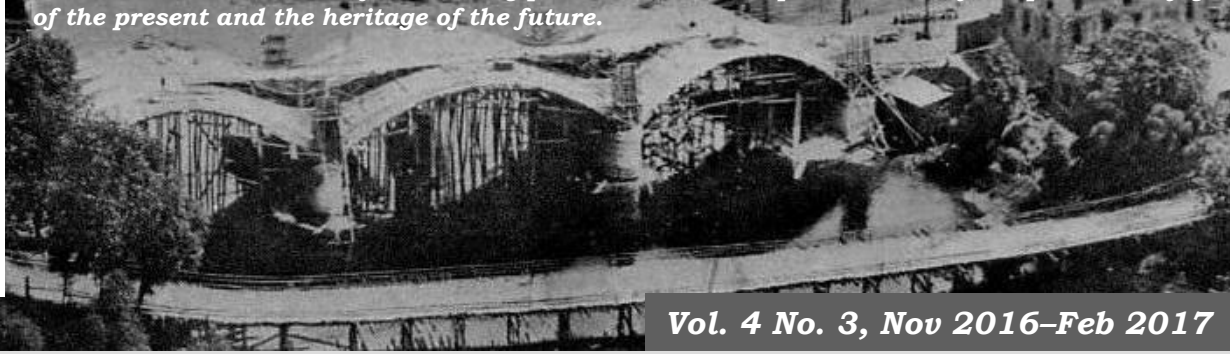


ECHOES FROM THE LEDGES

Since 1976 - A coalition of community partners where the preservation of the past is the joy of the present and the heritage of the future.



Vol. 4 No. 3, Nov 2016-Feb 2017

~ From Your President ~ The Grand Ledge Area Historical Society is working diligently to explore the past, creating an environment to understand the present and envisioning the future. Your ongoing interest and enthusiasm continue the efforts of those before us to preserve the history of the area.

The annual membership drive is in progress. For those of you who have returned your envelopes, THANK YOU! If you have not done so yet, we look forward to you renewing your membership. You recently received a flyer in the mail as part of our membership drive and you will soon see our promotional ad at the Sun Theater. We are excited about these initiatives and look forward to you joining the Society.

Our fundraiser for October was Purse Party Bingo on October 6th. It was a huge success! We would like to thank Mayor Kalmin Smith for being the master of ceremonies, Bob Brown for being the bingo caller, and board members Stan Baxter, John Clark, John and Ethelen Herbstreit, Ann Richardson, Ruth Creyts, Carrie Gross and Ann Lawrence for helping during the event. Thank you Chuck Pantera and Sun Theater for the delicious popcorn. THANK YOU Marie Brown for all your hard work organizing the event!

Make sure to visit the Museum at 118 W. Lincoln. Different community groups and school children have enjoyed this experience. Recently some young students from Our Savior Lutheran Church School toured the Museum and some of the comments from the children were precious: "girls could faint if they danced too hard because their dresses were too tight," "they don't wash their clothes the same way we do," and "they didn't have computers or phones back then."

The Holiday Traditions Tour is Saturday, December 3rd, 11am to 6 pm. The Opera House is open both, Saturday, December 3rd, 11am to 6pm and December 4th, 1pm to 4pm. The Opera House will showcase tablescapes, decorated Christmas trees and a purse sale.

Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you, Ann Lawrence 627-6632.

GLAHS DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov 1** - Spiritualist Movement, Program, 7pm, Opera House
- Dec 3-4** - Holiday Traditions Tour, Sat 11-6pm
- Dec 11** - Museum Exhibit, 2-4pm (For the remainder of December museum will be open by appointment only, Call 627-8594)
- Dec 28** - GLAHS Board of Directors Luncheon, 12:30pm, Dutch Treat, Log Jam back room, Community Welcome!
- Jan-Feb** - Museum Exhibit Changed, Re-opens March 5



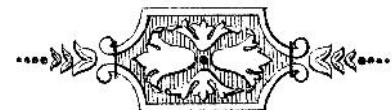
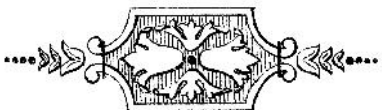
COMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Dec 2** - 45th Christmas Parade
- Dec 3-4** - 42nd Holiday Traditions Tour
- Feb 19** - Bridal Show, Opera House
- Feb 23-25** - Fun on the Rocks Winterfest

OPERA HOUSE DATES

- Nov 5** - Singers on the Grand, 6:30pm
- Nov 6** - Singers on the Grand, 3pm
- Jan 27** - Taylor Taylor, Singer/Songwriter, 7:30pm
- Feb 19** - Opera House Bridal Show

Grand Ledge Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 203
Grand Ledge, MI 48837



Museum Visitors!

The Eaton County Historical Commission presented the Service Award for the Preservation of History to our board members John and Ethelen Herbstreit for their many years of service here with the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society. The presentation was made at the fall workshop held at the Welch Museum in Sunfield, Michigan.

THANK YOU JOHN AND ETHELEN FOR YOUR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY!

The "All Things Victorian" exhibit will be continued thru Mid-December with scheduled tours for the remainder of December. A new exhibit will be assembled and on display at the beginning of March. It has been exciting to see our visitors enjoy the Victorian period display and learn about life in our Grand Ledge Community during that time. If you would like to arrange a tour, call Ethelen at 627-8594. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this exhibit while it is still available. You don't want to miss it!



THE MUSEUM

118 W. Lincoln St.

Sundays 2-4 pm
Festival Days 12-4 pm
Closed National Holidays
Call 627-8594 to arrange
a group or
individual tour.

The museum exhibit is "ALL THINGS VICTORIAN."

Featured in this exhibit is a collection of items showing what life was like in Grand Ledge from the 1860's to 1910. Included are the living areas, clothing, entertainment, Island Resort, street scenes, stores and schools.

In the children's area there is an early buggy, games, books and a stereopticon, an item used long before TV and tablets.

Music and entertainment was often held in a home. A variety of instruments that people would bring to form a band, such as an 1800's drum, concertina and clarinet, are on display along with a phonograph. We also have many early community band photographs. What is that odd looking couch you ask? Make sure to check out the fainting couch or chaise lounge where people rested when not feeling well.

The Seven Islands Resort provided entertainment in good weather not only for locals but trainloads of people who came from as far away as Detroit to stay at the Island House Hotel and to ride the steamboat or roller coaster. They also came to enjoy the ledges, mineral wells, fountains and picnic.

On display is an original pot bellied depot stove, a replica of the Island Queen paddle boat, souvenirs and many pictures of the islands and the ledges.

Clothing at the time was very different from now. You will see a variety of clothing from children to adults. A spinning wheel and weaving loom would have been used to make much of the clothing and scrap pieces were saved to make quilts. See the scrub board and hand-turned wringer washing machine used for laundry.



When shopping during this time period, you went to individual stores such as a bakery, meat market, produce store in season, staple groceries, shoe store, clothing, jewelry, hardware and buggy shops. There were no Meijer or big-box stores. The stores were located on Bridge Street which was not paved. In the exhibit, you will see street scenes showing some of the stores and the interior of a few.

Did you know in 1887, both the north side and south side had high schools? We show an 1800's north side graduating class and an early 1900's south side graduation held at the Opera House as there were no gyms in the schools. Students living outside of the city attended one-room schools and came to Grand Ledge for high school.

You will see many scenes and artifacts you probably have heard your grandparents or great-grandparents talk about. Don't miss this wonderful exhibit and a chance to see many things from historic Grand Ledge!





42ND HOLIDAY TRADITIONS TOUR

HOMES, HISTORIC BUILDINGS, TABLES & TREES

Homes & Businesses open: Saturday, December 3rd, 11 am-6 pm

Opera House open: Saturday, December 3rd, 11am-6pm & December 4th, 1pm-4pm

HOMES:

Elizabeth Crawford
Loft Condo
228 N. Bridge St.

Karen & Don Bickel
8508 Hearth Stone Way

Ann & Dave Burwick
906 Willow St.

Val & Brad Lefevre
Craft Retreat
124 Scott St.

Stacie & Michael Looney
11090 Marion Meadows

Nicole & Justin Schuiling
427 W. Jefferson St.



BUSINESSES:

Bright Start Early Learning Center
11966 Sweetwater Dr.

Grand Ledge Opera House
121 S. Bridge St.
(Open Saturday & Sunday)

Grand Ledge Area Historical
Society Museum
118 W. Lincoln St.

Independence Village
4775 Village Dr.

Sanctuary Spirits
902 E. Saginaw Hwy



We look forward to continuing this tradition! If you have a house or business you would like to include on the Holiday Traditions Tour, please contact Marie Brown at 627-1352.

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MACNLOW!!
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your support!

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We proudly sponsor this
edition of the newsletter
in memory of our father,
ROBERT J. BOUCK

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Kristen Bouck Kemp

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Roberta Cain
Shirlee Fox
John & Deanna Hanieski
Ronald & Ann Hayward
Cynthia Skutar
Scott & Tyra Szpara
Beagle's Café & Bakery
MACNLOW Associates

We appreciate your support
that helps preserve our
community history!

GLAHS BOARD NEWS

Kathy Fitzpatrick has returned to serve on the Board. Welcome back Kathy and we thank you!

Jim Foster and Gary Burt are now serving on the Opera House Authority.
Thank you!

The Friends of the Opera House are in a reorganization mode.
If you would like to assist,
please call 627-8594.

Grand Ledge Area Historical Society Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- Family/Household \$30 Student \$10
 Business/Corporation \$90 Donation \$ _____

Membership letters and envelopes have been mailed. Thank you for your renewals and continued support! Just a reminder, life members do not have to renew but donations are most welcome.

BUS TOUR GUIDES NEEDED!

The Grand Ledge Area Historical Society is seeking volunteers to serve as step-on guides for bus tours that come to visit our town. You need to be able to stand while the bus is driven, may sit up front, and utilize a speaker system that the bus may provide. You should be willing to meet and review the script that is appropriate for the tour. We will be willing to teach how to make an interesting presentation for the visitors. It is truly a wonderful time to learn our own history. For more information or to sign up, please call Ethelen or John at 627-8594.

“A WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF GRAND LEDGE”

This is our latest publication presented by John and Ethelen Herbstreit, and a host of assistants, for the purpose of helping our community and visitors understand how our city began and has developed through the years. We are a community that has taken great pride in the streets.

The booklet may be purchased at the Museum and Ledge Craft Lane for \$5.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Grand Ledge Area Historical Society is seeking volunteers (high school or older) to help with scanning and data entry of information for our website. The work will be performed at the library and training will be provided. Please contact John Clark at 881-3400. This would be a valuable contribution to the community and we appreciate your support!

We are very excited about the **“Photos & More”** section on our website. We have partnered with the Grand Ledge Area District Library to digitize, catalog, and share historical documents. New documents and photos are continually being added.

Visit us at

www.gdledgehistsoc.org

If you would like to help preserve Grand Ledge history, please fill out this form and return along with a check to:

Grand Ledge Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 203
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Volunteers are our heart and soul! Please consider volunteering with us. Call 627-8594 for information!

To become a sponsor, please call Carrie Gross at 204-5254 or email carrie_b03@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
Carrie Gross



**Find Us on
Facebook!**

Need a SOUVENIR or GIFT?

We have lots of souvenirs and gifts to choose from including coffee mugs, postcard books, informational books, posters and much more! Stop by the museum or Ledge Craft Lane for more options!



Grand Ledge Area Historical Society
www.gdledgehistsoc.org

Grand Ledge Historical Society Board (serving 2016-2017): Ann Lawrence, Marie Brown, Cindy Langenberg, Norman Smith, Jim Foster, Carrie Gross, Lyle Clark, John Herbstreit, Ethelen Herbstreit, Ann Richardson, Stan Baxter, John Clark, Ruth Creyts, Harlan MacDowell