

January-March 2018

‘Another Take on World War II: The Stars Go To War’

Presented by Museum Guest Speaker Daniel Packer



Plymouth Historical Museum guest speaker Daniel Packer has been a FoPHM member for nearly 30 years, and is a member of the Museum Board of Directors. He is a retired U.S. treasury agent, and has extensive knowledge of the American Civil War and World War II.



With the advent of World War II, it seemed that everyone wanted to get involved in the war effort, many enlisting in the military.

This effort extended to those working in the movie film industry in Hollywood.

Some major leading men volunteered, others were drafted and some were shielded from going into harm's way by their employers, the powerful Hollywood studios.

Some were put into the Special Services Branch of the military, making propaganda films or touring with the USO entertaining troops at stateside military camps.

Some stars fought the studios to get to the fighting front, many with mixed results.

In this presentation, the military records of many of these

stars—those who joined, those who were drafted, and those who were protected by the Hollywood studios—will be reviewed and scrutinized.

You may be surprised about the military service provided by some of the great leading men of the 1940s.

You will also be introduced to many of the future stars that were in the military and in some cases used their military background in their on-screen portrayals after the war.

Though women in general were not allowed to fight in battle, many of the female stars made major contributions to the war effort, some putting their lives in danger.

All of these contributions by men & women during World War II are presented here.

Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum Meeting

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker Daniel Packer

“Another Take on World War II: The Stars Go To War”

Talk is open to the public & admission is free

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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Museum Memo Editor

Gerry Sabatini sabatini1983@att.net
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

Monthly Drawing

Mike Janz, Carolyn Zaborsky, and Merrilee Zawadzki are the winners of the January, February, and March drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.

**Nominations for
 Board of Director candidates
 will be taken from the floor
 at the April 10, 2018, meeting of
 the Friends of the Plymouth
 Historical Museum**

According to the bylaws:

“Candidates must be members in good standing of the Society on or by the deadline for nominations and maintain their membership throughout their term. Employees and immediate family members of employees and the then acting Directors may not serve as Directors.

“Additional nominations may be made by individual members at the regular meeting at which the report of the Nominating Committee is presented [the regular meeting prior to the annual meeting]. No nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting. Members may not be nominated for office unless they have given their consent and agree to serve if elected.”

New Members—Welcome!

Rebecca Bimberg, Plymouth
 Amelia Black, Canton
 Jacob Black, Canton
 Elke Byrge, Plymouth
 Dennis Cebulski, Plymouth
 John Chudyk, Canton
 Adrienne Croket, Northville
 Brenda Garrett, Plymouth
 Sheri Janer, Plymouth
 Tess Kirby, Ann Arbor
 Deana Michalak, Canton
 Sandra K. Suddendorf, Livonia
 Jeff Wears, Plymouth

The Plymouth Historical Museum 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.

- Roll of 100 first-class postage stamps \$50
- Box of copy paper \$27
- 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

This year the Plymouth Historical Society celebrates 70 years of preserving Plymouth history! We've started off the year with a bang by having the best gala fundraiser ever! Numbers are still being tabulated, but it looks like we netted more than \$50,000, thanks to all of the generous contributions from members, friends, and the greater Plymouth community.

Newsletter

The Board of Directors has voted to have the *Museum Memo* newsletter published quarterly instead of bi-monthly, beginning with this issue. Also beginning with this issue, we will tell members in advance when tickets will be available for our various events, to ensure that all members have the opportunity to purchase tickets before they sell out.

Tickets

Tickets for two upcoming events are on sale now. There is still plenty of room in the **Ghosts of Plymouth Walk**, but you are encouraged to purchase tickets early, in case we sell out. The 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. time slots are sold

out.

"A Beastly Tea" is well on its way to selling out, and may be by the time you read this. If you want to come to that, you need to contact us immediately to see if there are still spaces available.

The events, dates, and when tickets will be available to members, first, and then the general public are listed in the box below.

Advance sale of tickets for Museum events can be purchased by members only at the Museum using cash, check or credit card. They can also be purchased online through Eventbrite, but only when the event becomes available to the public. Once the tickets are available to the public,

you can purchase from the Museum's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/plymouthhistory/>) or the Museum's website (<http://www.plymouthhistory.org>). There is a small fee added to purchases through Eventbrite.

Welcome Mike Woloszyk!

Mike is our new marketing director. He was a Museum guide for several years and has portrayed a number of characters as a reenactor. If you came to the Yuletide at the White House member preview, you'll remember Mike as President Calvin Coolidge. He recently retired from a career in sales.

Date of Event	Event	Members	Public
April 21	Ghosts of Plymouth Walk	Now	Now
May 6	A Beastly Tea	Now	Now
June 10	Wilcox House Tour	April 9	April 23
July 15	Ice Cream Social (Kids)	May 18	June 1
August 12	Wilcox House Tour	June 11	June 25
September 23	Wilcox House Tour	July 23	Aug. 6
October 6	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	July 2	July 16
October 27	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	July 30	Aug. 13
November 4	Wilcox House Tour	Sept. 17	Oct. 1
December 2	Christmas Tea	Oct. 1	Oct. 15
December 12	Simply Dickens	Oct. 15	Oct. 29

Please join our pool!

Attention all newly retired teachers!
Come join our volunteer teaching staff
(as your schedule permits)
for school field trips.

Call Leslie Ryder, education coordinator, to
discuss this fun opportunity!
734-455-8940 x2.



Donations Received
December 2017 – February 2018 Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between December 2017 and February 2018:

The Great Gadsby (\$6,000)
Free Summer Saturdays
 Comfort Keepers

The Lincoln (\$1,000+)
 Argent International
 Mary Fritz
 Edward Furdak
 Betty Hees
 Lary Smith
 Donald Soenen
 John Wilson Jr.

The Starkweather (\$500-\$999)
 AlphaGraphics
 Jeff Ashton
 ATS Advisors
 Jim Burroughs
 Community Financial Credit Union
 Compari's on the Park
 Detroit Elevator Company
 Marlene Donoghue
 Joe & Ellen Elliott
 First Financial Strategies
 Freudenberg-NOK
 Fred Hill, ReMAX Classic
 Dr. Howard Kane
 Brian Kidston
 Loiselle & Associates
 Mettetal Airport
 Monroe Bank & Trust

Packaging Corporation of America
 Roy Pilkington
 Reliable Landscaping
 Roose Animal Hospital
 Stella's Black Dog Tavern

The Penniman (\$250-\$499)
 C. L. Finlan & Son
 Italian American Club
 Mary Ellen King
 Mayflower Enterprises
 Michigan Educational Credit Union
 Dr. Sean O'Brien
 Team DeJohn Realty

The Kellogg (\$100-\$249)
 Joel Clark
 Dr. Thomas Covington
 Matthew Duda
 William Elliott
 Joseph Gentilcore
 Robert Gordon
 Karen Grima
 Audrey Gross
 Cynthia Hartsig
 Shirley Jallad
 Steven Kempes
 Steven Marulis
 Nancy Navarre
 Dan Packer
 Fred Robinson
 Kate Rosevear
 Gerald Sabatini
 Thomas Salapatek
 Ruth Schonhoff
 George Thompson
 Jim Vermeulen

Under \$100
 Carter Black
 John Bonesch
 Linda Bowlby
 Linda Bozgan
 Charles Curmi
 DJL Builders
 Katharina Fedototszkin
 William Keough
 Geraldine Kilsdonk
 Dale Knab
 Rosina Kuhlmann
 Susanna Leprich
 Linda Manchester
 Cara Nims
 Robert Quattro
 David Rocker
 David Rucinski
 Susan Robinson
 Veralou Scott
 Carl Solak
 Carol Souchock
 Ann Stanford
 Tim Tingstad
 Patricia White
 Agnieszka Wira

The Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum is a privately funded organization and receives no government support for its mission of providing historical education and maintaining the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Donations are always welcome to help preserve the exhibits, and to allow visitors the opportunity to experience the cherished history of Plymouth.

Utility expenses alone are \$30,000 per year.

Donations are tax deductible, and can be sent directly to the Plymouth Historical Society, a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

We appreciate your support!

Volunteer Spotlight

Mike Janz

Mike retired after 38 years of self employment in the retail, film production and power generation business to pursue his two passions in life: perennial gardening and world history. After he retired, he earned his Master Gardener Certification through Michigan State University and worked part time at Plymouth Nursery, applying the science he learned to everyday practices. He admits to having a mistress in life—his books. Mike feels fortunate to have acquired the habit of reading at an early age and it seems to have served him well in life.

Mike keeps in close contact with many of his college friends and travels to an away Spartans football game each year with ten of his fraternity buddies from the old days at MSU. Last year marked their 29th year in a

row of traveling to a game together! Mike is also president of the Theta Chi Alumni Corporation at Michigan State.

Mike and his wife Sally have two daughters. They spend as much time as possible with their three grandchildren (all under 2 1/2 years old, plus one due in April). One of his daughters lives in Northville and the other in Cincinnati. They travel to Cincinnati often to visit and babysit their grandchildren, which gives new meaning to the old adage, “How did we ever find the time and energy to raise children and have our career?” Or as his wife would retort, “what do you mean ‘we’?”

As a guide, what Mike admires most about our Museum is that our exhibit themes are expressed as stories and not just memorizing various names of famous people, places and events. The internet can offer all the “content” in the world but it can’t deliver a conversational story telling experience about the people and the cultural circumstances they lived in. A personal every-day goal of his is to always “let ‘em leave with a smile on their faces!” He can’t express enough how important it is to him to be a member of such a committed team of volunteers and staff.



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.

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.

SCHEDULE A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PARTY



The party is \$250 for 3-4 hours of fun! Accommodates up to 10 kids. Includes watching a *Night at the Museum* movie, pizza or subs & drinks, and meeting the Museum characters.

For more information contact the Museum or visit the Museum website.

May 2018 Board Elections

Elections for the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum Board of Directors are coming up!

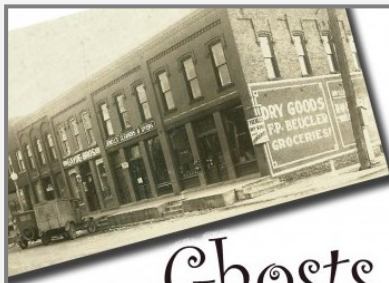
Elections will take place at the Plymouth Historical Museum annual meeting on Tuesday, May 8.

You can also vote absentee!

If you won't be at the May meeting, be sure to pick up an absentee ballot from the Museum beforehand and return it to the Museum by 3:30 PM on Monday, May 7, or else your vote will not be counted.

The absentee ballot will also be available on the Museum's website, www.plymouthhistory.org, after the April 10 monthly meeting.

The May membership meeting is a potluck dinner. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM.



The Plymouth Historical Museum presents historic figures from Plymouth's past in...

Ghosts of Plymouth Walk Around Old Village

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 per person day of the Ghost Walk.

Groups of 8 or more should contact the Plymouth Historical Museum for a group rate of \$12 per ticket. Call 734-455-8940 x2 for more information.

The Ghosts of Plymouth Walk is sponsored by the [Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce](http://www.plymouthchamber.com).

Saturday, April 21, 2018

The walks begin at 4 p.m. and leave every 15 minutes, circling Old Village Plymouth and lasting up to 90 minutes.

Participants should meet near the gazebo on Farmer Street.

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

www.plymouthhistory.org

Candidates for the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum Board



Carol Bimberg is running for the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Society Board of Directors for the first time. Carol is a retired technical training manager and worked at the agency that still creates

Ford commercials. She currently answers questions on Fitbit products in online forums. Her degrees are in Business/Accounting (BS, U of M) & Adult Instruction (MA, U of M). Carol and her husband live in Plymouth, and their children and grandchildren live nearby. She has been a member of the Plymouth Historical Museum for a while



Jim Burroughs is running for reelection to the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Society Board of Directors. He has served several years on the Board as treasurer. His efforts have helped to ensure that we are able to pay our bills when they are due. We have also

worked hard to make sure that we are in good financial shape for future years. He also really enjoys contributing as an opener/closer for the Museum on the weekends. Jim is retired from Ford Credit in Dearborn. His interest in the Museum developed from knowing Dr. Weldon Petz and his Lincoln collection.



William Moore is the owner of Executive Property Maintenance in Plymouth. We specialize in Grounds Maintenance, Landscape design, install/ construction and snow removal. He holds several certifications relating to his business, is an active member and is a

director of the MGIA, and is a member of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. William has lead his company to be in the top 100 snow contractors in North America. He enjoys challenges, gardening/planting, current affairs and engaging in good conversation, traveling, Lego architecture, and baseball. He is a member of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum.



Tim Tingstad has lived in Plymouth for more than 35 years. He was the first president and founding member of the Fairground Park Association and is past president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth. Tim has worked as

a Certified Financial Planner since 1982 and worked as a commercial fisherman in Alaska, 1998-2004. He is a member of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, and is a member of the Museum's Plymouth Living History Troupe where he portrays various characters for Museum events. Tim is married to Sandra; they have 2 grown sons and 2 grandchildren.

Friends of the Plymouth
Historical Museum
Annual Meeting &
Election of Board of Directors
May 8, 2018 6:30 PM



Meeting includes a Potluck Meal
Please bring:
Last names beginning A-H—Dessert
Last names beginning I-R—Main Dish
Last names beginning S-Z—Side Dish

Volunteer Spotlight

Mike Gillett

Mike was born and raised in Binghamton, NY—a proud ninth-generation New Yorker! After graduating from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, he moved with his soon-to-be-wife and former classmate to Columbus, Ohio, in the fall of 1978, where they both worked in the pre-computer era as graphic designers. After several different Ohio homes and careers (Mike has an eclectic resumé, having worked as a cartoonist and caricaturist, art teacher, and is a retired Friends pastor), they moved to Livonia in early 2005. Mike currently is employed with Xerox in Ann Arbor.

The father of two adult daughters (Corrie, who lives in Seoul, Korea, and Chaela, who lives considerably closer), and the grandfather of two, Mike has been involved for many years with the Plymouth Historical Museum, volunteering to “be” Santa on weekends each holiday season at the Museum, and portraying local historic figures at the Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walks, Ghosts of Plymouth Walks, Night at the Museum parties, and many other events. Some of you might remember that Mike was Liz’s administrative assistant for an all-to-short time.

Mike’s numerous hobbies include Civil War reenacting (a Union Chaplain), American Revolutionary War reenacting (a kilted Scottish Chaplain), genealogy (long before Ancestry.com’s “shaky leaves,” and even before *Roots!*), his dog Tully, visiting old cemeteries, all sorts of history, naps, and all-too-verbose story-writing/telling. He also has a life-long obsession with the rock band “Jethro Tull.”



Lady Kenmore Dishwasher

Sears

February 14th is Valentine's Day

WAS 219.95

149⁸⁸ 422 to Sell

50 Years Ago - February 1968

The Penn Theatre

DEAN MARTIN as MATT HELM in THE AMBUSHERS

Dick Van Dyke as "Fitzwilly"

UP THE DOWN STAIR CASE

Starring Academy Award Winner SANDY DENNIS

50 Years Ago -
January 1968

City Joins Protest On Trains

*C&O to end
passenger
service
between
Plymouth
and Detroit.*

The City of Plymouth will join in the protest against the C&O Railroad curtailing passenger service at a public hearing scheduled in Detroit on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The City Commission designated City Attorney Charles Lowe to attend the hearing and present Plymouth's protest.

For some time it has been rumored that the C&O was planning to eliminate the train that stops in Plymouth each morning on its way to Detroit, and returns each evening.

Two More High Schools May Be Needed

In the last five years, the Plymouth school district has gained the unprecedented number of 3,000 students and predictions show that this growth will become more intense in the next four years.

In 1962, there were 5,304 students enrolled in all grade levels throughout the district and that number increased tremendously to 8,450 as of December, 1967.

Five years ago the district built new facilities valued at \$4,325,367, but the five year span to 1967 saw that value figure jump to six times that amount to \$25,103,033.

However, instead of simply repeating itself along the same lines the number of enrollments in the next four years is expected to double that of present count.

Predictions indicate that by 1971 there will be 14,055 students which would require two more high schools, three more middle schools and six more elementary schools.

The 1967 portion of the split school year saw 24 new classrooms added throughout the district. This represented an increased capacity of 780 students over the year before.

Mail Will Cost More

*First Class Mail
increases
to 6 Cents*

Effective Jan. 7, it will cost six cents to send a letter by first-class mail and 10 cents for air mail.

The 20 per cent increase in postage applies to all first-class mail up to 13 ounces and to all air mail up to seven ounces.

New rate for post cards will be five cents and for air mail post cards eight cents.

Penniman Building Fire Sets Longevity Record

*P&A Theater fire
took 60 hours
to extinguish*

The fire that destroyed the Penniman Building last Sunday not only was the most stubborn blaze in the city's history, but it also set a record for longevity.

The first alarm was sounded shortly after noon on Sunday and it was not until almost 60 hours later, on Tuesday evening, that Fire Chief George Schoenneman declared the fire "out" and removed the last of the fire fighters from the scene.

Plymouth Days Gone By

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

50 Years Ago - January 1968

She Is 96 Years Young And Still Being Honored

MRS. B. R. GILBERT



In 1929, Mrs. B. R. Gilbert of 959 Penniman was president of the Plymouth Woman's Club and now, 39 years later, at the club's recent annual benefit it was announced that she will hold an honorary membership in the organization.

Born Letitia Wallace Smith in 1871, Mrs. Gilbert has filled her 96 years of life with teaching, music and an unflinching interest in local and global events.

Her teaching career began many years ago on her father's large land holdings located in Oakland and Livingston counties.

Mrs. Gilbert was the first girl in her family to attend

college and after graduation from Eastern Michigan University; then "Ypsi Normal", she began teaching in the school built by her father on his land to serve the children of his farm hands.

* * *

"MY STUDENTS were what you might call a captive audience," Mrs. Gilbert reflects, "but those years were good ones."

When the little schoolhouse stood empty under the summer sun, Mrs. Gilbert would become a student herself and return to the Ypsi campus for the summer courses.

It was during one of these summers that she met Mr.

Gilbert. As owner and manager of a men's clothing store in Ypsilanti he was taking advantage of the college's summer courses in business.

Their marriage in 1895 was blessed with one daughter, Helen, who has followed in mother's footsteps and is a teacher with the Detroit school system.

Mrs. Gilbert holds very strong feelings on the recent teacher strikes and feels that disagreements should be resolved in a manner befitting the profession.

* * *

Plea Repeated For Recreation

For the second time within a year Commissioner James McKeon has asked the City Commission to consider a city-wide recreation program.

"If we can have an outline of a program and what it would require, in the way of funds," Commissioner McKeon stated, "we would then be in a position to set up a budget accordingly.

"Let's find out what other cities do and how a program is established. Then we can move with intelligence and get started on a recreation program that long has been needed."



COSTLY UNSIGHTLINESS --- These piles of junk and rubbish in the industrial park just off Ann Arbor Road at the viaduct are proving to be more than an eyesore to the residents. It came to light during the week that a major manufacturing concern turned down the site for a new plant because of the environment.

Points In Plymouth History

50 Years Ago - January 1968

Speaking before the Rotary Club Friday, Sam Hudson, official historian of the City of Plymouth, listed what he termed "the 10 turning points" in the history of the Plymouth community.

Going into the most minute detail in his reasons for the selections he listed them as follows:

1. Selection of the name of Plymouth in 1827.
2. Establishment of Kellogg Park, known as Plymouth Green in 1835.
3. Establishment of city bound-

daries--no official date known.

4. Coming of the railroad in 1870.
5. One man's vote to bring about the Daisy Air Rifle Company.
6. The major fire of 1893.
7. Partition of Plymouth Township in 1898.
8. Arrival of Burroughs Corporation in 1937.
9. Extension of Detroit water lines to Plymouth Township in 1959.
10. Judge Victor Baum's ruling declaring part of city charter unconstitutional in 1967.

City Historian's Choices



There can be no question about the major sports stories nationally in 1967.

Top Sports Story?

October 1, 1967
Tigers drop season finale
- give Red Sox
AL pennant

50 Years Ago -
January 1968

- 1--The Red Sox beating out the Tigers for the American League flag.
- 2--Indiana surprising the football world by capturing the Big Ten's right to go to the Rose Bowl.
- 3--Cassius Clay being stripped of his heavyweight boxing title for failure to enter the U.S. Army when drafted.
- 4--The continued downfall of the United States in tennis.
- 5--Bob Gibson's pitching that

won the world series for St. Louis.

If you're looking for other big moments: how's about--Jim Ryun's 3:51.1 mile record, Lew Alcindor and his UCLA basketball team, the record number of victories (68) and the world title plucked by Wilt Chamberlain and the Philadelphia 76ers, the first Super Bowl game, Intrepid's easy victory in the Americans Cup, and Charles Finley pulling the Kansas City A's out of Missouri and moving them to Oakland, Cal.?

Township Approves Plans For First Shopping Center

Construction begins
on \$350,000
Wrigley
Supermarket

The last hurdle was removed Tuesday night when the Planning Commission approved a building permit that will allow the developers, Stewart Oldford & Sons, to construct the center that will comprise more than 33,000 square feet.

THE PLAN was approved without a dissenting vote and it furnished another sizable bit of evidence that the township will continue the boom that started several years ago.

Oldford told the commission that construction will begin soon on a \$350,000 Wrigley super market with completion sometime in the fall of 1968.

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

Non-Profit Org
U. S. Postage
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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.

April

- 10—Tuesday, FoPHM Membership Meeting, 7 PM, “Another Take on World War II: The Stars Go To War,” with Daniel Packer.
- 18—Wednesday, Family Night, 6-8 PM, Sponsored by Team DeJohn Realty.
- 21—Saturday, Ghosts of Plymouth Walk Around Old Village. Walks begin at 4 PM at Gazebo on Farmer Street; tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at Gazebo. The walk lasts up to 90 minutes. Sponsored by Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. 4 PM and 7 PM time slots are sold out.

May

- 6—Sunday, “A Beastly Tea,” Noon-2 PM. Tickets are \$25 for one adult and one child; \$15 additional people.
- 8—Tuesday, FoPHM Annual Meeting, 6:30 PM, Board of Directors election. Potluck suggestions: Last names beginning A-H—Dessert; I-R—Main Dish; S-Z—Side Dish.



The Museum's Current Special Exhibit

Featuring wedding outfits and artifacts from the past as well as interesting facts that pertain to wedding traditions long gone. The exhibit is on display until **July 15, 2018.**