



# Greater Washington Area Historical Society

May, 2017

### Officers

**Jim Holcomb**, President  
Phone: (248) 652-2458

**Tom Simpson**, Vice President

**Pat Hallman**, Secretary

**Cherie Allen**, Treasurer

**Kitty Fobare**, Director

### Contact Information

Washington Historical Society  
P.O. Box 94144  
Washington, MI 48094  
(586) 786-5304  
washhistsoc@yahoo.com

### Museum Information

The Museum is located at 58230 Van Dyke, between 26 Mile Rd. and West Rd. in Washington Township.

The Museum is open 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from June through November.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the museum.

Visit our website at  
[www.washhistsoc.org](http://www.washhistsoc.org)



Like us on Facebook

## Super Sunday Craft Show

We are finalizing plans for this year's Super Sunday Craft Show, our major fundraising event of the year. The show is being held on Sunday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Just Banjos will be back again this year to entertain us, and Pat Hallman will be selling her orphan plants. If you have plants you are thinning out or don't need, drop them off at the museum for our Orphan Plant Sale. Or if you are looking for some new plants for your garden, stop by and let Pat help you find that special plant. Our orphan plants are priced right, too.

If you are interested in displaying at our show, there are still some spaces available. The show will be held on the grounds in front of the museum, and the fee for a 10 x 10 space is \$50.00. For more information, visit our website at [www.washhistsoc.org](http://www.washhistsoc.org) or call Jean Holcomb at 248-652-2458.

As always, we need volunteers to help during the show. The museum will be open during the craft show, and we need volunteers to greet people in each of our display rooms. We also need someone to help Pat with the plant sale and someone to man the gift shop. If you have an hour or two or more that you can help, please contact Cherie Allen at [rdallen1@att.net](mailto:rdallen1@att.net) or 586-781-4375. We will also need help with set-up on Saturday.

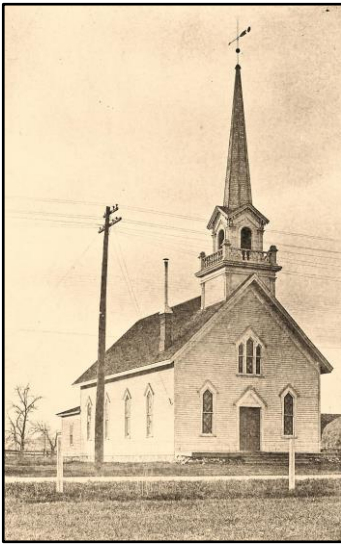
Hope to see you on June 4th!!!

## George Washington Picture Contest

Our annual George Washington Picture Contest with Washington Elementary School was held in February. The 27 finalists (three from each of the third, fourth, and fifth grade classes) came to the museum for a pizza lunch and tour. They each received a certificate and a packet of historical information. The winners of the contest pictured from left were Alexis Teeples (3rd grade), Evie Goedge (4th grade), and Savannah Melling (5th grade). Alexis was also the grand prize winner. Each of the winners also received a gift card to Barnes and Noble. In addition, Savannah Melling and Daniela Lekaj won a prize for being finalists three years in a row!



*It's easy to support the  
Greater Washington  
Area Historical Society  
through  
Kroger Community Rewards  
and our  
Ink Cartridge Recycling  
Program.  
Details on page 4.*



**Washington Union Church**

*We would like to thank  
the following people for  
their generous donations*

**Gay & Kim Beal**

**Lisa Bousson**

**Linda Centro**

**Michele & Jim Drzewiecki**

**Peggy Hoonhout**

**Linda McClymont**

**Tom Simpson**

**Karen & Tim Smith**

**Larry Thom**

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**Romeo Historical Society**

## Message from the President

We have made some great progress in cataloging items in the John Dyer-Hurdon Boy Scout Museum. Mark Fobare is working to get things in order so that we may have the room open for the Super Sunday Craft Show on June 4, 2017. Our Boy Scout, Dante Paglia, was recognized as an Eagle Scout at a ceremony on Sunday, May 7. He did an excellent job in renovating the room that was, at one time, a boys' restroom. You may have noticed that two trees have been removed in front of the Museum. Landscaping in front of the Museum is the next project for a new Eagle Scout, and the project has been approved.

The Historical Society has an exhibit at the Graubner Library for the month of May. Try to drop by and see the displays. Items are on view from the military, Boy Scouts, the Alward's store, and a telegrapher's lightning bug.

We recently have been informed that the first woman, Anna Rankin, who graduated from what is now the Wayne State University School of Medicine, died in Washington, Michigan, in 1936. She was married to Reverend Timothy Edwards who was the grandfather of Charles Edwards. Charles (Chuck) was a member of our historical society for many years. We have a picture of Timothy Edwards in our collection when he was going to give a sermon at the Methodist Church on the occasion of his 100th birthday in 1934.

Come to the Super Sunday Craft Show on June 4. We have wood puzzles, home improvement, metal art, jewelry, ceramics, essential oils, bird houses and collectibles. Tour the Museum – there is a record of a bear encounter on a dark night many years ago. Do not forget our Orphan Plants!

Ira "Jim" Holcomb  
President

## In Memory

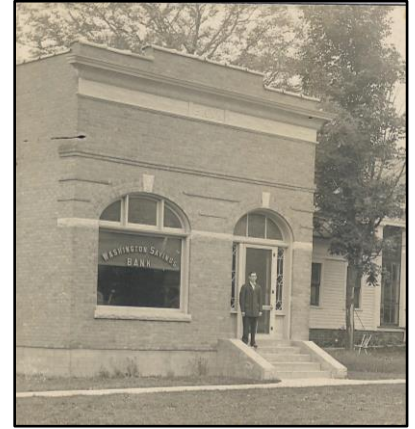
John Dyer-Hurdon, a very good friend and member of the society, passed away on March 12, 2017. John's association with the historical society and museum began in 1984 when he established our Boy Scout Museum. Through his efforts and hard work, our Boy Scout Museum has the largest collection of Boy Scout memorabilia in southeast Michigan. Over the years, John hosted numerous tours through the museum, and several years ago, he said that more than 10,000 people had visited the Boy Scout Museum -- The John Dyer-Hurdon Boy Scout Museum.



## “The Great Bank Robbery”

The Washington Savings Bank was located on the west side of Van Dyke just south of West Road. It opened in 1909 and served the community until it was liquidated in 1942.

On Monday, January 7, 1929, two men entered the bank at 9:30 in the morning and walked away with packages of currency and gold amounting to \$5,341.78. The bank robbers were described as “neatly dressed young men.” After entering the bank, “the men engaged Mrs. Cora Thurston, assistant cashier, in conversation relative to the negotiation of a loan, remarking that they needed \$2,500.” She called Mr. J. H. McCutcheon, the cashier, over to help them with their loan request. Mr. McCutcheon suggested they try banks in Utica, Romeo, or Rochester because Washington was not prepared to make the loan.



Washington Savings Bank

That's when one of the men reached in his pocket and produced a revolver that Mr. McCutcheon said “appeared to him to be as big as a cannon.” They then “invited Mrs. Thurston and McCutcheon to precede them into the cellar” where they asked McCutcheon for his keys and then tied and gagged the two employees. “When the bandits ordered Mrs. Thurston to lie down on a pile of coal in the basement, the lady replied that if she did she would soil her dress; so the bandits gave her some papers to sit on until they robbed the bank.”

It was 20 minutes before Mrs. Thurston and Mr. McCutcheon were able to free themselves and sound the alarm. The robbers were long gone and no one saw their car so they did not have a description of the car or license number. It was feared they would never be caught. However, one of the men, Thomas Sissions, was arrested in Flint on January 16 and positively identified as one of the Washington Savings Bank robbers. The other man was never apprehended.

(Source: The Romeo Observer dated January 9 and January 28, 1929)

## Mark Your Calendar

**May 16** – Third Tuesday Tea at Two – “Feed Sack History” – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 2pm – Info octagonhouse.org.

**May 21** – Octagon House Chats – “Lost Car Companies of Detroit” by Alan Naldrett – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 2pm – Open house 1p-4p – Info octagonhouse.org.

**June 3-4** – St. Claire Voyageurs - Chesterfield Township Historical Village – 10am-4pm – Info www.hsmichigan.org/chesterfieldhs.

**June 4** – Super Sunday Craft Show – Washington Historical Museum – 10am-4pm. – Info washhistsoc.org.

**June 10** – Flea'ntique – Romeo Arts and Archives Museum – 9am-3p – Info romeohistoricalsociety.org.

**June 20** – Third Tuesday Tea at Two – “Bed Turning” O House Quilts – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 2p – Info octagonhouse.org.

**June 25** – Ray Township Public Library Re-opening Celebration – Ray Township Public Library – Time TBD – Info www.rayhistory.org.

**July 8-9** – World War II Re-enactment – Chesterfield Township Historical Village – 10a-4p/10a-3p – Info www.hsmichigan.org/chesterfieldhs.

**July 18** – Third Tuesday Tea at Two – “Garden Tour” – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 2pm – Info octagonhouse.org.

**Aug. 12-13** – Civil War Re-enactors – Chesterfield Township Historical Village – 10am-4pm – Info www.hsmichigan.org/chesterfieldhs.



Washington High School  
100th Anniversary  
1916 - 2016



## *Greater Washington Area Historical Society*

58230 Van Dyke

P.O. Box 94144

Washington, Michigan 48094



ADDRESS LABEL

## Kroger Community Rewards

It's easy to help the Greater Washington Area Historical Society through the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

To create your Kroger account, go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and select the Register button. After you fill in the required information and select the Create Account button, you will receive an email to confirm your enrollment.

After you have set up your account with Kroger, simply go to My Account, go down to Community Rewards, and select Edit. Search for Greater Washington Area Historical Society or enter our number 90024. Check the circle next to our name and select Save.

That's it. Once you sign up, all you have to do is use your Kroger Plus Card at any Kroger store and the historical society will benefit.

Also, you don't have to be a member of the Greater Washington Area Historical Society to support us through the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Cherie Allen at 586-781-4375 or email [rdallen1@att.net](mailto:rdallen1@att.net).

## Cartridge Recycling Program

Do you throw away your used laser and inkjet cartridges? What do you do with your old cell phones, MP3s, PDAs and tablets/eReaders/notebooks?

We are working with several companies that will pay the historical society for recycling these items. And they pay for the supplies and postage, so it doesn't cost the society anything to participate.

If you would like to donate your used cartridges or electronic devices, drop them off at the museum when we are open or contact Bob and Cherie Allen at 586-781-4375 or email [rdallen1@att.net](mailto:rdallen1@att.net) and we will arrange to pick them up from you. Note: The recycling companies we deal with do not accept remanufactured cartridges.

### !!! NOTICE !!!

**Our checks from the Kroger Community Rewards Program have been declining recently. It's a very easy way to support us – sign up once a year and use your Kroger card – that's it. You don't have to be a member, so if you know someone who shops at Kroger, ask them to support us through the Kroger Community Rewards Program.**