

The Milford Historian

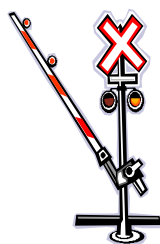
Mission Statement: We are organized exclusively for educational purposes. We bring together people who are interested in history, especially the history of the Village of Milford and Milford Township.

“A Railroad Runs Through It”

Milford’s Railroad History 1872 to Today

By Jay Qualman

Two rivers run through Milford, which is why the area was first settled. A railroad also runs through it, which is why Milford is still here today, unlike most communities the railroads bypassed.



At our General Meeting this month, member **Jay Qualman** will present a heavily illustrated program explaining how the railroad, the 19th Century’s greatest technological advance, allowed Milford to grow and prosper. Now, before you tune out, Jay’s presentation won’t bury you in arcane railroad minutia (he says he’s fully capable of doing that off-line). Rather, the focus will be on aspects of broader interest, including “fun facts” that will answer questions you may have had from time to time about Milford’s railroad.



For example, while you’re sitting in your car waiting for a train to pass at Huron or Summit streets, you may wonder if a train can get a ticket for going too slow? Too fast? The locomotives were lettered “BNSF” and this is a CSX line, what gives? Who’s onboard? Where is it coming from? Where is it going? What is its cargo? How come I don’t see any passenger trains? How long is this train, anyway? How many of these things go through Milford in a day? And, hey, there’s no caboose, what happened?

Please join us at our November membership meeting for answers to these questions and much more. We will begin with our special Thanksgiving potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. The Board of Directors will generously supply the turkey, you supply the fixings. Following the feast, there will be a brief business meeting at 7:30 p.m. The program will start immediately afterward. Our General Membership Meetings are open to all. You don’t have to be a member to enjoy this Thursday evening with history-loving people. So, bring a friend, beverage, table service, and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name, as shown in the box on the right.

From Your President...

This Fall has been one of the most colorful in recent memory. As the leaves now are almost down, we can look back and smile. Despite our poor economy, the Milford Historical Society has accomplished another successful year. We’ve had two sold out Tea Parties at the Mary Jackson House, the Power House is still moving in the right direction, the 4th of July Parade had a full crowd, both Granny’s Attic and the Home Tour ended quite well and we have been maintaining and improving both our Museum and the Mary Jackson House.



Three fat turkeys have been readied to be baked and with us all bringing the fixin’s, a feast will be had at the General Meeting, Thursday, November 19th at 6:30PM. Our Speaker will be **Jay Qualman** and we will learn all about trains.

I know that I keep gushing about the fact that we live in and/or near the best little valley village town in the USA. With our bike trails, canoe liveries, ponds, quaint historic homes and mainly all the nice people here, we the Milford Historical Society, the Milford Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Development Authority, the Village Council, all the Church and Organizational groups can be proud to be called Milfordians.

Happy Holiday,
Russ Rheaume, President.

Sue Gumper, Sue Bullard, Judy Waara and Bill Schimmel- really need to be recognized for all the work they did to make our Home Tour a success. THANK YOU!

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner
Thursday, November 19, 2009
6:30 p.m.




Milford Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic Street

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

Everyone: table service & beverage

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

2009 Home Tour Volunteers

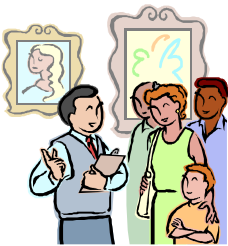
The Milford Historical Society Home Tour requires a large team of dedicated volunteers to be successful. This year the owners of six beautiful historic homes opened their doors and graciously welcomed over 625 curious visitors. The homeowners were partnered with six house captains who worked diligently to make sure the tours were informative and moved smoothly. 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 2009 home tour a success.

Our home tour docents make up the largest group of volunteers.

About 150 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 2009 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

Thanks to our Home Tour Sponsors

The Milford Historical Society is especially appreciative this year 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 Sponsors

- DMC– Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (2nd year)
- Milford Times (6th year)

**MILFORD
TIMES**
online at hometownlife.com

DMC
Huron Valley-Sinai
Hospital

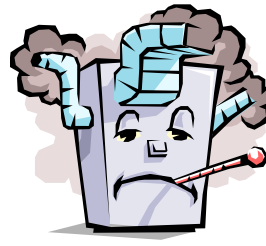
Gold Sponsor

- Milford Downtown Development Authority (5th year)

2009 Home Tour 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.

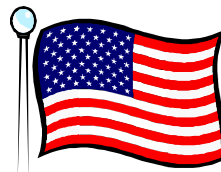
This year's Home Tour was successful. We sold approximately 450 tickets and offered complimentary tickets to 170 docent and sponsors. The net profit from ticket sales equaled \$6,800.00. Our Home Tour Sponsorship Program grossed \$1,950.00. After expenses the 2009 Home Tour raised \$6,846.00. While our profit is down slightly from previous years, it will certainly help to keep the museum open and support the Society's many projects. Unfortunately it will not cover two major maintenance problems at the museum.



We recently learned that the Museum boiler is leaking and will need to be replaced. Combine this with the fact that the museum needs to be painted and we have a large funding problem. Please remember that the Historical Society is a non-profit organization.

If you are able to make a donation to help cover the repairs, it would be tax deductible. Please keep the museum and the importance of preserving history in mind when you consider your tax deductible donations for 2009 and 2010.

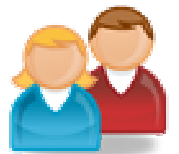
Winner of Flag Drawing



Congratulations to Cathy Talbor of Oxford. Cathy's name was drawn to receive the American Flag that was flown over the U.S. Capital building on July 4, 2009. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter had donated the flag to be given away during the home tour.

Welcome New Members -

We are pleased to welcome Robert and Diane Nossal and the Bone Family, Forrest, Jeri, Terry, Michelle and Paige. Thank you for joining us and welcome.



Museum News



We have had a pretty busy fall at the museum. We want to thank **Judy Waara** for coordinating the clean-up day on Saturday, Sept. 12th before Homes Tour. She was the first one there, and the last one to leave.

Along with **Sue Gumper, Brook Qualman, Russ Rheume, Mary Lou and Marlene**, many bushes were trimmed and weeds were pulled around the museum to spruce up for Homes Tour.



We currently have four new student docents at the museum: **Jessica Gasvoda** who is a freshman, **John Deradoorian** who is a sophomore, **Hannah Lynch** who is a sophomore and **Elise Hubel** who is also a sophomore (all from Milford High School). They will join our current students: **Catherine Heykoop, Hannah Gasvoda** and **Stephanie Thorpe**.

Larry Green has been kind enough to come to the museum to look at the pump organ in the parlor which hasn't worked for a while. He is a musician and enjoys working with his hands. He is taking his time to study this old pump organ to see how he can get it working again. And he has helped out at the museum with other things this fall. Thanks Larry!

We also want to thank **Margaret Wheeler** who has come in several times this fall to help **Marlene** out at the museum which is really appreciated. And Margaret brings a wealth of historical information since she grew up in Highland and raised her family in Milford. Her husband **Gerry** will be coming in to help too when he is finished golfing for the year.

On Monday, Nov. 2nd Lakewood Elementary second graders came in to the museum for their annual tour – all 75 of them!!! **Duane Freitag** and **Lee Johnson** help out with these tours and it is exhausting, but fun.



We will be decorating the museum for the holidays on Saturday, November 21st at 10:00 am. It's always a fun day and we really need your help. Please let Marlene know if you can help out.

The museum will close for the season on Saturday, December 19, 2009.

Volunteers Needed

Have you ever considered volunteering at the museum? Each year our museum opens its doors to visitors from all over the world who are either interested in touring the museum or doing research in our reference room.



Our museum docents are a very valuable part of our museum operations; they greet our visitors and give a guided tour enabling visitors to learn about Milford's history. This year our need for docents has become greater than ever. **We need your help!** The Milford Historical Society is looking for dedicated volunteers to assist with giving tours of the museum.

Volunteer once a month or more, whatever fits your schedule. 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 of the museum is not necessary. We'll supply the information if you supply the time.

Our museum is located at 124 E. Commerce and is open on Wednesday and Saturday from May to December from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. In today's society, it can be hard to find the time to donate, but the benefits are enormous to you and to the Milford Historical Society. Learn about Milford's history and share it with others.

Newsletter Editor



It's been fun doing the Newsletter. First with Jay and then on my own. I'd like to share a poem that Jay found in another Historical newsletter.

Well-Are You?

By: Anonymous

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed

Or are you just content that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock,
or do you stay at home to criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along,

Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs.

Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick,

Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the "clique"
Think this over, and you know right from wrong, are you and
active member or do you just belong?

Beginning at the end of December you will send your newsletter articles to **Diane Nussal at dnossal@gmail.com**

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Phone: 248-685-7308
E-mail: milfordhistory@hotmail.com
Website: www.milfordhistory.org

WHAT'S HOT

**General Meeting
November 19th**

**Museum Decorating
Nov 21st**

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2009 Events

**Nov 19.....General Meeting
"A Railroad Runs
Through It"
Jay Qualman**

**Nov 21..... Museum Decorating
10:00 am**

**Nov 25Board of Directors
Meeting**

Board of Directors

Russ Rheaume	President
Sue Bullard	Vice-President
Sue Gumper	Vice-President
Judy Waara	Treasurer
MaryLou Gharrity	Corresponding Secretary
Kathy Rheaume	Recording Secretary
Bill Schimmel	Director
Judith Reiter	Director
Bill Crawford	Director
Norm Werner	Director
Jim Gabel	Director
Brian Mooney	Director
Carol Watkins	Director

Milford Museum Staff

Marlene Gomez Assistant Director

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,
October & 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: _____
Address: _____
City-State-Zip _____
Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: Milford Historical Society, 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381