

October – December 2025



Part I: 1776-1900

Let's get this party started! The country will be celebrating 250 years of independence in 2026 and we're joining in the festivities. Our commemoration will be split into two special exhibits to allow us to better spotlight America's greatest contributions in the unique way that we present history at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

America 250 Part I: 1776-1900 will open on Wednesday, February 4, and will run through June 7. Our members-only preview will be on Tuesday, February 3. Members receive 2 free tickets to the preview by signing up either online or by calling Laura Elder, administrative assistant, at 734-455-8940 x0.

The Part I exhibit will highlight Plymouth and Michigan during the early years of the republic, featuring Michigan statehood, early Plymouth pioneers, plank roads, and other local history of the time. The exhibit will be capped off by a special event on Sunday, June 7 commemorating the Richard Henry Lee Resolution that recommended independence to the Continental Congress. This exhibit is sponsored by O'Donnell Electric.

America 250 Part II: 1900-2026 will open on July 1 and will run through November 1. Again, that exhibit will focus on Plymouth and Michigan and our place in American history during those years. More information will be available as we progress.

We plan to close the year with our popular **A Red Ryder Christmas Story** special exhibit opening November 18 and closing January 10, 2027.



Santa in the Caboose: A Holiday Success!

Santa in the Caboose was a joyful highlight of the season at the museum. Families loved visiting Santa inside our historic caboose, creating warm holiday memories in a truly unique setting. As Santa heads back to the North Pole, we thank everyone who joined us and helped make Santa in the Caboose a festive success.

We are grateful to our sponsors, volunteers, and staff who made this event possible. Their support helped bring holiday cheer to hundreds of visitors. Our Santas were portrayed by Frank Cozza, Rich Kaylor, and Chris Porman. Our sponsors who allowed us to offer free admission each day were Compari's, DeJohn Real Estate, E & E Manufacturing, Laird Glass, Mayflower Party Shoppe, Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, Rockit Digital Marketing, and WSDP.

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 holidays)

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Newsletter Editor

Elizabeth Kerstens, director@plymouthhistory.org

The Newsletter is printed four times a year.

Monthly Drawing

Volunteers Steve Moss, Sandy Bonavero, and Anita Strach are the respective winners of the drawings for a \$25 gift certificate for October, November, and December.

Calling All Volunteers and Educators!

Do you love local history, storytelling, or working with people of all ages? Our museum is looking for friendly volunteers and passionate teachers to help bring history to life. Opportunities include greeting visitors, assisting with events, leading educational programs, and supporting behind-the-scenes projects. Whether you have a few hours a month or more time to share, your talents can make a meaningful impact. Join us in preserving the past and inspiring future generations.

Please contact Janet Burns, volunteer coordinator, at 734-455-8940 x6 or bookkeeper@plymouthhistory.org.

New Freight Elevator Door

The Rotary Foundation of Plymouth recently gave the Plymouth Historical Museum a \$3,000 grant to be used toward replacing the 50-year-old exterior door to the freight elevator. The door was replaced in early December with hopes that it will last another 50 years!



We truly appreciate the generosity of the Rotary Foundation of Plymouth!

Welcome New Members!

- Shelly Bahr, Westland
- Kathryn Bartol, Plymouth
- Janet Chorkey, Plymouth
- Brooke Ellis, Livonia
- Brenda Giordano, Livonia
- Elizabeth Hoffman, Ann Arbor
- Judy McIntyre, Livonia
- Tori Robinson, Canton
- Michael Timmerman, Plymouth

Bits 'n Pieces



George Jackson Exhibit

While the Museum is closed in January, we will be installing a new permanent exhibit in the space where the indoor caboose was located. This exhibit is dedicated to George Jackson (above) who was a free African American living in Plymouth from the mid-1850s until his death in 1913. All records indicate he was immersed and accepted into the Plymouth community at a time when many African Americans were not welcomed into local communities. It's an obscure Plymouth story that needs to be told.

Our goal is to install a historically accurate replica of George Jackson's delivery wagon. Jackson was a teamster/drayman who delivered goods to businesses and residents in the area. He represents a working-class voice absent from traditional museum narratives. The wagon and a mannequin representing Jackson will be the centerpiece of this story, paired

with interpretive signage and digital storytelling to introduce visitors to the civic, economic, and racial landscape of the time.

We've unsuccessfully tried to get grants to support this project and are now hoping that our members and the community can help us get this story told. Please donate at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/help-us-tell-george-jacksons-story> or point your phone at the QR code. Thank you for your support!



Memorial Bricks

Over the years, the memorial bricks that line the entryway of the Plymouth Historical Museum have welcomed thousands of visitors. Each brick represents a story, a family, or a special moment in our community's history. Time and Michigan weather have worn many of them down, making some inscriptions hard to read.

We're excited to share that the Museum is beginning an effort to replace every worn or unreadable brick. Our goal is simple: preserve the names and memories entrusted to us so they can continue to inspire future generations. Replacement bricks will follow the original inscriptions, and we're working carefully to ensure accuracy and honor each donor's intent. This will take some time to get new bricks engraved, so if your brick is unreadable, please be patient with us.

Now is also a good time to order a brick, if you've been thinking about it. The forms can be downloaded here: <https://plymouthhistory.org/get-involved/support-the-plymouth-historical-museum/>.

Thank you for your support as we preserve these lasting tributes to our community's past.

Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Members	Public
February 3	Members-only Preview	Now	
February 15	Downton Abbey Tea & Fashion Show	Now	Now
March 14	The Jukebox Experience	January 12	January 26
April 25	Ghosts of Plymouth Walk	February 9	February 23
May 3	Princess & Pirate Tea	March 2	March 26

Collection Treasures

By Marissa Warren, Archivist

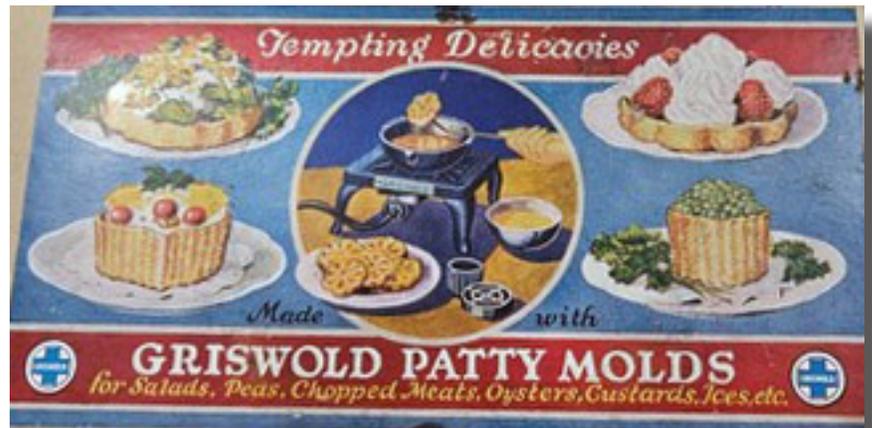
Patty Molds

The holidays are a prime time for baking, and these molds were one of the many ways for making delicious treats easier to create at home. This specific set of Griswold's Famous Patty Molds features four different shaped molds for a variety of pastries or patties. To make the pastries, the molds

are dipped in batter before being placed in the center pot filled with hot oil. The batter then cooks around the shape and pops off as a neat shell ready to be filled with toppings of your choosing. This was a 1930s precursor to today's deep fryers that can still be used the same way today.

Vacuum

Cleaning has always been a chore, but modern appliances have vastly cut down the time and effort needed. This vacuum does not offer



the same efficiency, and is not recommended for replacing your current vacuum. The Limit Vacuum made by the E.J. Green & Son was created in the 1910s before electricity was commonplace in most households. Instead of plugging in a cord, the user has to manually pump the handle on the top of the vacuum to create suction. It seems easier and quicker to pick up the mess by hand, but it did help lead the way to our more useful modern models.



Downton Abbey Tea and Fashion Show

Fashions through the
Downton Abbey years:
1912 to 1930

With Clothing Historian
Jackie Jacobs



Sunday,
February 15
2-4 pm

- Enjoy scrumptious tea delicacies by Diann's Catering
- Sip the Museum's own special tea, "Mary's Blend"—a tantalizing cherry and almond black tea blend in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln

Tickets are \$35 for Plymouth Historical Museum
members; \$40 for non-members

Plymouth Historical Museum
155 S. Main Street
734-455-8940 ext. 0
www.plymouthhistory.org/events

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The Fair That Changed America

Historical Museum's latest exhibit highlights early female artist, other mementos from 1893 event

By Elizabeth Kerstens and Ellen Elliott

In April 1890, Congress created the World's Columbian Commission to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America. As part of that Act, the Commission was

"authorized and required to appoint a Board of Lady Managers."

Part of its charge was to select artists and award prizes for participation in the fair.

This presented a wonderful opportunity for budding artists to have their work viewed by people from all over the world.

The obstacle was being selected by the Board.

Elnora McCartney Woodward was an incredibly accomplished artist and sculptor in an era when women were wives and mothers and stayed at home. She was born August 3, 1868, in Salem, Ohio, not far from Cleveland. She may have attended the Western Reserve School of Design for Women, later renamed the Cleveland Institute of Art.

According to Plymouth Township resident Ralph Bozell, Elnora's great grandson, she submitted her sculptures for consideration by the judges. Unfortunately, her art was not selected in this very competitive process. It is surmised that



the picture here was some of what she submitted, possibly showing her studio. Note on the right side where she wrote: "The big figure is 15 feet high."

Pictures of more of Elnora's sculptures and some of her original drawings are on display at the Plymouth Historical Museum as part of the special exhibit, "The Fair That Changed America." Her collection also includes personal souvenirs from the 1893 Fair.

Also on display in the exhibit is a World's Fair guidebook that belonged to Clarence

Stevens, a Plymouth resident. Clarence stayed at the Hotel Plymouth on Hope Avenue in Chicago during his visit. He was born in Canton in 1865 and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1883. He spent a year at

Ypsilanti Normal School before becoming a music teacher. He lived in Plymouth on and off throughout his 103 years of life!

On April 2, 1894, Plymouth experienced a part of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair when the Florida on Wheels train rolled into town. This marvel cost \$20,000 to build and featured an exhibit that included live alligators. Before coming to Michigan, it had visited 20 other states and "been seen by more people on earth than any other car," according to newspaper reports.

The Plymouth Historical Museum's special exhibit "The Fair That Changed America" runs through December 31, 2025. It highlights features of the 1893 Columbian Exhibition in Chicago.

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.



Donations Received

September – November 2025

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between September and November 2025:

The Lincoln (\$1,000–\$2,499)

James Burroughs
Clark Chapin
Frank Cozza
Marlene Donoghue
Cynthia Hartsig

The Penniman (\$250–\$499)

Louis Christensen
Mary Fritz
Geraldine Kilsdonk
Ron Lowe
Stephen Marulis
Gerry Sabatini
Karen Sisolak
Jerry Wargo
Jason Witt

The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)

Ralph Bozell
Cheryl Harvey
Dave LaPointe
Carolyn Lebeau
John Marshall

Dan Packer
Plymouth Chamber of Commerce
David Rucinski
Kathleen Sharpe
Richard Walther
Edie Wysocki
Pam Yockey

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Marie-Louise Capote
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Geraldine Pritchard

Sponsorships

Mayflower (\$2,500)

Anonymous
O'Donnell Electric, LLC

Plymouth Ghosts (\$500)

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Artifact Spotlight



This larger-than-life Daly Drive-In sign once welcomed hungry drivers to Plymouth at the corner of Main Street and Ann Arbor Road. The drive-in operated from 1963 to 1998 and was known for hamburgers topped with its unique Dalyburger Sauce, along with

its popular footlong Dalydogs and memorable banana splits.

Today, the sign is a favorite photo stop in our museum and a fun reminder of when drive-ins were the place to be.

We also proudly sell Dalyburger Sauce in our Museum Store, the same nostalgic taste locals still say goes on just about anything!



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

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Calendar of Events

Tickets can be found at <http://plymouthhistory.org/events/>.

January

1-31—**Museum closed for exhibit changeover.**

February

1-3—**Museum closed for exhibit changeover.**

3—**Members-only Preview**, 6-8 PM.

4—**“America 250 Part I: 1776-1900”** special exhibit opens.

15—**Downton Abbey Tea & Fashion Show**, 2-4 PM.

Tickets on sale now.

March

14—**The Jukebox Experience**, 7-10 PM. Tickets on sale to members January 12, 2026.

April

25—**Ghosts of Plymouth Walk**, 5-7 PM. Tickets on sale to members February 9, 2026.