

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.*

“Proud to Work”

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Michigan

March 15, 2007 Meeting and Program

Our greatest task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government itself, treating the task as we would treat emergency of war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our national resources.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
March 4, 1933

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was an inspiration of then presidential candidate, Franklin D. Roosevelt. During his acceptance speech at the July, 1932 Democratic Party Convention he proposed an idea to put thousands of men back into the work force that had lost their jobs due to the Great Depression. Many people didn't believe this project could be accomplished. But five days after Roosevelt's inauguration, the plans were under way and within one year of his proposal the first Civilian Conservation Corp camp was opened in the George Washington National Forest in Virginia.

In Michigan, 102,000 young men answered the call from 1933 to 1942. The Michigan recruits were responsible for many improvements needed in our state. Some of their accomplishments can still be seen today. These include the planting of seedlings, the building of roads and rest areas, and the building of fire towers and fire breaks to help prevent forest fires. Other still-visible improvements are the building of a bathhouse at Ludington State Park, a 40-by-80 foot limestone picnic shelter at Indian Lake State Park and a 29-by-43 foot fieldstone caretaker's residence at Wilson State Park.

The speaker at our March meeting will be, **Annick Hivert-Carthew**, the author of *Proud to Work - A Pictorial History of Michigan's Civilian Conservation Corps*. He will share with our group how President Franklin Roosevelt's vision for putting our country back to work during the Depression affected the State of Michigan. For those interested in learning more, copies of his book will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Our evening begins at 6:30 pm with “the best potluck dinner in town” at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic Street. The program will follow our short business meeting at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Bring table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name.

March General Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Thursday, March 15, 2007
6:30 p.m.

Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic, Milford

A-G

Salad

H-R

Dessert

S-Z

Hot Side Dish

Everyone: Table service & beverage (coffee provided)

From your New President...

As your newly appointed president, I am extremely honored to serve in this position for the coming year. And I promise to do the job with the same high degree of dedication that has characterized the Society's preceding presidents.

This year brings new and exciting challenges for us. The acquisition of the Mary Jackson home and the 175th Anniversary Celebration of Milford Township in addition to Home Tour 2007 and the Power House Restoration will certainly challenge us, but I know with the help of the board and the support of the membership that we can achieve our goals.

Every January the by-laws of our Society require that we hold elections for the Board of Directors. The position of the President is the only board position that holds a term limit of two years. David Chase has done a great job as President the last two years, giving the Historical Society a 100% effort. Thanks Dave for all of your hard work. Dave was elected to the position of Vice President, joining Sue Gumpfer who continues as Vice President. Mary Lou Gharrity will remain as our Treasurer. Katherine Rheume will be Recording Secretary and Judy Waara will be Corresponding Secretary. Both of these positions were previously held by Bill Schimmel. Thank you Bill for holding down both of these spots for the last few years. Filling out the rest of the Board are Bill Crawford, Robert Crawford, Judith Reiter, Sharon Jensen, Jeff Spoor and Norm Werner. A member of this board that has decided to step down is Jay Qualman. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Jay for his dedication to the Board. Jay has agreed to continue to edit and publish our *Historian* newsletter.

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As we begin the year 2007, I am proud to say that the acquisition of the Mary Jackson home has been finalized. And since that time, a group of devoted volunteers have been busy going through the house and inventorying and accessioning the items that were left to us. Once that task is completed we will then begin the next step. Mary Jackson was born and raised in our community and no matter how far in this world she went; she always held a warm spot for her home town. With these thoughts in mind, we plan to open her family home for the public to enjoy. Many ideas have been suggested on how to best do this, but we would also love to hear from you. If you have a suggestion in this regard, please let us know. We are looking forward to sharing this great house with the community.

In 1832, one hundred and seventy-five years ago this year, the Township of Milford, Michigan was founded. To pay tribute to this important event in our community's history, the Milford Historical Society is busy planning a 175th Anniversary Celebration to take place in conjunction with the annual MHS July 4th Parade down Main Street. Special activities have been suggested including a patriot concert in the park after the parade along with a picnic. Things are still being worked out, so stay tuned.

For the 175th Anniversary Celebration, Historical Society members Bob and Betty Crawford have designed a commemorative pin appropriate for families that are direct decedents of Milford's earliest settlers. The 175th Anniversary pin will be offered for sale by the Historical Society. And if you are a direct decedent of a Milford pioneer, please let us know. The Historical Society is planning a special float for you and other decedents to ride during the parade. So mark your calendar now and plan on sticking around after the parade for some good old fashioned Milford fun! We have a lot to look forward too, and I hope you and your family will join us for the celebration.

Sue Bullard, President

175th Anniversary Celebration

As Sue Bullard highlighted in her *President's Letter*, the 175th anniversary of Milford Township will be commemorated as part of the Society's 4th of July Parade in 2007. We are calling this celebration "**The Right Place at the Right Time,**" inspired by the title of the second chapter in the book *Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World: A History of Milford*.



Chairman Bob Crawford advises that the contract has been signed for the horse-drawn carriage that will carry settlers' decedents in the parade, and that a contract for the musical entertainment is pending. Bob says we need a LARGE grill to cook hot dogs at the Power House and more support in general. Please call Bob Crawford directly to help with this significant event. He can be reached at 248-634-9045.

The Mary Jackson Home: Then and Now

By David Chase

We recently located an old negative of the Mary Jackson home dated about 1900. In fact, we believe Mary Jackson may have used this early photo to guide her preservation of the house since its appearance then and now is very similar, as shown below.



Mary Jackson Home Circa 1900



Mary Jackson Home 2007

Mary left the house as a little girl and came back when she was in her sixties. In the time she was gone, the house was made into a duplex, which made her restorations efforts that much more difficult.

Of note, the home has six exterior doors: front, back and sides. These make it a light and airy house...but are a challenge to seal. We are working to accession all the furniture, glassware, pictures and paintings. So far we have recorded over 150 objects. Hey guys, we get to use the garage for tractors, tools, or anything laying around your basement. See me at the General Meeting on March 15th to talk about it.

MHS Web Site now on Wikipedia

Wikipedia.org hosts the world's largest, free, user generated content encyclopedia or Wiki, as they are called in the Internet world. Wiki's are edited by the public, which is free to add content, so they are constantly growing and changing. Our Webmaster, Norm Werner, got the idea to add a link to the Wikipedia site and has placed a link to the Milford Historical Society Web site under the entry for Michigan History, which is itself a sub-category of U.S. history, which is, as you may have guessed, a sub-category of world history. Type in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Michigan_history (note there are underscores between the Timeline_of_Michigan_history) to get to the Wiki link to our Web site.



The World Wide Web is truly worldwide. Norm advises we recently received a nice note from a researcher over in England who was researching the Milford name and happened across our Web site. He had nice things to say about the site and about our dedication to sharing our history.

If you haven't been to the site, or haven't been there in a while, go see all of what is there. You'll find virtual tours of the Museum and the Pettibone Creek Powerhouse, in addition to lots and lots of articles and pictures, plus quite a bit of content about the Milford Historical District. And remember that our site is our own little Wiki about Milford, Michigan. So, if you have something that you'd like to add, send it to Webmaster@www.milfordhistory.org and we'll get it on the Web and out to the world.

Granny's Attic Sale 2007

Send us your treasures

With spring house cleaning just around the corner, we remind you that Granny's Attic is a great place to donate your unwanted items. Although the Granny's Attic Sale itself won't be until July, we'll happily take



your treasures now and store them until then. Importantly, remember that your Historical Society receives the proceeds from the sale and you receive a deduction on your 2007 income taxes. For donation information, please contact David Chase at 248-421-3637.

Welcome new members!



We are pleased to announce that the newest members of the Milford Historical Society are **Dr. Ron Kuzdak** and wife **Nancy Kuzdak**, **Martha Kendall** and **Marlene Serwinek**. Welcome Ron, Nancy, Martha and Marlene!

2007 Dues are past due

Some members still have unpaid membership dues. Please give this your prompt attention. As noted, 2007 will be a very robust year for the Society that depends on your dues to maintain the Museum, publish this newsletter and execute several major events benefiting the Milford community.

The address label on this newsletter is stamped if your membership dues are unpaid. Your 2007 dues can be mailed to the Museum at 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381. Better still, bring them to our March 15th Membership Meeting...and save 39 cents. Thank you.





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Phone: 248-685-7308
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Website: www.milfordhistory.org

WHAT'S HOT

General Meeting
Thursday, March 15, 2007
United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic Street

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2007 Events

- Mar. 15...**General Meeting and Program:
"Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)"
- Mar. 22.....**Board of Directors Meeting
- Apr. 24....** Board of Directors Meeting
- May 17....**General Meeting and Program:
"100 Years of Fashion"
- May 25.....**Board of Directors Meeting
- July 13.....**Granny's Attic Sale (Museum & 14 lawn)
- July 22.....**MHS Annual Picnic

Board of Directors

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Sue Bullard | President |
| David Chase | Vice-President |
| Sue Gumpfer | Vice-President |
| Mary Lou Gharrity | Treasurer |
| Kathy Rheume | Recording Secretary |
| Judy Waara | Corresponding Secretary |
| Bill Schimmel | Director |
| Bill Crawford | Director |
| Judith Reiter | Director |
| Jeff Spoor | Director |
| Bob Crawford | Director |
| Sharon Jensen | Director |
| Norm Werner | Director |

Milford Museum Staff

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| Marlene Gomez | Assistant Director |
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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:
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