

# RELIVING The Rochester Era

Sept./Oct.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2015

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## Cemetery Walk Is A Window To The Past

# WOMEN IN



A Living History Walk Through Historic Mount Avon Cemetery

presented by the Rochester Avon Historical Society

Saturday, September 26, 2015



By Debbie Larsen

Our 2015 Mount Avon Cemetery Walk is coming up on Saturday, Sept. 26 with tours running every 20 minutes beginning at 1 p.m. Why should you attend the cemetery walk? Hearing about the experiences of previous generations of Rochester residents in their own words is one of the most interesting and entertaining ways to learn more about our local history! Our actors give a lot of thought and attention to the clothing and accessories they wear, the manner in which they speak and the words that they use. They strive to evoke a bygone era and to do justice to the stories that they tell.

This year's theme is "Women in the Stones," and our tour will tell parts of Rochester's history from the unique perspective of her women. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "A woman is like a tea bag — you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water."

Please join us on Sept. 26 and hear for yourself how strong women have contributed to our community's past — and its present.

Proceeds from ticket sales for this event support all of the programs and projects of the Rochester-Avon Historical Society.

The 2015 Mount Avon Cemetery Walk is made possible by generous support from: [Rochester Hills Chrysler Jeep Dodge](#), [Pixley Funeral Home](#) and [Potere-Modetz Funeral Home](#).

[Click to buy tickets now!](#)



Rochester  
Regional  
Chamber  
of Commerce

*Rochester • Rochester Hills  
Oakland Township*

Tickets can be purchased in person at the [Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce](#) or through our website by clicking here: [Mount Avon Cemetery Walk](#).

## President's Message ...

### Looking Forward To Another Busy, Productive Season



Brian Dunphy, President  
Rochester-Avon  
Historical Society

Now that September is here, we're looking forward to another active season for the historical society. The Board resumes its meetings this month, and our monthly programs – Evening Meetings and Brown Bag Luncheons – also restart in September.

Also in September we will present our fourth annual Mount Avon Cemetery Walk, "Women in

the Stones." Reenactors in period costume will portray several historical female figures from the community's past, each sharing her unique experiences in shaping Rochester's history. Please join us on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 1 to 5 p.m., for this fun, entertaining living history presentation. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce office, online by clicking the "Buy Tickets" icon on the RAHS website home page at [www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org) or through our online store at [www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/our-store](http://www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/our-store).

As we look toward the future, I'd also like to share some progress from the past. The historical society had a successful showing at the annual Downtown Rochester Sidewalk Sale July 9 - 11. Visitors to the RAHS booth purchased a variety of our merchandise items, the proceeds of which help support the historical society's programs and activities. They also made a number of suggestions for possible new merchandise items that we might offer for sale in the future, and the Board will consider a variety of potential new items in our upcoming meetings.

RAHS also reached a milestone in late July, when our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/rochesteravonhistorical](http://www.facebook.com/rochesteravonhistorical), achieved 1,000 "Likes." Thank you to everyone who "Liked" our page! If you haven't already "Liked" it, please do.

And finally, a reminder – we still have two open seats on the RAHS Board:

Second Vice President - Finance  
Director of Fund Raising Events

These are tremendous opportunities for members who want to get more involved with the historical society, and I urge you to consider taking on one of these positions. There's not enough space here to provide details on each, but if you contact RAHS at 248-266-5440 or [rahupdates@gmail.com](mailto:rahupdates@gmail.com), I can provide you with information.

As always, the efforts of dedicated volunteers make possible all of our many projects, programs and events. To volunteer, please call or email as indicated above.

## Kroger Community Rewards

We've been told that changing our clocks for daylight savings time serves as a good reminder to replace all smoke detector batteries.

May we expand upon that theme and suggest that you use the end of daylight savings time on Nov. 1 this year to serve as a reminder to register for or renew your [Kroger Community Rewards account](#), if you haven't done so already, to benefit our non profit organization?

Click here to start: [Kroger](#)

Code:

**89584 ROCHESTER-AVON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

It's quick, easy and pays amazing dividends that benefit our ongoing efforts to provide valuable educational and entertaining programs and events.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society (RAHS) was founded in 1969 to help preserve, collect and interpret the history of the greater Rochester area for present and future generations.

For more information, including a list of upcoming events, visit online at:

[www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org)

## Upcoming Programs ... Brown Bag And Monthly Library Lecture

### Brown Bag Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 1, 2015, at Noon

Rochester Community House

816 Ludlow Street

**FREE AND  
OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

#### “Fifty Years of Meadow Brook Theatre”

Thom and Maryann Foxlee will discuss Meadow Brook Theatre and their collaboration on a book celebrating MBT's golden anniversary season. Meadow Brook Theatre opened in 1966 as part of a strategy to bring professional music and theater studies to Oakland University to complement its academic programs. Nearly five decades later, MBT is the largest local professional theatre in Michigan and is considered “Michigan’s Answer to Broadway.” Mr. and Mrs. Foxlee met at Oakland University in 1968 while Thom was working on a degree in engineering and Maryann was majoring in secondary English and speech. They shared a love of theatre and volunteered as ushers at Meadow Brook Theatre. In 1970 they married, raised a family and continued to volunteer at MBT.

Bring your lunch and enjoy the free coffee, tea and cookies for this casual program. Bring a friend!

### RAHS Library Lecture

Thursday, Sept 3, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Rochester Hills Public Library

500 Olde Town Road

**FREE AND  
OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

#### “The Many Hats of Rochester’s Main Street Pharmacist”

Bob Lytle, RAHS member and local businessman, will discuss his Opera House building, retail pharmacy, local history and his writing experiences and published books. He started writing historical adventure novels for young adults about subjects that interested him. His history-based adventures are used in many schools for their social studies and history content. Mr. Lytle’s books include *A Pitch in Time*, which won the Ben Franklin Award in 2003, *Bulwick School*, and *Mr. Blair’s Labyrinth*. A graduate of Ferris State pharmacy school in 1968, Mr. Lytle spent one year studying at Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He has received a number of awards including the Jaycees’ Rochester Man of the Year in 1988 and the Bowl of Hygiea Award (Michigan Pharmacist of the Year) in 1993. He was a member of the Rochester City Council from 1991 to 1995, the mayor pro-tem 1994-1995, and the Rochester Christmas Parade Grand Marshall in 2001.

### Brown Bag Meeting

Tuesday, Oct 6, 2015, at Noon

Rochester Community House

816 Ludlow Street

**FREE AND  
OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

#### “Petticoat Surgeon: The Extraordinary Life of Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen”

Local historian Maureen Thalmann has written a new book on one of Rochester’s most famous residents. “*Petticoat Surgeon: The Extraordinary Life of Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen*” is the only biography of Dr. Van Hoosen to be written since her autobiography in 1949. Born in 1863, this pioneering female surgeon followed her calling in medicine to the University of Michigan. With a successful obstetrical and surgical practice in Chicago, Bertha worked tirelessly for the advancement of women in medicine. In 1915, she became the founder and first president of the American Medical Women’s Association. Bertha’s life story includes many firsts, international recognition, an abiding love of family and a commitment to advance and improve the lives of women.

Bring your lunch and enjoy the free coffee, tea and cookies for this casual program. Bring a friend!

### RAHS Library Lecture

Thursday, Oct 1, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Rochester Hills Public Library

500 Olde Town Road

**FREE AND  
OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

#### “Parke-Davis Biological Farm”

Rod and Susan Wilson will discuss the history of “Parkedale Farm,” as it was referred to by the company. It was located off of Parkdale Road and was comprised of more than 600 acres. This pharmaceutical location was started in 1908 and was known internationally. This discussion will include stories about the terrorist attack on the farm during WWI, its contribution to the development of the Salk vaccine and many other interesting facts and stories. Rod Wilson is state president of the Michigan Society, Sons of the American Revolution (MISSAR) and past president of the Rochester-Avon Historical Society. Susan Wilson is the seventh generation living in the Rochester area. Susan’s grandfather worked at the farm for 38 years, her father worked there for a couple of years after graduating from Rochester High School, and several of her uncles also were employed there. Rod and Susan have been named the grand marshals for the 2015 Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade.

## Oh, For The Love Of Cider!

By Leslie Mack

As the intense blues and lush greens of summer yield to the brilliant reds and golds of autumn, many thoughts turn to the crisp, cool air sure to usher in heartwarming memories of childhood visits to the cider mill.

I have enjoyed many such excursions in my lifetime and have considered them to be a kind of American tradition. Little did I know, however, how few Americans actually shared in that tradition—not for lack of desire but for lack of opportunity. Apparently, cider mills are not nearly as abundant as I have always believed.

In recent years, I've noted friends out of state (and beyond) lamenting the rarity—or more often the total absence—of cider mills. It seems that apple orchards and mills do not go hand in hand as many may presume.



I sought feedback from my old Royal Oak Dundero High School friends by posting an informal survey on Facebook. It consisted of just a few questions about the availability of cider mills in their area or their state. The responses were swift and emphatic. Here are a few condensed or excerpted comments:

*"I live in Louisville, Kentucky now and have for 30 years. We don't have cider mills here, and I miss them. Nothing like fresh cider and donuts!" Cindy M.*

*"None near me in Austin. I miss the experience." Ted H.*

*"Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Virginia. No cider mills." Genevieve S.*

*"Even on the Western Slope of Colorado they have apple orchards but no cider mills and, yeah, that experience is sorely missed. Along with the donuts and caramel apples, it's a ritual of autumn that can't be replaced." Darlene N.*

*"I have lived in Florida, Texas, Colombia and now live in Mexico City. I have sorely missed Michigan's cider mills. Some of my favorite childhood memories are of Yates Cider Mill in the fall. Nothing can compare to a cider mill experience. Hope to make it back there soon and savor those apples, cider and doughnuts. It would not be fall without going to the cider mill." Terry G.*

*"My husband, who grew up in Pennsylvania, said he never encountered cider mills until he came to Michigan. Since I grew up here, I just assumed cider mills were everywhere. Apparently that is not the case." Bonnie M.*

*"No cider mills here in the Pacific Northwest. Washington State, no less! The 'Apple Capital of the World'! Are you kidding me? I couldn't believe it when I moved here. I thought for sure there would be cider mills. To my incredible disappointment, none. What a complete let down. If there's one thing I miss about Michigan, it's the cider mills in the fall. I literally cry every autumn thinking about all the memories of growing up with cider mills. Even after I moved away to Southern California in my 20s, I came home every single fall for the changing of the season and the cider mills." Laurie L.*

The pain and sense of loss expressed here are palpable. Perhaps a heartfelt Sweetest Day love letter to the mills would prove therapeutic. But, wait! "What is Sweetest Day," you ask? Sweetest Day—celebrated annually on the third Saturday in October—is yet another perk of our area; similar to Valentine's Day, it's a love-themed holiday observance of limited geographical reach that many mistakenly believe extends throughout the country. According to [a search of Sweetest Day on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#): "Retail Confectioners International describes it as 'much more important for candymakers in some regions than in others (Detroit and Cleveland being the biggest Sweetest Day cities)'. The popularity in Detroit was greatly perpetuated by the Sanders Candy Company. Frederick Sanders of Detroit, MI was a large promoter of the holiday." I guess Mr. Sanders knew that the way to one's heart was through their sweet tooth.

Looking forward, autumn in Michigan will grow ever sweeter. I propose that the celebration of our cider mill season in conjunction with the observation of our regional Sweetest Day holiday offers a perfect transition to the Thanksgiving season that follows. We lucky few who enjoy such sweet gems so close to home should count them among the beloved treasures for which we are immensely and abundantly thankful. Cheers!

If you're lucky enough to live near a cider mill, visit, enjoy and support it as often as you can. Share it. "Help those who can't help themselves" by shipping cider to loved ones out of town. (Yates Cider Mill offers a shipping option). Cider can also be frozen for prolonged storage (I recommend researching instructions first).

<a href="#">Goodison Cider Mill</a>	248-652-8450
<a href="#">Paint Creek Cider Mill</a>	248-656-3400
<a href="#">Rochester Cider Mill</a>	248-651-4224
<a href="#">Yates Cider Mill</a>	248-651-8300

[Additional Resource - The Detroit News \(Sept. 2014\)](#)

## Remaining Walking Tour Dates

Only two scheduled dates remain for the [Historic Downtown Walking Tour](#) this year. Don't miss your chance to enjoy the sights, sounds and stories of our beautiful and historic downtown.

Saturday, Sept. 19 1:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 18 1:00 p.m.

Tours depart from the northeast corner of the Western Knitting Mill at Fourth and Water Streets. Seniors aged 55+ and students are \$3. Those under the age of 55 are \$5.

**Free to RAHS Members**



Rod Wilson, "Mr. Rochester"

"Look for the man in the top hat."

## "Been There, Done That" ... And We Highly Recommend It

**Square Dance!**  
SAT SEPT 12 th




**Glen Morningstar calling!**  
With live music by the **Ruffwater Stringband!**




**CRANBERRY LAKE FARM  
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

*Invites You to*

**Vintage Family Dance**  
**Saturday Sept. 12**  
**Dance from 7-9**  
**Square Dancing is free!**  
**Square Dancing is FUN!**  
**388 West Predmore Road**  
**Oakland, Michigan**

Oakland Township Historical Society  
will be selling ice cream all evening!

Oakland Township Historic District Commission Program  
bbarber@oaklandtownship.org  
Barber 2015

Tables will be set up by 6 p.m. to allow anyone wishing to bring their own dinner to arrive early and feast together!

[Click here for video highlights of this event from June, 2014](#)

## Don't Miss These Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar now!

Brown Bag Lunch  
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015  
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Evening Program @ Library  
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

**Membership to Vote on  
By-Laws Change to  
Create Corresponding  
Secretary Position**

SEPTEMBER						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

[Historic Downtown Walking Tour](#)  
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015  
1:00 p.m.

[First Annual Film Festival of Rochester](#)  
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015  
Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015

[Mount Avon Cemetery Walk](#)  
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A September meeting of the Oral History committee is being planned. This committee strives to record audio and video interviews of local residents who have helped to shape our community. The recorded interviews are then transcribed to hard-copy text. Please contact committee chair Samantha Lawrence at 586-255-1883 to be a part of this fascinating project.

Evening Program @ Library  
Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Lunch  
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015  
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

[Historic Downtown Walking Tour](#)  
Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015  
1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015  
**Reminder to register for,  
or renew, [Kroger Community Rewards](#)**

**Please note:**  
No Brown Bag Lunch  
this month  
(Election Day)

Evening Program @ Library  
Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## New Members Reach Out, Offer Time And Talents To RAHS



Photo: Bill O'Brien

Bill O'Brien and Tamara Mathews are among our organization's newest members. The couple is engaged and will wed in November of this year.

For 38 years, Bill worked in an educational capacity; 17 years teaching 5th grade (the highlight of which was American History) and 21 years as a reading specialist in the Utica School system. Over the years, he became an amateur photographer and newsletter editor; two skills that he hopes to utilize, along with his "love of history and natural curiosity," to benefit our historical society.

According to Bill, "Tammy works as a safety engineer for a large construction company and loves to research her American heritage. She's traced her family back to passengers on the Mayflower and beyond that to England in the 1500s." Her family's history in Michigan dates back to the early 1800s. "They've owned property on and off in the Rochester area for over 40 years. Tammy remembers the 580-acre Ferry Seed Farm with its large seed-drying house," the A&W and "asparagus, bittersweet, horses and cows along Avon and Rochester Roads, when Rochester Road was only two lanes wide and farm houses dotted the area."

"We're lucky to live in an area like Rochester that has such a rich history and are looking forward to working with the Society to help discover and share that history with the community."

We welcome Bill and Tammy and extend our congratulations on their upcoming marriage.

## Member Discounts On Merchandise

As announced in our May/June 2015 newsletter, a 15 percent discount off the regular price of any of our merchandise items will be extended to members during RAHS booth sales events.

During the remainder of the 2015 calendar year, the next and last RAHS booth event will offer merchandise for sale during the Kris Kringle Market on Dec. 4 - 5.

## New Calendar Planned, More New Items To Follow

RAHS will be publishing a calendar again for the coming year. The 2016 version is expected to be available in early October. As in years past, it will be available for purchase at Lytle Pharmacy, as well as online at [www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/our-store](http://www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/our-store) and at our monthly Brown Bag lunches and Evening Meetings.

RAHS members are generously contributing their time and talents to this project providing another key RAHS merchandise item, the sale of which generates a portion of the revenue required to keep our organization viable and active.

The design and image selection for the calendar are being handled by Susan Wilson and Liz Golding. Leslie Palmitier is obtaining page sponsorships again this year. While the available graphics are still being reviewed, it is thought that the theme of the calendar will be a "then and now" format highlighting Rochester area buildings.

A limited number of calendars are printed each year. Copies can be reserved now by contacting Mary Howarth at [rahsmaty@gmail.com](mailto:rahsmaty@gmail.com). Simply let her know how many copies you would like, and she will contact you when they become available.

As always, we appreciate the support and participation of our membership, as well as that of our families, friends and neighbors who keep us active and able to offer an ever changing array of useful and educational merchandise items, as well as informative and entertaining programs and events.

## In Memoriam

Although the "In Memoriam" section will appear as an annual acknowledgment of those members who were lost during the fiscal year just ended, we regret the omission of RAHS member Thomas Kuczajda who passed away just prior to our 2014-2015 fiscal year.

## Contact Information For RAHS Board Of Directors And Committees

### RAHS Board of Directors

Brian Dunphy, President	248-266-5624
Carol Tough, Vice President, Operations	248-375-0084
Janet Potton, Vice President, Development	248-652-7296
June Hopaluk, Recording Secretary	248-652-9242
Cary Downer, Treasurer	586-201-2285
Tiffany Stozicki, Director, Communications	248-650-0415
Leslie Mack, Director, Editor, Era Newsletter	586-924-4961
Bree Boettner, Director, Membership	248-515-0881
Mary Howarth, Director, Merchandising	248-375-0206
Margaret Bartos, Director, Programs	248-759-4768
Tom Bledsoe, Director, Special Projects	248-923-2602
Gail Kemler, Director, Historical Preservation	248-651-0907

### Committee Chairpersons

Deborah Larsen, Research	248-375-2974
David Gifford, Media	248-941-7587
Samantha Lawrence, Oral History	586-255-1883

## Volunteer Areas Of Interest

### How would you like to participate?

- Annual Picnic
- Antique Appraisal Day
- Historic Research
- Historic Walking Tour Guide/Assistant
- Fundraising
- Genealogy Research
- Heritage Days
- Oral History
- Publications
- Refreshments at Meetings
- Sidewalk Sales
- Special Project Volunteer
- Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Feel free to suggest. If we don't offer it, we may consider adding it!)

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
\$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Student	
\$20 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual	
\$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Family	
\$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	
\$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Business	
\$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Patron	

## Join The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Today! Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Volunteer Areas Of Interest

How would you like to participate?

- Annual Picnic
- Antique Appraisal Day
- Historic Research
- Historic Walking Tour Guide/Assistant
- Fundraising
- Genealogy Research
- Heritage Days
- Oral History
- Publications
- Refreshments at Meetings
- Sidewalk Sales
- Special Project Volunteer
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Feel free to suggest. If we don't offer it, we may consider adding it!)



Mail completed form with check payable to:

**Rochester-Avon Historical Society**

P O Box 80783

Rochester, MI 48308-0783



By Katharine J. Burns

## Opening Night: Another Step! Theatre In Downtown Rochester ... A Dream In Progress



The Film Society of Rochester committee is announcing plans for the First Annual Film Festival of Rochester on Saturday, Sept. 19 and Sunday, Sept. 20. It will be held at the Rochester Ballroom on Main Street (above Hepplewhite's Furniture Store). It is really a beautiful space for movie lovers to see movies at a Rochester venue for the first time since 1984. This pop-up film festival will be followed by other pop-up movie events throughout the year.

The list of movies is being finalized. It will include the best of the movies from the many film festivals of 2015; Cinetopia, Traverse City, Toronto, etc. A special movie will be premiered which was produced, written and made by a Rochester High School graduate from the class of 1993. Hopefully he will be our guest speaker. He resides in Los Angeles, and arrangements currently are being negotiated.

The website continues to be developed, but you can access information and stay in touch with the plans through the following:

[Film Society of Rochester](#)  
[The Film Society of Rochester \(Facebook page\)](#)  
[Theatre Group of Rochester Company](#)

Fundraising pursuits continue, and we will keep you posted as they evolve. So stay tuned for more details of the First Annual Film Festival of Rochester through our websites as well as announcements in the local media.

Have a wonderful end of summer.

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization



P O Box 80783  
Rochester, MI 48308-0783

"Pride in Preserving the Past"