

The Milford Historian

VOLUME 39 / NO 5

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

September General Membership Meeting

Program:
The Personal Triumph of a Holocaust Survivor, Sam Offen

Thursday September 8th, 6:30PM
Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St, Milford

2011 Home Tour September 17 and 18
from 11AM to 5PM. Tickets: \$15/adults;
\$13/seniors and don't forget the
PowerHouse will also be open to visitors



Step back in history & visit the vintage tractor show at Huron Valley State Bank parking lot Sunday,

September 18th from 10AM – 5PM

MHS Board Member, Bill Schimmel invites you to attend his upcoming Indian presentations:

“History of Tipsico, Local Indian” at the Cromaie Library in Hartland on Tuesday 9/13, 6:30PM to 8:00PM

“Local Indian Relics Explain How the Native Americans Lived” at the Cromaie Library in Hartland on Tuesday 9/20, 6:30PM to 8:00PM

“200th Anniversary War of 1812 and How it Resulted in Removing the Indians and Opening up Michigan to Settlement” at the Howell Library, on Thursday 10/13, 7:00PM

November General Membership Meeting
Thursday November 17

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

From Your President, Norm Werner

Home Tour...Home Tour...Home Tour! We are only weeks away from the 2011 Home Tour as I write this article and the excitement is building. Call Sue Gumpfer to see if you can help in any way. This is our major fund raising activity of the year, so we need a big success.



Thanks to all who volunteered to man the Information Booth at the recent Milford Memories event. We had quite a few people stop by and inquire about the Historical Society and we sold a few books and other items, in addition to the water that we were selling in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. It was quite an effort to undertake – manning the booth all three days, all day long, but we pulled it off and made a little money, too.

By the time this newsletter gets out we should have chosen a roofer for the museum and the project might be underway or even done. We are also adding insulation while the roof is done, so that we make the new shingles last longer and hopefully make it a little less expensive to heat and cool the museum. This is our major museum maintenance/improvement project for the year. Thanks go out to a donor who wants to remain anonymous for a generous donation that should cover about half of the cost of the job.

Our last two programs of the year in September and November wrap up the Program Committee job for Sue Bullard, who is a Vice-President of the Society and has been the Program Committee Chairperson for the last few years. Sue's final two programs are a presentation by Sam Offen, a Holocaust survivor, and a program by Keith Wunderlich on the history of Michigan's own Vernor's ginger ale.

I certainly want to thank Sue for her service in this important duty. Sue has so many things on her plate with the other things that she does for the Society events and managing the Mary Jackson House that she needed to off-load the program duties. Russ Rheume will assume the duties of the Program Committee Chairperson starting with the January program.

A Spectacular Home Tour Not to be Missed, Sue Gumpfer



One of the homes on the 2011 Tour

“Historic Preservation Meets Modern Living” describes the five terrific homes we have on the tour this year. All five homes are located within the Village limits. This enables you to walk all or part of the home tour. If you want to take an early peek, look for the homes at 540 Union, 629 North Main, 645 North Main, 722 North Main and 859 Laurel Lane in Milford Bluffs. We are also pleased to announce a guide by cell phone tour which features the lives and homes of eight Milford Civil War veterans. We thank the Oak Grove Cemetery Fund for providing the guide by cell tour. A

tour map and the cell phone number will be available at the museum. The 2011 Home Tour will also include visits to the Log Cabin, Powerhouse, and MHS Museum. On Sunday, step back in history and visit the Tractor Show in the Huron Valley Bank parking lot at 130 South Milford Rd and the Car Show on Main St.

The tour runs from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM both days. Tickets are \$15/ adults and \$13/ seniors and will be available before September 17th at Main Street Art (432 N. Main), Acorn Farm (367 N. Main), Your Nesting Place (322 N. Main) and the Milford Historical Museum (124 E. Commerce, open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 PM – 4 PM).

September 17th and 18th are approaching rapidly! Please mark your calendars and join us! If you would like to help and have not been called, please call Sue Gumpfer or the museum: 248-685-7308. With five beautiful homes on the tour we need all the docent help we can get.

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The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

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2011 Article Deadlines:

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

September General Membership Meeting Program:



Sam Offen, photo courtesy of *The Detroit News*

Sam Offen, Holocaust Survivor

There are those that claim the Holocaust never happened. Sam Offen can tell us the truth firsthand—he lived it, survived it, and now dedicates much of his life to educating others about it. We are honored to have Sam Offen, a Holocaust survivor, as the guest speaker at our general membership meeting on **Thursday evening, September 8th.**

Sam was born in Krakow, Poland, in 1921. His life would change completely once the Nazi army entered Krakow on September 6th, 1939. During the Nazi regime, he suffered ghetto confinement, slave labor and the horrors of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp. More than 50 members of his immediate and extended family were killed. Sam will share his personal story of triumph—from his experiences as a starving prisoner in a concentration camp, to that jubilant day of May 5th, 1945 as he witnesses American tanks arriving to liberate the camp.

Upon hearing his amazing life story, many encouraged Sam to write his autobiography. Although reluctant for many years, he eventually agreed. His book, "*When Hope Prevails, the Personal Triumph of a Holocaust Survivor*," will be available for purchase at the meeting. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

The meeting will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30 PM at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic St. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:30 PM followed immediately by the program. Please feel free to invite a guest—all are welcome. You do not have to be a historical society member to enjoy a Thursday evening with people interested in 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: Salad G-Q: Dessert R-Z: Main Dish

Thank you

This past August, the Historical Society participated in Milford Memories. During the festival, Society members staffed the South End Information Booth, answering questions and selling water to visitors. In exchange for selling water, the Milford Memories committee will make a donation for each bottle sold.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Milford Memories Committee for allowing us to promote our organization. We also thank the volunteers who worked a three-hour shift: Holly Brandt, Jim Gabel, Carolyn Graves, Jan Henry, Elsie Hubel, Bea Keeber, Lee Johnson, Ray Keeling, Bonnie and Andy Lynch, Sheila Schuler, Nevada Verrino, Judy Waara, Carol Watkins, Norm and Carolyn Werner.



Looking for a Newsletter Editor

We are looking for a volunteer to take over as Editor of *The Historian* for 2012. The editor gathers the articles, creates the newsletter and prepares them for mailing.

If you think you would be interested or if you would like more information, please contact
Diane Nossal:

historian@milfordhistory.org

The newsletter is currently produced in Microsoft Publisher which is pretty easy to learn even if you haven't used it before.

Museum News from Marlene Gomez



The Milford Historical Society has received a wonderful donation from Bob Pearson of Merritt Island, FL. Bob has given us two beautifully-framed coins which contain metal that was carried to the moon by the crews of Apollo 8 and Apollo

11. Bob’s ancestors came to Milford back in 1835 from England—you might recognize “Pearson Road” south of the GM Proving Ground. Bob actually grew up in Holly, MI. He joined the Air Force in 1952 and was an instrument trainer until 1960 when he became a civilian instructor with flight simulators. Bob has lived in Roswell, NM, Oklahoma City, OK, W. Palm Beach and Gainesville, FL and has trained astronauts on the Gemini and Apollo space programs. He personally knows many astronauts including Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. After retiring from the Kennedy Space Center in 1974, he continued to work for the W. Palm Beach County Energy Program until 2003. Bob enjoys visiting Milford and is a member of our historical society.

In this issue we would like to introduce our student docents—Jessica Gasvoda and John Deradoorian both from Milford High School.

Jessica Gasvoda, a junior and has been working with us since she was a freshman. She has two older sisters who also worked at the museum. Jessica enjoys dance (hip-hop, jazz and lyrical) and likes to play hockey, write poetry and take photos. She has won an award for her poetry. She is learning to play the guitar and ukulele. This summer, Jessica is also working as an administrative assistant at a family medical practice. She would like to go to college in Virginia and study physical therapy or criminal justice. Her favorite band is All-Star



Weekend out of San Diego, CA.

John Deradoorian also a junior, has been working with us since he was a sophomore. John likes all sports and works at a convenience store in town. Every summer, he attends a summer camp north of Toronto called Camp Ponacka where he is a junior counselor. He takes kids aged 7 to 15 on canoe trips and also teaches bush craft. He has two younger brothers and in his spare time has helped his dad renovate a house. John has been a big help to Duane with Granny’s Attic sale this year and will be attending college, but doesn’t know where just yet.



Save the date — FALL Tea at Mary Jackson House



On Saturday, November 12, 2011, The Milford Historical Society will be hosting a Fall Tea fundraiser to benefit the Mary Jackson House and will be held at the childhood home of Mary Jackson. Guests can choose from two seatings to attend, 11 AM – 1 PM or 2 PM – 4 PM. Each guest will

enjoy savories and sandwiches, scones with lemon curd, jam or cream, assorted desserts and tea, coffee and punch. A fashion show will take place during each tea.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at The Acorn Farm (367 N. Main St), Main Street Art (432 N. Main St) or the Milford Historical Museum (124 E. Commerce St) beginning Home Tour Weekend. All proceeds will go directly to the preservation of the Mary Jackson House.

For more information, please call 248-685-7308, send an email – milfordhistory@hotmail.com or visit www.milfordhistory.org.

Thank you to... Sandy Muirhead for setting up one of our tables at the Spring Tea.



Milford Historical Society welcomes our newest members:

Carole & Nelson Thulin & Family
Sue Grifor
Lynn Hawthorne

Thank you for joining & welcome!

LOOK WHO VISITED THE POWERHOUSE



Scouts from Den 1 of Pack 315 based at Kurtz Elementary took a recent tour of the Milford Powerhouse to learn more about the local historical place and the people that worked to improve the way the community lived. They learned about Henry Ford and Albert Kahn. After the tour, the Scouts headed to Central Park, where they worked on building their muscles through stretching, contests, relays and games. The tour and other activities helped them on their path to earn their Bear badge.

Pictured (from left): tour guide Robert Craig with D & R Energy Services, parent Jennifer Davis, Den leaders Dave and Amber Innis and Wolf Scouts William Davis, Tyler Innis, Preston Green and Nolan Preis.

The Friends of the Milford Powerhouse regularly hold tours. Learn more and schedule a visit at www.milfordpowerhouse.com.

The *Milford Historical Society* gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the following memorial donations:

In memory of Herbert Hoover
 In memory of Gerald Wilson

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.

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- **Huron Valley State Bank (6th year)**
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- **Re/Max Platinum, Tige Reader Team (4th year)**
- **University of Michigan/Kellogg Eye Center (4th year)**
- **The Watkins Family (1st year)**
- **Wildcat Properties (2nd year)**
- **Your Nesting Place, Chris Meredith (6th 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
 Email: milfordhistory@hotmail.com Phone: 248-685-7308 Be sure to visit us on the web: www.milfordhistory.org