will work and 'hold up'!



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Hot Days – Cool Art



A letter recently found written by Mary Jackson to Suzanne Haskew was inspiration for an event that would unite two organizations special to both of these remarkable women.

The Milford Historical Society along with the Village Fine Arts Association (VFAA) will be hosting an **Art Show at the Mary Jackson House**. The

date of the Art Show will be **Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Come enjoy Art Work created by young adults from the Milford area. Musicians will offer an enjoyable background to view some great art work and some delicious refreshments will be served.

Tickets for this event will be \$20.00. Students can show their ID and get a \$5.00 discount. Kids 10 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the Milford Historical Museum, The Village Fine Arts, Main Street Art and Acorn Farm.

Come and enjoy great art and support two great organizations. On May 3rd the Village Fine Arts Association opened the SHAC—the Suzanne Haskew Art Center located at 125 S. Main Street in Suite 700 (next to the old Colonial Motors location). Visit it to see all of the local artists on display.

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Please 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 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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## Forty Years of Milford History

Over forty years ago, a group of residents became concerned that the local history and memorabilia of the Milford area were disappearing with the demise of older residents. As a result, the Milford Village Council asked local residents on Oct. 26, 1972, to form a Steering Committee for possible establishment of an historical society in Milford.

The rest is history. Requested by the then Village Manager, J. Stewart Brophy, a group of fifteen met regularly and laid the groundwork.

The Founding Fifteen: Dr. Henry Stricker, Grace Stricker, J. Stewart Brophy, Michael Tripp, Mildred Coe, Lillian Atwood, Elizabeth Hubbell, Margaret Rowe Mastick, C. Elaine Skarritt, Georgia Watkins, Frank H. Coe (Co-Chair), Myrtle Rowe, Arthur Geyer (Co-Chair), Mary Lou Gharrity and Helen Lee.

By October, 1973, the by-laws and letters of incorporation were filed and 65 people joined the Historical Society as members. Then, on February 15, 1974 – over forty years ago – with an election of officers the Milford Historical Society was born

- Dr. and Mrs. (Grace) Henry Stricker were the curators
- Mary Lou Gharrity was the President of the Board of Directors
- C. Elaine Skarritt – the 1st Vice-President
- David P. Bennett the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
- Myrtle Rowe the Secretary and
- Georgia Watkins, the treasurer.

The Civic Center Complex on Atlantic Street was being built at this time, so the Society petitioned the Village Council for the use of the old Weisbrod house. The house, at 124 Canal Street, had been "temporarily" used as the home of the Milford Village offices, Township offices and Police Department for fourteen years. The Village agreed, as long as the "Y" and Youth Assistance could share the space., which they did for a number of years.

For three years the current museum was gutted, restructured, scrubbed, painted and prepared . The Grand Opening and Dedication were on May 16, 1976. The museum was furnished by the generosity of Milford area families either giving or lending articles and continues to receive donations. Hundreds of volunteers have cleaned, docented, installed, repaired, gardened, and helped in numerous ways over the years.

In the 1980's , members of the Milford Historical Society researched, wrote and published a history of Milford in the book "Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World". Milford Village was documented and researched to become a National Historic District. The Oak Grove Cemetery Project resulted in repairs and updated records. The play "Milford Memories" was written and performed as the beginning of the Milford Memories" annual fair in 1992.

In addition to the museum, The Milford Historical Society hosts an annual Home Tour to showcase the importance of the preservation and restoration activities in Milford. The Granny's Attic Sale and Mary Jackson House Teas in Spring and Fall, weekly tours for scouts and school-age classes, plus assistance with genealogy, home preservation and restoration, and bi-monthly historic presentations at our famous pot-luck dinner meetings – open to all. Our newsletter – started in 1975, continues to be sent six times annually.

In addition to housing a number of displays of historic memorabilia, the museum serves as the resource hub for historical research into the area. Resources include: The Milford Times on microfilm from 1871 to present.; Federal Census records for Oakland County, MI, on microfilm, for 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900 & 1910; Atlases of Oakland County, MI, for 1872, 1896 & 1908, and a wall atlas for 1857 (names of landowners on some); Tax records for Milford Township for 1843, 1848, 1863, 1868, 1871, 1876, 1878 & many other years up to 1950's, with gaps; Oak Grove Cemetery records in card catalog; Portrait & Biographical Album of Oakland County, Michigan, 1891 and Biographical Record of Oakland County, Michigan, 1903 - information on a number of Milford people; and Genealogy records

WRITTEN BY: C. Watkins

## Visiting History in the Area -

We are starting a new article in our newsletter on visiting other historical museums and historic places around our area.

There are so many wonderful historic places you can discover right in our own backyard (well, kinda).

I was given a private tour of the South Lyon Historic Village on Dorothy St. off Pontiac Trail in South Lyon. The Villages include the famous "Witch's Hat Depot", Washburn Schoolhouse, a Caboose, Freighthouse ( new construction), and Chapel.

President Linda Ross answered my questions and helped other guests while Janna (both attended the Cluster Meeting) gave me the Grand Tour. Janna has deep roots in this historic town.

The SLHS was established in 1978 and has grown to 100 members. The Witch's Hat Depot was built in 1909 on Ten Mile Rd and was moved to SLH Village in 1976. The Depot now is a wonderful museum complete with a General Store Room selling SLHS souvenirs, reproduction toys, hats, and t-shirts to name a few. Other displays include farming implements, dressmaking, pharmacy, railroad items and lots of vintage pictures. It has two floors and will take you back in time for the moment or two. There is a stuffed head of a Bison named Zippo and a fun story goes with him. Added was the Freighthouse built in 1984 where they have their meetings.

The Caboose was built in 1926 and belonged to the C & O Railroad and brought back from Saginaw, Mi. (which was a huge expense) in 1971 and fully restored in 2009. It has a sleeping, eating and sitting area complete with indoor outhouse with no bottom. The men on the train were told not to use the bathroom until they left the station. Yeah I think that was a wise choice.

The Washburn District #5 Schoolhouse was built in 1907 on Ten Mile and moved also to the SLH Village in 1971. Classes come to visit the Schoolhouse and get to sit on the old wooden desks like back in the day. It is filled with books, maps and my favorite.. old metal lunchboxes. There were 47 schools in the South Lyon area until the 1950's.

The Lutheran Chapel was a Sears and Roebuck portable kit built in 1930 on E. Liberty St. and moved in 2001 to its new home. This was Janna's church growing up. It was so charming and of course they had an outhouse back then too.

The Museum is open Thurs. and Sun. 1-4 April-Oct. Meetings the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The Battle of Antietam Lecture will be held at the Freighthouse on May

20th at 7:00 p.m..

I hope this gives you a vision of what a amazing job the SLHS has done. I want you to enjoy visiting the Village for yourself and have fun with it. It's only a ten minute drive. Have lunch at the Historic South Lyon Hotel while you <http://tinyurl.com/ko7jlx7> re there.

Next visit: Plymouth Historical Museum: Vintage Runway Project, which runs through June 8th.

Sandi Muirhead—Programs

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## Upcoming history-themed events in the area

May 5th 2014 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. **Ink Trails: Michigan's Famous and Forgotten Authors** by Jack Dempsey Milford Public Library

May 15th at 2:00 Carriage House Admission \$5.00....**Michigan and the Civil War** by Jack Dempsey, 405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave. Pontiac

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

### Project Vintage Runway

Plymouth Historical Society Musuem: until June 8th, 2014  
155 S. Main St. Plymouth, Mi. Wed, Fri., Sat and Sun 1 to 4 PM

**May 17 - Annual Gathering of the Tin Can Tourists** at Camp Dearborn will feature mobile mansions – GMC. Flexible, Travco and all other motor coaches 20 years or older. Open House and an expanded Concours, The North American Vintage Trailer and Motor Coach Show, is on Saturday, , which will give the public an opportunity to view over 150 vintage trailers and motor coaches. Owners and fans of vintage travel trailers are invited to visit, especially during the Open House from 11-3pm on Saturday, May 17th.

**August 23—Haven Hill Festival**, in the Highland State Recreation Area. Come see the Haven Hill Barn Stormers play 1860's Base Ball! Parking is at the Goose Meadow picnic shelter area, the 1st right turn on Haven Hill Road after you enter the park off of M-59 between Duck Lake and Bogie Lake roads. Bring picnic blankets, sun umbrellas, and folding chairs to stay and watch the Old Fashioned Base Ball game! Food will be available for purchase as a fund raiser for the Friends of Highland Recreation Area. See baseball the way it started way back when.