

January-March 2023

**OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY.**

PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

**Plymouth Pays Final Tribute to E. C. Hough**

**64 Years Ago  
 January 1959  
 Plymouth Mail**

Plymouth said farewell this week to a man who had devoted his entire 86 years to the community as a benefactor, industrialist and neighbor.

Edward C. Hough, president of the Daisy Manufacturing Co., died at his 1411 West Ann Arbor Trail home Saturday afternoon at 5:45 o'clock.

On Tuesday afternoon, following a private service at his late residence, Mr. Hough's body was entombed in the family crypt in Riverside Cemetery. The Rev. Melbourne I. Johnson, D.D., pastor of First Methodist Church, officiated.

Mr. Hough's association with Daisy Manufacturing dates back to 1889, the year he graduated from Plymouth High School. In 1901 he became treasurer of the air rifle firm and a vice-president in 1915. Fol-

lowing the death of Charles H. Bennett in 1954, Mr. Hough was elected president — a position he has held since, although he has remained in Plymouth while his firm has moved to Rogers, Arkansas.

While Mr. Hough is nationally-known in business circles, his work as a philanthropist was never widely publicized. Best known of all his gifts is the new addition to Dunning-Hough Library.

A foundation established by he and his late sister, the Edward C. Hough and Mary Hough Kimble Foundation, contributed \$140,000 for constructing the new colonial unit and furnishing the building. The addition was dedicated last March.



Shown here in 1956 at the Daisy office in Plymouth are (left) Cass Hough (1904-1990), (center) Edward C. Hough (1872-1959), and Charles Bennett (1863-1956).

Edward Cass Hough (1872-1959) was hired as a bookkeeper for the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company in 1893. He was the son of Lewis Cass Hough, who was president of the company. In 1895, PIWC changed its name to Daisy Manufacturing Company. Edward worked for PIWC and then Daisy Manufacturing for 66 years. Edward, like his father, instilled a strong work ethic and civic responsibility. In 1901, he was appointed treasurer, and in 1915 became vice president. Under his leadership, he helped put Daisy and Plymouth on the global map.



Edward C. Hough  
 1872-1959  
 Photo circa 1890s

Mr. Hough was a member of Plymouth Rotary when it was founded in 1924 and he served as its second president. He has been a generous contributor to the Rotary Foundation, an organization for exchanging graduate students with foreign countries, and has always supported Rotary's crippled children's efforts.

St. Christopher's Inn, a home for homeless men in Graymore, New York, has received his support. He was a member and chairman of the Riverside Cemetery Board of Trustees and donated the cemetery entrance, along with other improvements. He also provided and equipped a playground at the western end of Elm St. and every church in Plymouth has received his donations. Some have received organs.

Being a friend of the late Henry Ford and an acquaintance of Thomas Edison, Mr. Hough gave a number of historical items to Ford's Greenfield Village during his lifetime.

Because of his failing eyesight in the past few years, Mr. Hough had taken an interest in the several organizations working with the blind.

Born March 17, 1872 in Canton Township, Mr. Hough was the son of Lewis Cass and Marietta (Baker) Hough.

He was married to the former Louise Sheffield on Oct. 14, 1896. His wife preceded him in death in

1943. Surviving is one son, Cass, executive vice-president of Daisy in Rogers; two daughters, Mrs. Athalie Archibald of Byran, Conn. and Mrs. Corette Jennings of Savannah, Ga.; a sister, Mrs. Margarite Olsaver of Plymouth; seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Mr. Hough's grandfather, Ira M. Hough, came to Canton Township from Vermont via the Erie Canal in 1825. He built the first log cabin in the area in 1826. After it burned in 1835 he built a new home that still stands on Warren Rd. Also on the property is a replica of the original log cabin that Mr. Hough had built in 1907.

**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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Margaret Harris	Secretary
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**Museum Memo Editor**

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 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

**Monthly Drawing**

Pam Piendel, Cindi Willard, and Christy Haradean 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 participate 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.

**We appreciate your support!**

**New Members—Welcome!**

Fabian Beltran, Ann Arbor  
 Jana Beltran, Ann Arbor  
 Linda Beney, Livonia  
 Alex Breitmeyer, Plymouth  
 Lynda Bunyea Poet, Manchester  
 Brittany Calhoun, Canton  
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 Maureen Schneider, Plymouth  
 Timothy Strzalkowski, Redford  
 Jerry Wargo, Northville  
 Stase Wendland, Canton  
 Billy Wright, Plymouth

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 **\$60 per**
- IT/Network support **\$500**
- ½ month heating bill **\$375**
- ½ month electric bill **\$475**
- 1 month employee salary **\$600**

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



# Bits 'n Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director



Most of the work is done on the train depot exhibit upgrade! We are so excited with the new look and feel of our surround-sound exhibit.

We will have an open house at the Museum on Sunday, April 30 so everyone can see the incredible work done by our project director and our contractors.

We are indebted to the Margaret Dunning Foundation for financial support for this.



## Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Members	Public
April 22	Ghosts of Plymouth Walk	Now	Now
May 13	Frozen Princess Tea	Now	March 27
June 24	Death by Chocolate Murder Mystery	April 10	April 24
Aug. 13	Superhero Ice Cream Social	June 12	June 26

**Donations Received**  
**December 2022 – February 2023 Thank You!**

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between December 2022 and February 2023:

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

George Thompson

**The Lincoln (\$1,000-\$2,499)**

Marlene Donoghue

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

Sally Fedus  
 Rita Furdak

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

Hugh Hales  
 Roman Krzyzanowski

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

Ruth Dostie  
 Ellen Elliott  
 Joe Gentilcore  
 Lori Hemingway  
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**Under \$100**

Janet Burns  
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 Toni Lattimer  
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 Joyce Nicora  
 Karen Southworth  
 Ann Wood-Alatalo  
 Takeda Yoshido

**Sponsorships**

**Interurban (\$2,500)**

Community Financial Credit  
 Union

**Mayflower (\$2,500)**

Varnum, LLP  
 Anonymous & Joe & Ellen  
 Elliott

**Plymouth Fair (\$2,000)**

Blackwell Ford

**Hamilton (\$600)**

Alphagraphics  
 Hock Family Dentistry

**Plymouth Ghosts (\$500)**

C. L. Finlan & Son  
 Insurance  
 Schrader-Howell Funeral  
 Home

**Mary Todd (\$400)**

Greko Printing

**Family Fun (\$300)**

Aznavorian & Mily Families  
 Caviston Agency  
 Comcast Heartland Region  
 (sponsoring 3 events)  
 Comparis Restaurant  
 D. J. Maltese Construction  
 Hines Park Lincoln  
 Inch Memorials  
 Rockit Media

**Archives Upgrade**

**The Lincoln (\$1,000-\$2,499)**

Bob Bake

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

David Jakubiec

85 Years Ago  
 February 1938  
*Plymouth Mail*

**Help, If You Can!  
 Many Need It**

In this week's issue of The Plymouth Mail are numerous want ads from people who are seeking employment. Some of them have been out of employment for a long period, and it is their preference to help themselves rather than be helped by others. The one thing they are looking for is work! Can you provide any of them with employment for a few days or a few weeks? Maybe there is a repair job that they can do. Maybe there is some sort of a job about your home or buildings or your stores or your farms that can be done now—now in the greatest time of need. Everything indicates that present conditions are only temporary and that within another few weeks business will again be back to normal. If you can help during the present emergency by providing work for just a few days, it will be a God-send in many cases. Create a temporary job if it is humanly possible to do so. It will be an act you will never regret.

**To Paint Mural  
 On P. O. Wall**

85 Years Ago  
 February 1938

An early day street scene in Plymouth will, in the very near future, be painted on the western wall of the postoffice lobby, states Postmaster Frank Learned who has been advised of the awarding of a contract by the government for the work. The entire interior of the postoffice is being decorated for the first time since its completion, the work being done by some Ohio painting and decorating contractor.

The mural that will be painted will in part be taken from an old time photograph of Main street, showing the arrival of the stage coach bringing mail to Plymouth from Detroit.

In the old days, the arrival of the stage with the mail sack was always the outstanding daily event in the town.



# Fires IN PLYMOUTH

*A Slice of History, courtesy of Plymouth Today magazine, issue First Quarter 2023*

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens  
and Ellen Elliott

**F**IRE has shaped the growth of Plymouth in many ways. Some of these fires affected only one family while others significantly impacted the entire community.

One of the first documented blazes destroyed the barn of Albert Halladay near his tavern in April 1846. He lost four horses, two buggies, and property belonging to a peddler amounting to roughly \$2,000. He carried some insurance but not enough to cover his loss. Halladay sold his property two months later.

During the blaze that destroyed the Main Street business block in May 1856, the fire was kept from progressing by tearing down a building in its path. The loss was estimated at \$60,000 and many of the merchants were not covered by insurance. The block was rebuilt and named Phoenix because it had risen from the ashes, like the mythological bird.

For most of the 19th century, Plymouth had no water mains or a fire department. As early as the 1880s a village fire committee was active in procuring supplies, such as ladders and buckets. It was a bucket brigade that tried to save the Phoenix block in April 1893. The Detroit Free Press reported, "The primitive style of fighting the flames with buckets was not very successful of course, although the entire town turned out." Assistance from Detroit was requested but didn't arrive in time to save the buildings.

It was this terrible loss that eventually prompted the Village Common Council to officially establish the Plymouth Fire Department when an ordinance was adopted on June 3, 1895.

The new department consisted of Aetna, Royal and Phoenix companies, with a total of 49 volunteers, including the fire chief.

The next major incident – that affected the whole community – happened in March 1916, when Plymouth High School and the Methodist Episcopal Church burned to the ground. The fire started in the high school and quickly spread



*The fire at Bode's (left) in 1968. The aftermath (right) of the Plymouth High School fire in 1916.*

to the church, with sparks flying across Main Street and onto the roofs of homes. While several of the roofs burst into flames, the old-fashioned bucket brigade and hoses saved the homes from destruction. The total damage to the high school and church was estimated at \$65,000. Students were displaced to learn at various buildings throughout the village until the new school opened in 1917.

A fire that started in Bode's Restaurant on Penniman Avenue in January 1968 also took out Minerva's Dress Shop, the Western Union, and the Plymouth Draft Board. Damage was so bad at the P&A Theatre next to Bode's that it was eventually torn down.

A blaze in the Penniman Avenue Shops in February 1980, in the former Schrader Furniture Building, destroyed 11 stores.

In recent years, innovations and modern safety practices have significantly reduced the number and severity of fires in the community.

To learn more about Plymouth fires, please visit the Plymouth Historical Museum's special exhibit "Snapshots of Plymouth," which will run February 8 to June 25. The Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street in Plymouth and is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 6-17.



*The bucket brigade (left) from the 1893 fire. The Volunteer Fire Department (right) in 1895 after it was formed.*

# Volunteer Spotlight

80 Years Ago  
February 1943  
*Plymouth Mail*



Mike Janz

**M**ike has been a very active volunteer guide for the Museum for the last eight years. When you visit the Museum, you can spot Mike in our popular Lincoln Room, sharing his extensive knowledge on the life of President Abraham Lincoln with our Museum guests.

Mike was born and raised on the northwest side of Detroit in the Rosedale Park area.

His family moved to Bloomfield Hills when Mike was in the third grade; he graduated from Bloomfield Hills High School. He finished his education as a Michigan State University graduate.

Mike has an extensive and interesting work history. He started his career selling motorcycle parts in a store on Telegraph Road in Bloomfield Hills and spent time as a business manager for a commercial film production company. He also owned a Kohler distributorship selling commercial-size generators to businesses in the Midwest.

Mike and his wife Sally will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They plan on getting together with their two daughters, Lindsey and Kristen, their husbands and four grandchildren. The celebration will be in Charlevoix, Michigan.

Mike's passion is gardening; he is the proud owner of 300 square feet of perennial beds. When he is not caring for his extensive garden, Mike is an avid reader, enjoying historical fiction, spy novels from the Cold War and reading about England during the Middle Ages. Other books of interest are anything relating to our founding fathers and the French and Indian War.

When you bump into Mike in the Museum, he will be more than happy to "bend your ear" on current affairs. Mike admits to being a political news "junkie."

Our Museum is very lucky to have the longtime volunteer services of Mike Janz.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk, Museum marketing director

**Thank You Volunteers! Volunteers Make a Difference!**

## The Ghosts of Plymouth Walk Saturday, April 22, 2023

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

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 per person day of the Ghost Walk. Groups of 8 or more should contact the Plymouth Historical Museum for a group rate of \$12 per ticket. Call 734-455-8940 x0 for more information.

The Ghosts of Plymouth Walk is sponsored by AT&S Advisors.

## Here's Meanest Letter of All



It Comes From Down in Florida

About the "meanest" letter that has come to "ye editor" in a long, long while didn't come from any irritated subscriber

It came from an old friend of years gone by. Read it—and judge for yourself.

"Dear Editor—

"I have just read in The Plymouth Mail about the big snow storm that you had up there two or three weeks ago. It set thoughts percolating through my mind—and how nice it is to be down here in this land of sunshine and flowers.

"We bask in the sunshine every day, gambol about in the bright moonlight nights down on the white sand beaches and bathe whenever we want to in the warm, blue sea. The temperature here this afternoon at 4 o'clock in the shade is just 76. I have just returned from a game of lawn bowling, and am sitting out on the lawn listening to the mocking birds and looking at the beautiful flowers that are in blossom everywhere."

The walks begin at 4 p.m. and leave every 15 minutes, circling Old Village and lasting up to 90 minutes. Participants should meet at the gazebo on Farmer Street, between Mill and Starkweather.

Purchase tickets at the Plymouth Historical Museum 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth 734-455-8940



75 Years Ago  
February 1948  
*Plymouth Mail*

## Ex-Plymouthite Tells Kiwanians About Television

A young man whose father owned the first appliance store in Plymouth was guest of Kiwanis and spoke before the club Tuesday evening at its regular meeting at the Hotel Mayflower. He is Bill Rutherford, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Rutherford. Bill is now with the television sales department of RCA Victor corporation. His appearance was made possible through the cooperation of R. L. Kimbrough, of the Kimbrough Appliance Co., Plymouth outlet for RCA television receivers. Warren Worth was program chairman.

He said the first patents on television were granted 101 years ago and at that time it was called "pictures through the air." The first experimental stations for television, as it is now known, were set up in 1928 and since 1929, when a major league baseball game was televised, that station has been on the air and operating every day. It is now NBC-New York.

Rutherford, who has visited all of the TV sending stations in the country, said there are now 18 in operation. However, an additional 80 have applied for licenses to operate.

The television receivers which are now on the market will not be out-dated for many years. Rutherford assured his audience. WWJ-TV, The Detroit News television station, is the best in the country, he declared, and Plymouth residents are ideally located to receive the telecasts. Within two years the Detroit station will be on a nation-wide network—and now all that prevents this is the laying of cable over which the programs will be transmitted. Aside from that, he remarked, right now WWJ-TV is on the air more hours with a greater variety of programs than any other such station in the country.

# Museum Personnel Spotlight

## Carolyn Zaborsky



Normally, we like to highlight our volunteers at the Museum. So, for a change of pace, we decided to focus on one of our very capable Museum employees.

Carolyn is that lovely and friendly person at the front desk who greets guests and collects admission from those entering the Museum. As our "Greeter and Scheduler," it's important that Museum visitors start with a positive impression, and Carolyn has been fitting that bill for the last four years. Her other responsibility is scheduling our guides, which can sometimes be a daunting exercise, since we are frequently on the short list for people.

Speaking of guides, she originally came to the Museum as a volunteer guide back in 2017 when she noticed our marquee on the street advertising for volunteer help (which we always need).

Carolyn is originally from West Virginia and proudly claims to be a "country farm girl." She moved to the Plymouth area many years ago and has been a long-time Plymouth and Ann Arbor resident. She has a very interesting work history that includes years of experience at Kroger's doing secretary work while attending college pursuing her bachelor's degree. Majoring in business, communications and psychology, she was able to secure a job with E.F. Hutton and Masco in a management position. After she retired from Masco and began volunteering at our Museum, she did not leave her ties with Masco far behind. She was able to team up with her fellow employees from Masco who are guides at the Museum: Ken West and B.J. Haire. It's a small world!

Carolyn has three children who mostly remained in the Plymouth area. She is also blessed with six grandchildren, ages four to 33.

Carolyn is an avid American history reader and loves to go to the gym for her yoga exercises. She is also an active participant in the "Fun Club." This is a group of her long-time fellow Kroger workers who get together from time to time taking trips around the country and going to tapings of TV shows.

Next time you come and visit the Museum, be sure to say "Hi" to that smiling face behind the desk.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk, Museum marketing director

### Penn Theatre Plymouth, Michigan

65 Years Ago  
January 1958



# Plymouth Days Gone By

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



What I Think and  
Have a Right  
to Say

*Elton R. Eaton*

Elton R. Eaton  
Editor & Publisher  
*Plymouth Mail*

78 Years Ago  
March 1945  
*Plymouth Mail*

## Heart Attack Claims Fred D. Schrader

## Sudden Death Shocks Entire Community

### A CIVILIAN WAR CASUALTY.

All the casualties of this terrible war are not taking place on the fields of battle or in conflicts in the air and on the sea. Brave and true men are dying on the homefront, too, because of the war.

The expenditure of human strength beyond its limits in an effort to carry on in these depressing times, plus the ever increasing fear and worry about what may happen to more of OUR BOYS in uniform, proved too much for the brave heart of Fred D. Schrader, civic and business leader of the community.

He died suddenly a few days ago, and with his passing the city of Plymouth lost one of its most valued and progressive citizens.

He was tired. He was exhausted. But he couldn't quit. He wouldn't slow down. The break came suddenly and a worthy, ambitious citizen who insisted on working night and day at a time when he should have been under the care of a physician, went quickly to his death.

A country lad, son of sturdy parents, born out in Canton township, he decided in early life to become a Plymouth business man. Possessed of nothing except a determination to make good, a willingness to work hard, and a friendship for people that existed until his death, he came to Plymouth, learned the undertaking business and in a few brief years he was one of Plymouth's outstanding business men.

He was quick to discover the fact that greater success depended to a considerable extent upon the growth and development of Plymouth.

So he immediately became personally interested in every project that had for its object the betterment of Plymouth. As one reads back through the years in the files of *The Plymouth Mail*, invariably the name of Fred D. Schrader is found at the head of some committee or group working for the improvement of this fine city.

He was chairman, in years ago, of a committee working for street paving. He was chairman of the building committee of the Masonic Temple. He was chairman of a committee proposing the building of a community hotel. He was interested in everything that was for the progress and the good of Plymouth. In every city there are characters that find pleasure in snarling at the heels of progressive citizens but this never deterred Mr. Schrader in his determination to do all within his power for the good of his community. He was keenly interested in the work of the Salvation Army and served as chairman of its board for years.

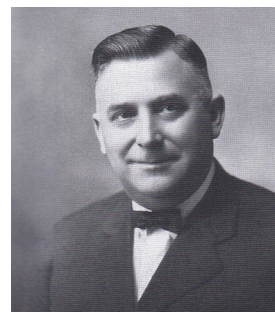
His life was one of all work and no play. He did find a bit of recreation at his farm—recreation that consisted in doing hard, manual labor in the fields and around the barns. He loved the soil, as he did people. He liked to see things planted and then to watch them grow into bountiful crops.

The esteem and the high regard in which Plymouth and the surrounding community held Mr. Schrader was reflected in the hundreds of hundreds of people who came to the Schrader Funeral Home to pay tribute to his memory. Never before has there been such an out-pouring of citizens who desired to make known their sorrow at the passing of one who had been so friendly and one who had consoled and comforted others in times of sorrow.

Plymouth will never know the extent of the goodness and the many kindnesses of Mr. Schrader. He was sympathetic in the extreme. The sorrow of others was his own sorrow.

## OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY.

PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN



*Fred D. Schrader*  
1875-1945

Funeral services will be conducted this afternoon at 3 o'clock from the funeral home he founded in 1909 for Fred D. Schrader who died unexpectedly Tuesday evening.

Mr. Schrader, a lifelong resident of Plymouth and one of its best known business men, died in St. Joseph's hospital, Ann Arbor, shortly after officiating at the funeral of George Hale.

He had suffered a heart attack at the Riverside Cemetery just after the close of the funeral, the second of the day, from his establishment.

Many landmarks stand by which he will be remembered for many years to come. Besides the present beautiful funeral home which was built in 1916, he was one of the active leaders and founders of the Mayflower Hotel, of which he was president.

Mr. Schrader, who was 69 years old, had been in not too robust health since his son, Lt. Edwin, entered the Navy.

He started in the furniture business back in 1907. Later in 1909, he added the funeral business, at which time he established one of Michigan's first funeral homes, later abandoning the furniture business to devote his full time to funeral directing.

He also was a past president of the Michigan State Emblamers' Association and had been most interested in the work of the Salvation Army in this city. He had served many years on the boards of the Building & Loan Association, The Northville Fair Association, The Plymouth United Savings Bank and the Plymouth Improvement Association.



## Candidates for the Plymouth Historical Museum Board



**Kathy Sullivan** is pleased to be a candidate for the museum board of directors. She previously served two terms on the board holding the positions of secretary and then president. She has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Wayne State and worked as a librarian until making the decision to be a stay at home mom to her (now adult) son and daughter. In addition to history, her interests include reading, photography, gardening, and trying to improve her golf game. When they aren't golfing, she and her husband, Jim, enjoy traveling and watching sporting events. She has one published fiction novel and is currently working on both the second and third in the series. As both a Plymouth township resident and supporter of museum, she is honored to serve as a director once again.

In addition to history, her interests include reading, photography, gardening, and trying to improve her golf game. When they aren't golfing, she and her husband, Jim, enjoy traveling and watching sporting events. She has one published fiction novel and is currently working on both the second and third in the series. As both a Plymouth township resident and supporter of museum, she is honored to serve as a director once again.



**Jeff Ashton** is a lifelong Plymouth resident, having attended Bird Elementary, West Middle and Plymouth Salem High School. He finished his studies at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he majored in history. Returning to his hometown, he started a Farmers Insurance Group Agency that he operated for 32 years. Over the last few years, he

assisted his son in setting up an Independent Insurance Agency and has been consulting with several small businesses concerning management and marketing issues. Jeff has been a member of the Museum for more than 13 years and has volunteered as a guide and closer. He has served on the Board for ten years.

### May 2023 Board Elections

**T**his 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!



**Steve Beltran** has always had a passion for history. This is what led him to a career in education. He is currently teaching Grade 8 U.S. History at Novi Middle School in Novi, MI. Steve graduated with a Bachelor's degree in History Teaching from Eastern Michigan University and a Master's degree in Special Education from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He moved

to Plymouth in 2009, where he currently resides with his wife and two young children. Steve is excited about the possibility of continuing to serve the Plymouth Historical Museum. In his spare time Steve enjoys reading, playing sports, and spending time with his family.

### 1923 - Plymouth District Library Centennial - 2023

**WAYNE COUNTY LIBRARY  
SERVICE FOR PLYMOUTH**

**100 Years Ago  
March 1923  
Plymouth Mail**

Efforts are being made to establish a Wayne county library service branch in Plymouth. Representatives from the Wayne County Library office were in Plymouth, Tuesday, and have taken up the matter through the Woman's Club, who will make efforts to interest the village commission and the Chamber of Commerce in establishing the service here. Branches of the library have been established in all parts of the county. The cost of maintaining a branch of the library in Plymouth will be \$250 per year, and this sum will have to be provided for before the branch can be established here. It is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in getting this sum pledged for this important service, which is much to be desired in any community.

### 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."*

# Plymouth Historical Museum Maintenance Crew Year-end Report 2022

*Written by Clark Chapin*

The Maintenance Crew managed to accomplish several major tasks in 2022, a veritable plethora of smaller ones, and assisted Mike Hoggard. Our stalwart crew includes:

Lee Baker	Sal Cavallaro	Clark Chapin	Gregg Packard
Rick Schubatis (rookie)	Monty Shettler (rookie)	Bruce Tomlinson	Rich Walther

We welcomed two new volunteers this year: Rick Schubatis and Monty Shettler. Each of them brought new skills and enthusiasm to our crew.

By our calculations, we managed to brew, consume, and recycle over 100 gallons of coffee this year and an indeterminant number of cookies and other baked goods, but we don't regard those numbers as our most significant achievements.



- We fabricated five new folding screen assemblies to visually block off the Main Street Train Station while it undergoes the display modernization. Thanks to all involved, including Gregg Packard's son Charles, who lent his expertise as a theatrical set designer. We have enough cloth for three more assemblies (six panels), but would need to purchase more wood.



- Sal and Rich re-wired the Doll House on Main Street and upgraded the lights to small LED units which are more reliable.

- Sal and Rich also cleaned and refurbished the overhead model train tracks so that the train runs much more smoothly now.

- We dismantled the shelving in the old China Shoppe, repaired the plaster, and painted the interior before the installation of the new mirrored display cabinets. We then installed new track lighting. In November, we used Masonite pegboard to mount 12 Daisy air rifles for the Christmas exhibit.



- Rick, Monty, and Lee hung the two Evans Products bicycles from the wall in the downstairs storage area, freeing up much-needed floor space.

- We fabricated an antique newspaper stand, a bookshelf, and a pedestal for a chessboard as part of the Escape Room project.

- Rick Schubatis arranged for the disposal and transported about 50 old fluorescent light bulbs that were being stored in the Maintenance Room.

- Rich, Sal, and Lee inventoried the cans of paint in the paint storage lockers, neutralized the paint with our abundant supply of sawdust from the dust collection system, and disposed of the paint.

- We fabricated two drip catchers for the humidifiers in the Archives and Reading Room so that condensation does not damage valuable records.

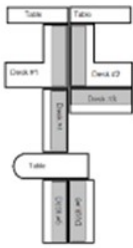
- Bruce, Lee, Clark, Rich, and Sal installed new magnetic closures on all 40 cabinets in the downstairs kitchen.

- We used the entire crew to move several filing cabinets and map cases in Archives to make way for new desks.

The Plymouth Historical Museum owes its success to the efforts of its dedicated volunteers.

**Thank You Volunteers! Volunteers Make a Difference!**





- The entire crew assembled six Bestar office desk assemblies for placement in Archives. Each desk weighed about 300 lbs., so flipping them over after assembly and moving them into their final position was an “All Hands on Deck!” operation. Many hands make, if not light work, at least manageable work.
- Lee and Clark installed a video display screen in the caboose so that a small computer could play a video about the history of the caboose. We also installed some interior signage in the caboose as well as two exterior signs near the caboose entrance.
- In May, we refurbished the three teak benches near the Main Street Entrance by re-applying teak oil. The benches required much less oil than last year when they were extensively cleaned and oiled for the first time since their original installation.
- We used some on-hand casters and plywood to fabricate a moveable base for the large Christmas Tree in the off-site storage shed, making it much easier to move and maneuver.
- We installed new, etched pavers in both the front walk and the caboose walk.
- We refurbished the stainless steel kickplate on the Church Street entrance and replaced some of the attachment screws.

- Using an on-hand metal base and some scrap lumber, we fabricated a stand for the mailbox in the Timeline of Plymouth.



- We started reorganization of the off-site storage location. We are using existing materials to fabricate sturdy shelving so that many of the items there can be stored off the floor since we’ve run out of floor space but have lots of air space above. Our task is complicated by the facts that the location lacks both heat and electrical power. We have decided that we can work at the site if the temperature is above 30 °F. We can use our inventory of battery-operated tools to do some tasks,

but others will be performed back at the Museum itself.

- In November, most of the crew attended an open house to celebrate the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of Painter Emeritus Roy Pilkington.



This year, we recognized the passing of E. David Reitzel and Paul Mallie (left). Both were valuable volunteers and gave much of themselves to the Plymouth Historical Museum and the Maintenance Crew.

Finally, throughout the year we took several pieces of wood of various sizes and made them smaller using a variety of power tools, which is our collective superpower.

**The  
Plymouth Historical Museum  
Maintenance Crew  
April 2022.**

*(Left to right- Front row)  
Roy Pilkington and Clark Chapin.  
(Back row)*

*Lee Baker, Rich Walther, Bruce Tomlinson, Sal Cavallaro, and Gregg Packard.*



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

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## Calendar of Events

Events are at the Museum unless otherwise specified. Tickets can be found at <http://plymouthhistory.org/events/>.

### April

22—Ghosts of Plymouth Walk, 4-7:45 pm.  
Tickets are on sale now and are \$15 in advance; \$20 the day of the walk. Sponsored by ATS Advisors.

30—Museum Open House, 1-4 pm

### May

13—Frozen Princess Tea, noon-2 pm. Tickets on sale to members now; on sale to the public March 27. \$30 for one adult and one child, who must be at least 4 years old. Sponsored by Aznavorian & Mily Families.

### June

1-25—Free Summer Saturdays, sponsored by Blackwell Ford.

24—Death by Chocolate Murder Mystery, 5:30-9 pm. Tickets are \$25 and go on sale to members April 10; on sale to the public April 24.

25—Last day for “Snapshots of Plymouth.”



Plymouth Historical Museum  
Special Exhibit

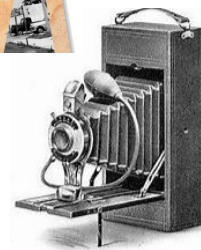
“Snapshots of Plymouth”

Exhibit on display until

June 25, 2023



Museum Hours  
Open Wednesday,  
Friday, Saturday,  
& Sunday 1-4 pm



155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 734-455-8940