

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21th General Membership Meeting (Potluck) Program— Rosy the Riveter
Potluck assignments—A—F— Main Dish G—Q - Desserts R—Z— Side Dish or salad

May 27—Board Meeting— 7 PM at the Mary Jackson House

June 24— Board Meeting— 7 PM at the Mary Jackson House

July 16th (Camp Dearborn - July Picnic)
Jared Clouse stories about Camp Dearborn. Bring a picnic dish to pass and your drinks.

Welcome New Members

A special welcome to our new members

- Nancy Degenfelder of Milford
- Mary Patricia McCarty Parks of Milford



We are so pleased that you joined our Society and look forward to meeting you at an upcoming event. There are lots of opportunities coming up during the summer for you to volunteer and we hope that you will.

Reminder

Annual Memberships will expire on December 31, 2015. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2015, we encourage you to send in your membership dues and keep current on the goings on of the Historical Society.



Please let us know if you have an address change or prefer to receive your newsletter by email.

From Your President, Norm Werner

Pardon our dust! That's certainly been the operable phrase this spring as the renovations on the museum progress (see the Museum Director's article on Page 2). There has also been on-going activity with the project to digitize the MHS library of microfilm of back issues of the Milford Times. We hope to be able to see some results up on-line at the Clarke Library site soon.



The Huron Valley History Initiative had a slight setback with the resignation of Carol Watkins from the group and from the Milford Historical Society; however, a reconstituted and re-invigorated Initiative group composed of the three Township Libraries from Milford, Highland and White Lake, joined by representatives from the historical societies and groups in Highland and White Lake, is about to define the next phases of the project to make the history of the Huron Valley more accessible to all the citizens of the area. Stay tuned for more on that.

We are about to kick off the 2015 season for the Milford Historical Museum with increased hours—Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1—4 PM. This is in response to community feedback that we were not open enough during the weekend hours when people could visit. We need your help to make this happen. See Nancy Degenfelder's appeal for volunteers to be adult docents on page 5. As a group committed to the preservation and sharing of the history of Milford and the surrounding area, we aren't really meeting the goals of our mission unless we are open when the public is able to visit. Please help us make that happen.

We have kicked off a program to sell prints of some of our historic photos to local residents and businesses. A sample of what might be available is on display at the new Village Bar and Kitchen restaurant in downtown Milford. We have had several of our historic photos professionally scanned and will be offering unmatted and unframed prints, suitable for framing, in three sizes—8 X 10, 11 X 17 and 16 X 20. Other sizes will be available by custom order. All proceeds from the sale of these prints will go to support the operation of the Museum. Sales of the prints will be by appointment at the museum.

Finally—a challenge and an invitation. Come May 30 for the Grand Reopening of the renovated Milford Historical Museum. See what we did!

Our 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 & Milford Township.*

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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* - denotes Museum Researchers

MUSEUM DIRECTOR—ELAINE HUNTER
248-685-7308



From the Museum Director

Just as Spring has taken a very long time to arrive, our Museum improvements have taken more time and entailed more work than anyone expected. Such is the problem with working on an old building, as those of you with older homes know first hand. Nothing is ever simple or straight forward.

However, PROGRESS is being made. The restored post office window and mailboxes have been installed in the foyer. This is thanks to funds provided by Maria Moore Quester Chapter #432 and a matching grant from the MichiQuesters. The main display room walls are repaired and primed, awaiting paint and wallpaper after the ceiling has been installed. It is planned that this room will be completed by May 8th.

At that time I will be contacting those volunteers that signed up at the April General Membership Meeting and telling them the schedule for completing the many tasks still to be done before our opening. Anyone who would like to donate some time can contact me at detah101@aol.com or by phone 248 529-3393. Any suggestions for children's activities or displays that you would like to see at the museum should also be directed to me.

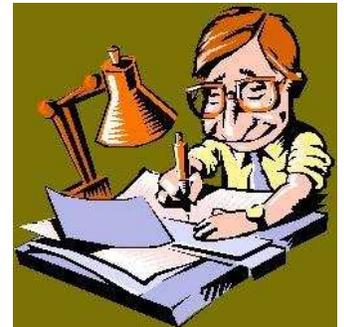
If anyone has any post office memorabilia they would like to donate/loan please let the Museum know. If anyone picked up the two phones that were left in a paper bag at the General Membership Meeting please drop them off at the Museum or contact me and I will pick them up from you.

The official opening of the Milford Historical Society Museum for the 2015 season will be on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 1:00pm. to 4:00pm. The Museum will be open from 1:00pm. to 4:00pm. on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Remember the Museum can always use your help. No special talents are needed to be a docent-just an interest in sharing history. The yard can always use fresh planting. There are many opportunities-just be willing and we will all benefit. Here's to a successful 2015 season.

A Note from The Reference Room

As most of our readers are aware of the renovation in the museum, I would like to bring to your attention a subject that sometimes gets overlooked "The Museum Reference Room". Our reference room is the foundation of Milford History. Our collections include old Maps, vintage photos and postcards, census records, history books of all sorts, and files on first families, etc. Having this reference material allows us to answer many questions and solve many history mysteries, and to educate the community.



Our collection of reference material has increased in the almost forty years since the beginning and there is still room for growth! Help us build upon this priceless resource of knowledge. We are always on the lookout for more reference material, especially old photos and postcards of Milford, old Milford High School yearbooks (the older the better) and abstracts of title for the Village or Township land, just to name a few. We would be interested in taking a look at any reference material out there. Contact us by phone (248-685-7308) or come to the Museum. Remember, If we each do a little, we can all do a lot.

Thank you - Jared Clouse, Researcher

The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

Milford Historical Society

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Editor: Norm Werner

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St. Mary's Old Stone Church

One hundred and fourteen years ago, Father Thomas X.F. Halley felt that the parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church needed a new building that would be prominent in the community.

The small English style white frame church that sat on the west end of what is now St. Mary's Cemetery on Summit St. was built in 1867.

The matter of building a new church began to be seriously considered very soon after the settlement of Father Thomas Halley here as pastor, which was at Christmas, 1901. He called a meeting of the men of the parish one Sunday after service, presented the matter and asked for suggestions, but stated that any plan to move or repair the old church building would not be considered. There wasn't much said by the parishioners at the meeting and little encouragement was forthcoming. However, the work of securing subscriptions began the next week. As the people became acquainted with their leader it was evident to them that something would be done and the work never faltered. A plan was devised to move the Rectory from its current location at the northwest corner of Commerce and Hickory, north one lot on Hickory and build the new church on that corner, facing East Commerce. The forty-five members of the church diligently began raising funds for the next five years.

On March 28, 1903, Father Halley received the detailed architectural plans done by Architect Harry J. Bill of Detroit, with an estimated cost of \$ 7,500.00 to complete the church, not including the electric, light fixtures or heating plant. The building design is of Gothic architecture, 45 by 95 feet, outside and with side walls of 20 feet and a spire 60 feet high, built of local field stone with projecting points at the corners, trimmed with cut limestone and a slate roof. The ground plan of the church is a parallelogram, with slight extensions on either side toward the north, giving it the modified cruciform effect. The interior wood work will be red oak with egg-shell finish. The pews of oak and the audience room 65 by 40, seating 300 comfortably. The building will be well lighted by over 100 electric lamps and heated by a hot air furnace.

Bids went out in April of 1903, and were awarded to Sam Richmond, of Milford, to move the Rectory. Sam became ill and another mover from Northville was called in to complete the move on April 25th. Adolphus Kuehnle of Howell was awarded the building contract. Work began quickly at the end of April, parishioners did the excavating, their horse drawn wagons hauled tons of natural field stone, gravel and sand from area farms, they pitched in wherever they could.

Contractor Kuehnle carried on the construction during the summer but before the end of the season, he became bankrupt and forfeited his contract. Local builder, Hiram A. Lowell of Milford took over supervision of the construction and stone masons John Maloney and W.J. Cochran did the majority of stone work. A new architect, Donaldson & Meyers was hired to complete the construction.

A corner stone was laid Oct. 20, 1903, by Bishop Foley and from then until the day of dedication, the construction was continued as funds permitted. Father Halley adhered strictly to the pay-as-you-go plan. He organized the Milford Dramatic Club which entertained the

Milford public with dramatic mysteries and thrillers that raised over \$3000.00 for the building fund. The Ladies' Alter Society, the Young Ladies' Sodality, the Young Men of the church and other groups raised money through bazaars, dinners, socials and subscriptions to pay for the new building. A statement shows that they raised \$3,298.00. for the building in 1904.

At the dedication on July 7, 1907, the church and furnishings were fully paid for at a cost of \$ 16,000.0, with the exception of about twelve hundred dollars.

Several factors contributed to the final cost being more than double the original estimate. Among them were changing plans to include hardwood floors in the auditorium, higher grade doors and inside finishes, tile floors at the altar and in the vestibule. The main reason was a sharp increase in the price of all building materials and labor, as much as fifty percent. Some items of cost, aside from the building proper, are as follows: Heating plant \$408., seats \$600., Electric wiring \$150., fixtures and installation \$371., altars and alter furniture \$1000.. At the time of dedication there was still work that needed to be finished, a communion rail \$300., basement finish \$1000.00 and decoration of the upstairs walls.

Parishioners were generous with their time and money as they watched their beautiful church grow. Three large rose windows of Cathedral glass were purchased, one each by the Young Ladies Sodality, the Young Men of the parish and the Altar Society. Memorial windows were given for Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Downey, Mr. & Mrs. Tobias Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. John Haley, Mr. & Mrs. Gleeson and Edward and Catherine Ferrigan. Other windows were donated and inscribed by Rev. Thomas F.X. Halley, Rev. Jas. A. Halley, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hyrne, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Farrell, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Flynn, Mr. and Mrs. James Ferrigan, Patrick Ormond, Mrs. Catherine Schoenemann, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Maloney, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schramm, Mr. and Mrs. Barnard Ferrigan, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Mayze and Patrick Dwyer.

Sunday, July 7, 1907, impressive ceremonies were held to dedicate St. Mary's New Church. Bishop Foley was present to perform the service and the large audience that filled the church came from miles in every direction and included many besides regular attendants of the Catholic Church. The bishop spoke words of congratulation to Father Halley, the people of the parish and of the community at large. He warmly thanked all who had in any way given assistance in the building enterprise. Father Halley has had the loyal support of his people and his work in completing this enterprise and is appreciated not only by them but by the community at large.

In 1967, St. Mary's Lady of the Snows moved to their new church on East Commerce Rd. and began a new era. Another church and several different businesses have taken up residence in the building over the years, Hypnotists, Party Rental, Physical Therapy. The old stone church has remained, an integral part of our community for everyone to enjoy viewing, run up and down the steps or climb on a rock or two. As this historical building is being repurposed, I hope the new owners of Bell Tower Condominiums will take into consideration all the labor and love the Catholic community put into the beautiful stone church that all of us enjoy. I will still refer to it as St. Mary's, although the younger generations will know it as Bell Tower Condominiums.

Submitted by Linda Dagenhardt

A Milford Mini Moment

Spelling Schools were very popular back in the day. Like Spelling Bees today the Schools would get together and have Spelling Contests.

One Spelling School who came to Milford wished they would of stayed home. A Student from the visiting School was given the task of pronouncing the word for his class. That word was Egypt.

Thinking he was saying it correctly, he went on to pronounce it Egg-Wipe-It. Eg-Egg Yp-Wipe T-It.

So every time he would say Egg Wipe It instead of Egypt of course his classmates would spell it the way it sounded.

Needless to say every student spelled it wrong and didn't know why until the Milford Students pronounced Egypt correctly due to a section they knew East of the Huron River in Milford was called Little Egypt.

Milford Spelling School won that day and the visiting School went home with EGG on it's face. (Get it? Egg?)

Legend has it Little Egypt was named for a section of land so far out of town it might as well be in Egypt. Another claims that parcel of land in Milford was all sand like the sands of Egypt..

The Little Egypt area is around Atlantic St. and River Rd near the Huron River. I hope you enjoyed this Milford Mini. Like the old saying "I'm sticking to it." Look for more Milford Mini's in future newsletters.

- Sandi Muirhead



New July Annual Picnic Location

Due to road construction this summer on Milford Rd our Annual July 16th Picnic will not be at Kensington Park. Traffic is being asked to enter off I-96 into the Park. Milford Rd. will be a nightmare and especially at that time of night. Our new location will be Camp Dearborn on GM Rd. Milford Seniors show your license or I.D. and get in free.



Jared Crouse's company worked there for years and he is going to tell us all some good stories. I will add my two cents worth since I have been going there since the 60's.

I'm thinking about grilling hot dogs if I can get some help with supplies and someone to grill. More to come in July Newsletter.

Who was Rosie the Riveter?

Rosie the Riveter was a fictitious character created by the U.S. government to encourage white middle class women to help fill the temporary labor shortage.

Rosie the Riveter first appeared in 1943 in a song sang by the Four Vagabonds. Norman Rockwell drew a brawny and unglamorous depiction of Rosie on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post on May 29, 1943. Later a more glamorous and colorful Rosie wearing a red bandanna, with more delicate features with the slogan "We Can Do It" appeared on a new poster.



The real Rosie just passed away in the last few weeks. She was the model for the poster and lived in Ann Arbor. She was a member of the Rosie the Riveter Association as is our Guest Speaker.

Our Guest Speaker Donnaleen Lanktree is the past President of the National American Rosie the Riveter Association. She has such a true passion for these ladies and their lives. She will be sharing her amazing and touching stories of these women workers and their home front experiences.

During WW II hundreds of thousands of American women worked in factories, shipping yards, building airplanes and providing supplies needed to win the war. Ms. Lanktree's mother was a Rosie and her father served in the Army. Donnaleen is a Rosebud. How sweet is that?

Rosie was never intended to empower women. It was understood that Rosie worked solely to "bring the boys home" and be replaced when they return and resume her domestic role. And that is what happened to the majority of women who worked.

Ok... you knew it was coming.... Maybe wear a red bandanna, rolled up sleeved shirts and show your muscles. Ok skip the last one. Cutest Rosie outfit wins a prize. So come and find out about the women who's motto was "We Can Do It".

- Sandi Muirhead

Programs Past and Future

Our May 21 Thursday General Meeting will be a Potluck at the Methodist Church at 6:30 P.M. Please check list for what to bring. We thank everyone for attending last months meeting. Joyce and her husband got their exercise carrying chairs out for the constant guests who kept coming in. Thank you for your help that evening.

Mrs. Milford Made Attendance History. (I think)

After a few hiccups at the beginning of the April General Membership Meeting all went as planned. That April 16th General Meeting had the biggest attendance since I have been doing Programs. All the WHO's WHO came out that night to hear our own Mary Lou tell her fond memories of growing up on Main St. Milford. We had 65 Guests and members who enjoyed a wonderful potluck and did not want MaryLou to stop. She said she forgot so many things, but I don't think anyone noticed. I know everyone would agree with me that it was a fun and historic evening. A special thanks to Joyce Clark for all her hard work creating this program also.

Spring Tea Thank You

A few years ago we came up with an idea to hold a Victorian Tea and Fashion Show at the Mary Jackson House to help raise funds to preserve the 1873 home. All these years later we are still grateful to our guests that come out and support our event. On Saturday, April 25, we held our annual Spring Tea and once again our tea was a sellout.

Putting together a fundraiser takes the work of a lot of helpers who help organize, prepare food and set tables – thank you to those who helped add a special touch to the day. Our fashion

show featured Wedding dresses from the late 1800's to 2015 – thank you to our models who squeezed into those tiny size gowns. And thank you to the families who have donated/entrusted the Historical Society with their family wedding dresses.

A special thank you to Acorn Farms and Main Street Art who sold tickets and Thank you to the Village Florist for donating beautiful floral arrangements. Thank you to Debbie Sivegney who loaned her grandmothers 1928 wedding dress for the day. Also thank you to Gina's Bridal Shop in Milford who loaned us two Flower Girls Dresses for the day.

We cannot express our gratitude enough to all those who help makes this day a success. We are truly grateful for your support. We hope to see everyone again at our Fall Tea. The date of the Fall Tea will be Saturday, November 7, 2015.



Marge Sawruk Honored

The Historical Society of Michigan recently recognized the important work of Marge Sawruk from White Lake with the State History Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service. The Fisk Farm, a historic complex that was slated for demolition, survives today because Sawruk

worked to save it on its original site.

Now restored, the farm serves as a focal point for an annual festival that raises much of the White Lake Historical Society's operating revenue. Later, she spearheaded the effort to save the one-room 1876 Thompson School and move it to the farm property.

Sawruk serves as a docent for tours, edits the society's newsletter, wrote the text for the society's coloring and activity book, and works with numerous other historical organizations.

Marge is a member of the Milford Historical Society and owner of the Hibbard Tavern in Milford. Marge is a frequent volunteer at MHS events.



Help Wanted—Adult Docents

History Buffs-Adults with a love of history wanted on Wednesday, Saturday & Sundays, starting on May 30th. To give tours of your Museum

It would be from 1 PM to 4 PM No experience needed. All rooms are scripted, you just need a desire to help and to share. If interested, please call Nancy Degenfelder @ 248-909-9091 For further information.

Museum closes in December for the Season until May of 2016

Student Docents for 2015

For 2015, we have 7 student docents and are in need of more. Not only that, but 2 of our 7 will be graduating this year. I have contacted Student Services at Milford High School asking if she can send out our scholarship information to the parents of the students that are sophomores, juniors and seniors to see if we can peak any interest.

As you may know, our program is a paid one, in which the student will get paid in the senior year for their service up to \$1,000 maximum. This breaks down to \$10 per hour and above that, will look good on any resume in the future. Not only that, the pride of working for a very worthwhile organization, such as ours.

If you know of anyone that might be interested, please have them contact me directly at 248-514-9124 and I will arrange to meet with them. With the additional day added to our museum, (which is Sunday's from 1:00-4:00 p.m.), we will indeed need more volunteers!

Rena Valentine— Student Docent Coordinator

Wedding Dress from 1800 Donated

A special thank you to the Crawford Family for donating a family heirloom—a wedding dress from 1800. Before the days of the current fashion of white wedding dresses, women got married in whatever dress they had that was their best or perhaps they had a new dress made but it would not have been white.





MHS 38th Home Tour News

Mark your calendars! September 19th and 20th are not that far away.

May is the month that the Home Tour committee gears up for another fun and challenging year. The Home Tour is the Milford Historical Society's major fundraiser. It enables us to maintain the museum, sponsor the 4th of July parade, offer student docent scholarships, preserve Milford's history and much more. If you would be interested in joining our committee, please contact Sue Gumper for information about the tasks the committee must tackle to accomplish a successful home tour.

The search for this year's homes is underway. The committee is

pleased to announce a special stop this year. The Masons are planning special tours of their 150 year old building, now the Masonic Temple, during the Home Tour. With this in mind the Home Tour committee is seeking homes between Canal and E. Commerce so that the tour will be easy to walk. If you have a home in this area and would be interested in putting it on the Home Tour please contact Sue Gumper.

Sue also keeps a list of interested home owners for future years and would be very happy to add your name and address to the list. If you have questions about having your home on the tour or would like to join the Home Tour Committee contact Sue at 248-685-2691 or s.gump@frontier.com.

Please enroll me/us as a member (s) of the Milford Historical Society:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: Milford Historical Society, 124 East Commerce, Milford MI 48381

Phone: 248-685-7308

Annual Member Dues:

Table with 4 columns: Member Type, Amount, Member Type, Amount. Rows include Student (\$5), Senior (\$10), Individual (\$15), Corporation (\$250+), Family (\$25), Lifetime (\$250), Small Business (\$50).

Please let us know if you would prefer to receive your copy of the bi-monthly Historian via email. It saves us the postage and will get it to you sooner.