

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Museum and grounds will be decorated for the upcoming Huron Valley Twinkle Tour. The tour will be held Nov 28, from 6-8PM. The top three tour displays will be awarded prizes.

### From the Collection—Jackie Swenson

Last fall I wrote a bit about caring for treasured textiles. Since then we have had a request for supplies to store those items that bring warm memories of prior generations of family members. First I'd like to repeat and add to some of my earlier recommendations.



First is that all traces of chemicals should be removed from the textile. This includes detergent, starch or other residues that may be present. Some older textiles show small rust spots – this can be from iron in the water used to wash the fabric. If your water has a high iron content you should consider washing heirlooms in distilled water and ph neutral soap to avoid this problem.

How the textile is stored is important. Delicate fabrics should not be stored on hangers as the weight of the garment can cause damage. If the item is sturdy a padded hanger covered with unbleached muslin that has been washed without detergent at least twice is acceptable. In a future newsletter I can provide directions to make the hangers I use at the museum if anyone is interested. If the item needs to be boxed it should be in an acid free box and all folds should be padded to prevent sharp creases. I am not an expert, but have an interest in textiles and have attended workshops, seminars and continue to learn

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### From Our President, Sue Bullard

Holiday Greetings to our Historical Society Family.

It doesn't seem possible, but it is the beginning of November and Thanksgiving is right around the corner.

Although I try to count my blessings all year long, November has a habit of reminding me of all the blessings in my life. I am forever grateful for my family and friends which includes my Historical Society Family. Through these tough times this year, we have overcome the challenges that were presented to us. We brainstormed on how to continue our mission to present the history of our community during a time of Coronavirus 19. And I think our Historical Family has had some pretty great ideas.

One of those ideas was a Pop-Up Porch Exhibit. We started with a display of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Then we had a spooky exhibit on Halloween. And coming in December look forward to an exhibit on Christmas. These displays allow visitors to come up to the porch and take in some history of our town without having to open the museum. I look forward to seeing future pop-up exhibits in 2021.

A big thank you to those members that have been coming to work at the museum this year. Even though we have been closed our Museum Committee and Collection Committee have been meeting to continue the work of the museum. And although The Board of Directors have not met on a monthly basis, we have been communicating via emails to make sure the Society business is taken care of.

Our museum will also participate in the Twinkle Tour sponsored by the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce. On November 28<sup>th</sup>, a map of homes and businesses that are decorated for the holiday season will be available for those who enjoy the festive decorations of the season. Very soon there will be elves busy putting together a holiday display for visitors to see when they pass by the museum.

I will end this letter by thanking all of you for making this year great. And by wishing you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season.

### Opportunities to serve on the Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors are looking for two members that would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors. Our Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month (except in December) and sets the goals for the Historical Society for the upcoming year. If you are interested in joining the Historical Society Board, please contact Sue Bullard.

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

**MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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Museum Director



**Museum Director's Report -**

**November 2020**

I hope this finds everyone safe and well!

Although the museum is closed, we are working hard to make sure that we are not forgotten!

I hope you were able to take the time to visit the Pop-Up Porch Exhibit on the History of Halloween. Thank you to Jackie Swenson for putting it together

and to Harold Swenson for helping to install it and decorate the porch. It attracted the attention of a number of visitors and helped to add a special touch to Halloween in the Village during this exceptional year.

Thank you to Carolyn Graves, Ron Hinman and Michelle Avallone for putting together our first in what we hope will be a series of on-line storytelling programs. Vampire Ron and Witch Carolyn shared some fun and spooky Halloween stories!

We will be decorating the exterior of the museum for the Holidays and will be participating in the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce and Milford Business Association "Twinkle Tour!" The tour will take place from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. on November 28. Help will be needed to decorate. If you are interested in helping, please let us know. Mark your calendars and plan on joining in the fun of driving the tour route through the Village and surrounding area and enjoying the festive displays.

As the weather changes and you find yourself spending more time indoors, consider volunteering to help with a project or two at the museum. We have collections and archives projects waiting for folks willing to take them on:

- Bring HSM scrapbook up to date
- Sort and organize Powerhouse documents
- Sort obituaries into genealogy files
- Learn how to work with Past Perfect and scan in photos & documents
- Research and write an article for the newsletter
- Help to research and plan a virtual program that we can offer online.
- Help to research, plan, and create a Pop-Up Porch Exhibit. We would like to offer 5 during the next year.
- Assist with research and photo selection for our interactive computer project.
- Transcribe a Centennial issue of the Milford Times. This is a great work-at-home project!

I know I have mentioned this before, but it bears repeating. Another way that everyone can help is to assist us in creating a special collection related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please consider saving and donating items that you feel will help tell the story of what life was like in Milford during the COVID-19 pandemic. Perhaps someone could save and donate a "Thank You Essential Workers" sign, some photos of a drive-by celebration, or a note or recording about your thoughts or experiences during this time. Share an account of how you will celebrate the Holidays this year. How about a video that highlights the COVID related changes that you see as you travel about town? First person accounts of events and daily life are a real treasure to historians! Help us to assemble a collection that will help to relate this story to future generations in our community

Please call the museum and leave us a message if you are interested in helping in any way. You are also welcome to contact me via email at [tami.averill@gmail.com](mailto:tami.averill@gmail.com). I would be happy to hear from you!

Wishing everyone all the best for the Holidays and looking forward to a great 2021! Please stay safe and healthy!

Tami Averill  
Museum Director

**The Milford Historian**

Newsletter of the

**Milford Historical Society**

published bimonthly (six times per year)



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## From the Treasurer

**Now More Than Ever we need your help.** Since all of our normal fundraising events were canceled for this year our usual sources of income have pretty much evaporated. Earlier in the year



we applied for and received a **HOPE Grant** from the Michigan Humanities Council. This grant was part of the Federal Government CARES Act. We received \$7,500 to help pay utilities at both properties and our part time director.

Michigan Humanities Council

Oakland County has announced two grant opportunities. The **Oakland Together Cultural Institution COVID 19 Support Grant**, which we have applied for. The recipients of this grant should be notified on November 17. Another grant opportunity has just been announced by the county, The **Oakland Together Non-Profit COVID-19 Economic Impact Grant**. We will submit an application for this grant opportunity also. If you have the chance, please thank our elected officials for caring about the future of vital cultural and non-profit organizations. Any funds received from these sources will help us continue to care for the archives and artifacts that tell the story of our area.

We are working hard to ensure the continued financial health of the Historical Society. Please consider making a donation to the Historical Society to help us close the year on a positive note and prepare for a better 2021. Donations can be sent to: The Milford Historical Society at 124 E Commerce Street, Milford, MI 48381

In addition to facilitating direct financial relief to affected nonprofit organizations, the CARES Act also creates charitable giving incentives for donors to 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations (that is us). Section 2204 of the CARES Act includes a new above-the-line deduction (universal or non-itemized deduction that applies to all taxpayers) for total charitable contributions of up to \$300. The incentive applies to contributions made in 2020 and would be claimed on tax forms at the end of the year. Section 2205 of the CARES Act lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. For corporations, the legislation raises the annual limit from 10 percent to 25 percent.

Of course, we recommend that you consult your tax preparer to see how these increased limits affect your personal situation.

Jackie Swenson - Treasurer

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*(From The Collection—Continued from page 1)*

about textile preservation.

As a service we have preservation supplies that you can purchase.

Box 16 X 19 X 4 plus 12 sheets of Acid free tissue 20 X 30 for \$30.00

Box 16 X 28 X 6 plus 12 sheets of Acid free tissue 20 X 30 for \$40.00

Box 8 X 13 X 5.5 plus 6 sheets of Acid free tissue 11 X 14 for \$25.00

If you have need of other size boxes or storage solutions we may be able to special order what you need. Please leave a message on the museum's answering machine. 248-685-7308

I would also be glad to talk to you about your preservation needs.

## In Memoriam

With a saddened heart, we like to extend our sympathy to the families of two members of the Historical Society on the loss of their love ones.

Cal Valentine passed away in August. Cal and his Wife Rena own a charming historic home on Hickory Street that has been a big hit during several of our Home Tours. The Valentines have opened their home to host Historical Society meetings and have been faithful supporters.

Warren Cordone passed away in August. Warren and his wife Linda own a historic home on Main Street that was featured on a couple of our Home Tours. Their beautiful English Cottage style home and garden are always a highlight during the home tour.

We will miss both Cal and Warren and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to both families.

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### Milford women were out to vote!

The year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. This Amendment granted the right for women to vote in a national election. During this first election after the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed over 8 million proud women arrived at the polls ready to vote for the very first time.



In 1918 the State of Michigan passed a State Constitutional Amendment that would make Michigan the third state in the union to grant women the right to vote. In the 1920 election that elected the 29<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, the candidates were Republican Senator, Warren G. Harding of Ohio against the Democratic Governor of Ohio, James M. Cox. Both men were anxious to attract the women's vote, so both parties sought out significant women to speak in support of their candidate.

In 1920, the Village and Township of Milford had 460 women register to vote in the national election. Names like Arms, Bourns, Crawford, Crosby DeGarmo, Ebby, Foote, Gamble, Hubbell, Ingersold, Jackson, Knapp, Lodge, Muir, Newcomb, Orvis, Padley, Richmond, Sands, Tenny, Vincent, Wooten and Young are just some of the women's names that were registered to vote.

The women of Milford actually were allowed to vote well before 1920. Women could cast their vote on issues related to the schools. In 1880 Miss Linnie B. Hutchison, preceptress of the Milford Union School, was the first woman ever elected to the office of County Superintendent of Schools. And In 1883 eleven women voted in a school bond election.



Who was Samuel Benjamin Ferguson?

A visit from his great granddaughter last month revealed many facts, pictures and research that will be available at the Museum.

The young lady and her family never knew they had relatives in Milford, until researching where her father's family was from. She came asking questions and I provided the answers.

We are supplying the family with pictures, we did a tour of Milford homes where they lived, Samuel and Harriett's children, and a tour of Oak Grove cemetery where most are interred.

We also arranged a tour of the Ferguson Opera House on Main St. Milford's two-story Opera House was built in 1875 by Samuel Ferguson and succeeded two former entertainment halls farther north on North Main Street. The first floor consisted of two stores, the larger of which housed Ferguson's furniture business and the smaller of which housed Miss Mary Crawford's Toy & Fancy Goods Shop. The second floor was designed and "fitted up" as a Public Hall, first known as Ferguson's Hall and then as Ferguson's Opera House

The Tenny, McCain and Hoagland families all tie into this family tree.

Linda Dagenhardt—Milford Historian

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.