

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.*

“Pre-Civil War Music”

Camptown Races, *Buffalo Gals* and, my favorite, *Oh Susanna* are just some of the songs that are associated with pre-civil war music. At our next general membership meeting we will meet someone who is very familiar with this style of music. Timothy Twist, a teacher, has been the owner of Milford Music for over 19 years. He is also an accomplished banjo player and specializes in the snappy sounds of America’s native instrument. Early banjos were often made out of gourds that were hollowed out, cut in half and covered with animal skin with sticks for handles.. The strings were often animal hair or plant fibers. The songs reflected the time, and over the years have been passed down from generation to generation. At our November meeting we will experience the music exactly the way it was seen and heard. So join us for our next meeting and enjoy those toe tapping sounds of the 19th century.

Our November General Membership meeting will be at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic Street. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with our annual Thanksgiving potluck. The board of directors will provide the turkey, you supply the fixings! Following our feast, we will have a brief business meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. with the program immediately following. Our general membership meetings are open to the public and all are invited. You don’t have to be a member to enjoy this Thursday evening with people who like history. Historical Society Potlucks are famous for being the best in town.

From your President...

It doesn’t seem possible that the holiday season is upon us again. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend the very best wishes for this holiday season to you and your family. This is a special time of year when we gather together with our family and friends and give thanks for those who are in our lives and the blessings we’ve received.

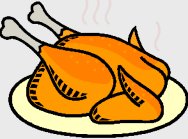

To borrow the slogan from the Milford Downtown Development Authority, “Meet Me in Milford” has meant that organizations from other communities have been making a trip to Milford to tour our historic landmarks. Within the last few months the Historical Society has conducted tours of the Powerhouse, Historical Museum, The Mary Jackson House and the Hibbard Tavern. Our visitors have come from West Bloomfield, South Lyon and, most recently, from the Michigan Victorian Society. We are both excited and honored to have the opportunity to showcase our fine community.

Our museum has also been a busy destination. Marlene and her group of docents have been busy giving tours of the museum to our local school children, as well as individuals who are researching their home or family members who once lived in the area. At the end of November, a group of volunteers will be decorating the museum for the holidays. If you haven’t been in the museum lately, I encourage you to stop by and see our festive look as well as the Military display. We are very fortunate to be able to show our young visitors items from World War I and World War II. I would like to thank those who have donated their family treasures to the Historical society so we can share a piece of military history with our visitors. Our museum will close for the season on December 20th and will reopen in May, 2009. We will be changing our display area in the spring to showcase other items that have been donated, so make sure you see our military display before it’s packed away.

2008 has been a busy year for us with students working on the History Channel grant (Powerhouse), our student docents working at the Museum, the Independence Day parade, Granny’s Attic sale, Milford Memories and Home Tour. I am very appreciative of everyone who has helped us out this year, whether it was a financial contribution or volunteering your time. Your commitment to the Historical Society has not gone unnoticed. It takes a lot of volunteers to allow us to offer the services that we do. And I am truly thankful for your loyalty to the Historical Society.

Next year looks very promising. I am pleased to announce that the Milford Historical Society was awarded a grant by the Maria Moore Questers group. The Questers is an international organization that encourages the preservation, restoration and conservation of buildings, historical sites and antiques. Every two years the local Questers group offers a grant to group in our area to preserve a piece of history. This year the Maria Moore group has chosen to help the Milford Historical Society refinish the basement floor of the museum. Over the years the basement floor has deteriorated

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner
Thursday, November 20, 2007
6:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic, Milford

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

Everyone: table service & beverage

(President's letter continued..)

and recently we have seen the roots of the surrounding trees coming through the floor. With the help of the grant, we will be able to replace the floor and reinforce it for the future.

The more we achieve the higher our expectations become. For the coming year we will strive to enhance our museum and society, and continue to follow our mission statement to bring together people who are interested in history, especially the history of the Village of Milford and Milford Township.

Wishing you and those you love a wonderful Holiday Season!

Sue Bullard

MHS Home Tour 2008

A big THANK YOU to our Home Tour 2008 volunteers.

The Milford Historical Society Home Tour requires a large team of dedicated volunteers to be successful. This year the owners of five beautiful historic homes and our own Mary Jackson house opened their doors and graciously welcomed over 800 curious visitors. The homeowners were partnered with six house captains who worked diligently to ensure the tours were informative and moved smoothly. The Oak Grove Cemetery Funding Committee opened the gates to our beautiful cemetery and provided informative tours that featured families who lived in our home tour houses. We also had MHS members leading tours and/or activities at the cabin, powerhouse, museum and tractor show.



Behind the scenes MHS members took charge of volunteer procurement, publicity, entertainment, hospitality, signage, finance, historic research and sponsorships. This was a small but very dedicated group of people who were committed to making the 2008 home tour a success.

Our home tour docents make up the largest group of volunteers. About 200 community members and Milford High School students donated 3 hours each to welcome our visitors and guide them through the homes. We couldn't do the tour without them.

The 2008 Home Tour was a success! The MHS Board greatly appreciates each and every volunteer. We know you worked hard and hope you had fun.

Sue Gumper

Home Tour 2008 Report



The annual Home Tour provides the funding for the operation and upkeep of the Milford Historical Museum and other project's sponsored by the Historical Society including student docent scholarships, microfilming of the Milford Times, the Mary Jackson house and the Fourth of July parade. This is why we greatly appreciate everyone who volunteers their time and expertise to the Home Tour.

This year's Home Tour was a great success! We sold approximately 660 tickets and offered complimentary tickets to 225 docent and sponsors. The net profit from ticket sales equaled \$9,036.00. Our Home Tour Sponsorship Program grossed \$2500.00. This year the Milford Historical Museum needs painting and foundation repairs as well as operating funds. \$11,536.00 will certainly help to keep the museum open, provide the necessary repairs and support the Society's many projects.

Sue Gumper

Hibbard Tavern

Paraphrased from Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World

It was one of the first houses that was built in Milford. The story was that the man who kept the tavern was an especially fine landlord ...jovial, hospitable and he served good food and the house was very clean, and the traveling public at that time always made it a point to make Hibbard Tavern. The road to Pontiac came down to the pond, up over the hill, over the Catholic hill (St. Mary's Cemetery) and then to Pontiac. Mr. Hibbard heard talk about the road being changed and made his hospitality all the more enjoyable in order to keep the road where it was.

A stage ran from Pontiac to Lansing, and was driven by a man named Deacon. When he would get to the top of what is now Gillick's Hill (just west of the Burns and Commerce Road intersection), he tooted his horn and then all the children and the families who received newspapers would get out on the street and get their newspapers. I like to think on windy nights that these old gentlemen and the men of the town who used to gather to hear the news and tell stories still gather and tell Indian stories, and having been born in that house, I feel that I have a claim in it and I think that maybe when I am a spectre, they will let me join the crown.



Mrs. E.S. DeGarmo

Museum News



After having a very successful Home Tour in September, we thought things would slow down a little at the museum. But October started off with some special group tours. The Bloomfield Township Senior Group came in on October 3rd for tours at the museum, the Powerhouse and Mary Jackson's home. The next day we had the Michigan Chapter of the Victorian Society come in for tours at the museum, the Hibbard Tavern and Mary Jackson's home. They also had a luncheon at Hector & Jimmy's and tea & treats at TJ's Teahouse later in the day. Both groups seemed to enjoy themselves. **Mary Lou** and **Sue Bullard** set these tours up – and we even earned some money!

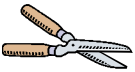
We also had two Tiger Cub Scout troops come in on two Wednesday evenings with about 7 or 8 boys in each group along with their parents and some siblings. Thank you to all the student docents who helped out with those tours.

Three Lakewood Elementary classes came in for tours on the morning of October 29th and each class had about 25 kids with some parents too. Thank you to **Duane Freitag** and **Russ Rheume** who helped out with those tours. Russ brought his guitar and skunk-tail hat and we had a sing-along before each tour - which the



kids loved.

We would like to thank **Gerry Mantela** for all his hard work sanding, scraping, priming and painting our huge porch at the museum. He spent several days on this and even rented a commercial sander to do the job right. He is a hard worker and we really appreciate his kindness in donating all that time. It's so enjoyable to sweep the porch now and have it look so nice!



We would like to thank **Brion and Judy Waara** for trimming all the landscaping and pulling up weeds around the Museum for the Home Tour.

We will be decorating the museum for Christmas on Saturday, November 22nd starting at 11:00 am. If anyone would like to help out, you can call Marlene at the museum or just show up – we always have fun! This year the museum will close for the winter on Saturday, December 20th.

Submitted by Marlene Gomez.

Treasurer

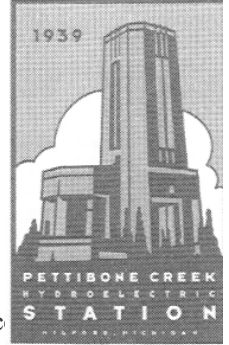
Judy Waara has been helping **Mary Lou Gharrity** with the Museum's finances. Thank you, Judy.



Powerhouse News

Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station progress continues

A local Milford company, Pro-Tek Electrical, was recently awarded a contract to install all of the new interior electrical works. This includes everything from lights, outlets, a new panel, HVAC power hook-up and all wire connections. There has been no electrical upgrades or improvements in the Powerhouse for some 60 years. The total contract which is entirely paid from previous grants and not from Milford Village residents.



This is a second phase of electrical improvements. The first was the installation of three new power poles and transformer by Detroit Edison along Liberty Street. This was completed last fall at no expense to local residents and for a reduced fee from grants Detroit Edison will be installing underground service from the street to PowerStation to preserve the look and ambience of the Iconic Albert Kahn designed building as it was constructed back in 1939.

Going forward the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Powerhouse will be open to the public for various events and tours with dates to be announced. It has been a local and national attraction and destination for educators, advocates of architectural design and Henry Ford historical followers. There are prominent photos of the Powerhouse in the Oakland County's *OakRivers Maximizing Oakland County's River Corridors* and *Motorcities National Heritage* promotional literature as well as Meet Me in Milford handouts. The Powerhouse is indeed an asset to the Village residents and businesses with its history and architecture. Go to www.milfordpowerhouse.com to learn more and various ways to be part of this Village asset by way of volunteering and/or donating funds for its continued progress.

Support *The Milford Times*

The Milford Times has been a Platinum sponsor of the Home Tour for the past three years. In appreciation for their generous support, please return the favor by supporting them.



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WHAT'S HOT

**General Meeting &
Thanksgiving Dinner
November 20th**

**Museum Decorating
November 22nd**

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2008 Events

- Nov. 20...** Pre-Civil War Music
- Nov. 22...** Decorate Museum for the holidays: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 20....** Museum closes for season

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685-7308

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

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Editor: Brook Qualman

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Submission deadlines:
Last day of February,
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: _____
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Mail to: Milford Historical Society, 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381