

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events canceled at least through July 4 due to the COVID-19 Outbreak

MHS Programs 2020

These remaining events for 2020 may be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Check our web site for updates.

July 19 - Picnic - Donna Boushell Presents a short History of Bee Keeping - view a working hive with live Bees (no, you won't get stung) .Donna points out the Queen, her court and the inner workings. "Emma Honey" might be available **for sale**.
\$7. - \$20.

September 17

Milford Women and the Vote—Note this was also planned to be the focus of one of the Museum displays for 2020. That may not happen depending upon whether or not the museum is opened for the 2020 season



November 19 - Thanksgiving Dinner
Musical Entertainment

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.

From Our President, Sue Bullard

Greetings to our Historical Society Family. First of all, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and in good health. These last few weeks, our community and our world has changed. At this time of year we look forward to getting out of the house and enjoying some Spring activities. We are instead enduring social distancing and self-quarantine. Some of us may be working from home while some of our neighbors have a "non-essential job" and are out of work. It truly is a different time in our world.

At the beginning of the year, we had planned some fun activities throughout the year. Regrettably we have had to cancel many of these activities. We are following the CDC guidelines as well as Governor Whitmer's executive orders. This means that we will be cancelling our May General Membership Meeting. We will also be cancelling Granny's Attic sale and the Independence Day Parade on July 4th. Our museum was due to open in May, but we will be postponing the opening date until a time in the foreseeable future.

While we are disappointed that we had to cancel these events, the safety and health of our volunteers and visitors are of the utmost importance. So we, just like you are patiently waiting for that day when we can go back out and enjoy life in the great outdoors.

At the end of May, we will be celebrating the courageous men and women who serve our country. The annual Memorial Day Parade is another event that will be cancelled. Our American Legion Post has always put together a wonderful parade, gathering military personnel from our area. The ceremony in the park that followed the parade recognizing the Veterans past and present is an amazing tribute. Over the years, the number of military soldiers that participated has grown to almost 1000 soldiers. A truly amazing sight. This year will be different, we won't be standing along a parade route cheering on these brave men and woman. So I hope that you will pause a moment on May 25th and give thanks to these heroes and remember those fallen soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Stay safe everybody, until we can meet again.

***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 Director



Museum Director's Report -

I hope everyone is faring well during this extraordinary time. It is so very unusual to see the streets of Milford so empty and Main Street so quiet, but so good to know that means our community is doing our best to help.

The museum remains closed for the foreseeable future, until we are cer-

tain that we can safely reopen without putting visitors, volunteers and staff at risk. Many of our programs and events are cancelled, but we are working together, albeit remotely, to plan how we will move forward when it is determined that it is safe to do so. I suspect that we will be doing some things differently than in the past, in order to keep everyone safe.

When we are able to open, your help will be needed. Cleaning will need to be done. Docents will be needed so that we can welcome the public in. We hope that many of you will be willing to step up and help.

We have decided to postpone the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment exhibit until next year, in order to give it the exposure that it deserves. If you have suggestions for an exhibit that we could do for whatever time we are able to be open this year, or that could be done in the future, please let us know.

Sending out my best wishes for everyone to stay safe and stay healthy!
Looking forward to seeing everyone on the other side of all this!

Tami Averill, Museum Director

History Moments by Linda Dagenhardt

100 years ago, August 18th. 1920, the 19th. Amendment became part of the Constitution of the United States. The women of this country were given the right to vote.

In Michigan, women petitioned the legislature for the ballot as early as 1849. After the Civil War, Michigan women won limited school board suffrage, in 1870. After years of activism, the women of Michigan won the right to vote, in 1918, through a State Constitutional Amendment.

The next year, the U.S. Congress finally passed the 19th Amendment in 1919. After Congress approved the Amendment, at least 36 states needed to ratify the amendment for it to become part of the U.S. Constitution.

Michigan became one of the first states to ratify the amendment on June 10, 1919. It passed unanimously. By August 18, 1920, 36 states (including Michigan) had ratified the 19th. amendment, recognizing women's suffrage rights.



Women march for voting rights

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Milford's Opera Singer

Did you know that Milford once was the home town of an Opera Singer? It's true. Her name was Alma Florence Peterson and she was born on September 8, 1888 in St Paul Minnesota. Her parents were August and Betsy Peterson.

Musicians' and Allied Artists' Directory, 1925-1926 145

ALMA PETERSON
Prima Donna—Soprano
 Chicago Opera Company
 (Five Seasons)



Opera, Concert and Oratorio
 Personal Address: 3020 Sheridan Road, Chicago
 Telephone Lakeview 10373

It was said that as a young girl, Alma's voice attracted attention. She began securing excellent chorus positions at an early age. And while she was still in her teens, she was selected as a soloist to accompany the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra with its transcontinental tour. Her studying and training began to pay off for her. She began with small roles and eventually worked her way up to more important roles. She spent 5 seasons with the Chicago Opera Company and was considered a Prima Donna-Soprano.

It was in Minnesota where she met Frank W. Goldy. Frank was born on January 17, 1885 in New Hudson. Frank's parents were John C. Goldy and Delia Stephens Goldy. Frank began working for the Flint & Pere Marquette Rail Road Company in Milford which later became Chesapeake & Ohio Railway. His work allowed him to move around the country. Some of the cities he worked in were Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Chicago, Seattle and eventually back to Detroit. It was while Frank was working in Minneapolis that he met Alma. On August 16, 1916, they married in Alma's hometown.

Alma continued to perform once she was married, still using her maiden name. The couple moved to Michigan where they met Samuel and Bess McCall. Bess' maiden name was Fisher and she was part of the Fisher family from Detroit. The two ladies had the theater in common and became good friends. It was said that when Alma and Bess walked into a room, everything stopped and all eyes were turned in their direction.

The couple never had children and Frank passed away in 1952 just a few years after retiring from the railroad business. Alma continued to travel even taking a trip to Sweden where her parents were born to continue her music training.

Alma passed way in 1975 while visiting Hennepin, Minnesota. Both Frank and Alma are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

It was said that Alma Peterson Goldy, the performer was a heroic figure, distinguished looking and possessed a splendid voice, which she used with discretion. She performed her songs beautifully - superbly sung with intense feeling and fine artistry.

From The Collection

Like everyone else I've been sheltering at home so haven't been spending time at the Museum. Yesterday I stopped in to check the mail and found a package that is very interesting. This came to us from a donor in Vermont. The package contained a photo/scrap book created by Dr. E.G. Switer who graduated from Milford High School in 1911.

Some fun trivia I found in this book: The 1911 Class Yell - Bow Wow, The motto - Rowing Not Drifting, The Colors - Blue & Gold, and The Class Flower was the Yellow Rose. The book contains photos taken in Milford and other places that "Doc" Switzer traveled to during the early part of the 20th century. There are also quite a few newspaper clippings.

As I flipped thru the clippings one jumped out at me, so I'm including a copy. I found that Mrs. Lovias Spellar Heath was born in 1832 and passed in 1934.

She's Oldest Mother
 MRS. HEATH, 100, IS GUEST OF CLUBWOMEN

Michigan's oldest mother had the time of her life Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Lovisa Spellar Heath, of Milford, who bears this proud title, was the guest of honor at the colonial tea which was one of the highlights of the state convention of the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs. The party took place in the Italian Garden of the Book-Cadillac Hotel.

Slight, dignified and well poised, Mrs. Heath—who came to Michigan in a covered wagon in 1832, and in her youth lived the hard life of the pioneer, cooking over an open hearth, making her own candles and yarns and knowing the horror of wolves howling near her home at night—was the perfect woman of the world Thursday afternoon, receiving the long lines of guests who patiently waited to shake her hand with a gracious "How do you do?" and a friendly smile.

HAIR PILED HIGH.
 Mrs. Heath, this daughter of Colonial times, wore a well-cut, flowing black satin gown and the lavender scarf which was presented to her by the Oakland County Federation of Women's Clubs. Her snowy white hair was piled high on her head, and in her arms she carried gift bouquets.

Standing beside her on the raised platform before which the guests passed were Mrs. W. C. Beckwith and Mrs. Charles U. Bear, in the characters of George and Martha Washington. Mrs. Bear wore a beautiful striped silk dress which has been in the family many generations, and a soft white Martha Washington kerchief.

Mrs. Heath, from a lofty seat on the platform, took a lively interest in the gaily chattering groups of women, many of whom were in colonial dress. Junior members of the federation presented a program of minuets, playlets and music of the early days of the country, and that part of the afternoon's festivities was particularly enjoyed by the centenarian.

Mrs. Heath, who is 101 years old

—By News Staff Photographer.

and a firm believer in the value of work, and who even now never sits with idle hands, but constantly sews or bakes, while she had a great time at the party, is glad that she doesn't have to attend one every day.

101 YEARS OLD.
 One of her daughters, Mrs. B. A. Holden, who drove her to Detroit from their farm home, explained: "Mother can never get used to going to a party and just having a good time. You see, when she was young, life was so terribly hard. There were no conveniences, no shops—everything one used had to be made at home. So when the women had a party, it was a quilting party, or a harvest day, or a canning party—always some kind of work. "And mother is still happiest when she is working."



We Are Making History

As we live thru this historic time we need to remember that this isn't the first time we as a society have lived thru a pandemic. The most dramatic pandemic in modern history that comes to mind is the Spanish Flu in 1918. While I have only read about that dark time in history, I do remember the 1950's Polio scare. My memory of that was being given the sugar cube at school. I don't remember, but have read of the fear parents had that their children would contract the disease and I do know some who survived with varying degrees of disability.

I suggest that we as a community write what we are experiencing and how we feel about the dramatic events we are living thru. Are you sad, mad, or amazed at the outpouring of kindness? Have you made masks to share with those on the front line or with friends? What are you doing to occupy the time? I will share that what I miss most is going to the library to select BOOKS. While I can download to electronic devices I prefer to

read BOOKS!

If you have thoughts and stories that you would like to make available to researchers in the future write them down and send to the Museum. We will file them in the archives for future reference.

Passing of a long time member

It is with heavy heart that we announce the passing of Marilyn Riggs. Marilyn and her husband Al where long time members of the Historical Society. Al served on the Board of Directors for many years and is responsible for the current President joining the Board of Directors. Both Al and Marilyn were active members that would always make our bi-monthly membership meetings. Marilyn would make her famous meatloaf as a dish to pass that was a crowd favorite.

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+		

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.