

January-March 2021

Starkweather Cabinet Returned to Plymouth

George Anson Starkweather wore many hats during his lifelong residence in Plymouth. He was the first child born to settlers in what is now the City of Plymouth, on February 20, 1826. He died in Plymouth on February 6, 1907. In between those dates, he was a teacher, farmer, merchant, lawyer, justice of the peace, served in the state legislature, as supervisor of Plymouth Township, and as president of the Village of Plymouth.

His legal work kept him very busy. In 1865, he had a cabinet built specifically to organize the various transactions that he worked on. That cabinet (at right) was inherited by Starkweather descendant David Robinson, who recently donated it to the Museum, along with an original 1865 letter about the purchase of the cabinet.

After traveling from California, the cabinet found a new home in the Museum's law office on our Main Street.



60 Years Ago 1961
Plymouth Mail

At 90, Sees Birthplace Go



ERNEST ROE takes a look at the house in which he was born over 90 years ago. Now being torn down, the home was built by Mr. Roe's father in either 1868 or 1869. The home is one of four torn down along Main and Union Streets to make way for a new commercial building.

How does it feel to watch as a wrecking company knocks apart and levels the home you were born in 90 years ago?

That was the question probably many Plymouth old-timers wondered yesterday as they saw the former home of Ernest Roe, located on Main and Union Streets, being flattened. "Ernie" Roe, now a resident of the Mayflower Hotel, was there a while to see the job progressing.

But, according to Ernie, "It really doesn't bother me at all."

The old home was built by his father, Charles Roe, a year or two before Ernie was born in 1870. The elder Roe was a carpenter and cabinet-

maker and undoubtedly did much of the work on the house himself.

The house is the last of four to be torn down to make way for a new building that will be occupied by the Kroger Co. and another business. Two of the homes were on Union St. and two on Main St. The stucco home on Main St. beside the old Roe home, that was destroyed last week, was the birthplace of the late Charles Bennett, former president of Daisy Manufacturing.

Old Main St. Home Vanishes

OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY.

PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

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 Souchock	Director
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Carolyn Zaborsky	Cashier/Scheduler

Museum Memo Editor

Gerry Sabatini sabatini1983@att.net
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The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

Monthly Drawing

Chalina Hillson, Gabrielle Wobrock, and Nancy Navarre are the respective winners of the January, February, and March 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!

Bill Brown Ford, Livonia
 Joanne Camiller, Canton
 Cynthia Cymes, Plymouth
 Gerard Franchina, Livonia
 Theresa Fry, Plymouth
 Joan Grahor, Plymouth
 Barry Levine, Canton
 Rachel Pell, Plymouth
 Peggy Predhomme, Plymouth
 Emily Rocha, Livermore, CA
 Steve Saia, 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

It's Spring! We're gearing up for a number of events in the coming months and hopefully there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Clean Air

In November we laid claim to having the cleanest air in Plymouth. That month we had iWave air purifiers installed on our six rooftop HVAC units. This allows the air within the Museum to be cleaned/ionized every 15 minutes, removing tiny airborne particles. We also put in four Colzer air purifiers with HEPA filters in the Sanford Burr meeting room that we run when we are holding events in the room. So we've got very clean air here!

Upcoming Events

Our lineup of great events, the 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://plymouthhistory.org/events/upcoming-events/>). There is a small fee added to purchases through Eventbrite.

We make sure that all of our events follow the state guidelines for capacity and social distancing. In addition, we have masks and hand sanitizer available. We're happy that we can offer safe, yet fun, events during an awkward time.

Museum Newsletters

We're in search of back issues of the Museum's newsletter for our archive. We're specifically looking for issues before 1996. If you have a stash somewhere, and are willing to part with them, please consider donating those newsletters to the Museum so we can attempt to complete our collection. Thank you!

Finances

As you can imagine, the Museum's finances have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We were fortunate to receive money from the federal

government through the Payroll Protection Program twice. That allowed us to continue to pay our staff without having to lay off anyone.

Naturally our admissions are down from previous years, but the bigger impact is that we have had no school children here for a year.

Our membership and our community have dug into their pockets and have been generous with donations and sponsorships.

The annual appeal exceeded our goal of \$15,000, with more than \$20,000 donated!

Corporations and some individuals have stepped forward and sponsored all three exhibits for this year and nearly all of the events we have scheduled! At this writing, we have more than \$17,000 in sponsorships!

From the bottom of my heart, I want to personally thank everyone for their support and generosity!



Nostalgia Sale at Plymouth Historical Museum

**April 9 & 10, 2021
Friday & Saturday
10 AM-4 PM**

Come buy some treasures and support the Plymouth Historical Museum.

The sale is at the Plymouth Historical Museum in the Sanford Burr Meeting Room on the lower level.

Items for sale include donations and vintage collectibles no longer needed by the Museum.

Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Members	Public
April 24	Ghosts of Plymouth Walk	Now	Now
May 14	Night at the Museum Live!	Now	Now
June 26	Steampunk Murder Mystery (Zoom)	April 5	April 19
August 1	Frozen Princess Tea	June 7	June 21
Sept. 19	Roaring '20s Tea & Fashion Show	July 12	July 26
Oct. 23	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	August 9	August 23
Oct. 29	Things That Go Bump in the Night	August 9	August 23
Dec. 4	Enchanted Winter Wonderland	October 11	October 25
Dec. 10	Simply Dickens	October 18	Nov. 1

**Donations Received
December 2020 – February 2021 Thank You!**

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between December 2020 and February 2021:

The Lincoln (\$1,000+)

George Thompson

The Starkweather (\$500–\$999)

Edward Furdak
Roman Krzyanowski
William Lawton

The Penniman (\$250–\$499)

Cindy Reinhart
Linda Walther

The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)

Bovitz CPA
Dr. Robert Gordon
John Mazzuchi
Nancy Navarre
Fred Robinson
Pam Yockey

Under \$100

William Brooks
Beverly Butler
Frederick Hill
Eno Miyasato
Maria Pasquale
Geraldine Pritchard
E. David Reitzel
Catherine Smith
Elizabeth Sonnega
Karen Wilhelm
Karen Witmer
Takeda Yoshido

Sponsorships

Mayflower (\$2,500)

Bill Brown Ford
Community Financial Credit Union

Red Ryder (\$1,500)

In Honor of Penn Theatre:
James Burroughs &
Ellen Elliott

Hamilton (\$600)

Forest Place Optical

Plymouth Ghosts (\$500)

ATS Advisors
C.L. Finlan & Son
First Merchants Corporation
Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center

Mary Todd (\$400)

Bank of Ann Arbor

Family Fun (\$300)



Caviston Agency
Detroit Elevator Company

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

Ghosts of Plymouth Walk


Saturday, April 24

Walks begin at the Gazebo in Cannon Park at 5:00 PM*

*Walks last up to 90 minutes.
Wear walking shoes.

Tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 on April 24.
Purchase tickets at
Plymouth Historical Museum
155 S. Main Street
734-455-8940 or
www.plymouthhistory.org

Sponsored by:


Candidates for the Plymouth Historical Museum Board



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 a guide 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.



Mark Salloum has been producing short films and videos for nearly 3 decades. As a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, he received degrees in both Film Production and Marketing. Mark freelanced as a cinematographer for several years before starting Highway Media in 1997. Since then, his creative vision

has transformed HM into one of the premiere studios in Metro-Detroit, receiving a multitude of awards. In 2019, Mark released his first feature length documentary titled, *Plymouth, Michigan – A Rich History*. Besides working behind the camera, Mark enjoys playing baseball, craft beers, bible studies, and most of all, time with his family.



William Moore is the owner of Executive Property Maintenance in Plymouth. They 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.



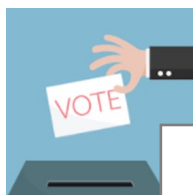
Tim Tingstad has lived in Plymouth for more than 35 years. He was the first president and founding member of the Fairground Park Association and is past president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth. Tim has worked as a Certified Financial Planner since 1982 and worked as a commercial fisherman 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.

Nominations for Board of Director Candidates 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.”

“Members may not be nominated for office unless they have given their consent and agree to serve if elected.”



May 2021 Board Elections

This year, the Museum will be mailing out ballots to all members within the next couple of weeks. We must have at least 5 percent of the active membership casting ballots, according to our Bylaws.

As a member, you have a right to vote, so please return your ballot in the envelope provided, before the deadline, so you can elect your next Board of Directors. Your participation is appreciated!

Volunteer Spotlight

75 Years Ago 1946
Plymouth Mail



Brian Golden

One of Brian Golden's obvious good traits is that volunteering is in his blood. Brian is currently part of the Museum's Plymouth Living History Troupe; he portrayed a detective in a recent successful murder mystery, all done virtually.

His association with our Museum started fourteen years ago with his acquaintance with our Executive Director, Elizabeth Kerstens. Both have similar positions, since Brian is curator and director of the Heritage & History Center, located in a 150-year-old structure in Heritage Park of Farmington Hills.

The Historical Museum was Brian's brainchild seven years ago and continues to be one of his passions. Unfortunately, the museum has been closed due to Covid, but plans are to open soon, one weekday and weekends. Presently, visits can be arranged by appointment only.

If running a museum is not enough, Brian also donates his time as president of the Farmington Historical Society. He is also a member of the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society in Pontiac. He sits on the Farmington Hills Historical Commission and is a percussion instructor at Farmington High School.

When Brian finds time to relax, if ever, he is a model railroading enthusiast, reading and writing books (he has authored five local history books) and is the video media director for the City of Farmington and Redford Township.

Brian is a resident of Farmington, has adult twin sons and three grandchildren. The staff at the Plymouth Historical Museum wonders how Brian finds time to bring his acting skills to our many Museum events. Thanks, Brian, for sharing your time with us.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk

Volunteers Make a Difference!

Plymouth Stores All Out of Flour

White flour no longer is on the shelves of Plymouth groceries. It hasn't been there since the stores closed last Saturday night.

Merchants who were bemoaning the fact that they had overstocked on flour found their supplies sold out within a short time.

Customers who normally would buy a five pound sack once a month were observed carrying out 25 pound sacks. Others insisted on getting their supply in the smaller sacks.

The situation in Plymouth is by and large the same all over the country. People who seldom do any baking suddenly decided it was the "thing" to do and ended up buying a large quantity of flour.

As usual, in Plymouth and throughout the nation, the bonafide "home baker" will suffer from this mad flour-buying stampede.

Families who rely on mother's bread and pastry will suffer because of the general stupidity on the part of the public and the Federal government.

Had no announcement been made about "gray flour" the buying rush never would have developed.

Hough Gift Sets Museum Plans

50 Years Ago 1971

The long cherished dream of the Plymouth Historical Society is about to be realized—thanks to the generosity of the Edward C. Hough-Mary Hough Kimble Foundation.

Ground is to be broken, probably in July, for the new historical museum at the corner of Church and Main, and it will be built on the same colonial pattern as the City Hall and the Dunning-Hough Library.

THE HOUGH family was among the early settlers in the community, living in the old centennial farm at Warren and Haggerty Roads.

The remained active as the owners and operators of the Daisy Air Rifle Co. until the plant was moved to Arkansas in 1958.

75 Years Ago 1946
Plymouth Mail

Life Resident Dies at Age of 91

Ida Kellogg Tafft, 1854-1946, was a life long resident of Plymouth. She was the granddaughter of John Kellogg, 1786-1871, who was one of the early pioneers of Plymouth, and the namesake of Kellogg Park.

Ida Kellogg Tafft, a life long resident of Plymouth died Friday at the Drake Convalescent home 218 S. Harvey at the age of 91 where she had been a patient for the past three years. A widow of the late A. A. Tafft whose general merchandise establishment was for many years a gathering place for old timers around the stove in the rear of the store and a granddaughter of John Kellogg one of the pioneers of Plymouth. Her father was Joel Ransom Kellogg and her mother Delia Bettisy Northrup, whose father, Dr. Elijah Northrup was the first physician to practice medicine in Northville. She lived most of her life in the old Kellogg homestead on West Ann Arbor Trail and for many years in her own home at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Harvey.

She was a member of the Presbyterian church and a charter and life member of the Eastern Star. Funeral services conducted by the Schrader Funeral Home were held Monday afternoon at the home where she lived as a girl and which her grandfather built in 1832 at 1078 W. Ann Arbor Trail now the residence of her nephew Walter K. Sumner. Rev. Walch of the Presbyterian church officiated.

Surviving are her sister Mrs. John B. Sumner of Detroit, several nieces and nephews.

Volunteer Spotlight



Cathy Webster

We would like to highlight one of our Museum store clerks, Cathy Webster, who has been volunteering for two years. Cathy is a longtime resident of Plymouth, teaching in the Plymouth-Canton school system for 40 years.

She taught the K-3rd grade classes at Bird Elementary, Isbister Elementary, and Tonda Elementary. Growing up in Plymouth, Cathy attended Bird and Plymouth High School. She received a B.S. in elementary education from Michigan State University and a Masters in early childhood education at Eastern Michigan University.

Cathy is the daughter of Elsie Mae Trinka, a longtime volunteer at the Museum. Her mother helps with Museum mailings and still lives in the house she moved into in 1939 at the age of nine.

Cathy was recruited to help in the Museum by her teacher friend, Paula Holmes, another dedicated Museum store volunteer. She loves the interaction with the customers in the store and is always interested in what they purchase.

Cathy is also impressed with the wide array of vintage merchandise the store sells, mostly obtained by donations. When she is not helping in the Museum, she spends her time traveling, having visited Kenya, Israel and Japan. She also loves to read historical fiction and is active in the Methodist Church.

Cathy is the mother of five, with three grandchildren: two granddaughters, age four and nine, and a grandson, age two.

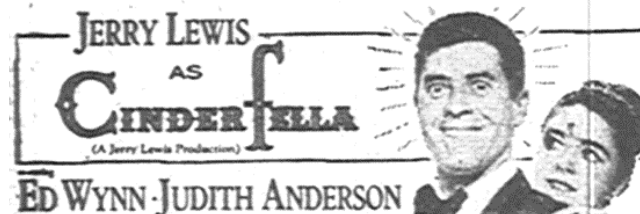
We hope Cathy follows in her mother's footsteps and continues to be part of our Museum family for many years.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk

Volunteers Make a Difference!

THE PENN THEATRE

60 Years Ago 1961



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

Non-Profit Org U. S. Postage PAID Plymouth, MI. Permit No. 111
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Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

Special exhibit, “**First Ladies, Fashion Setters,**” runs through June 13. Events are at the Museum unless otherwise specified. Tickets can be found at <http://plymouthhistory.org/events/upcoming-events/>.

April

9 & 10—**Nostalgia Sale**, 10 AM-4 PM.

24—**Ghosts of Plymouth Walk**, Old Village, 5-8 PM. Tickets are \$15 per person and are selling fast. Walks leave the Cannon Park gazebo every 15 minutes. Sponsored by ATS Advisors.

May

14—**Night at the Museum Live!** 6-9 PM. Tickets are \$10 per person. Groups of 6 start every 15 minutes. Sponsored by Executive Property Maintenance.

June

14-29—**Museum closed for exhibit changeover.**

26—“**A Steampunk Murder Mystery**” via Zoom, 6 PM. Tickets are \$20 per person and go on sale to members April 5; tickets go on sale to the public on April 19. Sponsored by First Merchant’s Bank.