

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.*

“Celebrating our Hometown Veterans”

November 15, 2007 Meeting and Program

To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.-November 1919-President Woodrow Wilson.

It was November 11, 1918 when the countries involved in World War I signed an Armistice or truce. And the familiar phrase, “the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month,” was born. Many people called this “the war to end all wars.” A year later on November 11, 1919 President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11th as Armistice Day, but it wasn't until 1938 when Congress passed a bill that each November 11th “shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and ... hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day.” Just one year after the dedication of Armistice Day, World War II began. After World War II people still celebrated November 11th as Armistice Day, but felt it was more fitting to call this day Veterans Day to honor the veterans of both World War I and World War II. It wasn't until 1954 that the name was officially changed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Today Veterans Day is in honor of every war that the United States has fought.

In August, 1919 a group of local World War I Veterans held their first meeting and organized the first American Legion Post. Milford's Post was named after Ernest F. Oldenburg – a Milford soldier killed in action in France. Today Milford's American Legion Post 216 continues to support and give assistance to the men and women who protected us. Besides sponsoring the Annual Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony in Central Park, Post 216 provides: monthly visits to homebound Vets, helps find donations for World War II vets to spend a day in Washington D.C. visiting the WWII Memorial, the Korean Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial, as well as providing local families with honor guards for funeral and grave side ceremonies. At our November General Membership Meeting reminisce with some of our local Veterans about their experiences and learn more about the opportunities that our American Legion Post offers veterans. Our speaker for the evening will be Past Commander Joseph Salvia from American Legion Post 216 and the Commander of Huron Valley AMVets Post 2006.

Our November General Membership meeting will be back at the **Milford Methodist Church** located at 1200 Atlantic Street. Our evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with our annual Thanksgiving potluck. The board of directors will provide the turkey, you supply the fixings! Following our feast, we will have a brief business meeting beginning at 7:30 with our program immediately following. 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 evening with people who like history. The Historical Society Potlucks are famous for being the best potluck in town!!



Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Thursday, November 15, 2007

6:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church

1200 Atlantic, Milford



A-G

Hot Side Dish

H-R

Salad

S-Z

Dessert

Everyone: table service & beverage

From your President...

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank all our volunteers who contributed so much to the Milford Historical Society in 2007.

Our year began with the acquisition of the Mary Jackson Home, followed by Milford Township's 175th Anniversary Celebration. Next came our Granny's Attic Sale. Then the phone rang, and with it came an opportunity to earn money during Milford Memories. September brought Home Tour 2007. A month later, we welcomed friends to the first open house at Mary Jackson's home. Throw in cleaning both the Museum and the Mary Jackson house, and the ongoing accessioning of items and artifacts donated to the Historical Society. The Power House Committee was then rewarded with a grant from the History Channel. And don't forget the contribution of our docents who escort our guests through our Museum. Did I overlook anything?

With all good works come challenges. How can we execute such events on a very limited budget? Like most not-for-profit organizations, the Milford Historical Society depends entirely on the donations that we receive. And with the acquisition of two houses this year, we've had to stretch these dollars even further. I must admit, I was skeptical about how much we could do. My Mom always says to have faith and things will work out. And she was right, our neighbors have been highly supportive of our efforts. They reached into their pockets and helped us out. So, on behalf of the Milford Historical Society, I would like to thank those businesses that contributed and supported our efforts. We truly appreciated your support.

As our accomplishments grow so do our expectations for the future. We will continue to be a Society that supports our community and offers resources for all residents to enjoy. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish everyone the very best Holiday Season. We hope you are able to spend it with your friends and loved ones, and that the coming year promises more than the past year. The year 2008 doesn't appear to be as busy as 2007. ut you never know when the phone will ring with another opportunity. So stay tuned!

Sue Bullard

Help Wanted

The Milford Historical Society is looking for volunteers to do historical research. In the past Barb Young served as the unofficial "historian" for the Society, often doing research for people on the build date for their houses (normally when they were ordering an Historic Home Plaque) or looking into family backgrounds of people with Milford connections. With Barb's passing, that role has been filled on a temporary, as-needed basis by several members who have worked on the historical background of homes on the Home Tour or to meet other specific needs; however, we've had no one to field many of the requests for the history on homes and people that continue to come in.



If you're a history buff, with some time to contribute, the Historical Society would welcome your help to respond to these requests. Activities would include researching Village, Township or County records for information on homes in the area, researching the Milford Times archives (on microfilm at the museum) for stories about specific people or events from Milford's past and researching through the archived materials at the Milford Museum to answer questions about Milford's past. The Society charges a nominal fee for some of this research, with all of the funds going to support the museum and the preservation mission of the Society. Your role would be voluntary, but hugely rewarding, if you like history.

If you are interested in volunteering to take on some research tasks, please contact the Museum Director Marlene Gomez at 248-685-7308 or email milfordhistory@yahoo.com.

Norm Werner

Museum News



We would like to thank Ray Keeling for helping out at the museum. He has volunteered his time almost every Wednesday for the last month and he is a big help. We are so lucky to have him! we also want to welcome a new student docent, Jessica Powers, a junior from Milford High School. We look forward to working with her for the next couple of years. We also have Lakewood Elementary second graders coming in for a tour on November 19th. We will be decorating for Christmas soon. This year the museum will close for the winter on December 19, 2007. We will be **decorating the museum** for the holidays on Saturday, November 17th. We will begin at 11 a.m. and it usually takes 2 hours to complete. All are welcome and encouraged to join us. *Marlene Gomez*

MHS Home Tour 2007

A big Thank-you to our Home Tour 2007 volunteers.

The annual Home Tour provides the funding for the operation and upkeep of the Milford Historical Museum, and other projects sponsored by the Historical Society including student docent scholarships, microfilming of the Milford Times, and the Fourth of July parade. This is why we greatly appreciate everyone who volunteers their time and expertise to the Home Tour.



The Milford Historical Society Home Tour requires a large team of dedicated volunteers to be successful. This year the residents of five wonderful homes volunteered to open their doors and graciously welcomed about 800 curious visitors. The homeowners were partnered with five house captains who worked diligently to ensure the tours were informative and moved smoothly. A big thanks goes to the Oak Grove Cemetery Funding Committee for providing our sixth tour site. They opened the gates to our beautiful cemetery and provided informative tours that featured Milford's founding families. We also had MHS members leading tours and/or activities at the cabin, powerhouse, museum and tractor show.

Behind the scenes MHS members took charge of volunteer procurement, publicity, entertainment, hospitality, signage, finance, historic research and sponsorships. This was a small but very dedicated group of people who were committed to making the 2007 home tour a success.

Our home tour docents make up the largest group of volunteers. About 250 community members and Milford High School students donated 3 hours to welcome our visitors and guide them through the homes. We couldn't do the tour without them.

The 2007 Home Tour was a success! The MHS Board greatly appreciates each and every volunteer. We know you worked hard and hope you had fun.

Sue Gumper

Home Tour 2007 Report

Home Tour weekend was a wonderful success! It's a tribute to the committee chairs and the many docents that the event ran so smoothly. As for the numbers, we sold a total of 524 tickets and offered approximately 250 docents and sponsor free tickets. The gross profit from ticket sales equaled \$8,004. Our Home Tour Sponsorship Program has grossed \$500 to date. This will go a long way in providing the necessary funds to operate the Milford Historical Museum and the Society's many projects.

Sue Gumper

Support our Home Tour 2007 Sponsors

Home Tour 2007 sponsors also played an important role in the success of this year's event. They are:

- **The Milford Times:** Platinum Sponsor (4th year)
- **Milford Downtown Development Authority (DDA):** Gold sponsor (3rd year)

In appreciation for their generous contributions, please return the favor by supporting them.

Powerhouse News

Over 300 guests visited the Powerhouse this summer! It has been a big draw to all ages and interests. A great bonus, we have attracted several people who have offered or are exploring getting involved in some way:

- **Paul Braun**, principle of AccuNet Web Services has set up a website (www.milfordpowerhouse.com) that we continue to add to. He has also produced a photo tour of the Powerhouse available at www.tourpowerhouse.com. It's a great tool for marketing our project, but, if you can, make a "real" visit. It's even more impressive with the sound of rushing water and the feel of bricks and steel.
- **Educational planners** working with a National Science Foundation grant are exploring using the Powerhouse site as a summer learning location.
- **Electrical Installation:** the committee is exploring a visitor's offer of in-kind services to install the interior electrical.

Other News:

- **History Channel educational grant:** Some students have visited. Two have begun making a 3-D model of the Powerhouse.
- **Paint-a-Tile Installation:** Margaret Wheeler is working with the grant administrator on a project to involve the students in designing the installation of the 190 tiles painted as a fundraiser which began in 2002.

Remembering Carlton Crawford

We were very sad to receive the news of Carlton Crawford's passing. Carlton, a life-long resident of Milford, passed away on October 19th at the age of 95. He was born at home on the farm started by his great-great grandfather in 1835. He worked the farm his entire life. He was married to Winnie for 71 years. Carlton was a Charter Member of the Historical Society and served on the Board of Directors for many years. A devoted member and volunteer to this organization, Charlton will be dearly missed by everyone.

Welcome new members!

We are pleased to announce that **Charles and Susan Smith, Amanda Schmidt and Heather Uribe** are the newest members of the Milford historical Society. Welcome Charles, Susan, Amanda and Heather.

Mary Jackson Home update

The grand opening of the Mary Jackson home was held on October 12th with invitations going out to some of Mary's friends and supporters of the Historical Society. Just like magic, the house began glowing with the entrance of the first guest and lasted the entire weekend. Guests were entertained by Cindy Sherwood who played Mary's piano using sheet music found at the house. The house received kind remarks by those who knew Mary, with the highest compliment being from a friend of Mary's when she said that she would have been pleased with the evening.

The following day the home was open to the public. Guests on Saturday were able to walk through the house and hear some of the history of the house and of its famous occupant. Once again our visitors were delighted with the house.

Interest in the house has been so great that we have decided to hold another open house on Saturday, December 1st from 11 am to 5 pm. Tickets will be \$10.00 with 100% of the ticket price going toward the preservation of the house.

On October 26th the Historical Society and the Mary Jackson House had its first inspection by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. If you remember when the Historical Society received the house, with Mary's instructions – an easement was placed on the outside of the house. What this means is that Mary wishes for the outside of the house to remain true to its early existence. Before any renovations or repairs can be done we must consult the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. On the 26th we met with representatives from both the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. And the Executive Director from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Our guests were very pleased with the work that has been done to date and had helpful suggestions on future work. We are all looking forward to a partnership with both preservation groups in our efforts to restore Mary's home



Join us on Veteran's Day



The Milford American Legion will hold a Veterans Procession and Ceremony on Sunday November 11, 2007. All veterans are encouraged to join in as well as family friends and community. All will assemble at the American Legion in Milford around 1:30 p.m. At 2:00 p.m., the entire group, with a police escort in front and in the rear, will walk east on Commerce and then south to Central Park. A brief ceremony will be conducted for Veterans. Those that are unable to walk may follow in their cars or go directly to the Park and meet us there.

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

WHAT'S HOT

**General Meeting &
 Thanksgiving Dinner
 November 15th**

**Museum Decorating
 November 17th**

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2007 Events

- Nov. 15...** General Meeting & Program:
 "Honoring our Hometown
 Veterans"
- Nov. 17...** Decorate Museum for the
 holidays: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 1.....** Mary Jackson Open House:
 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 19....** Museum closes for season

Board of Directors

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Milford Museum Staff

Marlene Gomez Assistant Director

685-7308

The Milford Historian

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

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Editor: Jay Qualman
 248-676-0234

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Submission deadlines:
 Last day of February,
 April, June, August, Oc-
 tober & 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