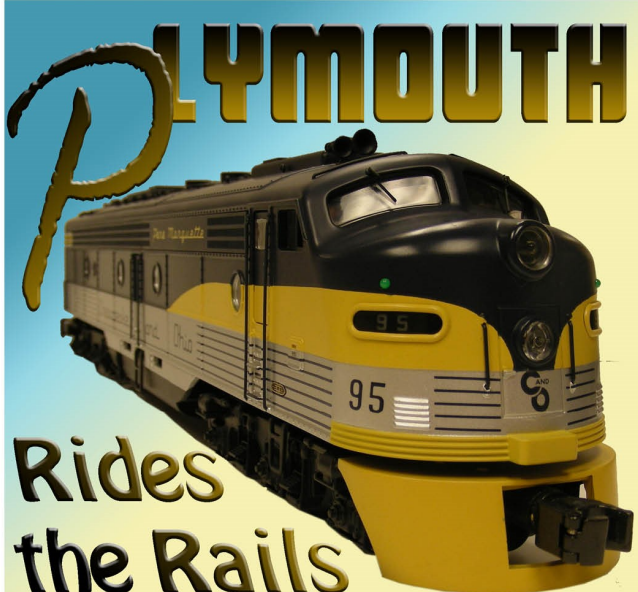


July-September 2020

## Special Exhibits



**PLYMOUTH**  
**Rides  
the Rails**

Plymouth Historical Museum exhibit  
February 12 - November 4

Sponsored by **[CSX]**

# Christmas

with the

# First Ladies

at the

# PLYMOUTH

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

November 18-  
January 10



Sponsored by



COMMUNITY  
FINANCIAL



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)

**Board of Directors**

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Carol Bimberg	Vice President
Jeff Ashton	Co-Secretary
Jim Burroughs	Co-Secretary & Treasurer
Stephen Beltran	Director
Stephanie Hoff	Director
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Mary Thackston	Exhibits Coordinator
Pam Yockey	Archivist
Carolyn Zaborsky	Cashier/Scheduler

**Museum Memo Editor**

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

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

**Monthly Drawing**

Judy Sameck, Mike Janz, and Larry Cunningham are the respective winners of the July, August, and September 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!**

Timothy J. Herman, Plymouth  
 Dave LaPointe, Plymouth  
 Peter McGill, Plymouth  
 Carol Sawyer, Wixom  
 Karen Sullivan, Plymouth



**Support the Plymouth Historical Museum**

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

To say that 2020 has been a challenge so far is quite the understatement. But we persevere!

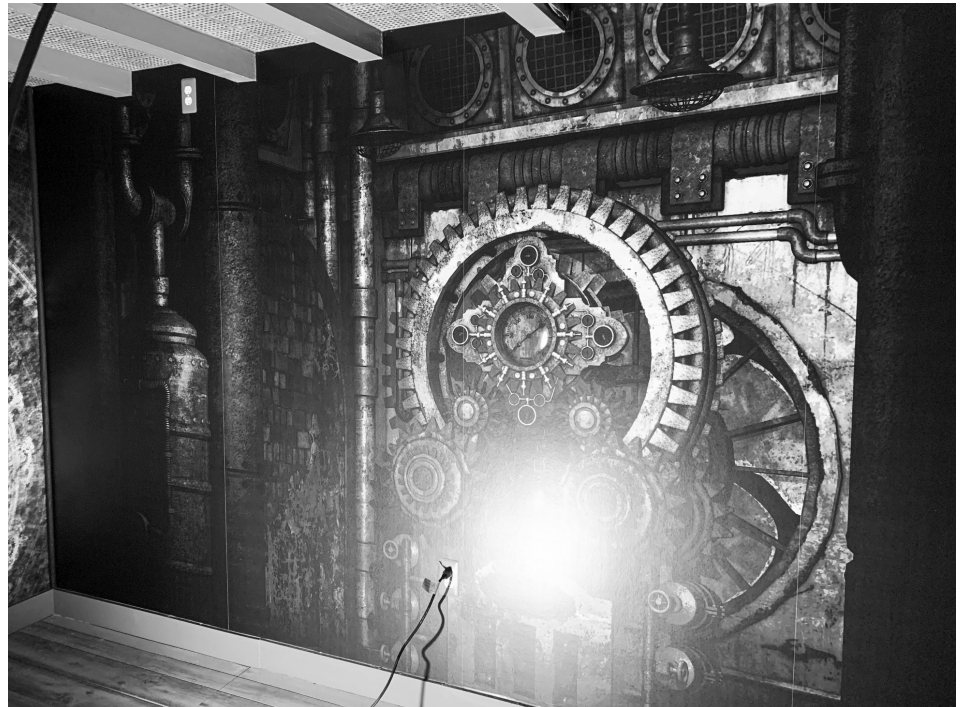
The Plymouth Historical Museum has been open to the public since June 24. From July 11 to September 26 we offered Free Summer Saturdays, courtesy of a sponsorship from Comfort Keepers. We had visitors, but certainly nothing like we've seen in the past.

In October we will be holding two events that are sold out, "Things That Go Bump in the Night" and the "Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk." We are endeavoring to provide safe environments for these events, as well as for visitors inside the Museum.

Since we've been open, the Timeline of Plymouth in the lower level has been closed. We will be reopening the Timeline when the "Christmas with the First Ladies" special exhibit opens on Wednesday, November 18.

## Projects

We've had several projects in the works for months now. One of the biggest projects is within the walls of the former China shop exhibit on our Main Street. We've



been in the process of creating an "Escape Experience" within the confines of the Museum. The China shop has been transformed and will be the end goal of the Escape Experience. You can see a sneak peek above of what we've been working on. We hope to have this new experience available in 2021, if COVID-19 cooperates.

We've also been working on installing the stained glass windows from the Box Bar. They should be in place over the

cashier's desk by the time you read this. There are three beautiful windows that say "The Box Bar & Grill." They will be lit so you can enjoy them.

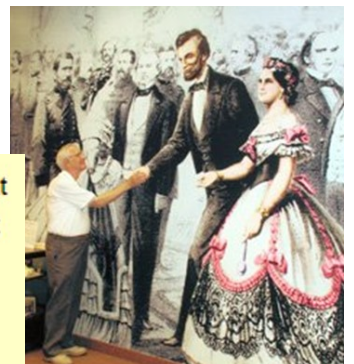
And, of course, we've been working on getting the caboose ready to open. We received a grant from the Community Foundation of Plymouth to create a tour of inside the caboose, to be viewed within the Museum by anyone unable to access the caboose for any reason. That video will be available for viewing soon.

- Artifacts from Lincoln's youth
- Rare book belonging to Lincoln as a boy
- Rare family genealogy and photographs
- Handwritten legal documents and law books
- Life mask of Lincoln made in 1860
- Civil War art
- Lock of Lincoln's hair
- Artifacts from the Lincoln assassination

Weldon Petz Abraham Lincoln Exhibit

Fun &  
Educational  
Field Trips

Opened in 2002, the Abraham Lincoln Exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum is a result of the lifetime collection amassed by Dr. Weldon Petz. Classes and tours are available by trained Museum guides and teachers.



## Donations Received June – August 2020 Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between June and August 2020:

**The Lincoln (\$1,000+ )**  
Plymouth Lions Foundation

**The Starkweather (\$500-\$999)**

Sally Fedus  
Dorothy Grant  
Frank Laurette  
Katherine Renberg  
Jeff Schultz  
Donald Soenen

**The Penniman (\$250-\$499)**

Carol Bimberg  
Donald Davidson  
Cynthia Hartsig  
JML Heirs, LLC  
George Kabot  
Helen Moyer  
Fred Reinhart  
Patricia Seleski

**The Kellogg (\$100-\$249)**

Joan Anderson  
Richard Ashburn  
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Brian Kidston  
Geraldine Kilsdonk  
Eileen Leisk  
Allan Leonard  
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Mary Pauline  
Susan Seelye  
Mark Strachan

**Under \$100**

Arthur Booth  
Katherine Brown  
Luan Brownlee  
Patricia Carroll  
Clark Chapin  
Grace Colter  
Joan Connor  
William Cottrell  
Judith Dahlin  
Michael Daleski  
FISH of Plymouth-Canton  
Bee Friedlander  
Karen Gizzi  
Carolyn Jacobs  
Karen Jallo  
Mary Kehoe

Toni Lattimer  
Linda Manchester  
John Marshall  
Eno Miyasato  
Joyce Nicora  
Elizabeth O'Connor  
Plymouth Antiquarians  
Karen Southworth  
Susan Wainwright  
Cindi Webster  
Deanna Wright

1916

### NOTHING LOST BY COURTESY

Courtesy is like oil upon troubled waters. There is an inevitable amount of friction in everyday life. Courtesy reduces this friction to a minimum. The happy outcome of a day's work may easily be determined by a cheery "Good morning" at its beginning. A knitted brow and a grudging greeting may be harbingers of failure in the day's work.

In the elevator, at the telephone, at the bench and in the office—at every point of contact between man and man—a little thought for the feelings of others is a pleasant lubricant in the joints of life. It reduces the jar of the human machinery, promotes good feeling, adds to the world's stock of self-respect.

It is better to request than to command, better to smile than to frown, better to help than to hinder even in the smallest things. A courteous man and a courteous woman furnish the salt that makes life palatable to the soul.

60 Years Ago  
1960

**THE THRILL** of meeting Pat Boone was all part of the job of serving as Michigan's Honey Queen at the Michigan State Fair for Donna Marie Eveleth, 10366 Bassett Dr. She rode in parades at the Jackson, Saginaw and Ionia fairs besides presiding at the State Fair Bee Keepers Association. Donna is now attending the Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Eveleth.



80 Years Ago  
1940

## Louise Markham, 99-Year-Old Pioneer, Dies

Funeral services for Miss Louise Markham, 99-year-old pioneer of Plymouth, who died suddenly at the King's Daughters and Sons Home, 17667 Pierson avenue, Monday afternoon, were held at the Schrader Funeral home at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, with many prominent citizens and civic officials present.

Miss Markham was born the daughter of Bert and Mary Markham at their farm home on Six Mile road near Northville. Shortly afterward the family moved to a homestead in Plymouth. This old Markham home site, which contains more than an acre of ground and is located on Holbrook avenue between Starkweather avenue and Plymouth road extending from the street back to the Plymouth-Riverside parkway grounds, was bequeathed to the city of Plymouth last month for a public park.

Miss Markham had been looking forward to her one hundredth birthday anniversary October 30 when C. C. Bradner, news commentator of The Detroit News and station WWJ, who died last week, promised to visit her at the Detroit home where she lived for the last 13 years. She first became acquainted with "Brad" when he called to discuss their common family name, for her mother's maiden name was also Bradner, and both their ancestors were early settlers in New York state.

Her brother, W. F. Markham, who died in 1930, was the inventor of the air-gun and the founder of the King Air Rifle company in Plymouth. She is survived by three nieces, Miss Isa Markham of Plymouth; Mrs. Clarence Schram, of Mayville; Mrs. Maude O'Brien, of Detroit; two nephews, Lee H. Markham, of New Baltimore, and Edward M. Markham, of Mayville; and a cousin, Mrs. Carmen Root, of Plymouth.

Burial was in Riverside cemetery.

# Plymouth Days Gone By

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

## Hoarding Wave That Swept Country Proved Almost a Fizzle in Plymouth

70 Years Ago  
1950

Plymouth's part in the hoarding wave that swept like wild fire across the country after the outbreak of Russia's Korean war, was but a mere smudge, according to local merchants.

Yes, there was some local hoarding—but merchants declare that it appears people have come to their senses and are no longer taking part in the efforts to force retail prices higher.

One of Plymouth's biggest retailers said yesterday that the buying wave of the hoarders had died out almost entirely.

"But it was bad for a few days," he said. "There are no actual shortages in any food lines, but enough damage has been done throughout the country to threaten prevailing prices."

It can truthfully be said, however, that Plymouth residents

didn't go "buying" crazy as they did in the larger cities.

There is a tire shortage in Plymouth, however, due to the excessive buying wave that struck this city when local residents heard radio reports and read in the metropolitan papers that people had started hoarding supplies as they did during previous world wars. It is almost an impossibility to buy any sort of an automobile tire in Plymouth today.

One local business man who was in the retail business during both previous wars, declared that the buying wave in Plymouth in the past four weeks was nothing as compared to what it was when the two previous wars broke out.

"For a few days we did have a big rush, but that is almost entirely over now," he stated.

## Fall Festival Crowd Does Away With 2,750 Chicken Dinners

A bunch of sore-backed, sunburned Rotarians folded up the tables and put out the fires dragged themselves home

confident that they had successfully put on one of the biggest shindigs of its kind ever attempted downtown.

The Fall Festival, with chicken barbecue and corn roast, had lived up to all its expectations. There were 2,800 chicken halves ready for serving. All but 50 were sold.

The 2,750 chicken dinners well exceeds the 1,300 sold two years ago behind the High School.

Several hundred chickens at a time were grilled over the long pits located in the lot beside the Penn Theatre. Behind this, a traction steam engine owned by Wilford Bunyca was brought in from which live steam was used to cook the corn. Other corn was roasted over charcoal.

Blasts from the steam engine gave the crowd a sound they had not heard for a long time—since the steam locomotives disappeared.

60 Years Ago  
1960

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Emily Betz



Emily Betz as Amelia Earhart during a Night at the Museum party. Amelia Earhart was an American aviation pioneer. Earhart was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

Emily started actively volunteering in 2015. She began by joining the Museum's living history troupe of volunteer actors, working some of our teas as the "Snow Queen" (aka Elsa), as well as at our Night at the Museum parties. Some of her characters have varied from Amelia Earhart, Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, First Lady Jackie Kennedy, to Typhoid Mary.

Betz grew up in Plymouth, but the Betz family was originally from Pittsburgh and moved to Plymouth when she was 6 years old. She has one brother and was always interested in history and theater. Their parents were very encouraging of this and brought them to the Museum often as kids.

Her very first experience volunteering at the museum was when she was in sixth grade. Emily participated in the Museum's fashion show at the Titanic Tea, which highlighted clothing from the era, along with narration by our current archivist Pam Yockey.

She attended Ladywood High School, where she nudged along her school's theater program. She was grateful for the opportunity to work with the Museum while in high school. She enjoys being one of the youngest volunteer actors at the museum and has gotten to know other actors and enjoys getting to

see them for events.

Emily attends Schoolcraft College and is studying to be a costumer; she makes all her own costumes for the characters she portrays. She has even been recruited by various local theaters and high school theaters to do their costumes. Emily is passionate about costuming, creating and portraying; of all her roles, her favorite character is the "Snow Queen."

Emily is an entrepreneur—with the current popularity of princesses, she has been able to open her own business, "Princess on Demand." With that company she is able to work all over the southeast Michigan area doing events, including mall events, birthday parties, etc.

Our Princess Teas would not be the same without our "Snow Queen" and we are truly grateful to have Emily as our resident princess. We appreciate the commitment to the Museum and the living history troupe and hope that Emily continues to volunteer with us for many years to come!

70 Years Ago  
1950

## Says Police Cancel Too Many Tickets

The city commission passed a resolution Monday night stating that traffic violation tickets may no longer be cancelled by the police department but must be referred to the judge for proper disposition at court.

The action was taken following a communication to the commission from Judge Nandino Perlongo stating that he felt too many parking tickets had been cancelled by the police department. The commissioners agreed that this responsibility should be taken from the department.

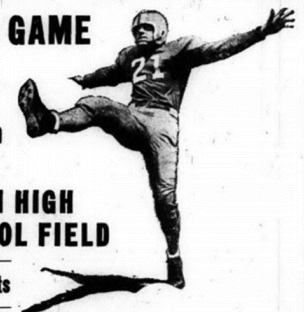
Police Chief Lee Sackett stated at the meeting that the department has always had the right to cancel parking tickets under the traffic violation ordinance but he offered no objection to passage of the resolution.

Judge Perlongo announced on Tuesday that violators who have been issued tickets and do not pay the fine after receiving their first notice, will be issued a warrant for their arrest.

## FOOTBALL

### OPENING GAME

Plymouth  
vs  
Farmington  
8:00 P. M.



PLYMOUTH HIGH  
SCHOOL FIELD

Under the Lights

Follow the "Rocks" This Year—

		1950
September	15	Farmington
September	22	Belleville
September	29	Ypsilanti
October	6	Trenton
October	13	Redford Union
October	20	Wayne
October	27	Bentley
November	3	Northville

70 Years Ago  
1950

## New Kroger Store on Forest Avenue

Ground was broken Monday for the new Kroger super market on the east side of Forest avenue next to the Laundromat. The building is expected to be completed by December 1, when the Kroger store on Main street will move to the new location.

The building will cost approximately \$75,000 or \$80,000, and will measure 100 by 120 feet. Architects for the modern structure are Gould and Moss, Architects and Engineers.

The property was owned by Carl Shear but was sold to the Atlas Finance company who are constructing the building. Kroger's will lease from this company.

Parking facilities for the super market are planned on Main street and will extend to the alley at the rear of the store. Parking will also be available on a lot next to the store.

## Ladywood High School to Open

Final registrations at the new Ladywood High school will be taken today and tomorrow at the school on Schoolcraft road. New students may still be accepted but pre-registration indicated capacity attendance in the ninth and tenth grades, the only two to be conducted this year.

The new school, supervised by the Felician Sisters and built on the grounds of Madonna college, offers general, commercial and college preparatory courses. The classes will begin September 11. Bus transportation will be furnished and students will be notified of the bus routing.

Sister Mary Laudine, principal, announces that the 11th and 12th grades will be added next year. Faculty members at the new school include Sister Mary Claver, freshman homeroom teacher, and members of the Madonna college faculty.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Jackie Schubert

Jackie Schubert was recruited by Liz Kerstens to join the Museum's troupe of volunteer actors in about 2014. She has worked many of our teas, murder mysteries, Night at the Museum parties, and walks.

Schubert grew up in Indiana and went to Purdue and Indiana University and later taught early childhood education. When Jackie was married, she and her husband had the opportunity to live abroad as well as in several places in the States. They lived in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and England and also in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. While living in Canada, Jackie hosted dinner guests through the World Council of Churches with people from all over the world.

One interesting guest she recalls is a Ministry of Religion member from Russia, who Jackie thought was most likely a KGB agent. The couple had three children, one born in Indiana, and the other two in England and Canada. She has four grandchildren. Her two daughters live in Michigan, while her son lives in Wisconsin. Jackie moved to Michigan in 1985 and has lived here ever since, first residing in Livonia, and now in Clinton Township with her beau.

With a love of history and theater, Jackie combined those passions and has been active in reenacting for more than 20 years, with both the 17th and 21st Michigan Infantry Regiment reenactment groups. In addition to reenacting and her involvement here at the Plymouth Historical Museum, Jackie has been volunteering at the Crocker House in Mt. Clemens at an 1869 Victorian Italianate house.

Of all the roles that Jackie has fulfilled for us, from Carrie Nation, to characters in our members' reception nights skits, her favorite events are the murder mysteries. She loves the camaraderie between the fellow actors and how they have been able to develop a great working relationship together and have gotten to know each other so well. Even though the characters change, their personalities still shine through.

We appreciate all the great acting and the time Jackie has graciously spent here volunteering her time.

—Volunteer Spotlights written by Rennae Green, marketing director



Jackie Schubert, shown here as Carrie Nation during the Museum's Ghosts of Plymouth Walk. Nation was an American activist and a member of the temperance movement.

**Volunteers Make a Difference!**

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

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## **Calendar of Events**

### **November 2020**

- 4—Special exhibit, “Plymouth Rides the Rails” ends.
- 5–17—Museum closed for exhibit changeover.
- 17—Members only Preview, 6-8 pm.
- 18—Special exhibit, “Christmas with the First Ladies” opens.

### **December**

- 11—“Simply Dickens” Christmas Carols Show. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Tickets go on sale to members October 26; tickets are on sale to the public November 9. COVID friendly.

### **January**

- 10—Special exhibit, “Christmas with the First Ladies” ends.
- 11–26—Museum closed for exhibit changeover.
- 26—Members only Preview, 6-8 pm.
- 27—Special exhibit, “First Ladies, Fashion Setters” opens