



RELIVING The Rochester Era

May/June

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2016

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**Find us on
Facebook**

Antique Appraisal Day 2016

Sincere thanks to all who stopped by with their treasures and to all of our hard-working appraisers and volunteers for making this another great event!



RAHS member Bill Williams and 1st Vice President and event co-chair Carol Tough enjoying the Appraisal Day atmosphere.



Fishing spear



Attendees enjoy a visit as they await the appraiser's news.



New member Mary McVeigh volunteers.



RAHS provides coffee and snacks for attendees while appraisers share their expertise.



President's Message



Photo: Leslie Mack
Brian Dunphy, President
Rochester-Avon
Historical Society

Plenty of great activities and programs coming your way ...

In the coming weeks and months, you'll have plenty of opportunities to enjoy a variety of programs and activities offered by the historical society.

For our members only, our annual meeting and picnic will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, at the Rochester Community House. Be sure to mark your calendar for this fun event, which will include a potluck dinner, entertainment and election of RAHS officers for the next two years.

Memorial Day weekend brings Greater Rochester Heritage Days, May 28 and 29. RAHS will have a sales booth and a photo booth there, and we'll soon be seeking volunteers to staff those booths. Heritage Day also features many other attractions for the whole family including log rollers, Civil War reenactors and the Lions car shows.

Starting in May, our monthly historic downtown walking tours begin. Led by "Mr. Rochester," Rod Wilson, these popular tours will continue through October and are free to RAHS members.

Our monthly evening programs and Brown Bag lunches will, however, take a break for the summer. The May 5 Thursday evening program will be the last one until September. We'll have a Tuesday Brown Bag luncheon meeting on June 7, and that will be our last Brown Bag until September.

You'll find more information about these great activities and programs elsewhere in this issue.

Historic resources in Michigan are still threatened by a bill introduced in late January to amend 1970 PA 169, the state's enabling legislation for historic districts. While the bill is still being revised, it includes provisions that would significantly weaken local historic district ordinances throughout the state—and place many irreplaceable historic resources at risk.

In March, the Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission passed a resolution opposing the proposed changes to 1970 PA 169. Copies have been sent to local legislators Rep. Michael Webber and Sen. Marty Knollenberg; to Rep. Lee Chatfield, Chair of the House Local Government Committee, and Sen. Dale Zorn, Chair of the Senate Local Government Committee, as well as to the Rochester Hills Mayor and City Council. The Oakland Township Board of Trustees has passed a similar resolution.

If you haven't done so already, I urge you to tell your legislators that these amendments critically jeopardize adequate protection for Michigan's historic resources. Contact your state representative and senator and let them know that you oppose HB 5232 and SB 720 and support 1970 PA 169 in its current form.

Kroger Community Rewards

In case you haven't heard, your Kroger purchases can pay dividends automatically to our nonprofit, helping to support our ongoing efforts to provide valuable educational and entertaining programs and events. Simply enroll online (it's free) at www.kroger.com, look for the Community Rewards section and set up your account using the RAHS code 89584. It costs you nothing to enroll, and you can be sure that we'll spend the resulting funds wisely.





Upcoming May Programs ...

Brown Bag and Monthly Library Lecture

Brown Bag Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, Noon
Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow Street

"Sharing the Past with the Future"



Ginger Ketelsen

Ginger Ketelsen, a teacher in the Rochester schools for 30 years, will share her memories of projects that aimed to involve children in experiencing life as it was long ago and to encourage the development of respect for "old-time" values. In addition to teaching students from preschool to 4th grade, she provided leadership in the founding of [Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve](#) in 1974 and assisted in developing its many educational, fundraising and family programs until 2015. She contributed to the development of curriculum ideas and to training Rochester teachers for the 3rd-grade "[Stoney Creek One-Room Schoolhouse](#)" experience with their classes. After retiring, she continued to work on the staff for five years, and she still volunteers to teach classes and help with special events at the [Rochester Hills Museum](#) at Van Hoosen Farm.

Ms. Ketelsen has also been active in the [Rochester-Avon Historical Society](#) as liaison for Heritage Days festivals, oral history project chair, and a volunteer for Sidewalk Sales, the Great Everything Sales and Appraisal Days.

Her most recent awards include "[History Educator of 2015](#)" from the Historical Society of Michigan and the Pinnacle Award for Outstanding Community Service from the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2015.

Ms. Ketelsen was born and raised in Chicago. She came to Rochester in 1961 after marrying Eric Ketelsen. She earned a bachelor of arts in elementary education and a master of arts in early childhood education from Oakland University. She has been an active member of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church since 1962 and is currently a member of the board of directors and the Caring for Others ministry team.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bring your lunch! Free coffee, tea and cookies provided.

RAHS Library Lecture
Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.
Rochester Hills Public Library
500 Olde Town Road

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

"The World's Fastest Track: The Story of the Packard Proving Grounds"

John F. MacArthur will discuss the exciting history of the [Packard Proving Grounds](#) in nearby Shelby Township. He will focus on the world-record closed-course run of race driver Leon Duray in 1928 which resulted in the 2-1/2-mile oval being considered the world's fastest track for many years. He will also discuss the events following the rebirth of the site, beginning in 1998, which resulted in the [Packard Motor Car Foundation](#) taking posession of the property in 2002.



1933 PPG Night Test
(IMAGE COURTESY OF JOHN F. MACARTHUR)

MacArthur's interest in the Packard Motor Car Company began at a very early age when he listened to stories about the car and the company told by his father, Donald MacArthur, and his grandfather, Frederick MacArthur. Fred MacArthur began working at Packard in the late fall of 1928 and rose to the position of chief body engineer by 1933. John MacArthur has owned a number of Packards and currently owns a 1955 Packard "400." He is the author of many articles on the Packard Motor Car Company and has appeared on The History Channel and PBS. He has also been involved in the production of videos on the car, the company and its proving grounds. A past president of the [Packard Motor Car Foundation](#), he currently serves as secretary and a trustee of that organization.

John MacArthur is a lifelong resident of Mount Clemens. His mother's family came to the Mount Clemens area in 1844. He is a graduate of Mount Clemens high school, Kalamazoo College (B.A.), University of Detroit Law School (J.D.) and Wayne State University (master of laws on taxation). Presently, he works as an attorney in the Mount Clemens law firm which was established by his great grandfather, [Bert V. Nunneley](#), in 1903.



Upcoming June Programs ... Brown Bag and Monthly Library Lecture

Brown Bag Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, Noon
Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow Street

**FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**
Bring your lunch! Free coffee,
tea and cookies provided.

"The History of the Older Persons' Commission in Rochester"



Marye Miller

Marye Miller, founder and retired executive director of the [OPC](#), will discuss the dynamic history of this nationally known senior center from the days when she started driving seniors for the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority Senior Transportation Program to the current \$14 million building with its wide range of activities and services.

During the 1970s, while driving seniors between nursing homes and part-time senior activity centers, Marye learned that the needs of area seniors were not being met, with too few activities and limited transportation. She began her political support of seniors when she testified in Washington D.C. to protect their financial resources.

In 1982, Marye organized a successful millage campaign to establish a non-profit organization dedicated to providing seniors with services and activities. The original senior program consisted of limited activities at the fire hall on W. Auburn Road, the voting precinct building on E. Auburn Road and the new Community House. In 1984, she used grant funds to purchase the vacant school building on Woodward Street and won another millage for seniors in Oakland Township. Over the next 19 years, the OPC center thrived with ever-increasing programs, many fundraisers and sponsorships, troops of volunteers, political negotiations and sound financial planning. In 2003, the OPC moved to the present state-of-the-art building. Marye Miller made it all happen.

Marye grew up in Bay City. After high school, she received financial training at a Saginaw business school. She married Jake Miller, learned to operate a dairy farm in Clare, Michigan, and raised four children. The Millers moved to Rochester, and "the rest," as they say, "is history."

RAHS Annual Picnic
Wednesday, June 8, 6:00 p.m.
Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow Street

**MEMBERS ONLY
FOR THIS
ANNUAL EVENT**

Annual Picnic/Potluck and Volunteer Awards Presentation

The RAHS will wrap up a busy and successful year with this annual gathering. The event promises to be an evening of good food and fellowship. Please plan on attending even if you haven't been able to participate actively during the past year. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. The society will provide delicious chicken and a variety of beverages.

After dinner, we will honor this years award winners; those hardworking members who have made exceptional contributions to the RAHS.

David Gifford, our multi-talented website/social media chair, will lead us in a rousing singalong of old favorites and patriotic songs.



David Gifford

The annual picnic is a great opportunity for RAHS members to mingle and get to know one another better. For more information, please call June at 248-652-9242.

"We Want YOU!"

By this point in the newsletter, we trust you've enjoyed reading about the many events and programs that we've planned and "performed." The board and our member volunteers love what we do and we enjoy working together to achieve our shared goals for the RAHS.



Renew now to support our continuing efforts. Consider an increase in your membership level or duration. Find out how investing your time and talents can benefit your personal enrichment and ensure continued education and enhancement of the Rochester community.



Oral History Committee Update

By Samantha Lawrence

A year ago, I took over the position of oral history committee chair with the hope of reviving the committee and digitizing past oral history interviews for future use. A lot has happened this past year, so here is a brief update on my progress.



First of all, I completed the digitization of 35 oral histories that were previously recorded on cassette tapes. This process involved transferring over 30 hours of audio to digital format using "Audacity" audio editing software and a device called an "audio interface." In addition to the digitization, I have met with other interested individuals to discuss conducting new oral history interviews and to brainstorm potential interview candidates.

Moving forward, we would love to have more members involved! Anyone interested in transcribing, conducting interviews, or even identifying potential interview candidates, please contact me at s.rae.law@gmail.com or call 586-255-1883. No experience necessary!

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

In Memoriam 2015-2016

Our thoughts turn to
fellow RAHS members
lost during the past year ...

Gerald Post
Michael Reddish

Don't Miss these Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar now!

MAY						
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	1	2	3	4

Brown Bag Lunch Tuesday, May 3 Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Evening Program @ Library Thursday, May 5 7:00 p.m.
Historic Downtown Walking Tour Monday, May 16 7:00 pm

Greater Rochester Heritage Days

Rochester Municipal Park
Saturday, May 28 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 29 - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Lunch Tuesday, June 7 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Annual Picnic (Members Only) Rochester Community House Wednesday, June 8 6:00 p.m.

Historic Downtown Walking Tour Tuesday, June 14 7:00 p.m.

JUNE						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
29	30	31	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)	1	2

Oakland Township HDC Free Square Dance Saturday, June 18 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

[Deadline for
2016 - 2017 Membership Dues](#)
Thursday, June 30

JULY						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
26	27	28	29	30	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	1	2	3	4	5	6

No Brown Bag Lunch

No Evening Program @ Library

[Historic Downtown Walking Tour](#)
Wednesday, July 20
7:00 p.m.

Out-of-State RAHS Member Seth Becker Maintains Generous Hometown Support

By Carol Tough



Seth Becker shows that he's a generous supporter of our local restaurants, as well.

Not all of our members reside in the Rochester area. Seth Becker and his wife, Helen Nam, live in Wheaton, Illinois, and have been supporters of RAHS for many years. They have one son, Nathan, who is five years old.

Seth grew up in Rochester attending

Middle School and Rochester High School. He lived on Elizabeth Street within walking distance of downtown. He fondly talks about the elevator, the train station and how he loved going into the hobby shop and the D&C with its old, squeaky floors. One of his favorite Rochester memories is the three to four days he and his third-grade class spent attending the [Stoney Creek School House](#) at Van Hoosen Farm. He loved the entire experience of being in the one-room school.

Both of Seth's parents are well known in the community. His father, David, served on the Rochester City Council and, before that, the Downtown Development Authority. His mother, Rita, was the long-time office manager at [Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve](#).

It's not a coincidence that Seth and his family chose to live in Wheaton—another small Midwestern town with a lot of history. While his schedule is busy with his job on the corporate communications team for Archer Daniels Midland Company, Seth tries to visit his hometown every year or so. He loves Rochester. He is fascinated by its history and the charm of the area. He and Helen are proud to support the Rochester community—not just RAHS, but also [Neighborhood House](#), Dinosaur Hill and the [Rochester Hills Museum](#).

Let us know, Seth, the next time you're in town ... we'll be happy to give you a tour!

Join Us in Welcoming New Members Jeff and Emily Mallon Ferry

By Carol Tough

Jeff and Emily Mallon Ferry joined RAHS in December. Both are graduates of Rochester High School and lifelong residents of the area.



Emily Mallon Ferry and Jeff Ferry

Jeff is one of six children. His sister, [Janet Varner](#), owns the women's clothing boutique on Main Street. His other sister is Jennifer Fogler of [Fogler Farms](#). Jeff owns [Leonard Storage](#), a self-storage business.

Emily's father is [Max Mallon](#) who, in 1936, purchased the 125 acres which today is home to King's Cove condominiums and Cliffview Apartments. What is now the Cove's clubhouse was originally Emily's childhood home.



Stoney Creek School
(Photo credit: Deborah J. Larsen - ORHS)

For more information, visit:
<http://oaklandregionalhistoricsites.org/property/1501352007>

Both parents were teachers in Rochester schools. Max Mallon, an amateur historian, was very well known for directing the effort to preserve Stoney Creek School. He also was part of the beautification committee and was credited with planting hundreds of trees in the Rochester area

and on the grounds of Oakland University.

Married for 32 years with one son, Jeff and Emily live in Stony Creek Village in a historic home. They enjoy spending time at the Ferry family cottage and boating. Emily also volunteers at [Rochester Area Neighborhood House](#) and the [Clothes Closet](#).

We welcome Jeff and Emily to RAHS!



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
Holly Bledsoe, Corresponding Secretary	248-923-2602
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
Rod Wilson, Walking Tours	248-651-6178

New 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 |

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
- Photography/Videography
- Publications
- Refreshments at Meetings
- Special Project Volunteer
- Other _____

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

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- Publications
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- Special Project Volunteer
- Other _____

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

Join the Rochester-Avon Historical Society Today! Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Mail completed form with check payable to:

Rochester-Avon Historical Society

P O Box 80783
Rochester, MI 48308-0783



Tenth Michigan Infantry

Greater Rochester Heritage Days

By Liz Golding

Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, will offer two days of great surprises for visitors to the Rochester Municipal Park. The 2016 [Greater Rochester Heritage Days](#) event promises to be a weekend of fun and activities to celebrate our community's heritage. Visitors will benefit from the hard work of local nonprofits and volunteers.

Among the big crowd favorites is the [Tenth Michigan Infantry](#), a state-wide organization of Civil War reenactors founded in 1976 for the U.S.

Bicentennial. Patterned after the original volunteer infantry that served throughout the [American Civil War](#), it remains one of Michigan's oldest reenactment units in continuous existence. Event visitors may see battle reenactments and living-history demonstrations.

A family favorite is the Children's Pioneer Playground where kids try games and activites like those enjoyed on old-time school playgrounds and at community picnics. On Sunday, Home Depot staff will provide kits and tools to help children build small wooden craft projects. Musical entertainment includes barbershop quartets and other local musicians including Tommy Spaghetti and Marshall Stephens.

As always, crowds will fill the benches to watch the Great Lakes Log Rollers lumberjacks from Michigan's upper peninsula demonstrate their craft. The Heritage Area will offer a variety of crafters demonstrating everything from spinning and chair caning to quilting and rug hooking. The [Oakland Township Historical Society](#) booth will display antique tools and sell old-fashioned perennial plants. For more fun, move on to the [Rochester Lions Club Car shows](#) both days, and don't forget to see the antique tractors. After all the activities and excitement, visitors will need food and the choices will not disappoint. The event runs Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization



P O Box 80783
Rochester, MI 48308-0783



"Pride in Preserving the Past"