



The Milford Historian

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MHS Programs 2020

All events and programs for the remainder of 2020 have been canceled.

History repeats itself.

Jackie Swenson came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

This is Timeless.....

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of
being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, and someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

Author unknown



From Our President, Sue Bullard

Happy summer to our Historical Society family.

I hope you and your family are staying safe and enjoying this summer weather.

This time of the year would normally find our Historical Society hosting events at the museum and preparing for the Independence Day parade. Our Home Tour Committee would be busy preparing for the upcoming tour and we would start thinking of our Fall Tea at the Mary Jackson House. But as we all know, this year is much different than any year we have experienced before. We began the year postponing the opening of the museum. And cancelling our annual Independence Day parade. We had high hopes that this pandemic would be behind us and that we could resume our normal activities by July.

The Milford Historical Society is committed to the health and safety of our volunteers and our visitors. The Board of Directors have ongoing discussions on how to proceed with the rest of the year. Our main concern is what is best for our members. The Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel the remaining events for this year. Our museum will remain closed for the rest of this year. All our General Membership Meetings for the rest of the year will be cancelled. We are also cancelling our Annual Home Tour and the Fall Tea at the Mary Jackson House. I know that many of you look forward each year to these events and will be disappointed that we have cancelled the activities for the rest of this year. No one is more disappointed than I am. I look forward to seeing all of you and sharing the things that makes this community so special.

With the decision to cancel all this year's events, we are brainstorming on how we can still do some fun activities while still following the proper protocol. We are coming up with ideas on how we can share our historic information and be active in our community? Our Museum Committee is busy coming up with some great ideas. We will have more to report in our next newsletter, so stay tuned. A good way to keep in touch is to check our website – www.milfordhistory.org and our Facebook page for more information.

This year is definitely financially hard on our society. Our society depends on the proceeds of our Annual Home Tour to maintain our museum and pay our Student Scholarship. With this year's home tour being cancelled this year will be challenging. But with thanks to the hard work of Jackie Swenson and Sue Gumpfer,

The Milford Historical Society was awarded a Hope Grant. This grant was offered by the State of Michigan for museums such as ours to help out during this Pandemic. How lucky we are to have such dedicated volunteers who are working hard during these challenging times to help preserve our museum. We have also made an appeal to past Home Tour Sponsors and Supporters to make Home Tour donations again this year, even without having an actual Home Tour.

So even with our museum being closed there is a lot going on. If you are a docent and feel comfortable coming to the museum and helping with some work, please let me know. We will be having small groups of workers at the museum. We have to limit the number of people in the museum, but have a lot of work to accomplish.

I will end my letter the same way I began, I hope you and your family continue to stay safe and very soon we will be back together enjoying Milford history.

Our Mission Statement: We are organized exclusively for educational purposes. We bring together people who are interested in history, especially the history of the

Membership Reminder

Our annual membership drive began in January. If you have not paid your membership dues yet, you can still do so. The membership form is on the back of this newsletter.

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Museum Director



Museum Director's Report -

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!

The Museum Committee met recently to discuss how best to move forward at the museum during the current Coronavirus situation. The decision was made to keep the museum closed for the remainder of this season. We will use the time to prepare for an awesome 2021 season. We will also be working to make sure the community does not forget about us! Your help is needed to do this!

Although Home Tour 2020 has been cancelled, we are working on a walking tour booklet featuring historic homes and businesses in the Village. Help is needed to search our files and compile information on these homes and businesses.

There are collections and computer related projects that Jackie Swenson would like some help with. We also have some maintenance and cleaning projects where assistance would be appreciated. If you enjoy working outdoors, we have an immediate need that you could help with. Our Master Gardener, Sue Grifor, is in the process of moving landscaping stones and benches, weeding, etc. and could really use some help. Let us know if you would like to work on this, or just stop and lend a hand if you see her out there!

We are working on developing some virtual program offerings – including historical storytelling. If you can offer any assistance with the technical side of this or have any suggestions for programs and activities, please let us know.

In August, in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, we will be featuring a "Porch Exhibit" about its ratification. Stay tuned for more information! Mark your calendar, as we will again be doing Trick or Treating on Halloween from the museum porch. As we get closer, donations of candy, treat bags and ribbon would be appreciated. We will also need help assembling treat bags, decorating the porch and help passing out the goodies!

If you are interested in helping us behind the scenes this year on any of these projects, please let me know and we will get you started. In all instances, proper protocols and social distancing will be in place to ensure that everyone stays safe and healthy. Also, if you would share your thoughts with me regarding the COVID-19 crisis and its effects on the museum, how you feel about working with the public in light of this, and any ideas you might have for programs that we can offer during our shutdown, it would be most appreciated.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer!

Tami Averill
Museum Director

Somewhere is time by Linda Dagenhardt

100 years ago, the Roaring 1920's, were in full swing, a boisterous era of prosperity, fast cars, jazz, speakeasies, and wild youth. F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemmingway entered the literary market and Art Deco designs influenced the art world.

Our U.S. Bill of Rights was amended twice in one year, the 18th. amendment for prohibition and the 19th. amendment giving women the right to vote. For the very first time, election results from Washington D.C. were given over the radio, creating the future for mass media.

The PONZI scheme was created by Italian immigrant Charles Ponzi

Walter Dickinson, a cotton buyer for Johnson & Johnson, created the first Band-Aid for his new wife, who cut her fingers frequently while cooking. Chicago attorney, Sebastian Hinton applies for a patent for the jungle gym and Eddie Bauer's Sport Shop opens in Seattle.

John T. Thompson patents the Tommy Gun. Its intended use was trench warfare in WWI. But it came after the War ended, and instead mobsters take to it in the streets of America.

The Milford Times editor, Carrie Jackson Rowe (see page 3), would have made sure "Milfordites" knew of all these happenings.



Editor: Norm Werner

Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org

Our museum

If you have been passing by the Museum, you may have noticed that our 1854 building was recently painted. While the Historical Society paid for the painting Rashid Construction went well beyond the work that we had contracted with them at no extra cost. Thank you so much for making our building shine so bright.



Work will also begin soon on the back entrance to the museum. We have a generous donation to remove the old wood and railing on the handicapped entrance. And one more thank you goes out to another generous donation to wash all the windows of the museum. All the storms will be removed from the building and the inside window along with the storm windows will be cleaned.

And last, but not least Thank you to Sue Grifor. Sue has been busy working on the landscaping at both the museum and the Mary Jackson House.

Student Scholarships

*Class
of*

2020



This year we had two students that graduated High School that earned a scholarship from the Milford Historical Society.

Chloe Reno graduated from Milford High school and Morgan Sprader graduated from Lakeland High School.

Congratulation to both of you and best of luck in your future.

Carrie Jackson Rowe—Submitted by Sue Bullard

Carrie Jackson Rowe, was one of the first woman publishers in the state of Michigan. Her family was responsible for establishing and running the Milford Times. Those two things alone would make her one of Milford's more remarkable women. But there is more to Carrie than just her journalism.



Carrie Marian Jackson was born on December 25, 1866 in Detroit Michigan. A year later her family would move from Detroit and make Milford their home. Carrie's parents were Isaac Pratt Jackson and Ann Simpson. Isaac's profession was the local druggist, but Isaac and his wife felt that the little community of Milford needed a newspaper and they soon put together what we know as The Milford Times. The first published edition of the Milford Times was on February 18, 1871.

Soon the family was busy publishing a weekly paper and when Isaac died in 1886, his wife Ann, along with Carrie and her brother Bert continued to publish the paper. Ann passed away in 1888 and in 1892 Bert died. This left Carrie at the age of 25 to continue to publish the local paper. And that she did. Carrie ran the paper alone for 4 years until she married Grant S. Rowe in 1896. Carrie and Grant ran the paper for the next 40 years along with raising their eight children.

Carrie graduated Milford High School in 1882. Throughout her life she was known for her involvement in the community. In a time when a woman's voice was not often heard, Carrie changed that. Carrie used the newspaper to help make important changes to our community. She was not afraid to call out the politicians and often challenged the politicians to make changes. Changes like better streets and sidewalks. She wrote about how important it was to have the depot heated for those waiting for the train. She wrote about the importance of a warning bell at the railroad crossings. She also spoke about the cleanup of the mill site so it could be used for swimming. Through Carrie's editorial column she campaigned for a better way of life. And when Carrie spoke everyone listened.

Not only was Carrie using her editorial page to make changes, but she also gave her time. One of Carrie's accomplishment included her involvement with the Monday Literary Club. The Monday Literary Club was a group of women that gathered together weekly. This group was credited with establishing Milford's first Library. The group also helped purchase the

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Milford Historical Society

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(Carrie Jackson Rowe -Continued from page 3)

books for the library. They are also credited with establishing Home Economic classes in the High School. Carrie was a strong believer in women's rights and was part of the women's suffrage movement. Carrie believed in a better life for the women of Milford and would use her voice to campaign for those changes.

In 1893 Carrie was featured in the Michigan Woman's Press Association magazine and in 1895, she was asked to speak to the Michigan Press Association. Her topic: "Can a Young Lady Successfully Conduct a Country Paper?" Carrie knew a woman could run a publication because she had been running a paper for years. In her speech she said: "Women, either with the experience and wisdom of years, or the enthusiasm and fervor

of youth, are doing credible newspaper work in nearly all departments, from the editorial sanctum to the composing room, on the city daily as well as the obscure country weekly."

In 1935, Carrie's son Robert took over the publication of The Milford Times. He and his wife Myrtle ran the paper until 1948 when two partners joined the business. The arrangement did not work out. Eventually their shares were sold to William H. Gharry and his son Robert Gharry.

Carrie Marian Jackson Rowe died on October 31, 1949 at the age of 83. In May of 1990 Carrie Marian Jackson Rowe, was posthumously elected to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame. Carrie will be known in our community as an exceptional journalist and someone that was not afraid to use her voice to make our community a better place to live.

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:

Individual	\$25	Family	\$50
Senior	\$10	Lifetime	\$250
Small Business	\$50		
Corporation	\$250+		

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