

## UPCOMING EVENTS

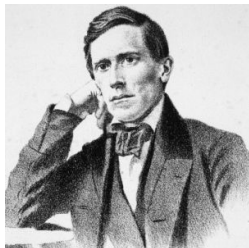
### Upcoming events—

General Membership meeting May 18 at the Milford Library. The event starts at 6:30 PM and will feature a visit by Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln will be discussing her dark years, after the assassination of her husband. No potluck.

May 20—Museum Opens

### Stephen Foster

Marcus LaPratt as Stephen Foster was a singing sensation. After a great potluck as always Stephen Foster entertained with song and stories. Everyone had a favorite song they wanted to sing along to. We learned about Stephen's life from his childhood with his dog to his tragic ending alone.



I'm sure we will see Marcus (Stephen) at our Home Tour this September singing his heart out and at the Milford Living History Tour May 20th at the Milford Presbyterian Church. We had a grand turnout that evening to hear him.

### Mary Todd Lincoln

Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln will be at the Milford Library Thursday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m. This is the May Meeting for Historical Society. No Meeting or Potluck at Church.. Please sign up at the Library for that evening.

Pam Dawson, a Milford resident, has been portraying Mrs. Lincoln for over a decade. She has three Programs to choose from. The Library and MHS together has picked her final years the "Dark Years." Those were the years after the White House and after Lincoln's death. Come hear her story in her own words.

Mrs. Lincoln will be narrating between songs and singing at Kennedy Center May 3rd in Washington D.C.

This is no Meeting in June. The annual MHS Picnic is at the Fairgrounds Park by the Senior Center. More details in July.

Sandi Muirhead

Programs

## From Our President, *Rena Valentine*

Spring has finally sprung. It's so nice to see all of the beautiful flowers, bushes, and trees blooming all over town. Don't forget our robins laying their eggs. We had a robin two years ago that chose our upstairs deck to settle their new family in. At first, we weren't happy about it; but as things unfolded, it was such a blessing to witness the new babies that were born weeks later.

Anyway, on to the updates on the historical society....

The museum has been freshened up this year. Please come and see what Elaine, our Director; has done. It is very nice, indeed. There are new exhibits, paint, etc.

Our renter of 10 years for the caretakers house, next to the Mary Jackson house, has moved out and we will be doing some painting, caulking, and repairs before we rent it again. Things are already in the works and we are excited about the changes.

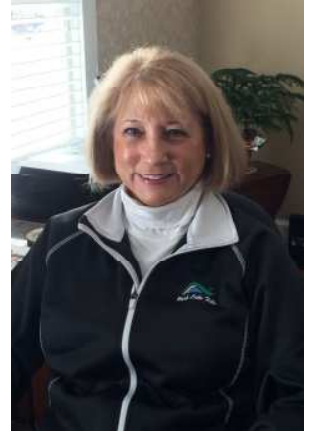
Work on the 2017 Home Tour is underway and we already have 4 houses for the event. We still need one more; so if anyone knows of anyone that would like to be on the home tour, please have them call me. Also, if you would like to be a Home tour docent this year, save the dates September 16 & 17. We will be sending out postcards to past docents and we always welcome new docent volunteers.

Don't forget our Mary Todd Lincoln speaker, Pam Dawson will be at the library talking about the Dark Years of Lincoln on May 18. There is a registration that needs to be done to secure your place....no fee. This can be done at [www.milfordlibrary.com](http://www.milfordlibrary.com)

We are still in need of one more board member, so if you have an interest in helping the Milford Historical Society carry on its mission of sharing the history of Milford in our community, please contact me about becoming a board member.

We also need more adult docent volunteers for the Museum. If you can spare three hours on a Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday this summer call the museum and volunteer.

**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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## The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the

Milford Historical Society

published bimonthly (six times per year)



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Email: [Historian@milfordhistory.org](mailto:Historian@milfordhistory.org)



## Museum Report—

Happy Spring ! Let's hope it gets here and stays for awhile.

The dust has been flying at the museum as our annual Spring cleaning frenzy got underway. I would like to thank Don Hunter, Sue Grifor and Brooke Qualman for all of their help in getting things done.

Many items have been moved around and rearranged to try and give our existing display rooms a fresh look. You will see things you never noticed before in their new more prominent location. The main display room has a varied selection of items on display. Instead of one central theme, each display case has a different collection. There are things that should interest men, women and children, some haven't been seen in a very long time. I am still interested in using any members personal collections-so if you have an interest in sharing your treasures with others, please let me know.

Unfortunately the museum opening has been pushed back from May 13th to May 20th due to lack of volunteer staff. We need six more student docents to replace the ones graduating this June. If you know of any high school age students that may be interested please have them contact the museum or me directly at donr4619@gmail.com or 248 529-3393. We are in need of adult docents to work on Sunday. Anyone willing to commit to one Sunday a month would be most welcome. This season we will again be open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00, provided we have at least two people at the museum each day.

The museum committee has many ideas for activities to bring Milford's history to the community as a whole and to encourage an interest in history in the younger generation. These are still in the planning stages-watch the community calendars in the Milford Times and the Oakland Press for dates and times of these events.

We now have a total of 37 vintage pictures scanned, samples in the book and ready for ordering. I have several more personal favorites being worked on. Come in and take a look, request a photo of your favorite place in the Village, we have lots of pictures to choose from.

The "Save the Depot" effort unfortunately was not successful. The museum has been in contact with the developer to acquire some of the dated graffiti and the freight door hardware for a display at the museum. He has pledged to make sure we get it before complete demolition is done. I will keep you posted on what /when we acquire those artifacts. Thank you to all who worked so hard to try and save this piece of history.

The Milford Historical Society Museum is the main beneficiary of all of the work that the Historical Society does. The purpose of both is to preserve for and disseminate to the community the history of Milford. This goal can only be accomplished if everyone works together to keep the Society and the Museum viable. Let this be the season you visit, volunteer, support these efforts. We look forward to seeing you.

As always, any suggestions or comments can be addressed to me at donr4619@gmail.com ph.248 529-3393 or to the museum committee at 124 E. Commerce, Milford 48381.

Written by: Elaine M. Hunter, Museum Director

## Milford Living History Tour

What would the word "History" be without the word "story" in it. Stories and facts make this word jump off the pages and into the present time.. We hope to do the same.



Milford Presbyterian Church at 128 North Main St. in Milford will be hosting a Milford Living History Tour sponsored by the Milford Presbyterian Women's Association.

Learn our history of Milford through stories from the pioneers and Milford folk who were

members of our church between 1842 and 1950. We are blessed that over forty members when asked to participate said " Sure sounds like fun, let's do this". Tom Neff will portray our first Reverend Mr. Worthington, Marcus La Pratt will portray composer Stephen Foster. Marcus really does portray Foster at Greenfield Village. (By the way he was a smash hit at the Milford Historical Society Program in April"). Dianna and Fred Speier will be the church's beloved Wilbur (Mr. Milford) and wife Milver Johnson. These are just a fraction of our members who you will see May 20th.

This Tour, told in skits, stories and songs, is for everyone who loves history and humor. Included will be details about a tragic incident in 1908.

Did you know about the north and south rivalry or a saloon keeper who donated to building our 118 year old church? Our MPC church boasts the longest continuing attendance of any house of worship in Milford. The MPC was originally on Huron Street across from the present Fire Station. It was the "Little White Church over the River". built in 1846. A new and beautiful brick church was erected across the river at North Main and Liberty Streets. The Easter Program of April 1899 was the first service in the newly built church. One of our founders, Elizur Ruggles, was one of our first members.

Our youth will be selling old-fashioned refreshments on the lawn. MPC history books and the Milford Historical Society's "Ten Minutes Ahead of the World" book will be sold also.

The tour is Saturday May 20th from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Rain or shine. Tickets are \$7.00 and 12 and under free. Elevator access and seating are available. The tour will last approximately one hour. All the proceeds will go towards a historical marker for our church. For information contact Sandi Muirhead at 248-310-4286.

Tickets will be sold at Blossoms on Main (across from church), Milford Mills on South Main (Cute little stone building) and at MPC day of tour. Make great Mother Day gifts. Look for flyer in Mothers Day Church programs.

Come see and hear your MPC church friends and family in costume portray our members from the past. Give your support for them and bring YOUR own friends and family along with you. I guarantee a lot of laughs. We hope you go home with at least one humorous story about Milford's days gone by to pass on.

Our goal is to have 100 guests pass through our historic doors that day.

Also a big thanks and hug to Virginia Mantela and Judy Nelson who are a big part of getting this tour out of the Milford's history books and into our historic MPC.

Sandi Muirhead

MPC Historian

## Special Event at the Mary Jackson House



If you haven't had a chance to tour the Mary Jackson House (648 Canal Street, Milford), mark June 23rd and June 24th on your calendar! On those days, the Milford Historical Society is hosting a special fund-raising event that includes tours of Mary's beloved home, along with a visit from a special guest.

Mary Jackson starred as one the Baldwin sister's on the 1970's hit series The Waltons. Mary loved Milford, her home town, and it was her wish to share a bit of local history by opening her home for tours and special events.



It is for this reason that the Milford Historical Society is opening the home in June, and bringing in fellow cast-mate Mary McDonough (played character Erin Walton) for the two-day event. While Mary Jackson's character often spoke of fond memories of a relationship with Ashley Longworth, Erin Walton was featured in episodes enjoying a relationship with Ashley Longworth, Jr.

The Historical Society is thrilled to have Mary McDonough (Erin Walton) join our event, and help showcase Mary's home. The home will be open at designated times both Friday and Saturday, and will include an opportunity to meet Mary McDonough and purchase autographed copies of books written by Ms. McDonough.

Please check the Milford Historical Society website ([www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org)) or our Facebook page for details of the weekend. Proceeds of the weekend go towards the preservation of the Mary Jackson House, a Milford gem.

Tickets will be available beginning May 16, 2017 and will be sold at Acorn Farm, Main Street Art, and the Milford Historical Society Museum.

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### Thank You

Our Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House was held on Saturday, April 29th and was a huge success. We had a great turnout and a good time was had by all. On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to thank our guests that came out and spent the day with us.

Putting together a fundraiser takes a lot of planning and hard work! I would like to express my gratitude to the following individuals who helped make this day special.



Jillian Blanchet, Judy Busick, Joyce Clark, Cindy Dagenhardt, Linda Dagenhardt, Duane Freitag, Mary Lou Gharrity, Maria Gianandrea, Susan Gumper, Sharon Hubbard, Taryn Johnson, Nancy Lang, Grace Lipinski, Jenni Lipinski, Sharon Mancini, Brook Reno, Callie Reno, Chloe Reno, Marge Sawruk, Carolyn Werner and Rena Valentine.

Also a special thank you to Acorn Farm and Main Street Art for selling tickets to our event and The Village Florist for donating the beautiful floral centerpieces.

**P**lease 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:

Student	\$5	Family	\$25
Senior	\$10	Lifetime	\$250
Individual	\$15	Small Business	\$50
Corporation	\$250+		

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.