



Greater Washington Area Historical Society

November, 2018

A Christmas Present for the Museum

The Christmas season is upon us. It is a time for family and friends, good food and Christmas cookies, Christmas lights and presents. This year the Washington Historical Museum will be receiving a Christmas present – a new heating system.

“Big Bertha”, as the school janitor, John Gooley, nicknamed the Mammoth furnace many years ago (and that’s not just the brand name, it’s a great description), will be retiring. She has served the school and the museum well for many, many years, but the last few years have been very difficult.

After several years of fundraising, applying for grants, and receiving generous donations for our “Saving Energy to Preserve History” project, we have raised the funds required to replace Big Bertha.

Fundraising events included Super Sunday, a silent auction, our Christmas sale and used book sale, antique appraisals, and psychic gallery. We would like to thank all of our volunteers who helped us make these events so successful.

We applied for and were awarded two grants this year. The first was from the Macomb County Heritage Alliance, awarded to us in April. The second grant was from the Michigan Council of Art and Cultural Affairs which is a matching grant and was awarded to us in September. We would like to thank both of these organizations for their interest and support for our project.

We would especially like to thank our donors for their support. Through generous donations from the following individuals, organizations, and local businesses, we were able to match the grant award from the MCACA and raise the additional funds needed to complete the project this year.

- Bill Bentz
- Pat Donovan
- Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society
- King’s Daughters
- Poljan Insurance Agency
- Preceptor Delta Beta Sorority of Beta Sigma Phi
- Romeo Historical Society
- The Mitt.TV
- Tim Smith
- Gayle Wharfield, Stony Creek Bike Shop

Johnson Thermol Temp is scheduled to begin work on December 7. When we first discussed raising the money to replace the furnace, it seemed an almost impossible task. With the help and support of our community, retiring “Big Bertha” has become a reality.

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
P.O. Box 94144
Washington, MI 48094
(586) 786-5304


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.

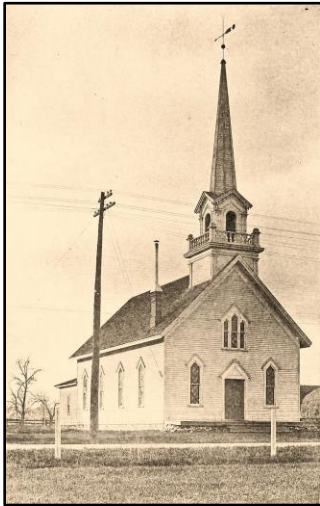
Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the museum.

Visit our website at
www.washhistsoc.org

 Like us on Facebook

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

Welcome New Member
Linda Osborne-Cynowa

We would like to thank the following people, organizations, and local businesses for their generous donations

Viola Alderete
Pat Donovan
Tom Dorris
Friends of Ray Twp. Library & Historical Society
Delores Dyer-Hurdon
King's Daughters
Dave Mikel
Judy Miller
Preceptor Delta Beta Sorority of Beta Sigma Phi
The Mitt.TV
John Thurston – in memory of Elizabeth Keeler
Carole Verellen
In memory of Ron Gordon –
Bob & Cherie Allen
Terry & Greg Goike
Jim & Jean Holcomb
Lisa Vergos

Christmas Potluck Dinner

Join us for our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner on Thursday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington Historical Museum. All that's required is you bring your Christmas spirit and a dish to pass. It's a great time to relax and visit without the pressure of cleaning the museum or getting ready for an event. Following in Muriel O'Brien's tradition, Pat Hallman always picks a theme for our party and is sure to have some interesting and fun games for us to play. For planning purposes, please call Jean at 248-652-2458 if you are planning to join us.



Historic Date Plaque Presentation

On Sunday, November 11, an historic date plaque was presented to Edwin and Maryanne Campbell for their home on 28 Mile Road just west of Mound Road. The house was built by Charles Crissman and is one of the oldest in the Township.

Benjamin Crissman, Charles' father, brought his family to the Territory of Michigan in 1833 and purchased 3 eighty acre parcels of land in Washington Township. On one parcel was a comfortable log house known locally as the "Buckhorn Tavern", which had a huge pair of antlers fastened to a pole for a sign. On one of the other parcels, Charles built this house c. 1854. According to township records, the house was built in at least three sections. The original was on a crawl space and is pictured here.

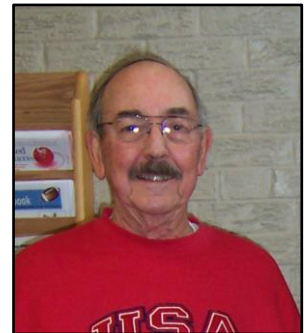


Picture taken about 1868. Left to right: Mother (Laura Parish), Father (Charles), Harvey, Anna, Clara, Nettie, Jehiel, Joseph, Frank.

The Crissman family was one of the first families to settle in Washington Township.

In Memory

We recently lost another member and good friend, Ron Gordon, who passed away on October 15. Ron took over the treasurer's position for the Society in 2009 when Laura Williford retired and served in that position for four years. We could always count on him to be there to help whether it was painting, moving displays, vacuuming, or mopping the floors. And we all will remember the handmade Christmas gifts he gave to everyone at our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.

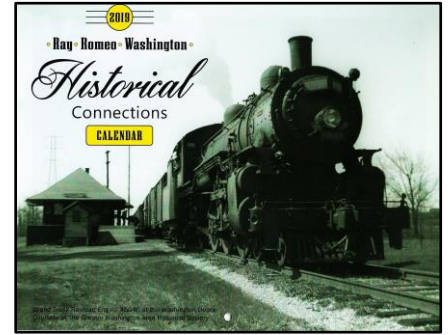


In 2010, Ron initiated discussions with Washington Elementary School which resulted in the creation of the George Washington Art Contest, that has been held every February since then to celebrate the birthday of our first president and our township's namesake. The Society recently renamed this event the Ron Gordon Memorial George Washington Art Contest in honor of our good friend who will be greatly missed.

2019 Calendar

Our last fundraiser of the year is our 2019 Historical Connections calendar. This was a collaborative effort with the Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society, Romeo Historical Society, and Greater Washington Area Historical Society and features vintage photographs from each of the organizations.

The calendars are available at the Washington Historical Museum and the Loren Andrus Octagon House or call the museum at 586-786-5304. The cost is \$10.00 and all proceeds will go toward our next project – THE ROOF!!!



Project Update

The Boy Scouts have completed a number of projects for the museum, projects we could not have done ourselves. The latest project was building and painting shelves in the John Dyer-Hurdon Boy Scout Museum. Future projects include interior painting and completion of cataloging the items in the Boy Scout Museum.

Additional projects we are working on are a stair lift to the second floor, a Michigan Historic Marker, and replacing the roof. We have submitted a Community Development Block Grant application for the stair lift and are working with the Romeo Community Schools on the historic marker. The roof is a major undertaking that we may have to do in sections, but we are currently in the planning stage of this project.



Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 25 – Last Open House of the Year – Washington Historical Museum – 1pm-4pm. – Info washhistsoc.org.

Dec. 1 – Victorian Christmas Tea – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 12n-1:30pm – Info octagonhouse.org.

Dec. 1 – Annual Christmas Home Tour – Romeo Historical Society – 2pm-7pm – Info romeohistoricalsociety.org.

Dec. 6 – Christmas Potluck Dinner – Washington Historical Museum – 6:30pm. – Info washhistsoc.org.

Dec. 7 – A Holiday Evening in the Village – Richmond Historical Village – 4pm-8pm – Info richmondhistoricalsociety.org.

Dec. 7 – Village Open House – Chesterfield Historical Society – 6:30pm – Info hsmichigan.org/chesterfieldhs/.

Dec. 8 – Victorian Christmas Tea – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 12pm-1:30pm – Info octagonhouse.org.

Dec. 9 – Santa Christmas Open House – Loren Andrus Octagon House – 12n-4pm – Info octagonhouse.org.

Dec. 9 – Christmas Open House – New Baltimore Historical Society – 1pm-6pm. – Info www.newbaltimorehistorical.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

Kroger Community Rewards

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 AH664. 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.