

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.

“The Power of Myth”

You don't want to miss this one! Our speaker for the March 16th General Membership Meeting will be from the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). Dan Piesko will present a program entitled “The Power of Myth.”

The creation of myths and their expression through various art forms is a universal phenomenon. Using selections of art from the DIA collection, Mr. Piesko will be present a slide program describing the influence of myths on various cultures around the world. The diversity and multiple uses of mythology will be emphasized by illustrating how myths can function to fulfill a variety of human needs. These needs include justifying a political system, unifying the community, forming a personal relationship with the forces of nature, satisfying the desire for spirituality, and expressing romantic love in a relationship. Through this presentation we will be better able to discern our own need for mythology and the role it can play in our personal and social lives.



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 night out with people who like all forms of history.

The evening begins with a sumptuous potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Our brief business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by “The Power of Myth” program. Bring your table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown below.

From Your President...

Okay, it's a new year, so in the spirit of starting the year off right, I want to spill the beans right up front and share a little secret. You know the museum is closed, but Marlene Gomez, Mary Lou Gharrity, and Sharon Jensen are working hard with the Past Perfect computer program and the accession of many, many pictures. Sue Bullard is also imputing membership information into Past Perfect.

Bill Crawford and Jeff Spoor are eagerly awaiting your donation's to the 2006 Granny's Attic Sale.

Kathy Rheame is beginning work on the 4th of July Parade. If you would like to participate as a parade marshal and/or help with cleanup afterwards, please contact her at 248-684-7373.

Home Tour 2006 needs house captains and many docents for the September 16th and 17th dates. It is critical that all members support our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please contact Sue Bullard or Sue Gumper.

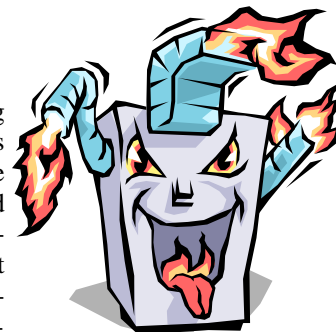
Special thanks go to John Sawruk for his guidance and to Bill Schimmel for his hard work to winterize the Museum in an effort to reduce its heating cost, which was \$800 for the most recent billing period.

David R. Chase

Museum Heating Bills are Through the Roof!

Donations are Requested

The most recent heating bill for the Museum was \$800. As noted elsewhere in this issue, concerned members have taken significant actions that should reduce this expense in the future. However, financial support is needed to address these unexpectedly high utility costs in the near-term. Accordingly, your board of directors is making a special request for donations at this time. Please mail your contribution to the Museum at 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381. Thank you.



March 2006 General Meeting		
& Potluck Dinner		
Thursday, March 16, 2006		
6:30 p.m.		
United Methodist Church		
1200 Atlantic Street		
A-G	H-N	O-Z
Salad	Dessert	Main Dish
Everyone: Table service & beverage (coffee provided)		

Museum Tours Popular in 2005

Marlene Gomez reports last year's strong results

We had a good year for tours through the museum in 2005. Young and old alike enjoyed seeing the log home inside the museum as well as our Victorian Era parlor, children's toy area, dining room, kitchen and bedroom. We especially had fun with Donna Hunter's Girl Scout Troop when they came through on October 20th. There were seven girls (mostly fifth graders) that were earning their "social lore" badges and they had many good questions about how our community has changed, specifically over the last 25 years. They wanted to see maps and aerial photos, the different types of architecture used, and any stories or legends that we could share. They were a lot of fun and Mrs. Hunter did a wonderful job of having the girls prepared and organized. They even gave their tour guide a box of Girl Scout cookies!



We also had a Cub Scout group under the leadership of Mike Andrud come through the museum on November 12th. They also seemed to have a great time.

Our biggest formal tour was on November 14th and consisted of two large classes of second graders from Lakewood Elementary School in Highland led by teachers Lara Lakari and Beth Lescoe. Sixty children toured the museum in groups of 15. We began at 10:30 a.m. and the last tour ended at 2:30 p.m. They also toured downtown Milford the same day. These children were well behaved and curious....and had a lot of good questions. Mary Lou Gharrity and I conducted the tours and were exhausted by the end of the day. But we also had a lot of fun! The teachers and parents that helped out were wonderful and kept things moving. Each teacher gave the museum a donation from her class contributed by the kids. And each child wrote us a thank you note, which were very cute and funny. They are available at the museum for anyone would like to see them.

Milford 159 Years Ago

Bill Schimmel's initiative provided the following letter written by early Milford resident James Pollack to his brother Charles Pollack on December 12, 1847. —Ed.

Dear Brother,

I take this opportunity of once more addressing a few lines to you hoping that you will overlook this long silence. I have not herd (sic) from any of you since Isabel (sister) wrote and that is so long ago. I have entirely forgot when it was. I was in hopes that you would have continued to write notwithstanding my silence as it is quite a job for me to write and I seldom have opportunity. I still remain in Milford instead of going to my farm as intended last spring. The wheat crop looks so unfavorable. Last spring was the reason and it was almost a total failure in this section which makes rather hard times and the comeing (sic) crop looks pretty hard. The insects have pretty much destroyed the early sowed spring crops. Abundant corn & rye make prices pretty low at present: flower \$4 1/2, wheat 75¢., corn 31¢ rye 37 1/2¢., pork \$2.75 to \$3.25 cwt. (100 pounds)

The village here is growing pretty rapid. A large gristmill has been erected at a cost of about twelve thousand dollars and there is twelve stores besides grogshops and taverns and two carding and clothdressing factories and two furnaces and a good country around about and all that sort of thing. Besides the fever and ague (malaria) which they have here the last season has been more healthy than common. The weather has been remarkable, fine, warm and dry here this fall and on the whole a pretty good country and I think you had better come out and look for yourself and look up a location and leave the swamp which is good for nothing now nor never will be.

I should like to know if you have herd (sic) from Alexander lately and what he is about and William and John and all the rest of our folks. Well, don't know as I have anything more to say in petickeler (sic) and after all it seems to me that you might find time to take a run out here next summer, you and Isabel. I should be very happy to be with you.

I shall expect to hear form you very soon and what Elan is about and should like very much to have him write to me and all that sort of thing.

I must close by sending my love and best wishes to Grandmother, Isabel and all the rest of you.

James Pollack

“Keeping Milford's Memories” Video

Sales of the Society's video “Keeping Milford's Memories” have been brisk. But copies are still available of this documentary made possible by the time, talent and generosity of member Howard Armstrong. The video captures and communicates Milford's history through the use of outstanding images, narration and original music. Featured are early Milford businesses, industries, churches, schools and other public buildings. Also included are oral histories by longtime residents. The two-hour documentary is available through the Museum as either a VHS tape (\$15) or a DVD (\$20).

MHS Co-Sponsors Two Historic Programs

Mark Your Calendar for April 5th and April 27th

1. "Legends and Lore of Michigan"

(Wednesday, April 5, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Milford Library; registration begins March 8, 2006)

Take a stroll through time as **Barbara Schutzgruber** presents stories and legends of courage, resourcefulness, and folly bringing to life the people and natural wonders of the state of Michigan. Milford resident and storyteller **Judith Reiter** takes us back to 1871 when railroad fever struck our town.

2. "Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future:

Historic Preservation in Milford"

(Thursday, April 27, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Milford Library; registration begins March 30, 2006)

Ellen Thackery, field representative for both the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will speak about the benefits of historic preservation to Milford residents and business property owners.

MHS Quilt Show?

Potential New Project—Input Requested



A Society-sponsored quilt show has been suggested as a fundraising project for our organization. We are requesting membership input to determine the level of support for such an undertaking and the amount of volunteer help that could be expected. Please provide your input to David Chase at 248-684-2338.

Museum Spring Cleanup

Your Help is Needed

A major spring cleaning is planned for our Museum to prepare it for reopening on May 3, 2006. Work dates are Wednesday, **April 26th**, Thursday **April 27th** and Saturday, **April 29th**. Work will begin at **10:00 a.m.** each day. Every member should consider working a least one day for a few hours. If you haven't actively supported the Museum in awhile this is a great opportunity to contribute. And no experience is required! For information contact David Chase or Marlene Gomez (248-685-7308).



New Board Members & Officers

We extend our congratulations to **Sharon Jensen** and **Norm Werner** who were recently elected to the Milford Historical Society Board of Directors. Thank you both for agreeing to serve the Society in this capacity. Sharon and Norm bring our number of board members to fourteen, as shown on the next page

Congratulations also go to our two newest officers: **Sue Bullard** (Vice President) and **Sue Gumper** (Vice President).

MHS Volunteers For History

In this issue we recognize and thank the following members for their special efforts to support the Society and its work in the community:

- 2005 Society Officers for their outstanding service and for agreeing to hold these positions again in 2006: **David Chase** (President), **Mary Lou Gharritty** (Treasurer) and **Bill Schimmel** (Recording and Corresponding Secretary).
- New glass announcement case: built, painted and mounted on the Museum's front porch by **Bob Crawford**.
- Museum winterization: **Bill Schimmel**, **John Sawruk** and **David Chase**.
- Accessioning at the Museum: **Mary Lou Gharritty** and **Marlene Gomez**.
- Past Perfect photo and data entry: **Sharon Jensen** and **David Chase**.
- Past Perfect membership entry: **Sue Bullard**
- Quick Books instruction and data entry: **Judy Waara**, **Brion Waara** and **Mary Lou Gharritty**

2006 Dues are Due

Dues renewal notices for 2006 were mailed two months ago. To those that have responded, thank you. To those that haven't responded, please do so immediately. This will save your society the burden of having to repeatedly print "dues are due" reminders here and stamping "past due" on your newsletter mailing label. Most importantly, the Society depends on your dues to help maintain the Museum, publish this newsletter and execute events benefiting the community. If you haven't already paid, dues can be mailed to the address on the next page or paid at the March 16th General Meeting.



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

WHAT'S HOT

**General Meeting
&
Potluck Dinner & Program
("The Power of Myth")**

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2006 Events

Mar 16 ... General Meeting & Program:
"The Power of Myth"
April 5 "Legends and Lore of Michigan"
(7:00 p.m. at Milford Library)
April 26,
27 & 29 Museum Cleanup (10:00 a.m.)
April 27 "Preserving Our Past, Securing
Our Future: Historic Preserva-
tion in Milford"
(7:00 p.m. at Milford Library)
May 3 Museum Reopens
May 18 ... General Meeting and Program
"Milford Log Cabin: Making

Board of Directors

David Chase	President
Sue Bullard	Vice-President
Sue Gumper	Vice-President
Mary Lou Gharrity	Treasurer
Bill Schimmel	R&C Secretary..... ..
Jay Qualman	Director/Editor
Bill Crawford	Director
Judith Reiter	Director
Jeff Spoor	Director
Kathy Rheaume	Director
Judy Waara	Director
Bob Crawford	Director
Sharon Jensen	Director
Norm Werner...Director.....

Milford Museum Staff 685-7308

Marlene Gomez Assistant Director

The Milford Historian

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

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Editor: Jay Qualman

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Submission deadlines:
25th 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