

JHA FOOTNOTES



JHA Update

The members have been having some fun and busy working. In October we took our annual Grand Lady Riverboat ride. Weather held off for us to enjoy the trip without too much rain, and the wildlife was busy giving us a show.

The elves are starting to decorate for the Christmas Holiday Open Houses coming up in December and January. Be sure to come by and see the house decorated for the season!

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www.jenisonhistory.org

Are you a Jenison Historical Association Member?

Our membership dues are still only \$10 per year to support the association. There are many opportunities for volunteering; you could train as a docent to work during open houses, assist with displays, editor of this newsletter is an open position, housekeeping and general support. Everyone finds their niche.

Come to any meeting of the Association or Open House, or contact any member. Times and dates of events are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Thanksgiving Day

by Ronnie Aungst

Since the first Thanksgiving feast of the colonists and Indians in 1621, there have been many such feasts. George Washington, John Adams and James Madison all proclaimed days of Thanksgiving. In 1817, New York became the first of several states to officially adopt a day of Thanksgiving. In 1827, Sarah Josepha Hale, author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," launched a campaign to establish a national holiday of Thanksgiving. She pursued her campaign for 36 years and finally, President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 took up her request establishing the final Thursday of November as the nation's official Day of Thanksgiving. President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving up a week in 1939 in an attempt to boost retail sales. It was soundly rejected, so, in 1941, Roosevelt signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.

Thanksgiving Day was religious and charitable. Church services were attended and both the churches and charity organizations attempted to ensure that every person had a good dinner on this day. Even the prisons at Jackson, Marquette and Kalamazoo had a special feast for the inmates allowing them to dine together with menus that included roast pig, 400 lbs. of mincemeat and barrels of cranberries. They were also allowed the freedom of the yards and corridors until after dinner.



Figure 1 Jenison Museum, ready for Thanksgiving dinner

As the 20th century arrived, Thanksgiving expanded in activities. In 1903, major games were scheduled for Thanksgiving Day and were in conflict with the local church services. The churches decided it was better to schedule services earlier in the morning so the fans did not have to choose between church and game.

Perhaps a few pastors wanted to see the games as well. The first large scale parade was held in Pennsylvania in 1920 and Macy's Parade started in 1924. While Thanksgiving Day is about giving thanks, church and football, it's also about food! We have no letters or diaries to tell us what Thanksgiving Day was like at Margaret Husband's table but we can imagine a bit. Let's take the year 1905.

November 23, 1905. Clear and mild with a temperature of 40 degrees. Margaret, Elsie and Alexander went off to church mid-morning. After church, they hurried home to put the turkey in the oven which the maid had stuffed and placed in the icebox. In fact, the maid had the pies, and any other item she could, prepared the evening before. Margaret had generously given her the day off so she could be with her own family's celebration.

The interurban could be heard arriving in Jenison. Suddenly the door burst open and in rushed Ben and Bessie Hanchett with their children, Gerald and Brownie, in tow. Oh the excitement! The children played while Ben and Alexander discussed the latest news. Bessie assisted her mother and aunt in the kitchen and dining room.

Soon, the smells of roasting turkey flowed through the house. The fireplace crackled with a fire that Ben had stirred up. The table had been set. The laughter of the children carried down the stairs. The women chatted enthusiastically while working. Margaret had settled on a menu from the Fannie Farmer's cookbook:

Oyster Stew, Celery, Oyster Crackers, Roast Stuffed Turkey with Brown Gravy, a Cranberry Mold, Oak Hill Sweet Potatoes, Turnips and Carrots in White Sauce, Boiled Onions, Chicken Pie, Mince Pie, Squash Patties,

Fruit Pudding with Brandy Sauce, Assorted Nuts and Raisins, Cafe Noir. Milk for the children. [*pumpkin pie was not yet popular*]

The table in the dining room was set with the good china and crystal. Everything was almost ready. Ben and the children were getting hungry. Soon the ladies brought the food to the table. Everyone was seated. A prayer of thanksgiving was said and Margaret asked each of them what they were most thankful for this year. [*we can only wonder what their responses were*] Ben took charge of carving the turkey. What a wonderful dinner! Hmmm.....so good!

Soon the meal was finished and the clean up begun. They all went out for a walk and fresh air. The Hanchett's would spend the night and go back to the city in the morning.

The evening was spent chatting and listening to music. A little leftovers were offered to those feeling a bit hungry. It had grown late and the children were already asleep. Time to say goodnight. A wonderful, thankful day had been had by all. ~ ~

Margaret Husband's family: sister, Elsie Martin; Elsie's son, Alexander Martin; daughter, Bessie Hanchett; son-in-law, Benjamin Hanchett; grandchildren, Gerald and Brownie [Elizabeth] Hanchett.

Sources:

- History.com
- Football and Church Services, Grand Rapids Press, Nov. 17, 1903
- Michigan Prisons, Grand Rapids Press, Nov. 27, 1903
- Fannie Farmer's Cookbook, 1905
- Weather Report, Detroit Free Press, Nov. 23, 1905



Figure 3: JHA 'Eloes' getting ready for Christmas at the Museum



Figure 2: The fall view from the riverboat in October

Editors Note:

I want to take a moment and thank everyone who has supported me in this newsletter since I first started as the editor in 2003. Beginning in January, Ronnie Aungst, a frequent contributor in the last couple of years, has agreed to take on the job of Editor. You can see her style and dedication to research in our article this month. I am sure you will embrace and support her in this journey as I have been supported over the years. I'm not going away, you will still see me around the museum, working on inventory, the occasional open house and hopefully to continue as your treasurer of the Jenison Historical Association.

Upcoming Open Houses



See 2018 schedule included

If you would like to schedule a private tour, please call Ken Williams (see Trustee list for phone)

Jenison Museum Souvenir's

Check out our Gift Shop for many Jenison History items and help support the Association.

Ornaments are \$15 each or buy both for \$25. These make great gifts,

Other items include pictures, stationary, pencils, Bend in River Books



Find us on Facebook at Jenison History Association and become a friend.

JHA Trustee's

Chair

Liz Timmer (2019)
457-3708

Vice Chair/Curator/Tours

Ken Williams (2017)
772.6523

Treasurer/Editor

Ruth Lowing (2017)
540-4709

Social Secretary

Nellie DeLaat (2019)
457-1193

Recording Secretary

Linda Droog (2018)
457-3016

Archivist

Barb Semeyn (2017)
457-9343

Maintenance/Historian

Mike Timmer (2019)
531-1218

Trustee

Yvonne Williams (2017)
772-6523

Gene Kort (2019)
534-6769

Township Rep

Becky Steele

(####) = year of term expiration

Contact Information: Members may contact the board at the above phone numbers or leave a message at 457-4398 or info@jenisonhistory.org

Organization Membership

Historical Society of Michigan

Find us on the registry of the Historical Society of Michigan

www.hsmichigan.org



2018 Jenison Historical Association Calendar of Events

28 Port Sheldon Road - Jenison, MI 49428

Also by appointment for individuals or groups:

Call 616-457-4398 or www.jenisonhistory.org to arrange

Museum Open Dates - Free Admission



Quilts from the Past

March 6 - 10 to Noon April 3 - 10 to Noon

March 17 - 2 to 4 p.m. April 21 - 2 to 4 p.m.

Discover the Heritage Trail

May 1 - 10 to Noon June 5 - 10 to Noon

May 19 - 2 to 4 p.m. June 16 - 2 to 4 p.m.



Visit the Museum

July 3 - 10 to Noon

August 7 - 10 to Noon

July 21 - 2 to 4 p.m.

Grand River Landings

September 4 - 10 to Noon October 2 - 10 to Noon

September 15 - 2 to 4 p.m. October 20 - 2 to 4 p.m.

November 6 - 10 to Noon



Christmas at the Jenison Museum

December 8 - 1 to 4 p.m.

January 5, 2019 - 2 to 4 p.m.

Special Events

March 13

Round Table Discussion - 9:30 a.m. - Free Event
1956 & other area tornadoes at GT Connections
(a.k.a. Georgetown Senior Center)

May 17

The Poor Farm - 7 p.m. - Free Event
A Documentary about the Ottawa County Poor Farm
at GT Connections

June 20

Historical Bus Tour of Jenison - 1 p.m. - \$10/ticket

August 16

Jenison History Presentation - 7 p.m. - Free Event
at GT Connections

September 13

Round Table Discussion - 1 p.m. - Free Event
Area farming, i.e. dairy, muck, etc. at GT Connections

October 13

Grand Lady Boat Ride - Noon - 2 p.m. - \$10/ticket

2017 Association Schedule

Museum Open House Schedule

Grand Lady Riverboat Ride (watch for ticket availability)

December 9 - 1 to 4 PM

January 6, 2018 - 1 -4 PM

Entire 2018 scheduled included in this newsletter

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are all open to the public and held on the **3rd Thursday** of the month at **6:45 PM** at the Georgetown Library, unless noted. Dates of the 2017 year are:

October 19

November 16

>> No meeting in December

www.jenisonhistory.org

JENISON HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 664
Jenison, MI 49428