

The Milford Historian

VOLUME 39 / NO 6

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

November General Membership Meeting



Program: **the Vernor's Ginger Ale Story**
by Keith Wunderlich

Thursday, November 17th, 6:30 PM
Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St, Milford

Thanksgiving Potluck—Please bring your own table service, beverage and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown below:

A-F: Hot Side Dish
G-Q: Salad
R-Z: Dessert



Like to decorate?

Join in the fun and help decorate the MHS museum on Saturday, November 19th. Decorating begins at 10 AM.

Before you know it, 2012 will be here—plan on attending the:

January 2012 General Membership Meeting

Program: **Cadillac and the Dawn of Detroit**
by Annick Hivert-Carthew

Thursday, January 19th, 6:30 PM
Milford United Methodist Church

From Your President, Norm Werner

It's a busy time of the year as we head into the holiday season. We had a very successful Home Tour, thanks to the leadership of Sue Gumper and Sue Bullard and the hard work of Judy Waara, Carol Watkins, Linda Dagenhardt, Lee Johnson and the many other volunteers, house Captains and docents. We had our second best revenue total ever, which will help fund many of our activities in the coming year.



We have our annual Thanksgiving meeting, which will once again feature turkeys donated by three board members – Kathy Rheume, Sue Gumper and Norm Werner (actually by his wife, Carolyn). The meeting is on the 17th this month and features a guest speaker that is sure to evoke memories in many as he discusses the history of Detroit's own Vernor's pop. This meeting and program will wrap up our general membership activities for 2011; however, I encourage you to get out to the museum in December to see it in full Christmas decoration. The museum closes for the season on December 21st.

Speaking of the museum—it was re-roofed since our last newsletter. The Rashid Construction Company did a great job and continued their tradition of supporting the Milford Historical Society by contributing the decking wood that was required in several areas to replace old, rotted wood. We also had them blow in extra insulation to bring the building up to current code and cut down on our heating and cooling bills. A big thanks goes out to Chad Rashid for a job well done and for his generous contribution to the Society.

We need more members, so I'm asking each current member to try to bring a guest to the next meeting and to each meeting next year. Like any small church or local volunteer organization, the MHS depends upon its members for both financial support and to serve on various committees and support our events throughout the year. Please invite someone to join you at the next meeting.

One of our long-time members and a member of the board, Bill Schimmel – has been granted a leave of absence from the board while he battles with a serious health issue. Bill could always be counted on to pitch in and do whatever needed to be done to support our events. Bill, on a wash tub base and Russ Rheume, on guitar made up a duet that entertained at local retirement living facilities and elsewhere. Please keep Bill in your thoughts and prayers for the next few months and wish him a speedy recovery.

2011 Home Tour Report

The annual Home Tour provides the funding for the operation and upkeep of the Milford Historical Museum and other projects 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 event was **successful**. We sold approximately 550 tickets and offered complimentary tickets to 150 docents and sponsors. The net profit from ticket sales equaled \$7,650.00. Our Home Tour Sponsorship Program grossed \$2,800.00. After expenses, the 2011 Home Tour raised \$8,886.30. This will certainly go a long way in helping us maintain and operate the museum and supporting the Society's many projects.

Sue Gumper

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Milford Historian

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Be sure to visit us on the web:
www.milfordhistory.org
and "like" us on Facebook.

November General Membership Meeting Program: Vernor's, a Michigan Tradition by Keith Wunderlich

For the generations who grew up in Michigan, the familiar taste of Vernor's ginger ale is as unique as the taste of Sanders hot fudge. While there are many different brands of ginger ale, Vernor's ginger ale is refreshingly different. But did you know that Vernor's ginger ale dates back to the Civil War? The original recipe was mixed by James Vernor, a young man working in a Detroit drug store. James was trying to duplicate the popular ginger ales that were imported from Ireland. He experimented by mixing together ingredients, however, the Civil War interrupted his work and he joined Michigan's fourth Cavalry. Upon returning four years later, he found a wooden keg of ginger ale that he mixed prior to leaving. He opened the keg and found the aging process had changed the flavor. The result was a taste he had never tasted before, declaring it "*deliciously different*," a motto that is still used today.

Our speaker on November 17th will be **Keith Wunderlich**, a collector of Vernor's memorabilia for over 30 years. Keith began his collection with memorabilia from Detroit, but soon began collecting signs and trays from Vernor's—this led to learning the history of this Michigan company. His collection numbers over 2,000 items. Keith also started a club for other collectors and has written a book on Vernor's.

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

A-F: Hot Side Dish G-Q: Salad R-Z: Dessert



Bonus question - A Boston Cooler is a glass of Vernor's poured over vanilla ice cream. Ever wonder how the Boston Cooler got its name? *from Boston Boulevard in Detroit where it is believed to have been invented.*



Knowledge of sound systems?

The Historical Society could use your help.

We are looking to improve the audio for the membership meeting presentations—any advice would be much appreciated:

milfordhistory@hotmail.com, or call
248.685.7308



The Mary Jackson House Fall Tea Social

On Saturday, November 12, 2011, the Milford Historical Society will host an Autumn tea social at the childhood Victorian home of Mary Jackson (648 Canal Street). The late Ms. Jackson was born and raised here in Milford and went on to become a featured actor in both stage and television.



Two tea settings will be offered—the first from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M., and another from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. Each guest will enjoy savories and sandwiches, scones, and assorted desserts along with tea, coffee and hot cider.

A fashion show will also be part of the day's festivities. You won't want to miss the Victorian-era clothing created by local resident **Carol Watkins**. Carol has been hard at work creating the fashion show's Victorian-era garments that will take you back to that simpler and very elegant era. The fashion show has always proved to be the highlight of the Teas and this year's show will be no exception.



The Childhood Home of Mary Jackson

Tickets for the Fall Tea are \$25 and may be purchased at the Milford Historical Museum, 124 E. Commerce

St. Tickets are also available at Acorn Farm, 367 N. Main Street and Main Street Art, 432 N. Main Street. You won't want to miss this terrific event. Seating is limited for this popular event, so reserve your space now. For more detailed information, please call 248-685-7308 or visit www.milfordhistory.org.

Please consider a donation...

As the calendar winds down for 2011, please consider a donation of cash or valuable merchandise to the Milford Historical Society, a charitable, tax-exempt 501c3 organization. All contributions to the society are tax deductible under federal and state laws. You can also remember and support the MHS by making a charitable bequest through your will.

Museum News from Marlene Gomez

We have slowed down a little at the museum now that the kids are back in school. We did have a few Tiger Den groups come in for tours in October. Thanks to Russ & Kathy for helping out with those groups. Lakewood Elementary second graders will be coming in on November 2nd and some of the ladies from the Ruggles Questor Group will be coming in on November 16th.



We plan to decorate for Christmas on Saturday, November 19th starting at about 10:00 A.M. If anyone would like to join in the fun, please let Marlene know. The museum closes for the season on Wednesday, December 21st.

Big Thank You to the 2011 Home Tour Volunteers

The Milford Historical Society Home Tour requires a large team of dedicated volunteers to be successful. Co-chairs Sue Bullard and Sue Gumpfer send out a big **thank you** to all of our volunteers. We know you worked hard and hope you had fun.



This year, Linda and Warren Cor-done, Connie and David Gilbert, Chris and Jason Meredith, Lisa Moore, and Pam Sadler shared their beautiful historic homes with over 630 curious visitors. The homeowners were partnered with six house captains; Beverly Deman, Fiona

Hammock, Nancy Kornblum, Nancy Lang, Brook Qualman, and Rena Valentine 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 South Park log cabin, powerhouse, museum, tractor show and the Civil War Veteran Cell Phone Tour. Many thanks go out to Tami Averill, Bill Crawford, Linda Dagenhardt, Marlene Gomez, Rich Harrison, Don Sleek and our student docents. The tour could not go on without your help.

Behind the scenes, Home Tour Committee members and supporters took charge of volunteer procurement, publicity, entertainment, hospitality, signage, finance, historic research and sponsorships. We greatly appreciate Linda Dagenhardt, Carolyn Graves, Lee Johnson, Nancy Lang, Bill Schimmel, Chris Smith, Bryon Waara, Judy Waara, Carol Watkins, and Norm Werner. This small but very dedicated group of people was committed to making the 2011 home tour a success.



We must thank Acorn Farms, Main Street Art and Your Nesting Place for their ongoing assistance with tickets sales and providing support. This year's home tour featured demonstrations by local basket weavers, knitters, lace makers and musicians. We thank them for sharing their expertise. We also want to thank Bill Heatley, Nic Meyer and Brian Miska for volunteering at the last minute to make the 2011 Privy Dig happen.



The tour could not happen without our largest group of volunteers, the home tour docents. About 120 community members donated 3 or more hours to welcome our visitors and guide them through the homes. They help to make the tour an informative, fun experience.

We would like to thank all the businesses and organizations who participated in our Sponsorship Program. Please refer to Judy Waara's Sponsorship article to see who helped out the Historical Society and consider giving them your business. Lastly, we thank all of our home tour visitors. We hope you enjoyed the tour and the Milford community and hope you will return in 2012 and bring a friend.

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 (8th year):



Gold Sponsor (7th year):

Milford Downtown Development Authority

Supporters:

- Allegra Printing (1st year)
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- The Burger Joint, Steve & Natalene Suser (7th year)
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- Inter-Office Construction, Inc. (4th year)
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- Milford Laundry (1st year)
- Monthly Shoppers (8th year)
- Re/Max Classic, Tige Reader Team (5th year)
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- University of Michigan/Kellogg Eye Center (5th year)
- J. Watkins Family (1st year)
- Norm Werner, Real Estate One (1st year)
- Wildcat Properties (3rd year)
- Your Nesting Place, Chris Meredith (7th 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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Be sure to visit us on the web: www.milfordhistory.org