

April-June 2020

‘Plymouth Railroads’

New Book Co-Authored by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens & Ellen Elliott



Author Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens is executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, a retired US Marine major, and author of three other Arcadia publications.



Author Ellen Elliott, is executive director of Friends of the Penn and manager of the Penn Theatre in Plymouth, Michigan.

Plymouth historians Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens and Ellen Elliott have co-authored a new book, titled *Plymouth Railroads*, highlighting the history and significance of the railroad industry in Plymouth.

According to a *Detroit Free Press* article dated March 14, 1872, the sound of a train whistle in Plymouth was a new awakening for the quiet farming community. The *Free Press* said, “The advent of the railroad has completely changed the course of life of the inhabitants of this village, which is the first of importance going west from Detroit.”

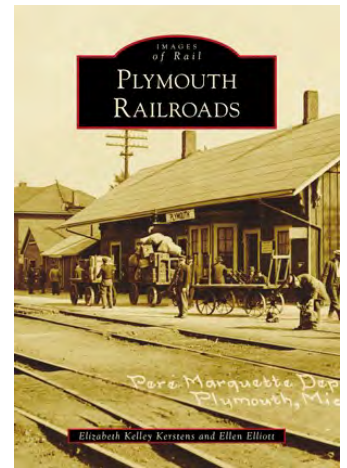
The railroads that came to Plymouth in the early 1870s changed the course of history for the once-sleepy town. Within 20 years, the railroads would be used to transport customer orders for the booming Plymouth air rifle industry to all major regions of the United States.

The rail lines made commercial industry and passenger service possible for small cities outside of the metropolitan area of Detroit. Passen-

ger transportation was an important mission of railroads. These needs were met locally between 1899 and 1928 by the Detroit, Plymouth & Northville Railroad (Interurban).

Later, enhanced passenger service ran on the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) line between Detroit and Grand Rapids, stopping in Plymouth (1946–1971).

Plymouth Railroads, is available for purchase at the Museum Store. Profits from the book sales will be donated to the Plymouth Historical Museum.



Explore Plymouth Michigan History

Open 1-4p Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Adults \$7 / Students \$3 (6-17)



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new website
www.plymouthhistory.org



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Hours

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

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 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

Monthly Drawing

Merrilee Zawadzki, Ken West, and Gabrielle Wobrock are the respective winners of the April, May, and June 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. Click on "Michigan" and click on "Enroll."

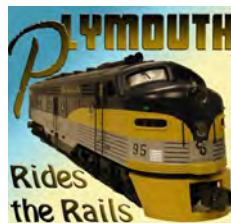
You must have a valid online account at Kroger.com to participate. If you need help, give us a call at 734-455-8940 ext. 9. We'll be happy to help you get enrolled.

New Members—Welcome!

Patricia Funke-Fatyma, Northville
 Richard Kaylor, Northville
 Tiffany Mancino, Canton
 Woods Tax Consulting Services, Plymouth

Become a Member

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



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:

- 1 Roll Postage Stamps **\$55 per**
- 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

The Plymouth Historical Museum survived the COVID-19 stay-at-home order and is now open again, at least partially.

We reopened to the public on June 24, after following all of the guidelines for a safe opening. We have sneeze guards at the cashier's counter both at our main entrance and in the Museum store. We've installed sanitizer dispensers throughout the Museum.

Visitors have their temperatures checked and are required to wear face masks for the safety of everyone inside the Museum. We have removed or covered up areas within the exhibits that inspire touching. We have also temporarily closed the Timeline of Plymouth in the lower level because of all of the touchable surfaces.

Because of the pandemic, we are hampered, for now, in providing fun and educational programs and events. We've had to cancel all events since the Museum gala. That hurts because much of our budget relies on fundraising events.

Thankfully the Margaret Dunning Foundation provided an emergency grant of \$15,000 in April so that we could continue to pay our employees without any layoffs, as well as paying our bills. In May, the Museum received government money from the Payroll Protection Program. We are hoping that this money will be forgiven, rather than requiring repayment. Between the Dunning grant and the PPP, as well as generous donations from members and sponsors, the Museum once again welcomes visitors.

Because we closed only a month after the "Plymouth Rides

the Rails" exhibit opened, we decided to extend the exhibit until November 4.

So please come visit and don't forget to stop in the Museum store and check out the new *Plymouth Railroads* book that came out during the pandemic (see page 1 for more information).

Membership Changes

I would like to thank all of the members who took the time to vote by mail, during the pandemic. That's the first time we've done that and we received back more than 120 ballots!

The three Board candidates were elected. Ernie Hughes continues as a Board member; Jeff Ashton returns to the Board after a year absence; and Steve Beltran joins the Board as a new member.

There was also a bylaws change on the ballot. The change in wording was overwhelmingly approved. The change allows the Board of Directors to make membership changes as needed.

Therefore, **effective August 1, 2020**, the following membership structure has been adopted by the Board.

Main Street \$30

In addition to basic member benefits, Main Street members can bring a guest to the Museum.

Daisy \$50

In addition to basic member benefits, Daisy members can bring up to 3 guests to the Museum.

Alter Car \$100

In addition to basic member benefits, Alter Car members can

bring up to 5 guests to the Museum.

Pere Marquette \$200

In addition to basic member benefits, Pere Marquette members can bring unlimited guests to the Museum; get reduced rates for room rentals; and get an annual subscription to *Michigan History* or a copy of Sam Hudson's *Story of Plymouth*.

Lincoln Club \$500

In addition to basic member benefits, Lincoln Club members can bring unlimited guests to the Museum; get reduced rates for room rentals; get an annual subscription to *Michigan History* or a copy of Sam Hudson's *Story of Plymouth*; and get four tickets to a Museum event, including teas, murder mysteries, or walks.

Basic Member Benefits

All membership levels include:

- Free Museum admission
- 10 percent discount in Museum Store
- *Museum Memo* quarterly newsletter
- Members-only exclusive previews for new exhibits
- Two-week pre-sale opportunity to purchase Museum event tickets

We have not made changes to our membership structure in eight years. The Lincoln's Kids and Kellogg Park membership levels were eliminated. Some benefits were added and some were eliminated. New membership brochures are in the process of being printed.

Donations Received
March – May 2020 Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between March and May 2020:

The Lincoln (\$1,000+)

Marlene Donoghue

The Starkweather (\$500–\$999)

AlphaGraphics
ATS Advisors
First Financial Strategies
First Merchants Corporation
Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center
Dolores B. Guenther
Dr. Howard Kane
William Lawton

Packaging Corporation of America
Roose Animal Hospital

The Penniman (\$250–\$499)

Executive Property Maintenance
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Elizabeth Kerstens
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Reliable Landscaping
Schrader-Howell Funeral Home

The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)

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Trailwood Garden Club
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Judy Carr
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Dr. Richard Haines
Ginger Johnson
Jane H. Libbing
Eno Miyasato
Susan Seelye
Carl Edwin Solak
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Susan Stellini



The archive reading room recently received a facelift. These metal shelves were installed by Casper Corporation, doubling the capacity for books while freeing up shelf space within the archive. The previous shelving in the reading room was plywood, which emits harmful chemicals that endangered our collections.



Support the Plymouth Historical Museum

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

Donations are sent directly to the Plymouth Historical Society, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible. If your donation is more than \$100, you will be acknowledged on our donor wall in the stairwell leading to the lower level.

We appreciate your support!

Tigers Appear Set For 1970

The Detroit Tigers are setting something of a record -- even before the season starts.

For the first time in years they'll be heading south for spring training and won't be caught in an avalanche of rumors dealing with the breakup of the outfield or all manner of trades.

Even Al Kaline, veteran rightfielder, knows the role he is expected to play in the coming campaign and he has voiced his wholehearted satisfaction.

More than that, there's little prospect of a battle for starting pitchers, and Dick McAuliffe will be back at second base.

THE ONLY POSSIBLE stranger in the opening day lineup against Washington in the nation's capital on Monday, April 6, will be Cesar Gutierrez who will be filling the gap at shortstop.

"We're confident that Cesar can fill the bill," General Manager Jim Campbell told audiences throughout the state last week on the annual public relations tour.

SO, UNLESS SOMETHING happens, here's how the team should line up:

1b -- Cash or Kaline

2b -- McAuliffe

3b -- Wert

ss -- Gutierrez

rf -- Northrup or Kaline

cf -- Stanley

lf -- Horton

c -- Freehan or Price

p -- McLain, Lolich, Wilson and Kilkenny

In 1970, the Detroit Tigers finished 4th in American League East, 79-83. The 1970 team leaders were outfielder Jim Northrup, 24 HRs, 130 RBIs; Willie Horton, .305 Batting Average; and pitcher Mickey Lolich, 14 Wins.

Plymouth Days Gone By

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

Football Is Best TV Show



50 Years Ago
1970

Try to design a television program.

Forget the idealism of educational television, the drabness of public service programming, the vast expanse of wasteland. Accept the present condition of commercial television, and design a perfect program for it.

First, the program needs a definite beginning and end, so we know when to start and stop the show. Find action and color, bring in tension and drama, give us heroes and villains, too. Produce it on a recognizable scale, taking advantage of television gimmickry without taxing the basic equipment. Allow periodic breaks for commercials. Put on a new one every week.

* * *

OBVIOUSLY, what we have described is professional football, from the opening kick-off to the final gun. It is man against man and team against team, with heady rivalries at both levels; it is life, on a small, sophisticated scale.

Football is played at just the right speed and just the right distance. Baseball is too slow, hockey is too fast; auto racing is too far away, boxing is too close.

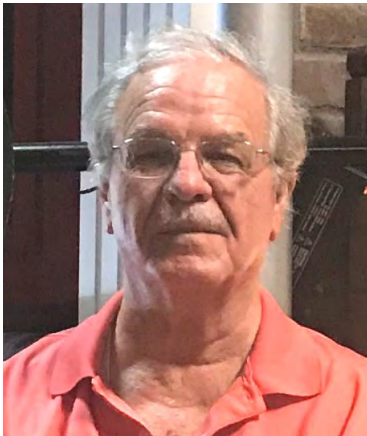
The time outs are long enough for commercials, and the pauses between plays are long enough for a slow motion or a split screen replay. Half time is long enough for a sandwich and a beer, or in a well-organized household, long enough for Sunday dinner.

Professional football is a new show every game. The worst team in the league just might beat the champions one week-end, and regardless of who wins, every play is a potential scoring play. Something is always happening in football. Something is always there to put on the screen.

SOCIAL CRITICS worry about the game. Football, and the average man's delight in it, seem to them symptomatic of some deep ill in our world. Nonsense. For all its polish and jolt, football is still basically a game.

American man's love of football is nothing ominous. Football is a game -- despite the proliferation of capricious rules and the infinite variety of specialization -- essentially a very simple game. It would be great to be able to play, but few can. Millions can watch, though, and do, because it is good television.

Volunteer Spotlight



Rich Walthers, Museum Maintenance

Rich started volunteering at the museum in October 2019. He was led by some encouragement and nudging from his good friend, Mike Woloszyk. Currently Rich is working on the Museum's future escape room concept. He's been getting the room prepped and painted while we figure out the rest of the details.

Rich grew up in Detroit where his father worked for Ford Motor Company. He went to Schoolcraft College and then went on to work for Ford, where he was a diagnostic electrical engineer and worked with the powertrain division. Rich retired from Ford after 36 years. He and his wife have lived in the Plymouth area since their marriage, first living in downtown Plymouth in the vibrant community, able to choose their options, while building in the new Park Place condominiums. They moved out to Canton when they had children, but moved back to Plymouth Township where they currently reside. Rich has two children who live in Canton, and they have two grandchildren.

The Walthers family and the Woloszyks have been vacationing up north at Glen Lake together for 25 years. The larger group that vacations together has been going for 42 consecutive years. Rich says this year will be the first time in 42 years that the families aren't taking their annual trip. In addition to his active volunteer work at the museum, Rich has been a member of the Michigan Railroad Club since 1973. He is a train enthusiast, and has an HO scale model train in his basement.

Rich likes being able to help out around the museum where he can, and his wife doesn't mind him getting out of the house a couple days a week too. We appreciate Rich as a new volunteer and hope that he continues to give some of his time to the museum for many years to come.

—Written by Rennae Green, marketing director

Volunteers Make a Difference!

50 Years Ago
1970

THE **PENN** THEATRE
PLYMOUTH, MICH.
Phone GL 3-0870

It's a switched-on laugh riot!

WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS
The COMPUTER wore TENNIS SHOES

50 Years Ago
1970

Medicine Will Progress

In 1970s

We are fortunate that the health record of the United States has been kept on a continued high level, with freedom from major epidemics.

We can look for good medical progress in the future. Here are some things we can expect in the 1970s:

- More people will live longer, and the older people will live better.
- Improvements will be made in diagnosis, medical treatments, surgery, and preventive medicine.
- There will be a continuous and increasingly rapid use of electronics and other advanced techniques in medicine and medical methods. A better understanding of heredity and genetics will become of major importance.
- Nervous and mental diseases will be handled in a much better manner -- in fact, rehabilitation will advance for most handicaps of this variety.
- Intelligent use of family planning, better control of chronic diseases, better understanding of safety principles, will cut down the incidence of accidents and disease.
- Hospital, nursing home, and out-patient home and office treatment of patients will be more effectively coordinated.



50 Years Ago
1970

Victorian Home Accepts 2 Businesses Gracefully

The tall, gable-roofed house next to the Dunning-Hough-Library was first the Cassady townhouse, then for many years was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Claude Buzzard. It is now a beauty salon and gift shop which has been named the Damsel by its owner, Mrs. Rockwell Smith.

MANY PEOPLE have wondered about the color of the house.

"It was supposed to be mauve (pale purple), but in spite of everything the painters tried, it kept coming out pink," said Mrs. Smith.

The main floor of the salon is richly decorated with deep purple carpeting, gilt accents, flocked wallpaper, and crystal chandeliers.

The Victorian style home at 233 S. Main Street in Plymouth, shown in the photo below, circa 1900, was built in 1875. The house was originally home to Henry Baker, founder of the Plymouth Windmill Company, later known as the Daisy Manufacturing Company. In 1970, the exterior of the house was painted pink and served as a beauty salon and gift shop. In the 1980s, the home was extensively renovated, and is now used as an office building.



Volunteer Spotlight



Jim Burroughs,
Museum Treasurer

The Plymouth Historical Museum's Treasurer, Jim Burroughs, has been volunteering with the museum for about 15 years. Starting out, Jim volunteered as a museum guide; then later was able to use his past experience to help out in other ways around the museum. Jim retired from Ford Motor Company where he worked for 30 years as a financial analyst and with Ford Credit. This gave Jim plenty of background knowledge and experience to bring to the table when it comes to working with the Museum's finances and records.

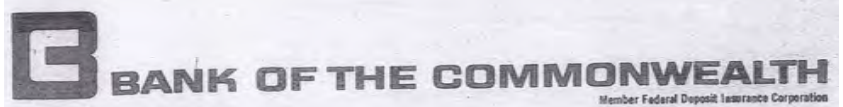
Jim is not originally from Plymouth but mid-Michigan, as he grew up in Midland. The Burroughs family moved from Battle Creek, where Jim's father worked for Kellogg, to Midland where his father took a job at Dow Chemical. The Burroughs family had three children; he has a brother in Denver and one in California. Some interesting tidbits about Jim's mother was that she grew up in Plymouth (not Michigan) but in Indiana, which is about 20 miles south of South Bend; and she shared the same birthday, September 11, with Dr. Weldon Petz, who was a friend of Jim's and a fellow Lincoln history enthusiast.

In addition to his active volunteer work here, Jim is also involved with the Michigan Regimental Roundtable. As a Civil War era history enthusiast, he enjoys the monthly guest speakers and puts together the group's newsletter. He enjoys attending the annual trips to visit historic sites and battlefields.

Jim is kept company by his Beagle mix, Scarlet O'Hara, and three cats. One little known fact about Jim is that he is a ballroom dancer! We appreciate all the work that Jim does for the museum ensuring the staff is paid and funds are managed, a very important role, and we are grateful for his service!

—Written by Rennae Green, marketing director

Volunteers Make a Difference!



50 Years Ago
1970

free checking,

5³/₄% passbook

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NOV
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Frozen Princess Tea

Public · Hosted by Plymouth (Michigan) Historical Museum

The Frozen Princess Tea has been rescheduled for Sunday, November 1, 2020, noon-2 PM.

Meet Elsa and Anna!

- Enjoy tea delicacies
- Make and take activities
- Kids can dress up
- Photos

Children must be at least 4 years old, no exceptions. Limit of 30 children so don't hesitate to purchase your tickets!

Tickets are \$30 for one adult and one child; tickets are \$15 for additional attendees. Tickets go on sale to members September 14; to the public on September 28.

Sponsored by MI Roots Real Estate Group, Keller Williams Realty and Team DeJohn.