

October-December 2018

## Votes and Vice

UNITED STATES SENATE  
ADOPTS EQUAL SUFFRAGE

**1919**

**VOTES  
&  
VICE**



The Plymouth Historical Museum's newest exhibit, *Votes and Vice*, opens on January 16, 2019. The exhibit explores the history of Prohibition and how it changed the culture and reshaped the lives of women, transforming them from the traditional subservient role in Victorian times to suffragists marching for the right to vote.

After World War I ended in 1918, women were heavily involved in campaigning for two constitutional amendments, the 18th for Prohibition and the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in every state.

With photos, documents, and vignettes, the Museum will showcase the causes and effects of prohibition, and the part that women's groups had in getting the 18th and 19th amendments passed.



**U.S. IS VOTED DRY**



Plymouth Historical  
Museum  
155 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-455-8940

### VOTES & VICE

New Exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum  
January 16 thru June 16, 2019

Admission: \$7 adults; \$3 students 6-17;  
children 5 and under are free.

Museum hours, 1-4 PM,  
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.  
Closed Holidays.

For groups and tours,  
please contact the Museum for advanced notice.

**Plymouth Historical Museum**  
 155 South Main Street  
 Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
<http://www.plymouthhistory.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/plymouthhistory>  
 734-455-8940 Fax: 734-455-7797

**Hours**

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  
 1-4 PM all days  
 Open year round (except some holidays)

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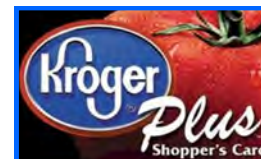
Gerry Sabatini [sabatini1983@att.net](mailto:sabatini1983@att.net)  
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

**Monthly Drawing**

Joan Anderson, Jean LaPointe and Pam Piendel are the respective winners of the October, November, and December drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.

**Kroger Plus  
 Card  
 Donations**



Thank you to those who have added the Plymouth Historical Society to their **Kroger Plus Card**. The Museum receives a small percentage from any purchases made by those who have an up-to-date registration on their cards.

To participant in the program, visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). Click on “Michigan” and click on “Enroll.”

You must have a valid online account at Kroger.com to participate. If you need help, give us a call at 734-455-8940 ext. 9. We'll be happy to help you get enrolled.

**New Members—Welcome!**

Barry Atkinson, Northville  
 Barbara Berendt, Livonia  
 Craig Blunk, Northville  
 John Buehner, Plymouth  
 Lisa Diesbourg, Lake Orion  
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 John G. Janosik, Northville  
 Irene Jarrell, Plymouth  
 Lisa Kipke, Saint Clair Shores  
 Plymouth Canton Civitan Club, Canton  
 Phillip Rauch, Livonia  
 Travel Leaders, Plymouth

The Plymouth Historical Museum is a privately funded 501(c)3 charitable organization. We receive no government funding. We always have a "wish list" of things that help us as we work to preserve and share the history of Plymouth.

Here are some of our common purchases to provide inspiration.

- IT/Network support **\$250**
- ½ month heating bill **\$375**
- ½ month electric bill **\$475**
- 1 month employee salary **\$500**

To donate, make your check payable to the Plymouth Historical Museum.

# Bits 'n Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director

Our next members-only reception is Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Your invitation is either included in your printed copy of this newsletter, or it was emailed to you as a separate attachment with this newsletter. We have limited space, so we encourage you to RSVP quickly, as our events tend to sell out. You can call 734-455-8940 x0 or sign up yourself at [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org). If you wait until just before the reception to sign up, there's a good chance you won't get in.

Our new year is starting with a bang with the new exhibit "Votes and Vice" opening on January 16. If you're interested in our Teetotalers Tea on February 10, buy your tickets now. Carrie Nation (portrayed by Jackie Schubert) will regale attendees with tales of her fight against alcohol in turn-of-the-century America. Watch for

ticket sales for "A Flapper Murder at the 1920s Speakeasy." We can only accommodate 100 people and the mystery we held in September sold out very fast.

## Caboose

I'm sure that many of you have heard that we are working on getting a caboose for the Museum. In November, the City of Plymouth approved the variance needed so that the caboose can permanently sit on the east side of the building.

We're working with CSX to find out which caboose we will be getting and when.

Meanwhile, we are conducting a fundraising campaign called "Save the Caboose" to raise money for landscaping the area, moving the caboose from one of the rail yards in the area, and for refurbishing. If you're

interested in donating, we have a unique opportunity for you. Until Monday, January 14, 2019, everyone who donates to help "Save The Caboose" will be entered to win a weekend trip for two to Chicago courtesy of [Dwellings by Rudy & Hall](#) and [Kelly Brown at Guaranteed Rate!](#) You can donate on our Facebook page using this link: [Save the Caboose Fundraiser](https://www.facebook.com/donate/1909541315788406/) (<https://www.facebook.com/donate/1909541315788406/>). You can also donate on the Museum [website](http://www.plymouth-history.org) ([http://www.plymouth-history.org/Save-the-Caboose-Fundraisers\\_AE36.html](http://www.plymouth-history.org/Save-the-Caboose-Fundraisers_AE36.html)) or by coming in to the Museum.

During the Plymouth Ice Festival, be sure to look for the caboose ice sculpture by the sponsors of the trip to Chicago. Please thank them for this generous fundraising assistance!

We'd also like to thank Art's Residential Tree Service. Art Guzman, owner, sent a crew to the Museum recently to remove three trees and bushes that were alongside the Museum—for FREE! These trees and bushes needed to be removed as part of the landscaping for the caboose.

Date	Event	Members	Public
January 15	Members-only Reception	<b>NOW</b>	
February 10	Teetotalers Tea	<b>NOW</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>
March 9	A Night FOR the Museum	<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
March 30	Murder Mystery "A Flapper Murder at the 1920s Speakeasy"	<b>Jan. 28</b>	<b>Feb. 11</b>
April 27	Ghosts of Plymouth Walk	<b>Jan. 7</b>	<b>Jan. 21</b>



## Save the Date!

### A Night FOR the Museum

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 6-9 PM

Italian-American

Banquet & Conference Center, Livonia

The Plymouth Historical Museum's Annual Auction Fundraiser  
"A Gala Night to Remember."

Only 200 Tickets will be sold for this event. Get yours early!

Tickets are \$75 each, Tables of 8 are \$600

[www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org)

**Donations Received  
September – November 2018 Thank You!**

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between September and November 2018:

**Big Band Gala Sponsor  
(\$2,500)**

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Carol Souchock  
Kathy Sullivan  
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**Save the Caboose Fundraiser Donations Received  
September – November 2018 Thank You!**



**\$10,000 Donor Match!**

**Don Soenen matched the  
first \$10,000 in caboose  
donations!!!**

Donations are still being  
accepted for the caboose:  
[www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org)

**The Lincoln (\$1,000+ )**

John Blackwell III  
Robert Gotro  
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Raffaele Mautone

**The Starkweather  
(\$500–\$999)**

James Burroughs  
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Adam Szymczyk  
Mary Thackston  
Jeffrey Vaillant  
Erica Voolich  
Kathleen Whitney  
Karl Williams

# Plymouth Days Gone By

Compiled by Gerry Sabatini from the newspaper archives at the  
Plymouth District Library

## *Kiwanis Plan For Historical Museum Deserves Cooperation Of All Residents*

Several weeks ago the Plymouth Kiwanis Club announced that it had taken as its project for the coming year the establishment of a fire-proof historical museum—a much-needed facility in view of the glorious past of the entire area.

In making the announcement the Kiwanis also let it be known that it would gladly accept help of any kind—especially financial aid—to make a success of the project.

This is an invitation that should not go unheeded. For it would be to the benefit of every man, woman and child to have a historical museum they could point to with pride.

The present plan calls for adding a second story to the Community Building in the rear of City Hall and while this is a noble project, it should be just a starter of a larger and grander museum that would house many reminders of the area's past.

FOR MANY YEARS such things as historical museums were not taken too seriously by the average person. Interest in such things was left to the older folks and they often were looked upon as sentimentalists who were trying to foist their feelings on someone else.

But no more. Thanks to a few outstanding personages, the historical museum has now come into the position of being a real asset.

Henry Brown, Director of the Detroit Historical Museum, explained the change in attitude in a recent visit to the Plymouth Community.

"People suddenly began to realize," he said, "that historical museums were a lot more than a collection of old things. They found that the museum furnished the setting for a display of experience . . . and they took pleasure in looking back on the experiences of those who came before us."



**50 Years Ago -  
December  
1968**

*An impressive start was given to the campaign to raise funds for a Plymouth Historical Museum, when the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth, which is sponsoring the drive, presented a check for \$5,000 to the Historical Society. At the ceremony, from left to right, were Mrs. Betty Norman, president of the society; Clarence Moore, chairman of the society's building committee; and Kiwanian William Leonards, who made the check presentation.*



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# Unsolicited Mail Becoming Bigger Problem

Postmaster J.A. Mulligan said his office is handling about 100,000 more pieces a week than usual, and he expects to handle a total of about two million pieces of Christmas mail, alone.

Last year, the Christmas surge was 2.5 million pieces of mail. Mulligan said the post office has already handled 1.6 million letters this holiday season.

Mulligan, a former teacher at Junion High West and originally from Pennsylvania, said the big Christmas push runs the week before Christmas. This year it falls from Dec. 16 through Dec. 21.

\* \* \*

A TYPICAL month for the post office nets about 2.4 million pieces of mail, he said, and the problem presented at Christmas time is that December's volume falls within the two weeks before the holiday, with the largest amount the week before.

However, the big holiday push doesn't create more mail in December than in any other month, he said.

Last year, the week after Christmas, the amount of mail fell off to 300,000 pieces for that week which leveled the monthly total, he added.

The post office has 27 routes and 38 career carriers with about 80 persons working inside the building.

Mulligan said in past years he has hired four extra persons for the Christmas rush and has had them work for 15 days, but this year he has had the same number work five days.

The post office boundaries cover about 65 square miles. It begins from Livonia's border and goes to within a few miles of Pontiac Trail and ranges from Eight Mile Rd. to Michigan Ave.

\* \* \*

THE POSTMASTER said his office, generally, is able to deliver all the mail it handles. On pieces that have too little postage, the correct amount is added and the piece is delivered postage due, to be paid by the receiver.

Packages that come unwrapped or with wrapping damaged, are rewrapped and delivered as usual, he explained.

50 Years Ago -  
December 1968

HE ADDED the warning for people to be cautious of unsolicited mail. He said more of this kind of mail is appearing every year.

Also, the unsolicited item can be marked by the person "refused--return to sender" and be placed back in the mail, he said.



## Even Little Scrooges Have Doubts

Hail the Christmas spirit, for it is alive and well. That is, if the students at Gallimore Elementary School are any criteria.

The young students there are exuding so much of the cheer and joys of the holidays that Santa himself would be proud.

Not that there aren't a few potential Scrooges, but even they are caught up in the decorations, songs, presents, and party-giving.

But all is not completely right since Jeff White claims he saw a fake Santa.

"He was a phony, I could tell. He had on shoes and everybody knows that Santa Claus wears boots," he explained.

Another firsthand bit of advice on the reality of Santa came from Karen Reed.

"I know there's a Santa because one night my sister and I heard big boots coming up the stairs."

Still there are skeptics.

"I CAUGHT Mom putting presents under the tree," Kim Nicholson explained, "besides, who believes in flying reindeer?"

Brenda Carey had a slightly more optimistic outlook. "There used to be a Santa but he died. Now fakes are taking his place."

All these scoffers, however, will never convince 10-year-old Les Hassen. He received a letter from Santa last week.

# Volunteer Spotlight



## Anita Strach

Visitors to our Museum Store always enjoy the friendliness and helpfulness of our volunteer storekeeper, Anita Strach.

Born and raised in Detroit, Anita attended Cody High School in Northwest Detroit, married and is the proud mom of three sons and six grandchildren.

Anita joined the workforce later in her homemaking career and worked for Northwest Airlines at Detroit Metro Airport for 20 years. She enjoyed many different job assignments, including reservations, gate attendant, ticket counter, and luggage handler.

The job had many benefits, including discount fares and hotel reservations, which allowed her to travel the world. Included in her long list of destinations is Thailand, Beijing, Hong Kong, London, Germany, and Switzerland.

Today, besides volunteering at the Museum, she is busy working in her garden at her home in Plymouth, quilting, knitting, and bike riding. She also loves acrylic painting of many garden objects, including garden signs and plaques.

Anita loves her job in the Museum Store and working with the store staff and manager, Paula Holmes. After five years of volunteering, she enjoys the busyness of the job and always finds the customers happy to be shopping in her store.

Anita's devotion and sense of humor is a real benefit to the Museum.



The Half Moon Club is one of just two Speakeasys in town, fighting prohibition by serving alcohol illegally and offering patrons the type of fun that can't be had when the sun is up. Despite the constant threat of a raid, business at The Half Moon Club is lucrative, as men and women stream through the doors each night.

When a flapper is found shot to death outside the club, the management and loyal patrons of The Half Moon Club scramble to identify the killer before the police catch wind of the killing and shut down the juice joint for good!

Join us for an evening of suspense at the Plymouth Historical Museum on Saturday, March 30. Help us solve this dastardly murder, while enjoying pizza and cookies.

Tickets are \$20 per person and will go on sale to members on January 28 and to the public on February 11, 2019.

## "Teetotalers Tea"

Sunday, February 10, 2019,  
2-4 PM

Plymouth  
Historical Museum  
155 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170



Carry A. Nation comes to Plymouth! Carry was a radical member of the temperance movement, which opposed alcohol before the advent of Prohibition. She was notorious for marching into a bar, singing and praying while smashing bar fixtures and stock with a hatchet.

Jackie Schubert, a member of the Plymouth Living History Troupe, will bring Carry Nation to life during a rip-roaring portrayal of the activist in our "Teetotalers Tea."

Enjoy tea delicacies catered by Diann's Catering. Sponsored by Ellen Elliott.

Tickets are \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members. Members can purchase tickets now by calling the Museum. Tickets go on sale to the public December 17.



# Why You Burn Yule Log And Celebrate Wassail



50 Years Ago -  
December 1968

The holidays are here. And unless you're a distant relative of Ebenezer Scrooge, you'll celebrate it this year with the traditional tinsel tree, carols, parties, presents, mistletoe and merrymaking.

But when trimming your tree, or while gathered with friends around the punch bowl, did you ever stop to think that you were observing customs started by your earliest ancestors thousands of years ago?

\* \* \*

IN PRIMITIVE times, most tribes revered their sun god above all others. Each year, as winter approached and the days grew shorter, they performed elaborate ceremonies and made sacrifices to this powerful spirit so that he would not let the sun disappear forever.

In the cold lands of northern Europe, the early inhabitants built great bonfires in the belief they could restore strength to their weakened god.

Then after the winter solstice and the days started to grow longer, these early peoples celebrated with feasts and revelry to welcome the return of their god.

BUT IT WAS in England, from the 11th to the 17th centuries, that many of our more festive Christmas traditions began.

In feudal times, the season was riotously celebrated from Christmas Eve to Twelfth Day. During this period, great lords and landed gentry entertained friends and tenants with wassailing, feasting, dancing and masquerading.

Pantomimes and masques presented by mummers were all part of the fun, while a lord of misrule and his jesters kept the revels rolling from the dragging in of the great Yule log to the end of the holidays.

The word wassailing, derived from the early Anglo-Saxon "Waes Hail" (Be Healthy), describes the popular medieval custom in which peasants went from house to house to drink a toast to the health of their hosts.

IN THE HOMES of the rich, the liquid refreshment was spiced wine; with the less affluent, it was beer or cider. Though drinks varied, the wassail bowls themselves were usually similar. Carved from wood, they held anywhere from a quart to six gallons.

Preparing the wassail bowl mix was a long and elaborate ritual often taking as long as 100 hours. It began with the men placing their bowl of cider on the blazing hearth and hanging crab apples above it.

As the apples cooked, their juice would drop into the cider. Then spices, nutmeg, and even toast were added as additional seasoning.



THE WASSAIL BOWL has been popular for uncounted centuries in England and America. A Shakespearean-era recipe combines sherry wine and beer.

50 Years Ago -  
December 1968

## *Daring Hotel Theft By Plymouth Trio Goes Up And Down*

Three youths of the tender kindergarten age staged one

of the most unusual and boldest robberies in the history of Plymouth last Tuesday afternoon -- they "stole" the elevator in the Mayflower Hotel.

For the better part of a half hour they kept possession and had a wonderful time riding up and down the elevator shaft.

"Finally," Ralph Lorenz, genial host at the Mayflower, said, "I managed to get my fingers in the crack of the door and released the lock. This allowed me to open the door and get the youngsters out in safety."

"According to Lorenz, the elevators lock on the inside and it was just a matter of luck that he was able to get his fingers through a crack to unlock it.

"Some years ago," Lorenz recalled, "one of my youngsters, then only a couple of years old, also locked the car and went riding. We had to cut a hole in the top to get him out."

After the youngsters were released in the latest episode Lorenz learned that they had wandered away from their baby sitter over on Hamilton Street.

"We didn't pay any attention to them when they came in the lobby," he emphasized. "We thought their parents were somewhere in the hotel which is not unusual."

# Volunteer Spotlight



## Grace Colter

One of the Museum's longtime dedicated volunteers is Grace Colter, who has spent the past 12 years helping the Museum. You will always find her happy face and cheerful disposition on the Museum floor, assisting our visitors.

Grace was born in Detroit but grew up and spent most of her life in Southfield, Michigan. Since Southfield at the time did not have a local high school, she attended

Redford Union High School and went on to receive an education degree at Wayne State University.

Grace chose a teaching career and taught 35 years as a kindergarten teacher at Cooke Grade School in Rosedale Park in Detroit. After retiring from her longtime teaching career, she decided to devote her life to volunteering, thankfully at our Museum.

Besides her position as guide at the Plymouth Historical Museum, she also splits her time at Mill Race Village in Northville and the Northville Public Library. But her volunteering in Michigan does end there.

Grace vacations with her husband for three months every year in Florida at Annamarie Island near Sarasota and volunteers at the local historical museum there.

Grace has been married for 66 years and is the proud mother of two children, Will and Lynne, and has four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

## Angels in the Archive

Every day there is a little bit of excitement happening in the archive, with a new story discovered under dust and long-forgotten memories found in items put away for safe keeping years ago. Recently presented was the letter from Margaret Dunning officially giving the Museum to the Plymouth Historical Society. In a 1920 suitcase, was the WWI uniform of George Burr including camp newsletters, photos, and papers. You will have a chance to see these items on display during our next exhibit "Votes and Vice." By the way, anyone have an empty can of snuff or chewing tobacco we could borrow for the exhibit?

As a long term project, we have hundreds of unidentified photos from the *Community Crier* that need to be identified. We would like to invite you to come in and take up the challenge of identifying faces and places. Just email [archivist@plymouthhistory.org](mailto:archivist@plymouthhistory.org) to volunteer for an hour or two. We are open Wednesday and Friday 1-4 pm. Come take a trip down memory lane.

# Remember Suburban Street Cars?

*Faster, Easier Trips Than Now, Say Oldtimers*

50 Years Ago -  
December 1968

By W. W. EDGAR

Every now and then some of the old time suburban residents point to the fact that it was much easier in their time for a person without an automobile to travel to neighboring communities than it is today.

In advancing the argument they ask—

“How can you go from Farmington to Plymouth today without an auto or without first going to Detroit? Or from Plymouth to Wayne or Northville?”

Without waiting for an answer these oldtimers will quickly inform you that it was easy in the old days “because we had streetcars.”

To the present generation, accustomed to getting into an auto and riding to any of the suburban communities in a short time, even the thought of a streetcar line linking them seems like the figment of one's imagination.

\* \* \*

**YET, SUCH A LINE** did exist—before the common use of the automobile and after Henry Ford put the world on wheels.

Through the years there have been many versions of the streetcars and the routes used to carry passengers from Farmington to Wayne and from Detroit to Plymouth. Just as many questions have been asked about the ownership of the lines.

Many oldtimers are a bit hazy in their recollection of the lines. This has resulted in many “bona fide” versions.

Finally, F. J. Reiman, 14667 Garland, Plymouth, who has done considerable research on the subject, seems to have come up with the true picture of the “inter-urban lines.”

According to his study, the streetcar route started in Wayne at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Wayne Road. From there the cars traveled north to Cherry Hill Road, thence west to Newburgh and north to Ann Arbor Trail in what is now the City of Livonia.



*An Interurban Streetcar passenger train passing under the Phoenix Bridge between Plymouth and Northville. Circa, early 1900s.*

From this point the route was north and west to Penniman Avenue in Plymouth, and then north again on Main Street (or Plymouth Road) to Mill Street.

This was known as Vande Carr's Corner because of the huge Vande Carr house at the intersection. From here the route followed the natural curve of the road down to Northville Road.

Near Phoenix Lake the car went over a trestle and then gradually curved across to what has become known as “Old Northville Road,” and thence into Northville.

From there the route followed Base Line Road (8 Mile) across to the edge of Farmington and through the city and return.

\* \* \*

**MOST FOLKS** who try to recall the route of the old days become confused over Northville Road. There was an old Northville Road, used by the streetcars—and then the new Northville Road.

*The Detroit, Plymouth, and Northville railroad passenger service, also known as the Interurban Streetcar, operated from 1898 to 1924. The Interurban allowed for greater commuter service between Plymouth and Northville, Plymouth and Wayne, and Plymouth and Detroit.*



**Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum**  
155 S. Main Street  
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## **Calendar of Events**

For a detailed list of events, visit the Museum website at [www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html).

### **December 2018**

22&23—Santa Claus visits Museum, 1-4 PM.

30—"Nifty Fifties" exhibit closes. Museum closed until January 16, 2019.

### **January 2019**

15—Members-only Reception, 6-8 PM, limited space, RSVP required [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org)

16—Wednesday, "Votes & Vice" special exhibit opens.

### **February**

10—Sunday, "Teetotalers Tea," 2-4 PM, hear Carrie Nation talk about prohibition. Tickets \$30 for members.

### **March**

9—Saturday, A Night FOR the Museum, Italian American Banquet Center, Livonia, 6-9 PM, Auction Theme, "A Gala Night to Remember."

30—Saturday, "A Flapper Murder at the 1920's Speakeasy," Plymouth Historical Museum, 5:30-8 PM, tickets \$20 per person.



**VOTES & VICE**  
New Exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum  
January 16 thru June 16, 2019  
Museum hours, 1-4 PM,  
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

**1919**  
**VOTES**  
&  
**VICE**