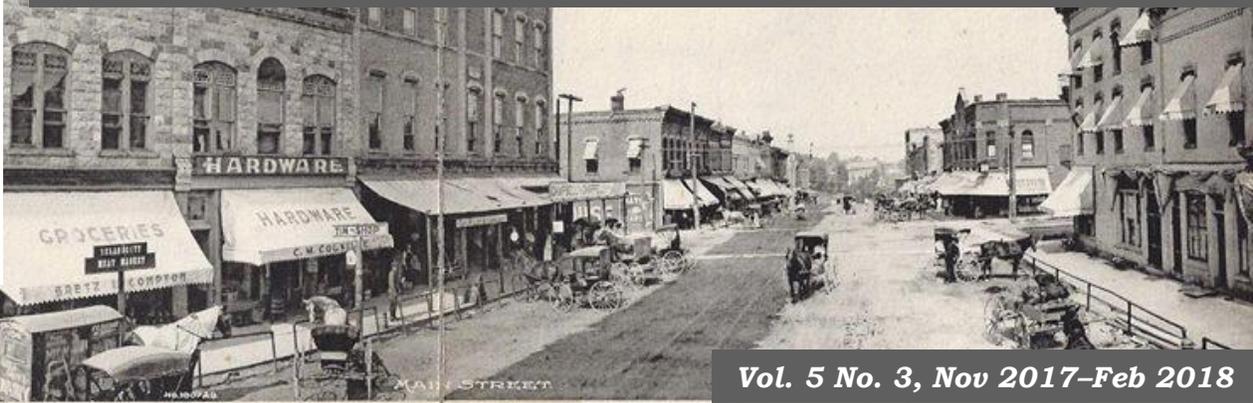
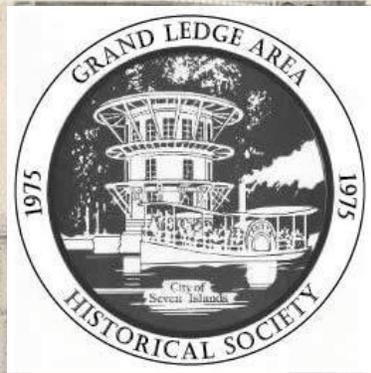


ECHOES FROM THE LEDGES



Vol. 5 No. 3, Nov 2017-Feb 2018

~ *From Your President* ~ Welcome to Fall, a favorite season for many people and it appears to be a favorite in Grand Ledge as well with our many activities and events. October is a busy month: the Historical Society hosts Trash or Treasure on October 3, Purse Party Bingo on October 12 and the Chamber of Commerce holds Color Cruise October 13-15. I invite you to support these events with your attendance. The Opera House also has two upcoming fundraisers – Diamond Dig on the Island during Color Cruise and Oktoberfest at the Opera House on October 14.

We are very excited about our annual Holiday Traditions Tour on December 2 and 3. We have an amazing selection of homes and businesses, and the Opera House will be stunning with a gorgeous array of decorated trees and holiday tables. New this year at the Opera House in the lower level is the Holiday Marketplace. Please also visit us at the Museum for the exhibit “Hurray for School” by mid-December.

I hope that you will consider increasing your involvement with the Historical Society. It can lead to great things! I’m not sure of the exact year but in 2002 or 2003 I became involved with the Historical Society via the Holiday Traditions Tour when I did my first holiday table and I became hooked. Eventually, I was asked to coordinate the decorated table portion of the tour which led to helping with the Annual Garden Tour and then coordinating that event. Soon after, I was asked to join the Board of Directors. In June of this year, I was elected to the office of President.

As this year’s President of the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society, my hope is that we can **keep** and better yet, **increase** our community’s interest in our museum, our programs, and fundraisers. We want to grow our organization and we can only do that with your help. If you can become involved in our events, we would love to have your help in whatever capacity that may be. If you would like to become involved or have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please contact me at 517-202-5656. Thank you! Kathy Fitzpatrick

GLAHS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Oct 3** – Trash or Treasure, Opera House, 7pm
- Oct 12** – Purse Party Bingo, Opera House, doors open 6pm, play begins 6:30pm
- Oct 13-15** – 37th Annual Color Cruise, 10am-5pm
- Oct 14** – Oktoberfest, Opera House, 1-10pm
- Oct 14** – Farmers Market, Jaycee Park, 9am-1pm
- Oct 20** – Pasty Dinner, GL Masonic Lodge, 5-7pm
- Oct 21** – Farmers Market, Jaycee Park, 9am-1pm
- Oct 28** – Farmers Market, Jaycee Park, 9am-1pm
- Oct 28** – Fall Harvest Craft Show, Hayes Middle School, 10am-3pm
- Oct 29** – Trunk or Treat, First Congregational United Church of Christ, 11:30am-12:30pm
- Nov 2** – Ghost Hunting Program, GL Library, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Nov 3** – Annual Soup & Pie Supper, First United Methodist, GLEAP fundraiser, 5-7pm
- Nov 7** – Historical Society Program – Change: Remember the Comet Dairy Bar?, Opera House, 7pm
- Nov 11** – Holiday Market, Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, 9am-3pm
- Nov 25** – Small Business Saturday, Shop Small, Shop Local!
- Dec 1-2** – Sweets and Treats with Santa, Delta Twp Community Center, Fri. 6-7:30pm; Sat. 10-11:30am
- Dec 1** – Pre-Parade Party, GL Library, 4-6:30pm
- Dec 1** – Annual Night Lights Christmas Parade, 7pm
- Dec 2-3** – Holiday Traditions Tour, Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun., 1-5 pm

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

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

Upcoming Museum Hours

Make sure to see the current exhibit while it is still set up. It's a great exhibit and a fun walk back in time.

Sundays, Open 2-4pm, Oct.22,29; Nov.5,12,19; Dec.10

Nov.26: Closed Thanksgiving Weekend

Open During Holiday Traditions Tour: Dec.2,3

Dec.11-31: To arrange a private tour, call 627-8594

January: Closed

February: New exhibit set up, Watch for Opening Date

Sponsorship

John and Ethelen Herbstreit, in memory of Harlan MacDowell, a longtime member of the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society, who served generously with time and talents on the Board of Directors. He also spent many years serving on the Opera House Authority representing the Historical Society. We convey our sympathy to all his family.

Help us Keep the Museum Open! We Need Volunteers!

We need your help to keep the museum open for visitors. If you would like to volunteer, you would receive information on what to do. Shifts are approximately 2 hours on Sundays and festival days. 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
Open Festival Days
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 be open through December. 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.



43RD HOLIDAY TRADITIONS TOUR

HOMES, HISTORIC BUILDINGS, TABLES, TREES AND HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

Saturday, December 2nd, 11am-5pm; Sunday, December 3rd, 1pm-5pm

Tickets: \$12 in Advance, \$15 at the Door,

Only the Opera House & Marketplace \$5, Children 12 and under \$3

HOMES

Marie & Bob Brown
35 Ferguson St.

Jennifer Driver
8975 Hartel Rd.

Mollie D'Smith
1010 W. Main St.

Barbara & Ed Gillis
433 W. Front St.

Pat Huhn
819 DeGroff

Eileen & Bob Mooney
213 E. Scott St.

Nicole & Josh Ostrander
1087 Brookside Dr.



HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historical Society
Museum

118 W. Lincoln St.

Grand Ledge Library
131 E. Jefferson St.

1800s Historic Granary
9110 Hartel Rd.

Oneida Gospel Church
3048 E. Strange Hwy

Opera House
121 S. Bridge St.

Strange School
8981 Oneida Rd.



New this year to the Holiday Traditions Tour –

HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE



The Holiday Marketplace will be located in the Opera House on the lower level. Items for sale include vintage, handmade, upcycled, re-purposed, holiday greens, and lots more! The Marketplace is included in the price of your Holiday Traditions Tour admission ticket or pay \$5 to visit the Opera House and Holiday Marketplace only.

Purse Party Bingo!!

On October 12, 2017, the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society will again host Purse Party Bingo! The fundraiser will be held at the Grand Ledge Opera House. Doors open at 6pm with play beginning at 6:30pm There will be 20 bingo games with beautiful designer purses as the bingo prizes. These purses have a retail value of at least \$40. There are lots of great door prizes too. Light refreshments and drinks will be served. Come support the Historical Society and have a great time too!



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!



**Become a Grand Ledge Area
Historical Society Member!**



Sign up and renewal is in progress.
Find the membership form and more
info on the back of this newsletter.

Thank you!

Grand Ledge Area Historical Society Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

It's membership renewal time! If you have already renewed, thank you! 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. Please fill out the form above and send to the address listed on the left. Thank you for your support!



The Grand Ledge Area Historical Society would like to remember Harlan MacDowell. Harlan passed away on August 8, 2017. A celebration of his life was held at the Opera House on September 22, 2017. Harlan was involved with the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society and the Opera House. He was also the driving force in Grand Ledge to establish the Riverwalk along the Grand River. He will be greatly missed in our community.

GRAND LEDGE SCHOOL TRIVIA

Who was the first teacher in 1851?

How did southside children get across the river to school?

By 1870, how many schools were there?

What style of architecture were the Northside School and Union School built in?

In 1907, what classes were offered in high school?

What jobs did Jonas Sawdon hold during his career?

How much did Sawdon cost to build?

How many students were enrolled at Sawdon in 1929?

Who was the new Superintendent in 1946?

What year was the new high school dedicated?

Can you count how many schools Grand Ledge has had over the years?

For the answers, go to www.gdledgehistsoc.org, click on Area History and Schools. There is other great information on the site too!

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! Make sure to buy the "A Walk Through the Streets of Grand Ledge" booklet. A great way to understand how our city began and has developed through the years. Stop by the museum or Ledge Craft Lane these and 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

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

Grand Ledge Historical Society Board (serving 2017-2018): Kathy Fitzpatrick, Ethelen Herbstreit, Cindy Langenberg, Norman Smith; Stan Baxter, John Clark, Lyle Clark, Ruth Creyts, Jim Foster, Carrie Gross, John Herbstreit, Joan Kane, Dave Rademacher, Ann Richardson.