

MUSEUM MEMO

January/February 2015

'The Men and Women of 1776 and How They Influenced the Citizens of the Confederate States of America'

Civil War reenactor David Walker will be the featured guest speaker at the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 PM.

David will discuss "The Men and Women of 1776 and How They Influenced the Citizens of the Confederate States of America."

David, who portrays Confederate President Jefferson Davis at Civil War reenactments, will explain how the Founding Fathers, who are often described as educated and courageous liberators, were also common men who believed that every man should have a right to life, liberty, and property.

David examines how the Founding Fathers were actually ordinary men who had a conviction to create a new form of government that granted all citizens the right to rule themselves and make laws that benefited all men.

With the same desire as the Founding Fathers who wanted independence from England, David will present how the men of the Confederacy followed similar ideals and went to war to maintain their beliefs for independence.

For the past 30 years, David has participated in many Civil War reenactments, first as a Union soldier, and then for the past

ten years as Jefferson Davis. He has appeared at Civil War events in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the Nation's capital.

David is a graduate of Wright State University and has a Bachelor's in elementary education and a Masters in history. He taught grades 4 to 6 over a thirty-year period and retired in 2014.

David believes that both sides of the Civil War have a story that defines what happened during the War between the States.

The lecture will be held at the Plymouth Historical Museum. The talk is open to the public and admission is free.



Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7:30 PM
Guest Speaker, David Walker

The Men and Women of 1776 and How They Influenced the Citizens of the Confederate States of America

Open to the public & Admission is free



The monthly Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum meetings are now held on the second Tuesday of the month instead of the second Thursday.

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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Mary Thackston	Exhibits Coordinator

Museum Memo Editor

Gerry Sabatini sabatini1983@att.net
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is published six times a year. Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum meetings are open to members, their guests, and the public and are held on the second TUESDAY of each month, September through May, at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise scheduled. Please enter on the Church Street side of the building.

Monthly Drawing

Pam Piendel and Chris Coletta are the winners of the January and February drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.

Tickets—\$75 each
 On sale at the Museum
 or on the Museum website at
[www.plymouthhistory.org/
 events](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events)

*A
 Night
 for the
 Museum*

DINNER * AUCTION * FUNDRAISER
 SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015

Doors open at 6 PM
 at the Newly Renovated
 Golden Fox
 at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center
 Plymouth

BENEFITING THE
 PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

New Members—Welcome!

Christina Coletta, Plymouth
 Debbie Dunbar, Northville
 Lori Hemingway, Livonia
 Suzanne Miller, Plymouth
 George Ward, Canton

Plymouth Historical Museum Wish List

1 Roll Postage Stamps	\$49 per
Adopt a Mannequin	\$150
1/2 month heating bill	\$375

Donna Keough Steps Aside as Exhibits Coordinator

By Jan Dersey

Twenty-five years ago, Beth Stewart, former executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, asked Donna Keough if she would consider being the exhibits director.

Donna thought the time was right, as both of her sons were in college. She was an antiques collector with a history major in college and the position seemed to be a good match of her skills and interests. She told Beth that she would start with one exhibit and Beth could tell her what she thought.

Donna remembers her first exhibit well. It was all about tea. As you entered the front door of the Museum (the one on Main Street), you were greeted with a beautiful scene. Ladies (mannequins) were dressed in vintage clothing having their tea, surrounded by all of the accoutrements of the ritual of tea drinking, including an antique tea caddy.

The feedback for this exhibit was very positive, with Margaret Dunning being especially appreciative. Some of the people who helped set up exhibits back then were Jean Scheppele, Joan Baker, and Karen Witmer, as well as Stewart. Ralph Moote, the Museum's facility manager, has always been a loyal member of the exhibits crew.

The Timeline of Plymouth on the lower level did not exist at the time; in its place were a bedroom, a living room, and a hat shop. These rooms always needed to be decorated at each exhibit changeover.

About ten years ago, the Timeline was installed and became a permanent exhibit. Donna was involved in this project and worked on the photographer's shop, as well as the 1940s kitchen and the beauty parlor.

When the Plymouth Historical Society acquired Dr. Weldon Petz's Lincoln collection in 1998, Donna was involved in displaying this outstanding collection and later installing it permanently in the brand new Lincoln Room, which was added in 2001–2. Donna remembers this as one of the highlights of her time as exhibits coordinator.

Another highlight was the thirtieth anniversary of the Ford Mustang. "The American Road" exhibit featured other vintage cars, but the 1964 1/2 Mustang was the star. Bill Ford Jr. was present for the grand opening of this exhibit.

When Margaret Dunning turned 100 in 2010, the exhibit was called "Margaret's 1910." The Museum showed Plymouth during Margaret's early life. Donna researched archival records and census records to find out about Plymouth families during 1910 and beyond. Mannequins were dressed in period clothing and the Museum's Main Street was transformed to that time period.

Unless you have worked in exhibits, you probably do



not know what is involved in the process from start to finish. At the beginning of each new exhibit, the first step is taking down and putting away the old exhibit. That takes about two days of work.

The next five or six days involve installing the new exhibit, but even before that can happen, an idea must be decided upon and researched.

The dressing of mannequins often begins months before an exhibit because it is a painstakingly slow process. Mannequins are notoriously stubborn and dressing them is often a two-person job.

Donna remembers her time as exhibits coordinator fondly. There were so many wonderful exhibits through the years that it is difficult to choose favorites, but she did mention First Ladies, Wedding Dresses, Country School with a focus on Geer School, Vintage Project Runway, World War II, Dolls, Civil War, Teddy Bears and Trains, and A Red Ryder Christmas Story as some of the ones that stand out in her mind.

She also remembers all of the dedicated exhibits crew members through the years who have loved creating beautiful exhibits. Our executive director, Liz Kerstens, has been a great supporter of the work of the exhibits crew and Donna is grateful for their partnership.

Donna's crew members remember her as a totally dedicated leader who always worked for the most beautiful and historically accurate displays. If it were not right at the first attempt, she encouraged the crew to try again until it "worked."

I think we all agree that we not only learned a great deal working with Donna, but also had fun. She always let us know how much she appreciated our efforts. Donna plans to continue to work with the exhibits crew and we are very happy about that.

Jan Dersey has worked with Donna Keough on the exhibits crew for the past ten years.

**Donations Received
December 2014–
January 2015
Thank You!**

The following generous donations were received between December 2014 and January 2015:

**The Dunning
(\$2,500+)**

Margaret Dunning
Natalie McMahon
David M. Thoms

**The Pere Marquette
(\$1,500–\$2,499)**

Brian & Margaret Kidston

The Lincoln

(\$1,000–\$1,499)

Anonymous
Community Foundation of
Plymouth

Dolores Guenther
The Stulberg Family

**The Starkweather
(\$500–\$999)**

Wally & Marlene Donoghue
Geraldine Kilsdonk

Mary Ellen King
William Lawton
Helen Merrill
Roy Pilkington
**The Penniman
(\$250–\$499)**

Dearborn Jewelers
Lois Dusbiber
William Elliott
E. David Reitzel
Walt Scott
John Wilson

The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)

Louis Christensen
Joel Clark
Dr. Thomas Covington, DDS
Karen Ekholm
Virginia Fehlig
Mary Fritz
Greek Islands Coney Restaurant
Cynthia Hartsig
Margaret Laforrest
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Lou LaRiche Chevrolet
Lloyd Leach
Dodie Martinek
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Vera Milz

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Fred Robinson
Kate Rosevear
Jim Vermeulen
Randall Whately
Trailwood Garden Club
Up to \$100

Jeffrey Ashton
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Susan Goerge

Bob McCaffrey

Ralph Moote

Lorna Nitz

Plymouth Hills

Apartments

Emily Rosenquist

David Rucinski

Helen Schueler

Donna Thomas

George

Thompson

Alan

VanKerckhove

Carol Wall

Janet

Wingenroth



Museum Wish List

6-11183 | Price: \$1,139.99

Please consider a donation to help the Museum purchase the newly released 1:48 scale model Heritage Series Lincoln Funeral Train from Lionel.

The authentically detailed model train will make a great addition to the Museum's distinguished collection of President Abraham Lincoln artifacts.

www.lionel.com

Heritage Series Lincoln Funeral Train

By April 1865, the Union had prevailed over the Confederacy, and the Iron Horse connected towns and cities across the nation and its territories. The Nashville, a 4-4-0 American-type locomotive built by the Cuyahoga Steam Furnace Company during the 1850s, was a stalwart on the Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Railroad.

Back in Virginia, the United States was being built by the US Military Railroad as the first presidential car. Ordered in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln was famously scheduled to ride in the car for the first time on April 15, 1865. But the tragedy of April 14 kept Lincoln from that appointment and forever changed American history.

With the assistance of Wayne Wesolowski, Retired Director of the Benedictine University Lincoln Train Project, Lionel now offers this important train with full mourning decoration in 1:48 scale as part of the Heritage Series of 19th century steam locomotives.

'Elizabeth the Great of England'

Storyteller Maureen Esther will be the featured guest speaker at the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum meeting on Tuesday, April 14, at 7:30 PM.

Maureen's story is titled, "Elizabeth the Great of England."

Henry VIII's daughter, England's Glorianna, who was bestowed the name Queen Elizabeth I, was considered England's greatest monarch. She was the Queen of England from 1558 until her death in 1603.



Queen Elizabeth I
Portrait, circa 1575

Elizabeth I was the first monarch to have an era named after her. The era, known as the Elizabethan era, was famous for English literature and drama, led by playwright William Shakespeare, and for high sea adventures, led by explorer Sir Francis Drake.

Elizabeth I was legendary for her moderate rule, and her sensible vision for England that set the foundation for the British colonization of America.

One of Elizabeth's first endeavors as queen was the establishment of an English Protestant church. The Elizabethan Religious Settlement later evolved into today's Church of England

Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 PM
Guest Speaker Maureen Esther
Elizabeth the Great of England

Open to the public
& Admission is free

In 2015, Maureen will celebrate her 23rd year of storytelling and has presented stories to more than 25,000 children and adults. She has no plans to slow-down and continues to research new subjects to add to her repertoire, including stories about King Tut, King Henry VIII, the American Civil War, and the Titanic.

The presentation will be held at the Plymouth Historical Museum. The talk is open to the public and admission is free.



Guest Speaker
Maureen Esther

CREATIVE HANDS
BUSY HANDS



EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY AT
THE MUSEUM UNTIL

JUNE 14, 2015

Ghosts of Plymouth Walk Around Kellogg Park

Saturday, April 25
Walks begin at 5:00 PM

Tickets \$10 in advance (\$5 for children under 10); \$15 (\$10 for children under 10) at the park

Purchase tickets at
Plymouth Historical Museum
155 S. Main Street
Plymouth
734-455-8940




Plymouth Days Gone-bye

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

100 Years Ago (January 1915)

The Wretchedness of Constipation
 Can quickly be overcome by **CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.**
 Purely vegetable — act surely and gently on the liver. Cure Biliousness, Head-ache, Dizziness, and Indigestion. They do their duty. **SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE.**
 Genuine must bear Signature
Wm. Wood



"That Husband of Mine"
 The second in the popular Sunday evening series on Home Life.
7 O'clock Sun., Jan. 10
METHODIST CHURCH
 JOSEPH DUTTON, Pastor

Village to Build New Jail
 The village will build a new jail as soon as work can be commenced on the same. The new building will be built of cement blocks and will be 20x20 feet in size. It will be erected upon ground belonging to the village near the electric light plant. For several years the lockup has been located in the electric light building, but owing to the fact that more room will be needed there when the new boilers are installed, it was found necessary to vacate this room.

50 Years Ago (January 1965)



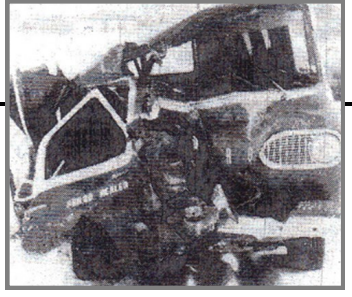

What a wonderful thing the telephone is
 And how little it costs!
Michigan Bell

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CHANNEL 50
 U. H. F. Converters from the Space Age - Solid State
 ONLY **\$19.95**
 with Free Bow Tie Antenna
BONNIE DISCOUNT STORES
 930 W. Ann Arbor Tr. Plymouth



50 Years Ago (February 1965)

Northville Man is Injured in Tuesday Truck-Train Crash
 A TRAIN-TRUCK accident on Beck Road west of Plymouth sent Frank Loy of Northville to the hospital Tuesday morning with serious head injuries. Loy apparently couldn't make it across the tracks in time on the ice-covered country road.



THE PENN THEATRE
 PLYMOUTH, MICH.

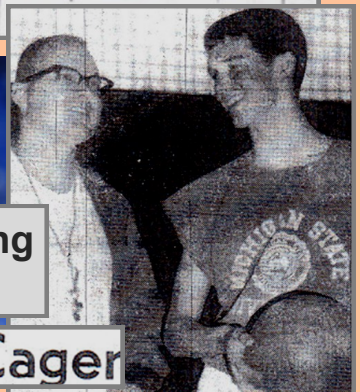
Sex and the Single girl
Tony Curtis
Natalie Wood

"Father Goose"
Cary Grant
Leslie Caron

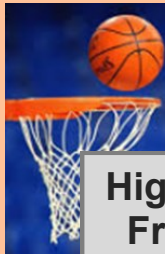
tony curtis debbie reynolds pat boone
walter matthau Goodbye CHARLIE

Rock HUDSON DORIS Day TONY Randal
 SEND ME NO FLOWERS... just send me

CAVELL AND STAKIAS — Coach Casey Cavell, Plymouth freshman basketball mentor, pictured with a high-scoring transfer student from Livonia, Mike Stakias. In the first two games as a Plymouth 9th grader, Stakias led the Rock frosh to two wins by scoring 29 and 26 points, respectively.



High-scoring Freshman
Plymouth Cager



Bits 'N Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director

Mary Thackston, the Museum's new exhibit's coordinator, is not a newcomer to the Plymouth Historical Museum. Mary started volunteering at the Museum in 2005. She retired from the U.S. Postal Service in January of that year after 33 years of service. She was a window clerk when she retired but had also spent many years as a mail carrier. In the summer of 2005, Mary visited the Museum to see the Wedding Gown exhibit and discovered she could volunteer here. At first she volunteered in the archives and as a guide, but eventually landed on the exhibits crew.

The Timeline of Plymouth was being set up when she started with exhibits. She worked on the Civil War exhibit, in the Daisy room, and on the case where the made in Plymouth display is. Later she worked on the Phoenix Mill room. Mary likes the physicality of working in exhibits. She enjoys doing arrangements and is honored to be able to contribute to the Museum. She es-

pecially enjoys seeing all of the old clothing and the elegance of the home furnishings in the Museum's collections.

Mary grew up in Berkley. Her grandparents lived upstairs; her grandmother taught her to crochet and knit. Mary remembers ordering Barbie patterns through the *Royal Oak Tribune* be-

fore she had a sewing machine and sewed the doll clothing by hand. She eventually took sewing in home economics in junior high. Mary's mother didn't sew but she had a sewing machine that Mary could use. Even today, sewing is one of Mary's favorite hobbies and making doll clothing is her favorite way to creatively indulge in her hobby. In fact, she has sewn a number of items for Museum exhibits through the years, including a Zouave soldier for a Ken doll for our Lincoln exhibit, a giant Santa's toy bag, a Santa Claus suit, and parts of some dresses for the upcoming First Ladies exhibit in 2016. In addition, she modified the bunny costume for the Red Ryder Christmas Story exhibit and repaired our American flag. Have I mentioned that Mary loves to sew?

One of Mary's goals in her new position is to "have the exhibits be as compelling as they have been under Donna Keough's leadership." She is proud to be part of the Museum team and says her favorite thing about working on exhibits is when they have finished creating a new one. "I just love seeing what we've accomplished." Welcome, Mary, and we look forward to seeing what the exhibits crew will accomplish under your leadership!



50 Years Ago
(February 1965)

The worst snow storm since the early Thirties hit the Detroit area last Thursday, and in Plymouth, like everywhere else, residents were still digging out over the weekend. The weatherman estimated about 12 inches of snow fell, but that doesn't begin to tell the story as gusting winds piled the feather-light stuff into mammoth drifts in the space of a few hours.

TIE-UP in front of Burroughs last Thursday held up many motorists for several hours on Plymouth Road. It was the same story on all other roads leading in and out of Plymouth, as snow drifted faster than road crews could handle it.

COSTS CITY \$5,114:
Record Blizzard Stagers Area

Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum
155 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Non-Profit Org
U. S. Postage
PAID
Plymouth, MI.
Permit No. 111

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

For a detailed list of events, visit the Museum website at
www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html.

Special Museum Exhibit

“Creative Hands, Busy Hands” — Exhibit on display until
June 14, 2015.

March

7—Saturday, A Night FOR the Museum, Fox Hills Golf &
Banquet Center, Plymouth, Doors open at 6 PM. Tickets
are \$75 per person and can be purchased at the Museum
or on the Museum website.

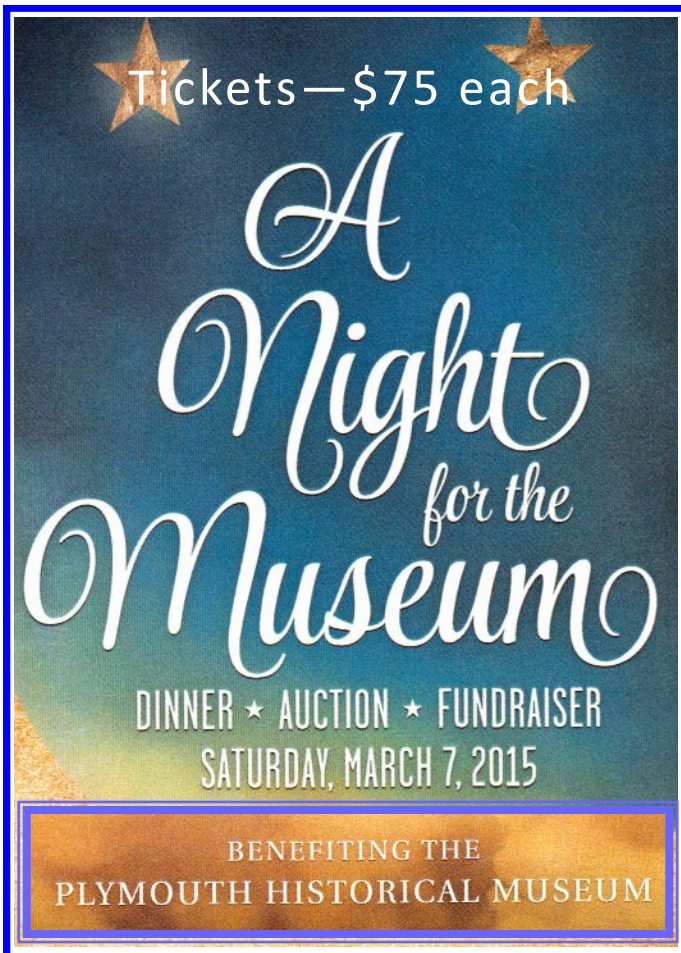
10—TUESDAY, Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum,
Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, “The Men and Women
of 1776 and How They Influenced the Citizens of the
Confederate States of America,” with David Walker,
free admission.

29—Sunday, “Downton Abbey Tea,” Plymouth Historical
Museum, 2-4 PM. This tea is SOLD OUT.

April

14—TUESDAY, Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum,
Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, “Elizabeth the Great of
England,” with Maureen Esther, free admission.

25—Saturday, “Ghosts of Plymouth” Walk, Kellogg Park,
tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the park.



Tickets—\$75 each

*A
Night
for the
Museum*

DINNER ★ AUCTION ★ FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015

BENEFITING THE
PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The poster features a dark blue background with two gold stars at the top. The title 'A Night for the Museum' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below the title, the event details are listed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a gold banner contains the text 'BENEFITING THE PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM'.