Special Exhibits

Plymouth Historical Museum exhibit
February 12 - November 4

Sponsored by

Christmas with the First Ladies at the Plymouth Historical Museum
November 18 - January 10

Sponsored by

Through the good times & bad, we survived!
Plymouth, Michigan
Museum Memo

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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The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

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 participate 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!

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
• 1/2 month heating bill $375
• 1/2 month electric bill $475
• 1 month employee salary $500

To donate, make your check payable to the Plymouth Historical Museum.

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.
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.
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
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The Kellogg ($100–$249)
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Eno Miyasato
Joyce Nicora
Elizabeth O’Connor
Plymouth Antiquarians
Karen Southworth
Susan Wainwright
Cindi Webster
Deanna Wright

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 Jallos
Mary Kehoe

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.
Plymouth Days Gone By

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

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, 17867 Persinon 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. Brandner, 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 Brandner, 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.

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.

60 Years Ago
1960

A bunch of sore-backed, sunburned Rotarians folded up the tables and put out the fires dragged themselves home dejectedly. No one was as 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 exceeded 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 Bunyea 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.
Emily Betz

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!
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

Volunteers Make a Difference!
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