

Jenison Historical Association 2018 Annual Report

In addition to our regular open houses at the Jenison Museum in 2018, we tried something new. We called it "Bringing History to the People" and it involved six activities. Five of the activities were hosted in conjunction with the Georgetown Connections at their center. They included a showing in March of a documentary about the 1956 tornado and the sharing of stories by those in attendance who remembered the tornado. Our second event, held in May, was a documentary on the Ottawa County Poor Farm, next was a historical bus tour of Jenison in June, a presentation about Jenison history was held in August and the final event, in September, was a presentation about area farming. Our final special event was the Grand Lady Boat Ride in October.

Attached is a spreadsheet showing the number of people who visited the Jenison Museum during the last three years. Attendance increased dramatically between 2017 and 2018. We had four themes throughout the year: Quilts from the Past, Discover the Heritage Trail, Grand River Landings and our annual Christmas at the Jenison Museum.

We participated in two expos sponsored by the Grandville/Jenison Chamber of Commerce – one in November at Jenison High School and one in February at Rivertown Crossings Mall. Our participation in these types of events exposes people to the fact that Jenison has a historical association.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Township and the Board for their continued support. We especially want to thank you for our new furnace and air conditioner. This will help us better control the climate in the museum to protect the artifacts.

What's coming in 2019

We have developed the 2019 calendar of events to include our museum open houses with three themes: "Old Glory and the People who Served". This display will include the 42 star flag and military mementos we have and will run from March to July. The second exhibit which will run from July to October will be "The Life & Times of First Jenison Christian Reformed Church". We will display artifacts from this church and share its history. We will end the year and begin 2020 with our annual holiday open houses.

Once again, we will host several special events. In March we will host "Old Time Movie Night" which will include the melodrama *Blissveldt Romance* and other old films. This year we are partnering with the Georgetown Public Library. We will offer the 1956 Tornado Documentary and Discussion in April as well as the bus tour of historical Jenison on two dates – one in June and one in September. The Grand Lady Riverboat has offered to do another boat ride for us in October.

We are very excited at the prospect of having space in the new library for our files which will allow for greater accessibility to the community.

Jenison Museum Attendance

	2016	2017	2018
January	26	42	67
February	0	3	0
March	25	36	41
April	33	41	54
May	47	32	14
June	33	16	30
July	7	6	41
August	49	12	5
September	37	10	28
October	29	36	5
November	20	8	2
December	120	84	126
Subtotal	386	316	413

School Tours

Bauerwood	89	106	84
Bursley	?	92	110
Pinewood	60	78	69
Rosewood	84	103	95
Sandy Hill	98	80	88
Subtotal	331	459	446

Special Tours

Cedarview School (Hudsonville Public Schools)	13		
Girl Scout Troop 4457 (May)		17	
Jenison High School (April)			19
Home School Tour (December)			60
Georgetown Connections Group (December)			9

YEARLY TOTALS	720	792	947
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