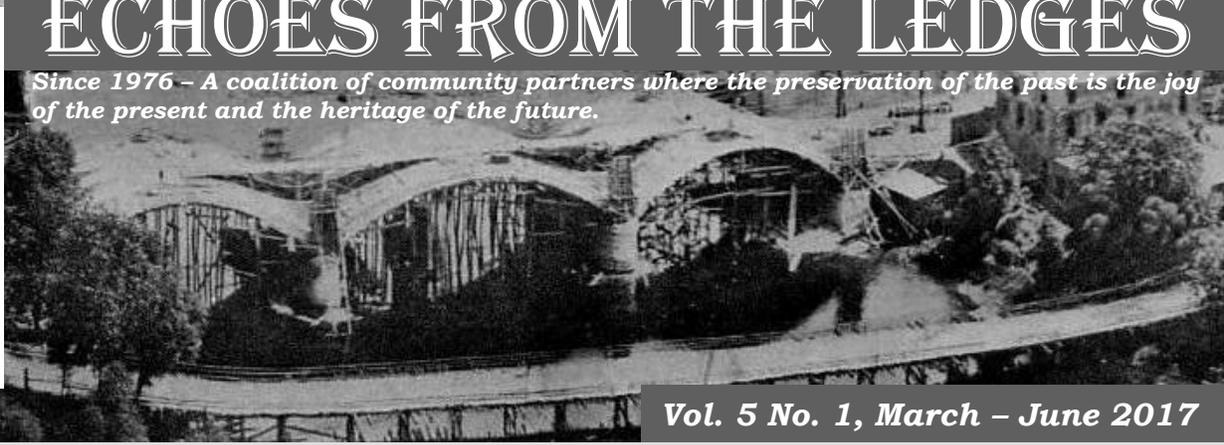


# ECHOES FROM THE LEDGES

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. 5 No. 1, March – June 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. There is much going on so let's get to the news.

We are happy to report the annual membership drive produced twelve new members to the Society. New members are welcome at any time and they don't have to wait for our membership drive. I recently went to the Sun Theater for a movie and saw the promotional ad for The Grand Ledge Area Historical Society. The ad looks great so go to a movie to see our ad!

We are gearing up for some interesting programs this Spring, covering the Sun Theater, the Seventh Day Adventist Camp and the history of the Union Block Building. All of these should be very interesting and they each contribute greatly to the history of Grand Ledge. Also back by popular demand, we will be hosting the Purse Party Bingo fundraiser on May 11, 2017, at the Opera House. Check out the respective articles in this newsletter.

The digitizing of historical items is well underway and we can always use help with this project. The work is done at the library and with a little training you can perform a valuable service to the Society.

A new exhibit "Hurray for School" is being prepared at the Museum located at 118 W. Lincoln. This exhibit will open soon. Make sure to come for a visit. It's going to be a great exhibit! Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you, Ann Lawrence 627-6632.

## GLAHS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

- March 7** – History of the Sun Theater, Opera House, 7pm
- March 11** – St. Patrick's Day Parade, 2pm
- March 17** – Pasty Dinner, GL Masonic Lodge, 5-7pm
- April 4** – History of the Seventh Day Adventist School & Campground, Opera House, 7pm
- May 2** – History of the Union Block Building, at The Salvage Yard, 208 S. Bridge St., 7pm
- May 6-7** – Victorian Days
- May 11** – Purse Party Bingo, Doors Open at 6pm, Play Begins at 6:30pm
- May 13** – Farms Market begins, Bridge Street Plaza
- May 27** – Memorial Day Parade
- June 1** – Summer Concert Series begins, Bridge Street Plaza
- June 6** – Historical Society Picnic, JC Park, All Members Welcome, 6pm
- June 15-18** – Yankee Doodle Days
- June 22-23** – Mudge's Follies



## OPERA HOUSE DATES

- March 5** – Matt Pickart, Violinist & Marina Stojanovska, Pianist, 3-5pm
- March 19** – Pipe Organ Pops Concert, 3-5pm
- March 26** – Parted Waters, Five Member Cover Band, 3-5pm
- April 2** – Matt Pickart, Violin & Vocals, A Night of Jazz Violin, 3pm
- April 30** – Pipe Organ Pops Concert, 3-5pm
- May 9** – Grand Ledge HS Madrigals, 7:30pm
- May 11** – Purse Party Bingo, Doors Open at 6pm, Play Begins at 6:30pm
- May 18** – Hayes Middle School Select Vocal Groups in Concert, 7:30pm
- May 26** – Concert on the Grand, 6pm

## 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!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Roberta Cain  
Cecelia Eareckson  
Shirlee Fox  
John & Deanna Hanieski  
Ronald & Ann Hayward  
Hollihan/Atkin/Barclay  
Funeral Home  
Macnlow Assoc.  
Lola Meeder  
Jared & Danielle Robertson  
Cynthia Skutar  
Scott & Tyra Szpara  
Shirley Waldrop

## Help us Keep the Museum Open! Become a Docent!

You would receive information on what to do when working at the Museum. Shifts are approximately 2 hours on Sundays and festival days. We are also hoping to open one evening a month. We also host tour groups occasionally that we could use additional helpers. This is a great experience being able to meet people and help the community. Please call Ethelen or John at 627-8594 for more information.



# 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 Grand Ledge Area Historical Society  
presents*

## "Hurray for School!"



This exhibit will take the viewer from the early one-room school houses in our district, to activities and graduation. An early one-room school room will be set, including an old student desk, standing blackboard, pot-bellied stove, 48 star flag, old working maps, and pump, bucket and dipper. A map of all the country schools, which consolidated to create the current school system, will be on display.

School clubs and organizations in the high school will be highlighted. Graduation photos and articles, like graduation gowns from early 1900 to current times, will be on display. Superintendents of the Grand Ledge Schools will round out the main room.



The center room will be devoted to the music programs of our schools. This will encompass the band, choir, and drama departments. Uniforms, instruments, costumes, programs and posters, as well as many photos will be displayed.



The kitchen area will focus on teachers, librarians, janitors, food service workers and staff.

The back porch will be on sports. Besides the big three sports, other sports will be highlighted. Grand Ledge has a wide variety of sports for both women and men. Archery, water polo, swimming, diving, wrestling, tennis, golf, gymnastics, pom, cheer, soccer, lacrosse, track and field, cross country, hockey, bowling...are just some of the many sports that will be on display.

This exhibit will open March 19 to the public. Come back to your school days and bring the kids to experience memories.

Make sure to check out the display at City Hall also!  
Featured are Resorts and Trains of Grand Ledge.

Special tours can be arranged. Contact Ethelen Herbstreit at 627-8594 or Cindy Langenberg at 627-4889.





## **History of the Sun Theater**

*At the Grand Ledge Opera House*

*Tuesday, March 7, 2017 – 7 p.m.*



People have been going to the movies for decades. It's a favorite pastime. Have you ever wondered what it was like to see a silent film or sit in a theater with a piano and a sound effects person? The Sun Theater has gone through many owners and many changes but it is still a mainstay in Grand Ledge. Generations of families continue to enjoy it. Come learn about the history of the theater and the film industry at the Grand Ledge Opera House on Thursday, March 7, 2017 at 7 p.m.

## **History of the Seventh Day Adventist School & Campground**

*At the Opera House, Tuesday, April 4, 2017 – 7 p.m.*



Craig Harris will present an oral history with photo presentation of the Seventh Day Adventist School and Campground. This was located on the north east corner of Saginaw Hwy and M-100 (Hartel), in the area of Charlevoix Dr. There was a high school there and an annual camp for Adventist families to spend a week in the summer. Several thousand people would be in Grand Ledge for that week each year. Please join us for this very interesting program!

## **History of the Union Block Building**

*At The Salvage Yard, 208 S. Bridge St.,*

*Downtown Grand Ledge, Tuesday, May 2, 2017 – 7 p.m.*



Do you know where the Union Block building is in downtown Grand Ledge? Did you know that the Union Block building is one of the few remaining commercial buildings in Grand Ledge that is made from Grand Ledge stone? Did you also know that the Grand Ledge post office was located in the Union Block building for a few years? Come enjoy this program and discover the history of the Union Block building. The evening will begin with a short presentation and end with a walk through of the building. Many items also related to the building and history of Grand Ledge will be displayed for viewing. Light refreshments will be served.

## **VICTORIAN DAYS**

Join in the fun of Victorian Days, Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7. Something for all ages!

Saturday will include a Tea for kids followed by a May Pole Dance, High Tea for adults, quilt show, and period demonstrations such as spinning, goat milk soap, blacksmithing and country store. Steampunk items and designs will be on display this year.

Civil War encampments will be on the Island Saturday and Sunday. Riverboat and carriage rides will also be available.

For further information and additional activities visit [www.victoriandays.org](http://www.victoriandays.org)

## **Purse Party Bingo!!**

On May 11, 2017, the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Purse Party Bingo! The fundraiser will be held at the Grand Ledge Opera House.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with play beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be at least 15 bingo games with 15 beautiful purses as the bingo prizes, including one vintage purse from the Salvage Yard. These purses have a retail value of at least \$40 and many are designer purses. There are lots of great door prizes too. Come support the Historical Society and have a great time too!



# Grand Ledge Area Historical Society Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Thank you for your renewals! We are always seeking new members! Sign up at any time. Your membership fees help support the museum, events, preservation of artifacts and history, and so much more! Thank you for your continued support!

## **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.



## 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!



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](mailto:carrie_b03@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Editor:  
Carrie Gross

 **Find Us on Facebook!**

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](http://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, Kathy Fitzpatrick