Share Your Plymouth Memories: Plymouth Profiles in History

You have a unique opportunity to honor a favorite Plymouth person from the past in our upcoming exhibit. As part of the City of Plymouth’s 150th anniversary celebration, the Plymouth Historical Museum will dedicate all of 2017 to an evolving exhibit celebrating Plymouth’s rich history. The exhibit will change throughout the course of the year with new themes being added on a regular basis (look for something extra special in October 2017!).

To bring some attention to the real people who lived in Plymouth and their stories, we will feature “Plymouth Profiles in History” as part of the exhibit. A limited number of folks will get to submit a photo and short write-up to honor a Plymouth resident of the past—a chance for ordinary people to have their stories told, whether they are relatives, neighbors or friends. One caveat: the person needs to be deceased.

The “Plymouth Profiles in History” photos and stories will be displayed as part of Plymouth’s 150th anniversary exhibit in 2017 and will include a photo and short write-up that you submit as well as a permanent, engraved 4” x 8” brick paver in front of the Museum. The cost to be featured is $300 and the number of spaces is limited. If you are interested in reserving one of these “Plymouth Profiles in History,” please go to www.plymouthhistory.org/donate.html and select “Plymouth Profiles in History,” or visit the Museum during open hours.

Early-bird deadline for the first round of stories is December 15, 2016. Once we have received your commitment donation, we will contact you about how to submit the story and photo.
Museum Wish List

- Stamps

Roll of 100 first-class postage stamps $47

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

We are always in need of stamps. If you would like to donate first class "forever" stamps, any style or amount is appreciated. Just deliver or mail them to the museum.

Here are some of our common purchases to provide inspiration.

- Box of copy paper $27
- 1 mannequin for exhibits (9 needed) $200
- 5 cubic yards of mulch for landscaping $185
- IT/Network support $250
- ½ month heating bill $375
- ½ month electric bill $475
- 1 month employee salary $500

These are provided as inspiration only. Every donation of any amount helps and is appreciated more than you know.

To donate, make your check payable to:
Plymouth Historical Society
155 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Bi-monthly newsletter, *Museum Memo*
10% discount in the *Museum Store*
Reduced rates on some Museum events
Free admission to the Museum during the membership year
Monthly educational programs

New Members—Welcome!
Linda Anderson, Livonia
Arina Done, Northville
Sandy Prichard, Livonia
Mary Singer, Plymouth

Monthly Drawing

G. Mounika and Angelle Blaies are the winners of the September and October drawings for a $25 gift certificate.
We’ve been pretty busy at the Plymouth Historical Museum lately. We have had an incredibly successful year of events, including several sold out teas, two upcoming cemetery walks that sold out several months ahead of time, sold-out tours of the Wilcox House, as well as some wildly popular open houses and members-only previews.

A lot of this recent success can be attributed to the incredible enthusiasm of our new Marketing Director Sherrie Brindley (right). Sherrie has added a spark to our already energized staff with her grant-writing abilities, wonderful ideas, and her love of statistics and data!

Sherrie has written several grant requests already. We received a sizable grant from the Margaret Dunning Foundation for a two-year campaign to increase admissions, volunteers, and donations. That grant is funding Sherrie’s salary and the salary of a new volunteer coordinator for the next two years. She also wrote a grant to replace our plywood shelving in the storage area with movable storage, which you can read more about on page 5.

You may have noticed some mail from the Museum recently asking for donations for our annual appeal. We are making great progress toward our $25,000 goal after only a couple weeks (see chart).

The current exhibit, “First Ladies—Fashion Setters,” is in its final days and will close on November 6. If you haven’t been here to see the incredible first ladies dresses researched and produced by our costume historian, Pam Yockey, you need to hurry! We have dresses of 17 first ladies and one vice president’s wife on display. Our newest addition (added in October) is First Lady Laura Bush, whose dress was sponsored by Board member Aaron Frank. We’re happy to discuss other sponsorship opportunities for first ladies dresses or mannequins for this exhibit in 2020. The dresses take time to create, so it’s never too early to think about this.

We would also like to welcome our Board Fellow for the 2016-17 school year, Matthew Law. Matt is a first-year business graduate student at the University of Michigan and will be working on bylaws revisions.
The following generous donations were received between August and September 2016:

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

**The Penniman ($250–$499)**  
Walt Scott

**The Kellogg ($100–$249)**  
Sandra Daniels  
Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce

**Up to $100**  
Roy Pilkington  
Karl Williams

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Preserving our History.  
Sharing our History.  
We couldn't do it without you.

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**50 Years Ago - September 1966**

**NEW TRACTOR**, which was purchased by the City of Plymouth for the Department of Public Works, has the attention of City Manager Richard Blodgett and DPW Supt. Kenneth Vorgas. The all-purpose vehicle received considerable attention from members of the City Commission recently before it was finally determined that it fulfilled all specifications.

**BREAKING GROUND** for the new sanctuary and offices of the Plymouth Church of the Nazarene are (from left) Norm Rhoades, of Case Construction Co.; Township Trustee Louis Norman, Rev. Ronald Moss, Russ Park, Dean Hamlin, Harold Anderson and Gil Wasalaski. The target date for completion of the $189,000 addition is seven months.
Big plans are underway at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

In addition to a packed fall event schedule—the wildly popular Cemetery Walk, the Holiday Craft Bazaar, the new Yuletide at the White House exhibit and Simply Dickens—there’s something even bigger keeping the part-time staff busy: Finding $34,000 to replace formaldehyde-laden plywood shelves.

“This is an important time for us,” said Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director. “We are planning a major exhibit in 2017 in celebration of the City of Plymouth’s 150th anniversary. We also have a major capital improvement project in the works.”

The Plymouth Historical Museum has a large storage area in the lower level where furniture and larger, bulkier items are stored. The current storage system is made of two-level plywood shelves. Plywood is known to contain formaldehyde, which is dangerous to museum collections.

“We regularly assess our storage needs and work to ensure that our collections are being housed in a safe manner,” Kerstens said. “When we learned that the formaldehyde in the plywood shelves would damage our collections we began to look for safer alternatives.”

This Spacesaver project would upgrade the storage system in the museum’s main storage area to a professional, museum-quality, movable space-saver system.

The upgrade is necessary in order to protect the museum collections from damage, and will increase storage capacity.

The cost to purchase and install this system is approximately $45,000.

The museum was selected to receive a grant from the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs for just over $11,000, which will cover approximately 25 percent of the cost of the installation. The museum is working to raise the other $34,000 through donations and other grants.

“It’s a big amount, but our supporters have always been generous and we feel confident that they will help us reach this goal,” Kerstens said. “Most people don’t realize that our whole operation is funded through donations and grants. We do not typically receive any government funding.”
THE DETROIT SUNDAY NEWS
CONTAINED SOME SPLENDID
PICTURES AND WRITE-UP OF
PLYMOUTH.

The Detroit Sunday News roto-
gravure and feature sections, last
Sunday, contained some splendid
views of Plymouth, Northville and
Redford. Pictures shown of Plym-
outh were the High school building,
Main street, E. C. Hough’s residence
The pictures were splendid and they
together with the write-up in the
feature section will do much to ad-
certise the many advantages Plym-
outh has to offer as an industrial and
residence town.

THE PENN THEATER

The Penn Theater will of-
fer the oldtime, silent movies
Sunday afternoon in keep-
ing with another of the tra-
ditions surrounding the an-
nual Fall Festival.
Owner-Manager Margaret
Wilson indicated the doors
will open at noon and the
silent movies will be offered
for the remainder of the af-
ternoon through 6 p.m. at
the price of 10 cents.

100 Years Ago:
September 1916

A barn on the farm of H. H. Thomp-
son, occupied by his son John, about
two and one half miles east of town on
the Plymouth road, was struck by
lightning and totally destroyed by fire
during the severe electrical storm last
Thursday evening. About twenty tons
of hay, a quantity of corn, rye, buck-
wheat and other grains were burned.
The loss is only partially covered by
insurance.

50 Years Ago:
September 1966

City To Vote Again
On Liquor By Glass

City of Plymouth voters
will vote on the question of
liquor by the glass in the No-

tember election. This was as-
sured for the sixth time since
prohibition when petitions
were filed by Roy Rew, a
resident of the city.
The petitions were filed in
behalf of Ralph Lorenz, own-
er of the Mayflower Hotel,
and Herman Halperin, owner
of the Box Bar.
Plymouth has been dry
since prohibition. The act
was repealed in 1932 and
most communities in Michi-
gan went wet by a two to
one margin.
But the city never did ap-
prove the change. The re-
peal act allowed local mu-
ncipalities to remain dry if
they failed to act within 90
days.
50 Years Ago:
October 1966

STRIKING OIL without drilling is Wendell Smith, 14302 Shadywood Drive, Plymouth, who is state president of the Michigan Jaycees. Wendell received a credit card worth 3,500 gallons of premium gasoline from a well-known oil company which also made a contribution to the Michigan Jaycee Foundation. Wendell will use the gasoline when making official visits to the 237 chapters throughout the state.

Senior Ask Housing on City Land

A petition with over 200 signatures urging that the City build the senior citizen housing development behind the Christian Science Church has been filed at City Hall.

According to Mrs. Charles Neal, 676 Burroughs, a group of citizens is anxious to get the project underway.

The City owns the land, which is a park area between Penniman Ave. and West Ann Arbor Trail.

The senior home project, with a Federal grant of nearly $900,000 already obtained, has hit several impasses.

The first occurred when the Public Housing Authority did not approve preliminary drawings.

The second came when the owner of the proposed site at Penniman and Union St., Jack Wilcox, vowed he would never sell his land.

Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest

9:30 a.m., OCT. 8 - DETROIT LIONS-FORD MOTOR CO. Calling all youngsters from 8 to 13. Enter Ford Motor Company's exciting, Punt, Pass, Kick contest now! Local winners compete at Tiger Stadium. Grand Prize winners win a trip to NFL championship game. Pick up your entry blanks at Wonderland or at Bill Brown Sales & Service, 32222 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Hurry! Register at Bill Brown Sales in Livonia.

Allison Sells Chevrolet

Plymouth’s oldtime auto dealers are gradually but most certainly fading out of the picture.

First it was Carl Shear, better known as “Mr. Plymouth” because of his interest in community activities, who retired from the Buick agency several years ago.

Then the late Paul Wiedman relinquished his Ford agency more than two years ago to Leo Calhoun.

Now the announcement has been made of the retirement of Ernest J. Allison from his Chevrolet agency on S. Main Street after more than 40 years. Ernie has been on the ailing list for some time and the agency has been handled by son, Frank, who also had an ailing spell earlier in the year.

Tanger Teacher Crowned Queen of Fund Drive

Betty, blonde, personable Carol Ann Stephenson, a first grade teacher at the new Tanger elementary school, is the first Miss Sweet Charity of the annual Plymouth Community Fund campaign.

Carol Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson, 11737 Amherst Court, was the choice of the judges over a field of three finalists. She will rule over all activities of the annual fund raising campaign and will attend meetings of civic, service and school organizations with General Chairman Edward Schening, of Burroughs Corp.

They will be joined by Sandra Saeger, selected a week ago as “Miss Sparkle.”
Calendar of Events

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


**October**
- 29—Saturday, Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk at Riverside Cemetery. SOLD OUT

**November**
- 13—Sunday, Wilcox House Tour, SOLD OUT
- 16—Wednesday, Wine and Appetizer Reception, 6-8:30 PM
- 25—Friday, Santa’s Workshop, 6-8 PM.
- 26 & 27—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.

**December**
- 3—Saturday, Annual Juried Craft Bazaar, 10 AM-4 PM; Free admission; visit Santa.
- 4—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.
- 6—Tuesday, Simply Dickens Christmas Show, 7 PM. Tickets $10 for members, $15 for non-members, $20 at the door.
- 11 & 12—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.
- 18 & 19—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.
- 24—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.

Coming in 2017, an evolving exhibit of Plymouth’s 150-year history—one of our best exhibits yet!