

July at the Milford Historical Society

From Our President, Norm Werner

Museum -

Our museum is open on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. We are still looking for volunteers to docent at the museum. This year our display room features displays on

- Native American Trail Marker
- The history of The Milford Times
- Local Businesses

Independence Day Parade



July 4th - the Historical Society runs the parade and the Society had a float in the parade. Thanks to Ron Wilson for putting together the float and to Sue Bullard for getting the parade volunteers.

Granny's Attic Sale - July 8 & 9 with set up on July 7

We still need volunteer help for the set up and the sale. Contact Duane Freitag at 248-408-5147 if you can help. Granny's Attic Sale - July 8th and 9th - begins 9:00 am on the lawn of the Museum



Historical Society Picnic - July 24th - picnic begins 2pm - 980 Weaver Rd. Bring a dish to pass, your own table setting and your own chair. The Society will provide the hot dogs and fixings, as well as drinks.



President's Report – July 2022

The Milford Historical Museum is OPEN! A special thanks to all of those who worked so hard to get the museum ready to open for the 2022 season, whether it was helping with cleaning or setting up the new exhibits or recruiting and training new docents. If it takes a Village to raise a child, it takes lots of people from the Village to open the Museum.

The new exhibits are very interesting and were a challenge to get ready. The exhibit about the recently discovered Native American trail marker tree in Milford Township is particularly interesting because it not only documents that find but explains how the Native Americans in this area marked the various major trails that crisscross the area. You may have stumbled upon one of these trees on a hike and wondered how the tree got that way. Come see how they did that. Thanks to Ron Wilson for documenting the authentication process and for creating or collecting the items in that exhibit.

The exhibit on the earliest days of the local paper – The Milford Times – documents the ownership and editorship of the paper from its beginning and features the original Editor's Desk that was lost for a long time, as well as photos and memorabilia from the early days of the paper. Included in the display is the printing plate from the very first edition of the Milford Times. Our three Sue's – Bullard, Griffor and Gumper – all contributed to that display.

The Display Room also has an exhibit of memorabilia from many of the earliest businesses in Milford, thru the Ford Carburetor Plant era. You might be surprised to see some of the early businesses that flourished for a while in the Village.

Special thanks to Sue Bullard from stepping up to the challenge of recruiting and training new docents for the 2022 season. Sue was successful in recruiting 16 new adult docents and three student docents and is slowly getting everyone up to speed on docenting at the Museum. If you would like to be a docent, get in touch with Sue and let her know. It's fun and a great way to interact with people in an interesting setting.

We have finally begun work to restore the Mary Jackson House, once we received an insurance settlement for the damages that the frozen water pipe caused last winter. We have also begun work on making repairs and updates to the Rental property next to the Mary Jackson house to get it ready to rent again. Hopefully that work will be done by the end of July or mid-August.

We welcomed two new board members in June – Chris Smith and Ben Bow-

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NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

We welcome three new Lifetime Members to the Society—Robert Oberg and Ron and Rebecca Wilson. Ron is also serving on the Board of Directors.

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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Museum News

Our museum is open and ready for visitors! Currently we are open only on Saturday. We had a good response to our request for new docents. Please join me in welcoming: Dense Russell, Al Raddi, Matt Weisberg, Donna Yeager Fair, Diana Marie Klein, Sandy Whalen, Daniel Crawford, Cindy Welborn, John Schairer, Chris Smith, Rick Rustad, Bill Hundley, Myles Davies, Nevada Verrino, Melanie Bass, Caroline Colt and Kathy Kearney. We are so pleased that you have agreed to help give tours of the museum. I would also like to give a big thank you to the docents that have come back this year. Thank you to Sheila Shuler, Russ Rheaume, Sarah Cuddeback, Jordan Jachim and Carolyn Graves.

We have a few people that couldn't make our training date in May, so if you or you know of someone that you know would like to join our docent crew, please let me know. We will send out another email with the date of the next training.

New exhibits

Each year, we change the display room to feature something new. One display features the history of Native American Trail Markers. Ron Wilson has put together a beautiful exhibit showing how the trail markers are formed and where the Native American Trails were.

Our next display features the history of the Milford Times. Sue Bullard and Sue Gri-for were inspired when the desk of Isaac Jackson was returned to the Milford Historical Society. The display shows the history of the families that reported on people of Milford.

We thank Sue Gumpper who designed a display of Milford Businesses of yester year, showing the changes of manufactures and retail outlets of Milford.

Special Tours/Private Tours

The end of the school year meant, a special tour of the museum for 66 students. Our museum was visited by the second graders from Johnson Elementary School. Our young visitors got a chance to explore the museum and heard about the times of our early pioneers. Thank you to Sheila Shuler, Sarah Cuddeback and Duane Freitag for giving the Johnson School Students a great tour.

A few days later we got a call requesting a private tour for a young group that had a special play date and they requested a tour of the museum. Thank you to Russ Rheaume for giving a great tour to our young visitors.

And thank you to Norm Werner who happened to be at the museum when he heard a knock on the door. A small group of women thought we were open and was looking for a tour of the museum.

We are happy to accommodate private tours, just call the museum at 248-685-7308 and leave a message. We will call back and arrange a date and time to give your group a tour of the museum.

The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

Milford Historical Society

published bimonthly (six times per year)



Editor: Norm Werner

Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org

MHS HOME TOUR IS BACK!

Join Us in Celebrating the 44th Home Tour

September 17th and 18th

Submitted by Sue Gumper

July is the month that the Home Tour committee gears up for another fun and challenging year. After two difficult years

with no tours, we are excited to bring back 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.

This year as I walked around Milford meeting homeowners and talking about the tour, I was filled with pride for our community and the warm friendly people who live here. It was very clear that all the Milford home-

owners I spoke to take pride in their homes and love living in our community.

While many homeowners are not quite ready to share their homes, "there is always one more thing to do", I am pleased to announce that we have five beautiful homes eager to support the Historical Society and open their doors to interested visitors.

As you support our local businesses during Milford Sidewalk Sales, be sure to watch for the "See Me In September" signs that will be popping up. The homes are located at 645, 722, 728 N. Main St, 615 Hickory St. and 930 Weaver Rd. Drive by and take an early peek as the homeowners are busy preparing for your September visit.

The 2022 home tour committee met in June and will meet again in July. If meeting new friends, visiting beautiful homes and supporting the preservation of Milford history sounds interesting, we always welcome new members. Please contact Sue Gumper (248-685-2691) for information about joining the committee or being a docent during the tour. We need your support and ideas.

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erman. I am particularly happy to welcome Chris and Ben because Chris has agreed to become the MHS Treasurer and Ben has agreed to be his back-up. I am relieved to be able to give up those duties.

I am also very thankful to Duane Freitag and Sue Gumper for working hard to restart two of our major fund-raising activities – the Granny's Attic Sale this month and the Milford Home Tour in September. Those two activities account for about 70% of the annual income to the Society.

Bert and Carrie Another Chapter in the Milford Times Story

In our last newsletter we learn how the Milford Times began in 1871. We left off with the death of Isaac Pratt Jackson in 1886 and Ann Simpson Jackson in 1888. Isaac and Ann had five children. They are Amelia Horton born in 1853 in New York, Anna born in 1856 in New York, Carrie Maria born 1866 in Detroit, Michigan, Herbert "Bert" born 1871 in Milford and Mabel born 1874 in Milford.

At the time of Isaac and Ann's death, their two older children had married and were raising families. Herbert, who went by Bert, spent his childhood helping with the paper. As noted from other sources, under the guidance and counsel of his father, Bert learned the practical experience in business that was needed to take over the Milford Times. At the time of his father's death, he assumed charge of the Milford Times, but it wasn't until two years later when his mother died, that he assumed the financial and mechanical side of the business and Carrie continued to take care of the editing and news.

On December 12, 1890, Bert married Ida M. Wilson. Ida was born in 1865 to Reverend George & Eliza Wilson in Milford, Michigan. In 1892, Bert contracted Tuberculosis. At the time there was no cure for tuberculosis and knowing this Bert turned over all his shares of The Milford Times to his sister Carrie. On Oct 11, 1892, Bert died, he was days short of his 22nd birthday. In his obituary it states that he felt himself peculiarly fitted for this work and hoped to do it for a very long time.

At the time of Bert's death Carrie was 22 years old. Carrie successfully ran the paper alone from 1891 to 1896. Under her sole care, the circulation increased. In 1893 she was featured in a magazine published by the Michigan Woman's Press Association. She was given the title editress of a very successful and popular county paper. She was not just the editor but the reporter for the paper. She knew the business inside and out. Her aim was to make the Milford Times a good home paper. Not only was it a good county paper, but it was also a very successful paper, obtaining a standard of excellence. Carrie ran the paper solely for five years in which time the circulation and advertising list increased.

In 1896, Carrie married Grant Squire Rowe. Grant was born in 1865 in Trenton, Michigan to James D. Rowe and Helen H. Putnam. The family would move to Highland and Grant would begin to work at the Milford Times. Together they would run the paper for 35 years. Carrie would gather news stories, write, edit, and proofread all articles as well as keep the books. Carrie did many of the stories, especially local news, social news, and church news. Grant supervised the office force and managed the press work. He also covered the council meetings; he would attend court sessions and write about athletic events as well as fires. One of Carrie's favorite things to do was to walk Main Street. She would visit the stores where the storekeepers would be willing to tell news that they had heard throughout the day.

Carrie and Grant had nine children while running the paper. Dorothy born 1898, Margaret born 1899, Carrie Marion born 1901, Lois Amelia born 1902, Robert S. born 1904, Virginia born 1906, Ruth born 1909, Rachel born 1910 – 1911 and Winifred born 1912. Just like Carrie, her children helped at the paper. The youngest would roll papers, attach labels, and carry the paper to the post office in a little red wagon. The older children would feed the press and learn how to set the type.

Carrie and Gant were influential in shaping early Milford. Both were active outside of their work at the paper. Grant served on the school board for twelve years and Carrie was a member of

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Milford Historical Society

124 East Commerce

Milford, Michigan 48381

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the Monday Literary Club. Carrie would use the press media to help inform townspeople of the need to change and to inspire with her editorials in the paper. Some of the items she campaigned for were to install heat in the railroad depot as well as a warning bell at the railroad crossing. She campaigned for a home economics teacher in the high school, she wrote of the need for a reading room library. The Monday Literary Club established scholarships to help local youth attend college. Through her writing, Carrie would tell you why the issues were important and how the change would benefit the people of Milford. You always knew just where Carrie Jackson Rowe stood on any issue.

Carrie and Grant decided to step down from the paper in February of 1935, Grant was 70 and Carrie was 69. Carrie wrote of her 53 years with the Milford Times, that the news from her father's era was still the same news now. "People get just as excited over a

fire as they did after the civil war and take their politics just as seriously. While my father was paid in cordwood, potatoes, and apples, we accept the same commodities, even chicken and eggs during the depression."

The paper was turned over to their son Robert G Rowe in 1935. Although Carrie was retired from the paper, it was not unusual for an article written by Carrie to appear in the Milford Times.

Grant S. Rowe died in 1939 and Carrie's death came in 1949. The last article that Carrie would write appeared in the Nov 3, 1949, Milford Times. She wrote her own obituary. The headline was simply "30" - **30**- has been traditionally used by journalists in North America to indicate the end of a story or article that is submitted for editing and typesetting.

In our next issue we will learn of Robert Rowe and his wife Myrtle running the paper.

 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	\$15	Family	\$25
Senior	\$10	Lifetime	\$250
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