

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.

“Why are Barns Red and so many Houses Victorian?”

By Ronald R. Campbell


Each day we go about our daily lives, not giving much thought to the built environment that surrounds us. We use our buildings for shelter, as landmarks when giving directions, and to personify our personalities that create unique community identity, yet we never really notice our architecture. Essentially we take our buildings for granted. But how much more can our built environment tell us if we take the time to listen? Learn how to recognize the style of buildings you encounter, explore the technology and the influences that created them and find out “Why are Barns Red and so many Houses Victorian?”



Our speaker for September will be Ronald Campbell. Ron is a registered architect and Federally Certified Historical Architect who was in private practice for thirty years. His work has included: VanHoosen Farm preservation in Rochester Michigan, Calumet Public Schools in the Keweenaw National Historical Park; Crossroads Village in Genesee County; Lapeer County Courthouse restoration (Michigan’s oldest courthouse); St. Johns Depot; Flushing Depot and the Fenton United Methodist Church. He recently joined Oakland County Planning and Economic Development as principal planner and preservation architect for the cultural and historic resources of the County.



In addition, Ron continues to teach architecture and preservation classes at Lansing Community College and recently completed a sixteen week joint program as a trainer/consultant for the National Park Service, the National Historic Trust and the Michigan Historic Preservation network at Historic Fort Wayne.



Our general membership meeting will take place on Thursday, September 6, 2007 and due to a scheduling conflict with the  Methodist Church, we will meet at the Presbyterian Church which is located at 238 N. Main Street. Our evening will begin at 6:30 with the Best Potluck in Town. There will be a brief membership meeting that will take place at 7:30 followed by our program. All are welcome; you don’t have to be a member to enjoy an evening with people who like history. Bring a friend, table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name.

**General Meeting
&
Potluck Dinner**

Thursday, September 6, 2007

6:30 pm

Milford Presbyterian Church
238 N. Main Street

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

Everyone: table service & beverage

From your president...

As our summer draws to a close and we look forward to September that can only mean one thing...its Home Tour time! The Milford Historical Society Home Tour is a popular event with our neighbors; an occasion that everyone looks forward to. Our event began thirty-one years ago with the Charter Members of our society brainstorming to come up with an event that not only followed our mission statement for education, but raised funds to sustain a museum. Over the years the “third weekend in September” has evolved into a spectacular weekend and we are proud to continue this tradition.

This year we are delighted to offer five homes to explore and we are grateful to those homeowners who have graciously agreed to allow us to showcase their homes. Four of the homes this year are older, dating as far back as 1836. The fifth home was built in 1989. All the homes will demonstrate how older homes can fit into today’s family lifestyle, as well as how newer homes can be designed to fit into neighborhoods that have been established for many, many years.



Joining the Historical Society for a second year are our friends with the Oak Grove Cemetery Fund. This year they will feature some well-known Milford family names along with some families that have never been included on such a walking tour before. Joining the Oak Grove Cemetery group will be the Grand River Trail DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). So make sure you stop by and enjoy a tranquil walk in

(President's letter continues...)

Oak Grove Cemetery, our own historic landmark, and learn about families such as Gamble, Hayes, Bamber and Vaughan that helped form our community.

And don't forget to stop by our Log Cabin in South Side Park during the weekend. Visitors to the log cabin will experience how the first settlers to our area lived. Guests will be able to do the routine chores of our forefathers and witness a traditional meal being prepared over an open fire. Children of all ages will be able to play games of long ago and even make a toy to take home. The Log Cabin is a free site.

Another free site will be the Tractor show. The tractor show started over five years ago in the small parking lot at the South Side Park. Over the years the show grew so big that we had to move it to the Johnson School parking lot. The tractor show will be a Sunday only event. And don't forget the Powerhouse. Stop by and see what is new and exciting with our restoration project! The Power House committees have made some great strides during the last year. Be sure to stop by and hear all the good news by one of the committee members. The Powerhouse will be open both Saturday and Sunday for tours.



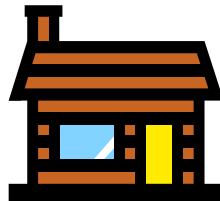
The Third Weekend in September promises to be fun-filled with something for everyone to enjoy. Home Tour 2007 is an important event for the historical society. This is our most important fund raising effort of the year, proceeds from this event allows us to continue to keep our museum open. So remember while enjoying your tour of homes or checking out the activities at the Log Cabin, Power house and Tractor show, you are also helping support the Historical Society. Enjoy the weekend!

Sue Bullard, President

Log Cabin will be open

Visit during Home Tour 2007

Once again the Log Cabin will be open during Home Tour. Located in the South Side Park by the fire station, visitors will be able to step back in time and visit with members of the Milford Historical Society who will be recreating the life of Milford's founding fathers. They will observe the preparation of a traditional meal over an open fire with vegetables freshly harvested from the garden. Kids of all ages will be able to join in the games of long ago. Help with the chores, make an old-fashioned toy or join in a traditional harvest contest. Be sure to stop by and join in the fun on September 16th and 17th.!



MHS Home Tour 2007

"The Right Place at the Right Time"

Mark September 15th and 16th on your calendar and join in the celebration. The Home Tour 2007 will feature five beautiful area homes and an Oak Grove Cemetery Walk that will introduce you to our founding settlers.



This year we have five wonderful homes that demonstrate why Milford has remained the right place at the right time to settle for 175 years. Visitors will gain an understanding of how older homes can be renovated to accommodate a 2007 life style while preserving the home's character and charm. Hearing the history of this year's homes, exploring the design changes and viewing decorating ideas will be an exciting experience. It will help you understand why the 2007 home owners past and present are proud to call Milford their home. All of this year's homes are in the Village limits. Want to take a sneak peek? Drive or walk by 115 Summit Street, 405 E. Commerce, 536 E. Liberty St., 641 Canal St. and 324 S. Main.

Don't miss this year's very special Oak Grove Cemetery walk! To celebrate Milford Township's 175th Anniversary the Oak Grove Cemetery Funding Committee has been working very hard to develop and present a wonderful walking tour that will introduce you to Milford's founding settlers and their families. Find out which of our home tour homes have direct ties to the founding families and much more. We hope visitors will stroll through our beautiful Oak Grove Cemetery and join us in learning about and honoring the people who helped to develop Milford.

It is hard to believe but our Museum opened its doors 31 years ago. During the home tour be sure to stop by the museum and view our tribute to United States Military Veterans. The museum is a testament to Milford's past and a pathway to our future.

Need more to do? The Log Cabin in South Side Park will be open and feature activities for the young and young at heart or tour the Power House and view the renovation progress. On Sunday step back in history and visit the Tractor Show located at Johnson Elementary. We are also in the process of looking for a "Privy Dig" site.

The tour begins at 11:00 am and goes 5:00 pm. on Saturday and Sunday. Home Tour tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$13.00 for seniors. They will be on sale at the Museum, Main Street Art and Saint George's Cafe in September and at the home locations during the tour.

Be sure to come and join in the celebration! Better yet; call Sue Gumpfer (685-2691) or the museum (685-7308) and volunteer to help during the tour.

Your Society needs your help!

The most important resource of any business are it's employees or, in the case of a non-profit organization, it's volunteers. Accordingly, such groups must continually address a fundamental issue. How do we attract sufficient volunteers to sustain and grow our organization? Well, the Milford Historical Society is no exception. Volunteers are our life blood. We simply will cease to exist without them.

To contribute your free time is a valuable gift. Why do volunteers volunteer? Most feel that it's rewarding and satisfying to support an organization they believe in. And having a lot of fun in the process is a great bonus.

Here are areas where your Society needs your help.

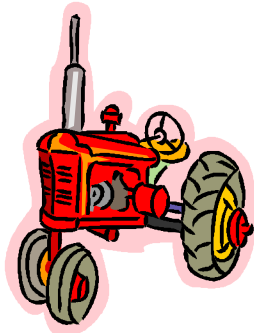
- Computer input
- Accessioning items for the Museum and Mary Jackson home
- Researching homes in the Milford area
- Museum cleanup (April, 2008)
- Garden work at the Museum and Mary Jackson home
- Docents for the Museum, May Through December:
 - Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Wednesday evenings, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Saturdays, 1 p.m. .to 4.p.m.
- Fundraising events:
 - Granny's Attic Sale (July 13th & 14th)
 - Home Tour (September 15th & 16th)
 - Mary Jackson home cleanup (September 28 & 29) and Open House (October 13th)
 - Independence Day celebration (4th of July, 2008)
 - Preservation and Restoration Award Committee (meets a couple of times during July/August))

Tractor Show

Visit during Home Tour 2007

Our annual tractor show will again be part of the Society's Home Tour 2007 weekend. And it's fast approaching. Now's the time to get your tractor ready and encourage your friends and family members to do the same. The more tractors the better - new, old, restored or in "working clothes." All are welcome! If you don't have a tractor, just stop by the show and enjoy. Pass the word. We like lots of spectators.

We're looking forward to seeing you on **Sunday, September 16th, 10-4 p.m., Johnson School, 515 General Motors Road, Milford.**



Stephen-Jackson Open House

Saturday, October 13, 2007

Mary Jackson, a star on Broadway and television, had an opportunity to live anywhere her career took her. But it was Milford were she felt most at home. The charming house on Canal Street was built by her grandfather and always held a sentimental bond to Mary. Over the years, the family lost the house due to death and financial difficulties.



Corner of Canal and Houghton

Mary's casting as Miss Emily Baldwin in a new television program called the "Walton's" became her most memorable role. During 1975, the house went up for sale and Mary jumped at the opportunity to purchase it. After doing some remodeling, the house on Canal Street became her getaway. Sadly, due to health issues during the last few years of her life, she wasn't able to visit the place she loved so much. And when she died, her wish was for the house to be given to the Historical Society. She envisioned its future as being a place where people could come together and learn about the little town she valued so much.

The Milford Historical Society is honored to receive such a generous gift. Accordingly, to honor Mary and her commitment to our town, a recognition weekend has been scheduled during October. A special preview will be held on Friday, October 12, 2007 from 7pm to 10pm. We hope that Mary's friends will gather with us and share their memories. Donations for Friday night are \$15.00. Refreshments will be served on Friday night. On Saturday, October 13, 2007, The Milford Historical Society will hold an open house from 10 am to 6 pm for anyone who wishes to see the house. We are requesting a \$10.00 donation for the tour. All proceeds from the weekend will be used to maintain the house.

Welcome new members!

We are pleased to announce that the newest members of the Milford historical Society are **Richard and Arbutus Ahern**. Welcome Richard and Arbutus.



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

WHAT'S HOT

General Meeting
September 6th
Milford Presbyterian
Church

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2007 Events	
Sept. 6...	General Meeting and Program: "Why are Barns Red and so so many Houses Victorian"
Sept. 15 & 16 ...	Home Tour 2007; Log Cabin and Powerhouse open
Sept. 16	Tractor Show
Nov. 15...	General Meeting and Program: "Honoring our Hometown Veterans"

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Marlene Gomez Assistant Director

685-7308

The
Milford Historian
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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