



Greater Washington Area Historical Society

August, 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
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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



Like us on Facebook

Saving Energy to Preserve History

There has been a great deal of activity around the Old Washington School recently. See the President's Message for more details.

Our biggest project is the "Saving Energy to Preserve History" project. The main objective of this project is to replace our 100 year old furnace. In June, we applied for a grant for this project and are looking at other grants we can apply for.

In addition to the grant funds, we have several events coming up to raise money for this project. On August 27, we are holding a Gently-Used Book Sale, which includes hardcover and paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, how to, crafts, children's books, and more. That special book can be yours for just a small donation.

Our annual Antique Appraisal Fair will be held on September 24. Whether you have a family heirloom or an item purchased at a sale, our expert appraiser, Fred Fleming of Aardvark Antiques in Lake Orion, will provide you with the opportunity to spend some time with an expert and learn not only the background of your item but also its value.



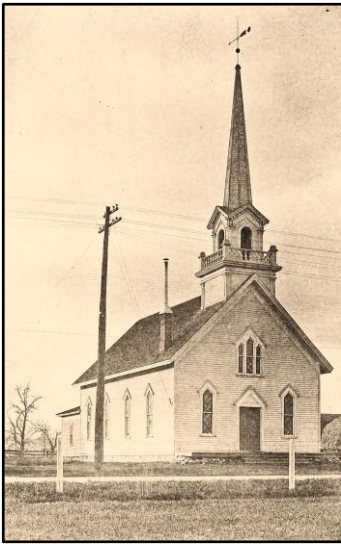
October will bring two events to the Museum. On October 22, we have Fun With Gourds where you can make your own one-of-a-kind decorated gourd birdhouse or bowl and experiment with various mediums. Our popular Public Spirit Gallery will be held on October 29. Lisa Bousson, internationally known psychic medium, will connect with the world of spirit, bringing through ancestors and loved ones.

Our final fundraiser for the year will be our Teddy Bears & Dolls Bazaar on November 12 & 25. We have over 130 teddy bear items, many of them have a Christmas theme, and over 50 doll items, including wooden dolls, porcelain dolls and Raggedy Ann and Andy, just waiting for a new home.



Proceeds from these events will benefit our "Saving Energy to Preserve History" project. For more details, visit our website at www.washhistsoc.org.

*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 and
organizations for their
generous donations*

Pat Donovan

Michele Drzewiecki

Phil Ellis

Terry Goike

Debbie Remer

Bob O'Brien

Ray Twp. Public Library

Romeo Historical Society

Utica Public Library

**Donations in memory of
John Dyer-Hurdon**

**Donations in memory of
Marlene Marsh Ebling**

Message from the President

In the last few months, we have been able to have the landscaping in front of the Museum completed as an Eagle Scout project by John Richert. The major part of the work was completed in one day. The project makes a great difference in the appearance of the Museum and was completed before our Super Sunday event.

Another project that was completed was a grant application to seek funds for replacing the furnace at the Museum. Terry Goike and Cherie Allen made a heroic effort to assemble the necessary information required for the application in a period of a little over two weeks. Almost 30 pages of supporting information was required. The effort is greatly appreciated. We have not been informed if we will receive funding but should hear sometime in September. The application is our first attempt for a grant with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. We have set aside funds for this project and, as you can see, are working to add to it.

Our Super Sunday event was successful. We did not have a large number of vendors but they had quality merchandise. A variety of handmade items were available for sale. The group "Just Banjos" provided entertainment again this year. The weather was just great, and we had many visitors to the Museum. Our thanks to all of our volunteers who worked so hard to make the event a success.

In the month of May, we had a display at the Graubner Library. Joe Hoover, Bob and Cherie Allen, Pat Hallman, Terry Goike, and Jean Holcomb were responsible for the display which included military items, Boy Scout items, and historical relics from this area.

Check out our website for new pages that have been added.

Have a blessed rest of the year!

Ira "Jim" Holcomb
President

In Memory

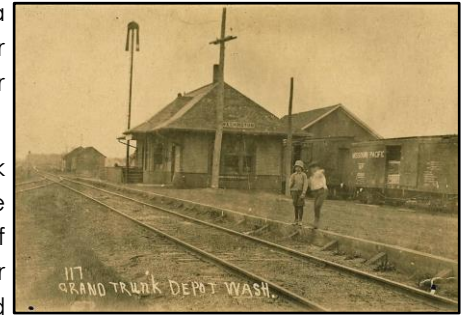
We lost another very good friend of the society last month. Marlene Marsh Ebling passed away unexpectedly on July 23, 2017. Marlene was a descendant of the Gass family, a very prominent family in this area, and the granddaughter of Grover and Nellie Powell, who were very active members of Washington. She was a wealth of information about Washington and never hesitated to help us with a question we had about "the good old days". In addition to the stories she shared with us, she donated many items and photographs to our collection. She was a very special lady and will be greatly missed.



What Do You Do With An Old Train Depot?

Bob Owen's interest in railroads and railroad memorabilia began when he was a young boy living in Washington Township. His father, Hibbard Owen (better known locally as "Hibby"), was the station agent at Romeo for the interurban for 20 years. Bob was a sign painter by trade, but his passion was the railroads.

On June 13, 1966, Bob purchased the Washington Depot from the Grand Trunk Western Railroad for \$200.00 and had it moved from its original location on the north side of West Road near the Washington Elevator to the northeast corner of 29 Mile Road and Van Dyke. Here he opened the Whistle Stop. His workshop for his sign business was in the old freight room, and the rest of the building housed his railroad collection. He didn't change the old depot except to lower the freight room floor and install ground-level doors at the side to enable him to transfer the large signs he painted to trucks.



Washington Train Depot

When you visited the Whistle Stop, you would find Bob sitting in his office which was the former ticket office. There would be an old upright telephone standing beside the ticket window and, on his desk, a telegraph key set and an old typewriter and adding machine his father used 50 or 60 years ago, which Owen still used occasionally. On a high shelf in the waiting room lanterns were displayed representing 25 different railroad lines. A case in one corner held old watches carried by railroad engineers, coin changers used by train conductors, bells, whistles and a silver bowl and cream pitcher from a dining car. On the freight loading platform, there would be an old baggage wagon loaded with two wooden trunks and a barrel, along with a handcart near scales weighing two large tin milk cans. To complete the story of the railroad, outside you would find a train engine, tender and caboose.

Mr. Owen loved sharing his collection and stories with visitors, especially youngsters who wonder what old depots and trains were like.

Source: Detroit Free Press dated October 3, 1967 and The Romeo Observer dated June 8, 1977)

Mark Your Calendar

August 27 – Gently-Used Book Sale – Washington Historical Museum – 1pm-4pm. – Info www.washhistsoc.org.

September 5-17 – Silent Auction – Ray Township Public Library – Info www.rayhistory.org.

September 16 – Barn Tour – Romeo Historical Society – 11am-4pm – Info www.romeohistoricalsociety.org.

September 16-17 – Heritage Days 2017 – Chesterfield Township Historical Village – 10:30am-3:30pm – Info www.hsmichigan.org/chesterfieldhs.

September 17 – Octagon House Chats – "Michigan Civil War Landmarks" by Dave Ingall – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 2pm – Open house 1p-4p – Info www.octagonhouse.org.

September 24 – Antique Appraisal Fair – Washington Historical Museum – 12n-4pm. – Info www.washhistsoc.org.

October 15 – Octagon House Chats – "The Metz Fire" by Pat Hallman – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 2pm – Open house 1p-4p – Info www.octagonhouse.org.

October 22 – Fun With Gourds – Washington Historical Museum – 2pm – Museum open 1pm-4pm. – Info www.washhistsoc.org.

October 29 – Public Spirit Gallery – Washington Historical Museum – 2pm-4pm. – Info www.washhistsoc.org or www.lisabousson.com.

November 12 & 25 – Teddy Bears & Dolls Bazaar – Washington Historical Museum – 1pm-4pm. – Info www.washhistsoc.org.



Washington High School
100th Anniversary
1916 - 2016

Greater Washington Area Historical Society

58230 Van Dyke

P.O. Box 94144

Washington, Michigan 48094



ADDRESS LABEL

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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 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.

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 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.