



The Reynolds children, polishing apples during the apple harvest in Troy, Michigan.

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THS News

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Publishing Schedule

Spring: March - May

Summer: June - August

Fall: September -
November

Winter: December -
February

*Enjoy your seasonal
Village Press!*

Annual Members Meeting

All Members of the Troy Historical Society are invited to attend the Annual Members Meeting on **Monday, September 19th at 7pm.** Join us in the Old Troy Church for a review of the past year and look at the 2022-27 Strategic Plan. In preparing the Strategic Plan, THS Board and Staff members determined that the current mission still embodied the direction of the Village but could use some minor updates which will also be presented. Wrap it all up with some ice cream and socializing on the General Store porch! Official invitations with further information will go out in early September.

Grant Update

THS was awarded a \$2500 Michigan Museum Recovery grant through the Michigan Humanities Council. These funds come from the federal American Rescue Plan and will support Village Staff as we continue to build back our pre-pandemic programs.



Strategic Plan 2022-2027

This winter and spring the Troy Historical Society Board with input from the Village Staff and community partners have been working to develop an updated Strategic Plan. Strategic Plans outline key goals for an organization to work towards in an effort to continue improving their services to a community. THS plans to 1-Establish and maintain long-term and short-term financial stability, 2-Prepare for changes within the community, environment, and economy, 3-Ensure diversity within the board, staff, and those served, 4-Establish THV as a cultural asset/resource to the Troy community and surrounding region, and 5-Optimize our resources (including talent of staff, board, and volunteers, artifacts and knowledge, and facilities). Small teams will be meeting to work on various strategies to move us towards meeting these goals over the next few years. The Strategic Plan is posted to the Village website and you can join us for more conversation about it at the Annual Members meeting!

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Executive Director...

Jen Peters

Not Just a “Building Zoo”

Since I began working at the Village in 2018, I’ve been fascinated by how it came to be. In historic preservation, we call places like the Village a “building zoo” since the structures have been moved together rather artificially. Like going from tigers to penguins, you can be zipped from 1840 to 1920 in a matter of steps. But moving buildings is no small feat, so who organized it and why? Was there a plan from the beginning? Is there a plan now?

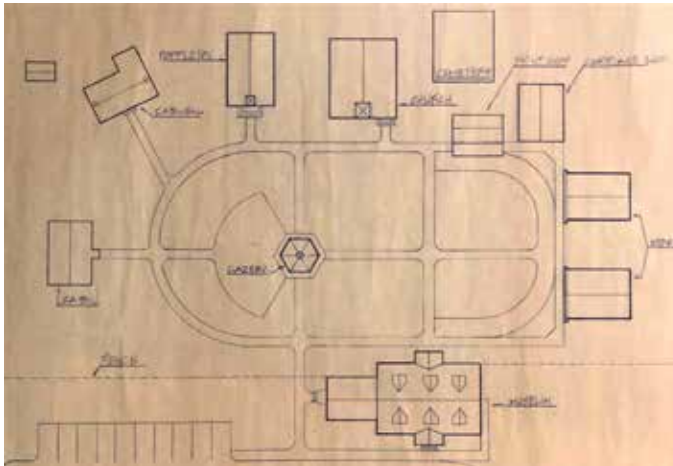
Like most stories, it started rather simply. The 1960s was the decade of “urban renewal.” As a country we were tearing down the old and unused in exchange for new with modern conveniences. Growing cities were particularly at risk, and Troy was booming! In the 1960s, a handful of passionate and dedicated people here in Troy rallied around the Caswell House.

Having saved one of the city’s oldest buildings, the newly-founded Troy Historical Society could have stopped there. However, the

bicentennial project that brought Poppleton School to its present location signals a shifting perspective. THS started thinking we could do more than just save historic buildings; we could teach with them. As Poppleton, the Wagon Shop, Print Shop, and Gazebo were added, THS began actively looking for buildings to complete their vision of a Village. While a cabin, church, and general store were at the top of their list, they also talked about bringing a

fire station and barn to the site. One vision even included adding a small cemetery to the churchyard!

We have a few Village plans from the 1980s and 90s, but the first true master plan was developed in 2009 to prepare for the Niles-Barnard House move. Acquiring that building forced THS to answer the question “so what?” The building was an important part of Troy history, but what would it add to the Village? I am thankful for the THS and Village leadership who had already established great school programs and saw a vision for expanding what the Village could do. They were able to save history AND give it an additional purpose. The Village isn’t just a building zoo, it’s a space for learning, community, and connections.



It’s truly my honor to continue the legacy of the Village and the people who built it. People like Viola Smith, Lois Lance, and Morris Wattles not only valued history, but saw how it

could bring us together. THS and Village staff continue to bring people together at the Village. We’ve expanded beyond school and history programs to host community events, health and wellness programs, and rentals. This year the City of Troy has committed to updating the Village’s Master Plan and we will continue to ask “so what?” as we look forward to what else the Village can do in our community.



Address:
60 W. Wattles Rd.
Troy, MI 48098

Website:
www.troyhistoricvillage.org

Facebook:
[/troyhistvillage](https://www.facebook.com/troyhistvillage)

Cheddar Facebook:
[/cheddarthevillagemouse](https://www.facebook.com/cheddarthevillagemouse)

Twitter & Instagram:
[@troyhistvillage](https://twitter.com/troyhistvillage)

Fall Hours:
Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm
Select Saturdays & Sundays
for special events and rentals
Closed: Labor Day, Sept 5
Thanksgiving, Nov 24 & 25

Admission:
Adults \$7, Seniors \$5,
Children 6-12 \$5
Children under 6 FREE
Troy Historical Society
Members FREE



THV Artifacts: Telling Our History

by Mike Imirie, www.wordsmithLLC.org



On any historic campus, you'd expect to see certain artifacts nested with certain buildings. You'd anticipate, for example, seeing a printing press or two with a print shop. You'd know that a church would have its complement of stained glass. And you'd suppose that an old school general store would have an old school scale to weigh the meat and produce it sells.

At the Historic Village in Troy, you can certainly discover and enjoy all of these predictable artifacts. At the print shop, for example, a circa-**1895 Chandler Price foot-operated press** is in service still, churning out handbills, cards, and wanted posters for guests during special events. The seven individual stained glass panels in the Troy Methodist Episcopal Church, dating back to 1837, are oversized and magnificent. Together, they cast a reassuring pastel light throughout the entire worship area. And the commercial scale in the general store - a proud product of the Computing Scale Company of Dayton, Ohio! - is capable of weighing items of up to 100 pounds, if its four accompanying iron balance weights are any indication.

Visitors can easily recognize artifacts like these. Taken together, such eye-catching pieces - and so many more which are evident throughout Troy's Historic Village - readily bring to mind 19th-century America, with its 'good old days' of horses & buggies, village blacksmiths, and gaslight illumination.

But a look behind these obvious museum pieces can be very rewarding, yielding even more historical delight. While THV's larger artifacts are recognizable and iconic, less obvious items can make historical magic, too. Tucked away in corners and crevices, these less visible items also have remarkable power to suggest a sense of what used to be. And who better to seek out and ask about such subtle magic than the men and women who work at Troy Historic Village, week after week and project after project?

When I asked THV staffers to share some of their favorites, these items (below) were enthusiastically recommended. See how many you've noticed on your visits to the Village...

"I'm very fond of a **list of students** which is found in Poppleton School. It's an official document from the era in which we teach: 1880. It sits out in the open on the teacher's desk yet is easily overlooked. It is signed by schoolmarm Miss Xenia Post and Supervisor of Schools Mr. Adams Bayley. Like today's teachers, Miss Post had a list of all the students in her class. That list proves something we interpreters say aloud: "Students from age 5 to 19 attended this one room school." The range of student ages in Miss Post's classroom just happens to match my family; 14 years separate the youngest and eldest student. It dawns on me that had my family lived in the area in 1880, all seven of us Hackett kids would have been in that one room school at the same time!" ~*Historical Interpreter Matthew Hackett*

"I think my favorite item is the '**pharmacy**' in our general store. It's a small cabinet that sits on the counter and on its front is a neatly-printed list of ailments. The names of the ailments are delightfully antiquated or refer to diseases that have been nearly entirely eradicated by modern medicine. Each ailment is numbered and the number corresponds to a small drawer in the back of the cabinet which once contained a supporting remedy/medicine. I like the anachronistic nature of the piece, but there's something more. My grandfather and great grandfather on my father's side were proper pharmacists a few decades after the era of the Humphrey's Specifics cabinet.

For me, this piece is a vivid, personal reminder of how much changed in our country over a fairly short time span.” ~*Youth Programs Director Alexander Konieczny*

“The artifact I’m thinking of is the **bellows** in our Wagon Shop. Designed to deliver oxygen to the forge, this piece of equipment is the oldest artifact in our collection, as it was made in or around 1776. Our records indicate that it was purchased by the City of Troy in 1978 for \$300. It needed some restoration work done several years ago, so a student artist from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit was retained to do the work using period-appropriate tools and materials. That restoration was a great success; these days, Rose Weiss, our resident metalsmith, and her blacksmithing students use the bellows in every class.” ~*Adult Programs Director Stephanie Suszek*

“I really appreciate the **organ** in the parlor of the parsonage. It would have served several purposes. It could have been used to entertain guests or visitors, or as a means for the children to practice a valued skill of music in those days. Lastly, any of the adults might have enjoyed playing it during some limited leisure time. Another plus? It was made in Detroit by the Clough & Warren Organ Company, which operated in the city from 1850 to 1899. I like organs, having grown up listening to pipe organ concerts with my family. The wood is spectacular as is the design work. It’s beautiful!” ~*Historical Interpreter Laura Boeberitz*

“One of the most important artifacts in our collection is the blue **butter churn** at Caswell House. I like it for two different reasons. First, it’s representative of old time butter churns, and butter was a big business here in Troy. Many of the farmers up this way sold their milk in the form of butter to preserve their goods for the market in the era of corduroy (i.e., unpaved & poor quality) roads and trips to Detroit that took all day. More importantly, our churn is an authentic Caswell family artifact! For many years, it belonged to the Caswell family and - when the last Caswell descendants died with no heirs - the house was passed to a friend of the last heir, who in turn sold the land to a church and the contents of the house went to an estate sale. So to say that the churn is now in our possession is a miracle...is something of an understatement!” ~*Curator Elizabeth Thornburg*

“I really get a kick out of the large, red **coffee grinder** in the general store. Made by Enterprise Manufacturing of Philadelphia, it dates back to the late 1890s and was able to grind coffee, spices, and even drugs. You could load between 3 and 5 pounds of coffee beans in the top, turn the big flywheel, and then the fresh grounds would fall to the scooper below. Since it’s bright red and so big (54 inches tall!), it catches the attention of our guests. They are often stumped on what it is.” ~*Historical Interpreter Tom Arwady*

“One of my favorite artifacts is found in the Niles-Barnard House. We display a threshing tool called a **flail**, which separates grains from their husks. It consists of a wooden staff with a short stick swinging from it, and it actually belonged to Johnson Niles. We’ve hung it over the west door in the oldest part of the house almost like some may have hung a musket or rifle over the door. I love that, unlike a weapon, it represents a more peaceful kind of settlement through agriculture. Did you know that - according to the Oakland County History book - Johnson Niles was the first to plant and harvest wheat here in Troy Township, all the way back in 1822?” ~*Executive Director Jen Peters*

These are some of the treasures found throughout 11 buildings at Troy Historic Village. You are encouraged visit once again, to seek out those treasures and - in that enjoyable process of discovery - to establish your own favorites. At the end of the day, after all, no one’s opinion about the Village, its artifacts, or Troy history is more important than **yours!**



Viola Smith: Memories of an Unsung Volunteer

By Loraine Campbell

First-time visitors to the Village often ask if our quaint collection of historic buildings was Troy's first town center. The simple answer is no. Until the 1950s Troy Township was a sparsely populated community of farms and pastures. There was no Main Street business district or classic town square. The Troy Historic Village (originally known as the Troy Museum) was assembled, one special structure at a time, by local residents who worked in partnership with the City from the 1960s through the present day.

The citizens who were committed to preserving their local history organized the Troy Historical Society in 1969. Later some of their members formed a separate Museum Guild of volunteers. Together the groups raised millions of dollars to acquire, move, and restore Troy's historic buildings to one central location at the corner of Wattles and Livernois. They also started the community events and educational programs that became the cornerstones of today's vibrant Village programs.

On June 1, 2022, one of the last members of that original group of community historians passed away at the age of 87. Viola Aspinwall Smith was much more than a dedicated and generous volunteer. She was a walking encyclopedia of Township history and genealogy and a fabulous cook who organized everything from bake sales to pig roasts. Vi served alternately as the President or Treasurer of the Museum Guild, and for many years she was the manager of the "Museum Gift Shop."

Vi's Township roots ran very deep. She was proud of her ancestors and eagerly contributed genealogy information, photographs, and scans of precious family diaries to the Village archive. Her great grandfather, Edward Aspinwall, was a Troy pioneer who moved to Troy Corners in the 1870s. One of his four sons, Charles, married Isidore Belle Jennings in 1886. Belle's grandparents, Alva and Hulda Bissel Butler, raised six children in a log cabin near the present-day Northfield Parkway. Hulda's father, Daniel Bissel IV (Vi's great great grandfather) was one of three Purple Heart-shaped Merit Award recipients personally awarded by George Washington for his successful efforts as a spy during the American Revolution.

The Aspinwall descendents, including Vi's uncles, Charles and Harry, and her parents, Edward and Leota, continued to live and work near Troy Corners. In fact Vi grew up in a modest home on Cutting St., directly behind the Troy Methodist Church where the family worshiped. Leota cleaned the church and Vi sang in the choir. For Vi, family and community life were seamlessly interwoven.

In 1957 Vi married Lawrence Smith, who grew up in Big Beaver, a cluster of homes and businesses at the intersection of Rochester and 16 Mile Roads. Lawrence's dad, Wesley Smith, owned the feed store in Big Beaver and served on the 1955 commission that wrote the City of Troy Charter. Following their wedding, Vi and Lawrence moved to Addison Township where they raised three children and thousands of chickens for their eggs. But Vi still made time for the museum because history was incredibly important to her.

I met Vi in 1998 when I found myself splitting my work-week between teaching school groups at the Stage Nature Center and the Village. Vi Smith was the first person to welcome me and soon I looked forward to our weekly chats in the gift shop. Those conversations ranged from local history and candy orders to Vi's philosophy for success. I will always remember her as she leaned on the old brass cash register and said, "Loraine, sometimes you have to spend a nickel to make a quarter." She was adamant that the funds generated through the Museum Guild's gift shop sales should be used to advance programs. One day she shocked our tiny staff when she pulled \$200 out of the drawer and said, "Go buy some decent tools so you can fix the bookshelves in Poppleton School."

Two years later, when I was appointed the "Acting Museum Manager," the Historical Society, the City of Troy, and members of the City's Historic District Commission (HDC) were at serious odds over the fate of the old Troy Methodist



Church. HDC members insisted that the little church be restored on its original foundation while the City and Historical Society, who had purchased the church and its parsonage, wanted to move the buildings to the Village. After many heated discussions, a lengthy lawsuit, and a site survey by an historic preservation architect, it was agreed that the only practical way to preserve the buildings, which sat inches from Square Lake Road, was to relocate them.

The next challenge was to identify the time period that the restoration would reflect. During a major renovation in the mid 1940s the front entry of the church was moved to the side of the building, the interior was remodeled and the pews were rearranged. Twenty years later the Methodists moved to their new house of worship and sold the church to antiques dealers who repurposed it as their store. In 1995 the Historical Society and City of Troy purchased the church and the pastor's house but the buildings stood empty and boarded up for five years during the lawsuit. The pews, chancel, and all interior fixtures were gone as was a good portion of the ceiling and north wall. Our job was to determine what the interior looked like around 1910, after the installation of stained glass windows but before tornado force winds tore off the original steeple.

Vi had attended services in the church before and after the renovation. She'd mopped the floors with her mom and knew where the old wood stove had scorched the wood. She also knew elderly church ladies who still lived in the area. So Vi, Harriet Barnard, the Schultz sisters, and I met in the dim, empty chapel. Their reminiscences painted a vivid picture. "What did the pews look like," I asked. "They were dark and I usually sat at the end of the pew," said Bunny Schultz. "I remember tracing my finger in little circles (carved in the arm rests)." Harriet Barnard explained as she pointed, "I had a boy who didn't behave so we always sat in one of two short pews over there on the side." When I asked about the lights in the church, Vi answered, "They were tulip-shaped. They just turned the globes on the gaslight fixtures to point down and used old chandeliers and wall sconces." The ladies' memories plus two WWII-era photographs from the Methodist Church archive helped us piece together an historically accurate interior.

Vi and I got to know the craftsmen from the 33 different trades that worked on the ten-month restoration and she provided details about everything from moldings to wainscoting. When we walked into the chapel on the day they finally installed the reproduction pews Vi started to cry. "You gave me back my church," she said. "It's just the way I remember." A couple of moist-eyed millwrights nudged each other proudly, "Hey look," they said, "We made Vi cry!"

Vi contributed her time and treasures to many projects in the years that we worked together. A number of her Aspinwall family photos were included in the pictorial history book, *Troy: A City from the Corners* and many Aspinwall family records are now in the Village archive. The Gift Shop still sells souvenir "gift bags" like the ones she assembled for school groups years ago. And, while merchandise in the shop has changed and the old brass register has been replaced by a computer, you can still buy peppermint and cherry candy sticks. Viola Smith's welcoming attitude, her incredible work ethic, and generous spirit live on in today's robust volunteer corps. But most important, the value she placed on community history remains strong and vibrant in the Village.

Project Update: Troy Schools Research

By Elizabeth Thornburg, Troy Historic Village Curator

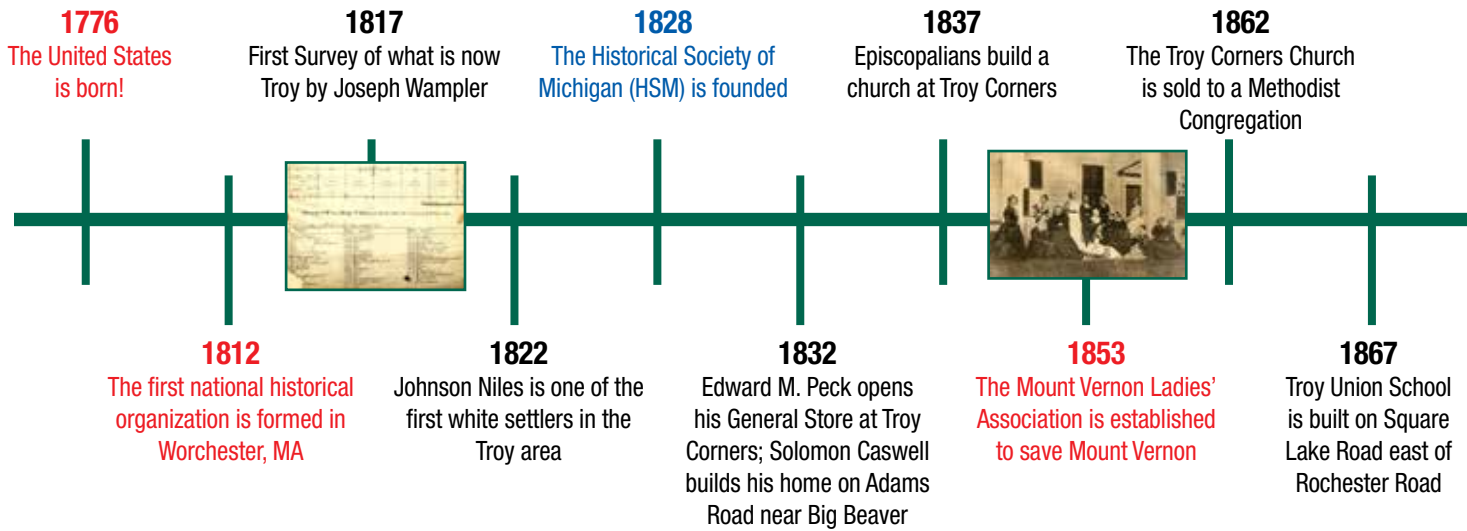
The collection of information we had about Old Stone School at Adams and South Blvd. grew immensely in just one week, because of two separate generous donations. First, the 19th-century teacher's register was conveyed to us by Sharon Konieczny of the Orion Historical Society. The same week, donor Hartland Bayley Smith gave us the school bell once used by his great aunt, teacher Zilpha Bayley, at the very same school!



Stiles School

Volunteer researchers Kay McFarland, Janet Stanfield, and Kathy Kerwin have been hard at work combing our archives and outside resources to learn more about Troy's original one-room schools. Recently, Janet discovered the original Stone School was built in the 1850s. Janet was also given a special tour of the old Stiles Elementary School.

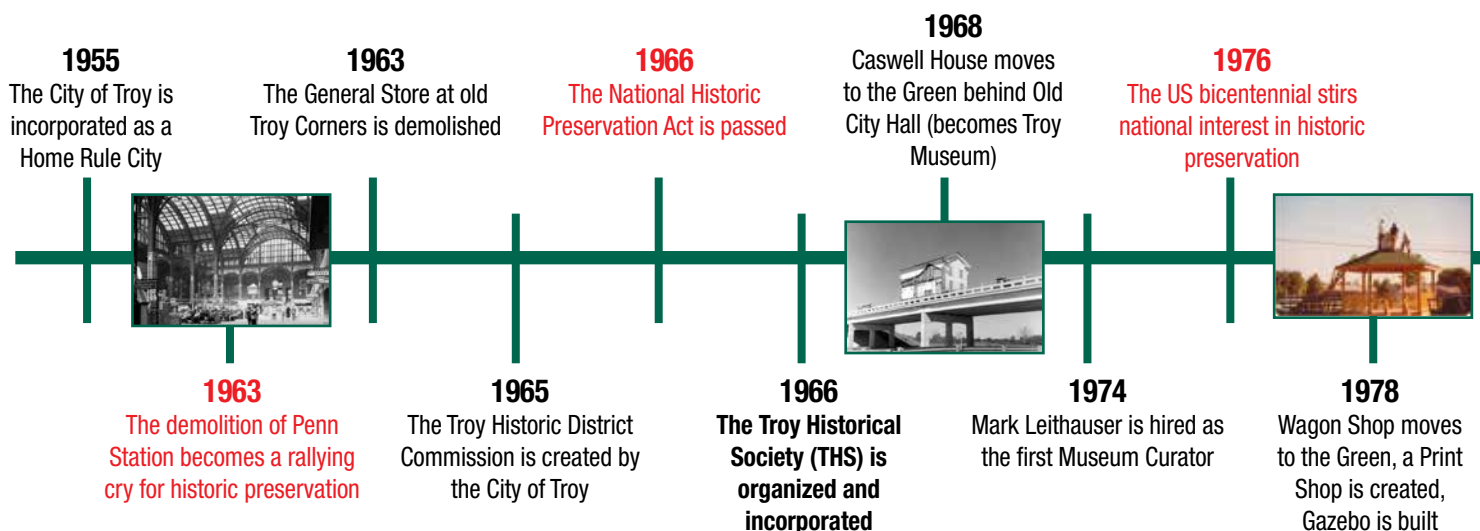
If you have class photographs, yearbooks, or other Troy schools ephemera, you can help us build our collection by donating or loaning us these materials. Contact Curator Elizabeth Thornburg at ethornburg@thvmail.org.

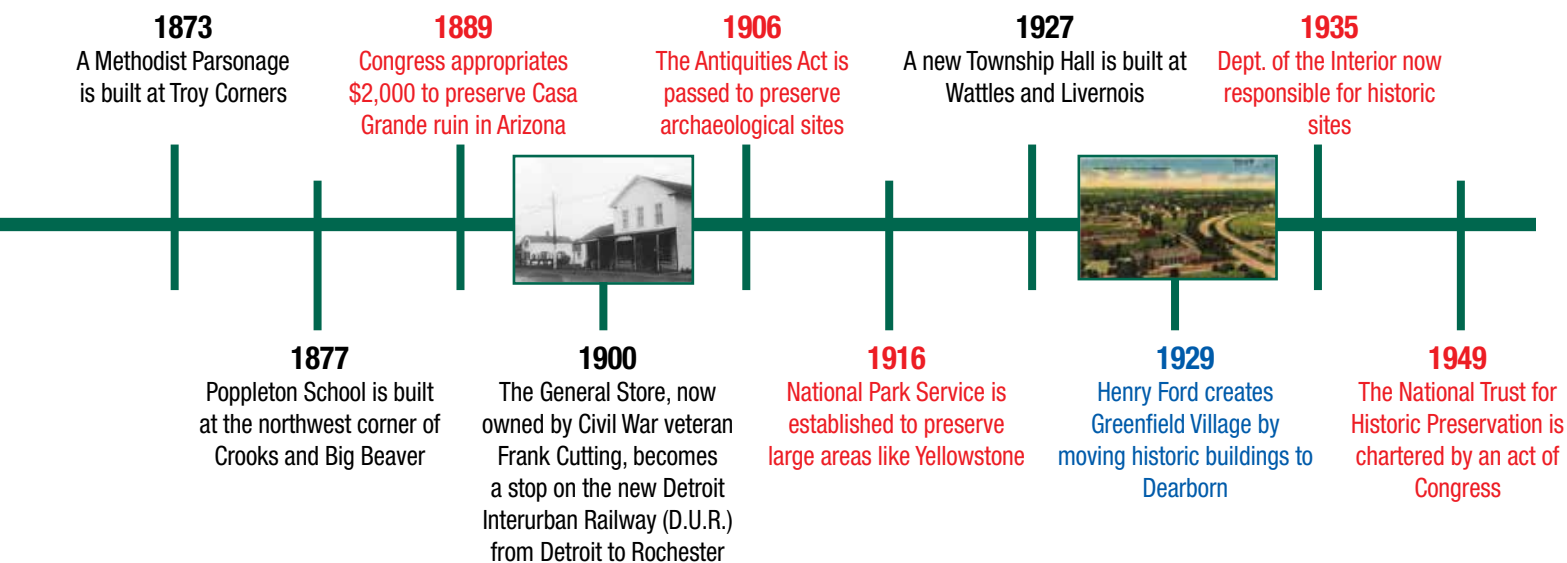


Building a (Historic) Village

The cluster of buildings presented as the Troy Historic Village often prompts the question “how did they get here?” and more importantly “why?” Those who know Troy history understand the Village isn’t a true representation of the city’s history but digging deeper we can see how national trends and values influenced local decisions that brought us to where we are today. While Michigan and Troy Township were just being surveyed around 1800, a very young United States was already grappling with the potential loss of important sites. In 1799 the Pennsylvania legislature moved the state capitol from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, and the old State House was due to be torn down for redevelopment. Many were not prepared to lose the site that hosted the Continental Congress and witnessed the birth of the nation. After much litigation and public debate, the city purchased the site in 1818 to preserve it as a permanent public space—Independence Hall.

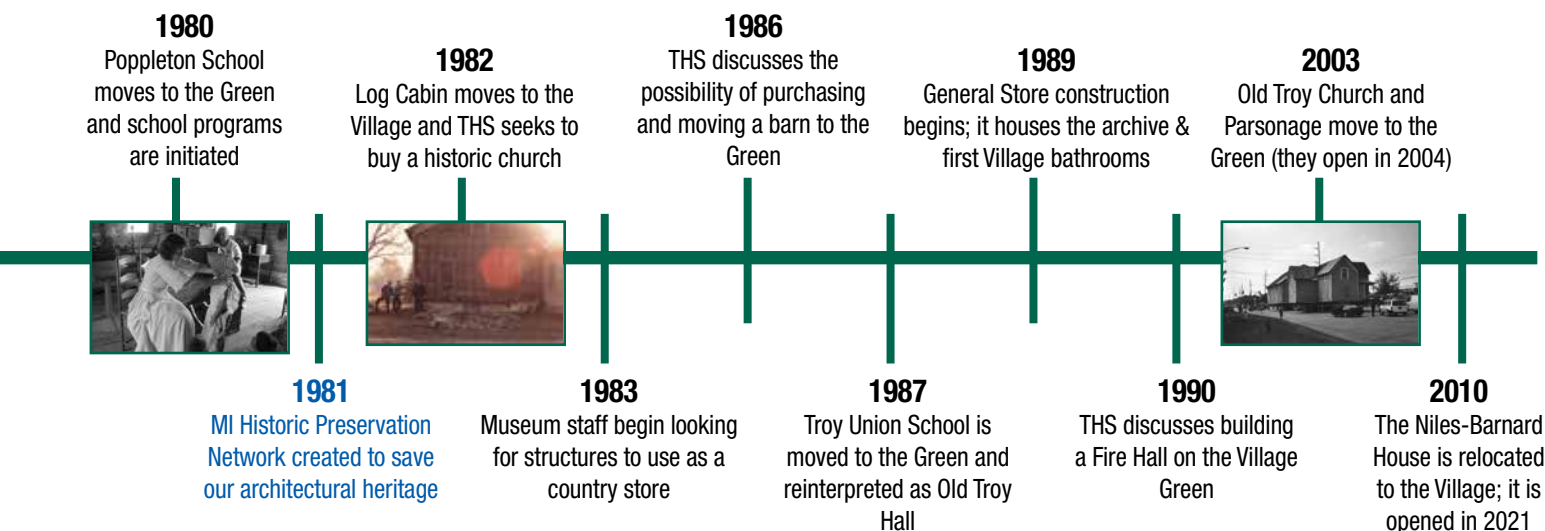
Around this time the earliest historical societies were being formed as well. These first historical societies were mostly annual reunions of early settlers that developed into organizations that collected and preserved the records and artifacts of the community. Early preservation of buildings, sites, and artifacts happened at the local level until 1889 when the US Government appropriated the first national funds to preserve a site. In 1906 the Antiquities Act gave federal protections to archaeological sites and in 1916 the National Park Service was established to protect natural and historic resources. Most preservation work continued at the local level until the loss of Penn Station in 1963 spurred a true national movement. Bolstered by the nation’s bicentennial in 1976, historical societies, preservationists, and museums across the country firmly established processes for preserving buildings and artifacts for future generations.

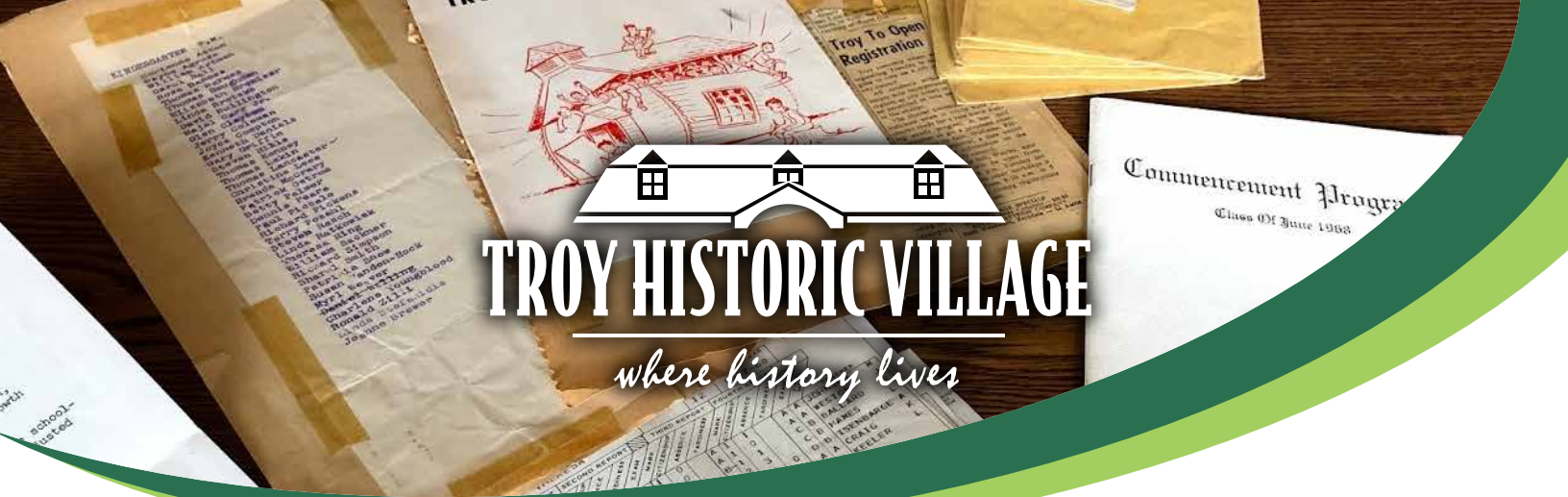




Troy had its own early preservationists. Morris Wattles' vision for a new Township Hall in 1927 included a Dutch Colonial design that would have been familiar to early settlers from New York state and displays of early pioneer artifacts. Later in life, Morris was part of a larger group interested in preserving the history of Troy Township. In 1963 when the nation lost the beloved Penn Station, Troy lost a cornerstone of its own—the General Store at Troy Corners. The loss of this building and others across a growing city spurred a local movement for preservation and passion for history. The Troy Historical Society (THS) was formed in 1966 and almost immediately took on the task of preserving the at-risk Caswell House on Adams Road. With destruction the only other option, the house was moved in 1968 to the site of the 1927 Township Hall which had recently become the Troy Museum.

In these early years, it was largely THS volunteers who collected and managed the museum and Caswell House. The house was opened for a few events each year, but there were no regular operations or programs and it mostly sat quiet on the green. As the bicentennial fired up a nation, local Lois Lance inspired Troy to take on a local project—saving Poppleton School. In the midst of planning the move, a Gazebo was built, an old city building was turned into the Print Shop, and the Wagon Shop was moved to the green. When Poppleton made it to the green, the first school programs began and THS began discussing other buildings to add to the “Village.” By the early 1980s, Museum Director Steve Mrozek’s “goal for the Troy Museum and Village Green was to interpret life as it was in Troy Township” signifying a shift from simply preserving buildings to preserving with the purpose of programming.

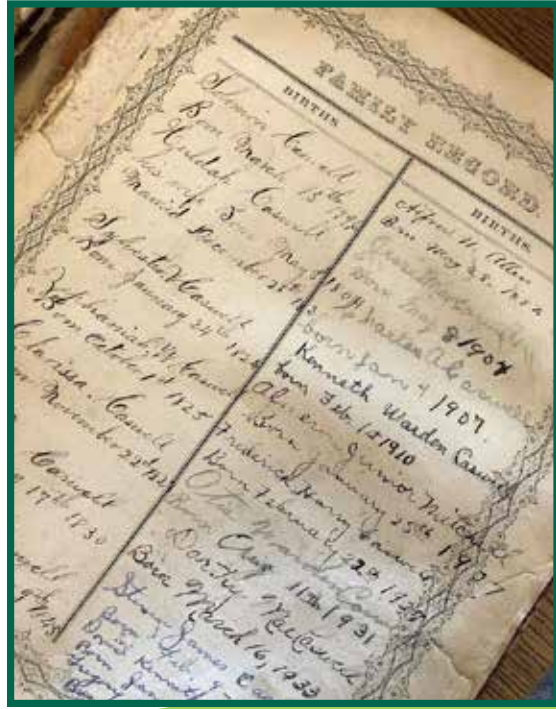





TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE
where history lives

Growing a Collection

We collect artifacts, documents, photos, and other ephemera related to Troy's history. Pictured here are some recent acquisitions that expanded our knowledge of the Caswell family, descended from one of Troy's early settlers, Solomon Caswell. We now have the Caswell Family Bible, as well as a fiddle and pair of spectacles that once belonged to Jess Caswell.



Do you have items related to Troy that you'd like to donate or old pictures that we could scan and return to you? Contact our Curator at curator@thvmail.org.

SEPTEMBER 2022

- Sept 1 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm
- Sept 5 **Happy Labor Day! Village CLOSED**
- Sept 6 **Volunteer Meeting** 10:30am
- Sept 6 **Museum Yoga** 6:00pm
- Sept 7 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- Sept 8 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm
- Sept 11 **Spoon Carving Workshop** 10:00am
- Sept 11 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
- Sept 13 **Museum Yoga** 6:00pm
- Sept 15 **Fire and Flannel After Hours**
4:00pm-7:00pm
- Sept 15 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm
- Sept 17 **Fall Open House** 10:00am-3:00pm
- Sept 20 **Homeschool Field Day** 10:00am
- Sept 20 **Museum Yoga** 6:00pm
- Sept 21 **Watercolor Class** 4:00pm
- Sept 21 **Sense of the Past with Digger** 4:30pm
- Sept 22 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm
- Sept 25 **Crafting a Leather Key Chain** 10:00am
- Sept 26 **Preservation Conversations** 10:00am
- Sept 27 **Yoga & Wine (21+)** 5:00pm
- Sept 28 **Watercolor Class** 4:00pm
- Sept 29 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm

NOVEMBER 2022

- Nov 1 **Volunteer Meeting** 10:30am
- Nov 2 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- Nov 2 **Watercolor Class** 4:00pm
- Nov 3 **Thursday Walking Group** 5:00pm
- Nov 9 **Watercolor Class** 4:00pm
- Nov 10 **Thursday Walking Group** 5:00pm
- Nov 12 **Edmund Fitzgerald Retelling** 7:00pm
- Nov 13 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
- Nov 16 **Digger's Nighttime Scavenger Hunt** 6:30pm
- Nov 17 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm
- Nov 17 **Thursday Walking Group** 5:00pm
- Nov 24 **Happy Thanksgiving! Village CLOSED**
- Nov 25 **Happy Thanksgiving! Village CLOSED**
- Nov 28 **Preservation Conversations** 10:00am

- Kids & Families
- Health & Wellness
- Adults & Seniors
- Artisan-Led Classes
- Community Events

OCTOBER 2022

- Come Visit Scarecrow Row this Month!**
- Oct 1 **Union Corners Cemetery Tour** 6:00pm
 - Oct 2 **Intro to the Art of Millinery** 10:00am
 - Oct 2 **Union Corners Cemetery Tour** 3:00pm
 - Oct 4 **Volunteer Meeting** 10:30am
 - Oct 5 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
 - Oct 5 **Broom Making 101 (part 1)** 6:00pm
 - Oct 6 **Broom Making 101 (part 2)** 6:00pm
 - Oct 6 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm
 - Oct 9 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
 - Oct 12 **Watercolor Class** 4:00pm
 - Oct 13 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm
 - Oct 19 **Watercolor Class** 4:00pm
 - Oct 20 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm
 - Oct 21 **Trick-or-Treat** 4:00pm-8:00pm
 - Oct 22 **Trick-or-Treat** 12:00pm-3:00pm
 - Oct 24 **Preservation Conversations** 10:00am
 - Oct 26 **Watercolor Class** 4:00pm
 - Oct 27 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm
 - Oct 27 **Thursday Walking Group** 6:00pm
 - Oct 28 **Curious and Macabre Lantern Tour** 6:30pm

Volunteer at the Village

There are lots of ways to get involved this fall:

- Prepare crafts, donate candy, and pass out treats at our Trick-or-Treat event
- Work on construction and maintenance projects with our Tuesday Work Crew
- Build scarecrows with our Scarecrow Team and/or install them on Scarecrow Row

Check out our new bimonthly "It Takes a Villager" volunteer newsletter for info about upcoming opportunities to help out. Grab a cup of coffee and chat with fellow volunteers at our monthly volunteer meetings, too! Contact Barbara Hubbard at bhubbard@thvmail.org or 248-524-3570 for details.

Troy "Prehistoric" Village Trick-or-Treat

Friday October 21,
4pm-8pm

Saturday October 22,
12pm-3pm

In advance: THS
Members: \$7; Non-
Members: \$9

At the door: THS
Members: \$8; Non-
Members \$10

Don't be a "scared-dactyl!"- join us for some prehistoric Trick-or-Treating fun! This year, the Village is going back to the age of the dinosaurs. Kids will enjoy dinosaur-themed decorations, games, crafts, and activities while they explore the Village in search of candy and goodies during this annual, friendly-not-scary event. Register in advance at www.TroyHistoricVillage.org for reduced admission.



Cheddar's Preschool Story Time

Select Wednesdays,
10:30am | Ages 2-5

THS Members:
\$5/child, \$3/adult

Non-members:
\$6/child, \$4/adult

Come join Cheddar the Village Mouse for monthly story time. We will read a story, sing a song, do a fingerplay, learn about an object from the past, and other fun activities. We'll practice important skills like counting, categorizing, matching, fine-motor, manners, and more. A snack is included. Designed for ages 2-5 accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by Troy Women's Association.

- **September 7:** Making New Friends
- **October 5:** Changing Leaves
- **November 2:** Squirrels and Nuts



Fall Open House

Saturday September 17 | 10am-3pm | FREE

Explore the Village free of charge! Participate in samplers of some of our most popular family programs. Please register at www.TroyHistoricVillage.org.

Sense of the Past with Digger: Fall Edition

Wednesday
September 21,
4:30-5:30 pm

THS Members: \$8;
Non-Members: \$10

This fun and educational program is for children ages 5-10 and their parents, but it can also be adapted for adult groups. Our

staff will guide you through tours of the log cabin, Caswell house, and Parsonage. We'll also lead you in sensory activities and games to experience the sights, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes of a 19th-century autumn.



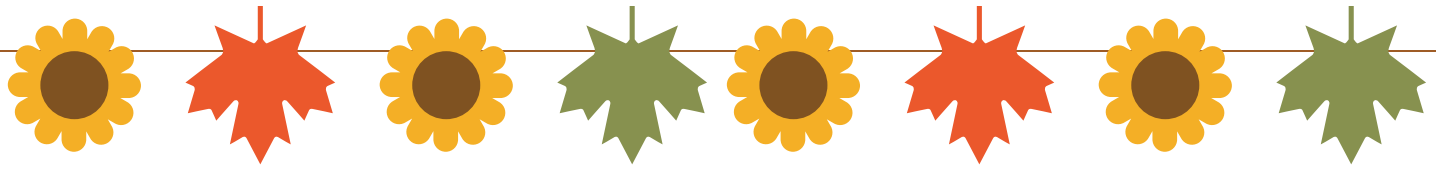
Digger's Nighttime Scavenger Hunt

Monday November 16, 6:30-7:30 pm

THS Members: \$8; Non-Members: \$10

Digger and our staff will lead you on a nighttime scavenger hunt and tour of our Village buildings. This is a fun outing for scout groups, homeschools, and families. Bring a flashlight!





Homeschool Field Day

Tuesday September 20, 10:00-11:30am | \$8/person

Calling all homeschoolers! Start the fall season off right with a fun and educational field trip to the Village. Students will participate in our Printing and Communication and Tin Punch programs and leave with a hand-printed poster and a tin punch project. Email YPD@THVmail.org for more information or to register. If you would like to bring a group of students on another day, please feel free to ask about a booking for just your group.



Visit Scarecrow Row

This October, stroll along Wattles and Livernois to see the creative 'crows made by talented Village volunteers and staff from local businesses.



Bring the Whole Troop!

Scouts can earn badges or meet electives through these fun, engaging programs. Please call 248-524-3598 or email ypd@thvmail.org for details and to schedule your group's visit.

Letterboxing Clues

Find clues leading to hidden "letterboxes" all over the Village. You'll create your own personalized stamp, then trade and collect stamp images as you follow the clues. Ages 7 and up (readers). Meets "Letterboxer" merit badge requirements. *Approximately 60-90 minutes. Price: \$8/person.*

Playing the Past

Be a student in the one-room school. Spend time in our Log Cabin while the fire blazes. Try chores from the past like weaving on a hand loom and carrying water with a yoke. Have some old-fashioned fun! Meets "Playing the Past" merit badge requirements. *Approximately 90 minutes. Price: \$8/person.*

Scouts Woodworking

Cut, hammer, and build as Cadette Scouts and Bear Scouts make an individual project, and one birdhouse for the den or troop. To schedule your troop or den, please give at least three weeks-notice for us to prepare materials. Meets GS Cadette "Woodworker" and Cub Scout "Baloo the Builder" belt loop requirements. *Approximately 90-120 minutes. Price: \$8/adult, \$10/scout.*

Earth Rocks!

Utilize maps, minerals, and materials to show how Michigan rock resources are used. We introduce Geology to scouts and scholars. Explore Troy Historic Village with rocks and minerals in mind. Map Michigan's mining resources, use a rock hammer, take home rock samples, and smooth your own Petosky stone with a take-home kit. *Price: \$9/person.*

Night Owl

Experience the Village after dark! Chat with someone who works late, explore signs of nature at night, and learn some cool nighttime history. This program can run late into the evening, depending on sunset that particular day. *Price: \$8/person.*

FALL ADULT & SENIOR PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE

Fire and Flannel After Hours

Thursday September 15 | 4pm-7pm

\$20 in advance or \$30 at the door

Kick off the fall season with the Troy Chamber of Commerce at the Troy Historic Village! This outdoor event features beer and wine, vodka and bourbon tasting, live music from modern-folk duo Hot Ugly, s'mores stations and fire pits, and lawn games like cornhole and giant Kerplunk. Historic buildings are open for self-guided tours. Visit our wood-branding station to make your own Village souvenir. Make sure to wear your favorite flannel – you could win a prize in our plaid contest!

Union Corners Cemetery Tour: Odd Deaths & Unique Markers

Saturday October 1 at 6pm | Sunday October 2 at 3pm

THS Member: \$12 | Non-Member: \$15

Learn some fascinating underground histories at Union Corners cemetery in Troy. Explore a few odd demises, including pals in life and death, suicide by streetcar, a murder on the farm, and more. Examine unique grave markers made of white metal and disappearing marble. This rain or shine tour lasts about 90 minutes, requires some standing and walking over uneven ground. Appropriate for ages 7 and up.

Curious and Macabre Lantern Tour

Friday October 28 at 6:30pm

THS Member: \$12 | Non-Member: \$15

See the Village in a new light! This guided walk features some of our most curious and sometimes deadly artifacts, phantom readings, quirky incidents from Troy history, and even a few apparitious moments. Learn about a plant known as “dead man’s finger,” as well as parasitic and poisonous plants you’ll find in Michigan. This macabre tour wouldn’t be complete without a look at our creepiest dolls, lethal Victorian baby bottle, and deadly wallpaper. Appropriate for ages 15 and up.

Walking Group

Thursdays | FREE | 6:00pm in

September & October 5:00pm in November

Weekly walks cover a variety of scenic 1.5-3 mile routes in or around Troy. Program is free, and all ages and levels of fitness are welcome! For meeting locations, route details, or to sign up for our email list, visit <https://www.troyhistoricvillage.org/programs/walking-group/>. Sponsored by Beaumont Health.

Beaumont

Constitution Cafés

Sundays, 2pm | FREE

Utilizing the Socratic Method of inquiry, engage in civil discourse to explore different aspects of the Constitution each month.

Sponsored by the Oakland County Bar Foundation. Join us on select Sundays:

- September 11
- October 9
- November 13
- December 11



Thursday Teas

2pm | THS Member: \$9

Non-Member: \$10

Join us on select Thursdays each month for history talks led by guest presenters or Village staff on a variety of topics. Sponsored by Oakmont Manor and Oakmont Sterling.

- October 27: A History of Museums
- November 17: The Gilded Age
- December 15: Christmas in the Victorian Era



The Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald: A Dramatic Retelling

Saturday November 12 at 7:00pm

THS Member: \$12 | Non-Member: \$15

On November 10, 1975, the freighter S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald was caught in a terrible storm and sank in Lake Superior. Twenty-nine men perished. The story was immortalized in a song by Gordon Lightfoot. Join us as we revisit this tragedy using narration, dramatic reading, and sound effects.



Preservation Conversations

Mondays, 10am | THS Member: FREE | Non-Member: \$7

Do you enjoy old houses, good stories, history, and great places to visit locally and nationally? Come join the conversation as we learn more about preserving and utilizing our historic assets!

- **September 26: Norton Farm, Troy MI.** Learn about the history and preservation of this historic Troy Farm that is now tucked in a modern neighborhood. Kevin and Susan Lindsey will share their experiences researching and renovating!
- **October 24: Federal First!** Considered the first American style of architecture, the Federal Style borrows heavily from some of the best—and for good reasons!
- **November 28: Saving Places:** the story of Independence Hall. Nearly lost to disrepair, we'll learn how this national treasure was saved and what they've done to accommodate millions of annual visitors.

Museum Yoga

Tuesdays September 6 – September 20 | 6pm

Instructors from Troy-based Explore Yoga studio will lead students through yoga postures and breathwork in classes appropriate for all levels of experience, from beginner to advanced. Yoga classes are held outdoors. Bring your mat and register in advance as space is limited. Suggested donation: \$10.

Yoga & Wine Night



Tuesday September 27, 5:00 – 7:30 pm | Tickets: \$20

Ages 21+ only

Join us for an outdoor yoga class from 5:00-6:00pm led by Explore Yoga studio, followed by a glass of wine or sparkling cider, light appetizers, and a chance to mingle while touring the Village. Bring your mat and register in advance as space is limited.

Watercolor Classes: Falling for Art

Wednesdays September 21 – November 9 (no class Oct. 5)

4pm-6pm | THS Member: \$40/class or \$235/7-class series,

Non-Member: \$45/class or \$285/7-class series

Artist and art teacher Megan Swoyer guides students in using a variety of watercolor techniques to create paintings that will have you “fall”-ing for art this season! No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided. A discount is available if you register for all seven classes. Ages 16 and up.

Blacksmithing Classes

Learn the art of blacksmithing in our historic Wagon Shop.

Visit our website for a full list of available classes for complete beginners and returning students.

Folk Art Workshops

Explore history and folk art with these artisan-led workshops. No experience necessary. Ages 16 & up. Offered in partnership with The Michigan Folk School. Space is limited; register at troymuseum.org.



Spoon Carving Workshop: *Sunday September 11, 10am-4pm | THS Members: \$150 | Non-Members: \$175*
Learn the basics of spoon carving and try your skills on kiln-dried wood.

Crafting a Leather Key Chain: *Sunday September 25, 10am-1pm | THS Members: \$150 | Non-Members: \$175*
Experience the joy and satisfaction of crafting with leather in this introductory leather workshop.

Introduction to the Art of Millinery: *Sunday October 2, 10am-4pm | THS Members \$175 | Non-Members: \$200*
Learn the basic skills and history of millinery while crafting your own hat.

Broom Making 101: *Wednesday October 5 & Thursday October 6, 6pm-8:30pm*
THS Members: \$125 | Non-Members: \$150
Explore the world of hand-crafted brooms as you make your own whisk broom and pot-scrubber.



Become a Villager Today!

Support quality, engaging education for all ages and enjoy

- Free Admission to the Village
- Discounts on Public Programs
- Quarterly Village Press and regular news updates
- An invitation to the Annual Members Meeting and Ice Cream Social
- Additional benefits for each level as listed

YES! I want to be a Villager. Please process my Troy Historical Society membership at the following level:

- \$35 Individual**
Additional benefits include 2 “plus one” passes to select programs so you can share the Village with a friend and 10 complimentary high-resolution scans to start your family archive
- \$55 Household** (*Up to 6 adults and/or children*)
Additional benefits include a 10% discount on a Simple Event Rental or Cheddar Birthday Party
- \$150 Patron** (*Up to 6 adults and/or children*)
Additional benefits include 2 tickets to the annual Barnard Bash, 1 free Group Gather for your business or social group OR 10% discount on a Simple Event Rental or Cheddar Birthday Party
- \$350 Barnard Benefactor** (*Up to 6 adults and/or children*)
Additional benefits include 4 tickets to the annual Barnard Bash and 1 free Workshop Rental for your business or social group

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please Email my quarterly Village Press

Already a Villager?

I would like to make an additional donation to the Troy Historic Village.

Please put \$ _____ towards the general fund to support preservation and programs at the Village.

Payment Options:

Enclosed Check / Check # _____

Call the Village at 248-524-3570 or visit www.troyhistoricvillage.org/membership to pay by credit card

Return completed form & payment to:
60 W. Wattles Road, Troy, MI 48098
Make checks payable to: Troy Historical Society

Troy Historic Village
Troy Historical Society
60 W. Wattles Road
Troy MI 48098

Village Critter Corner



What is this? This is Critter's Corner!

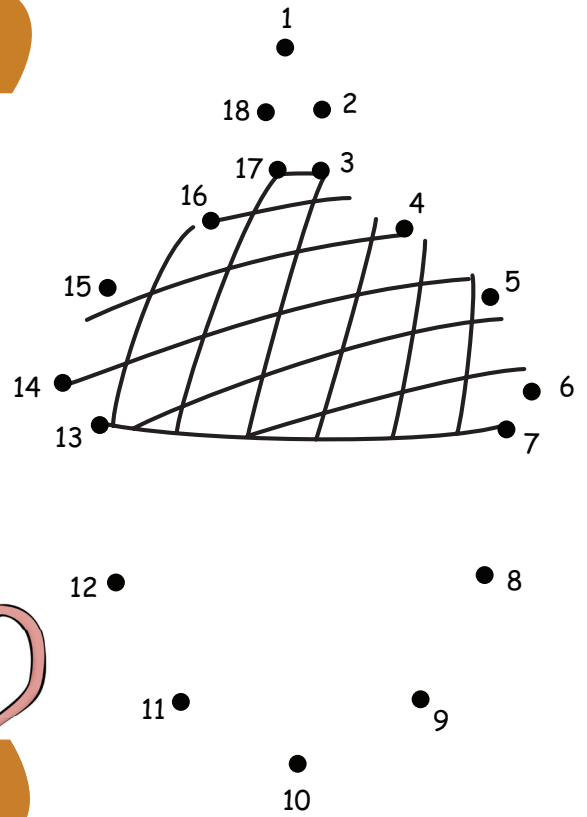
These are pages of fun just for the youngest Villagers in each household. Some activities you might do with a pencil or crayons. Others might mean a stroll outside, or observing and counting, or taking a selfie when you go somewhere with an adult. Look for Digger the Groundhog and Cheddar the Mouse to find puzzles and other fun things to do in every issue of the Village Press!

Fall Scavenger Hunt

Look around you when you are out and about.
See if you can find:

- 4 people wearing boots
- 2 people wearing scarves
- 1 yellow leaf
- 3 different fruits (apples, pumpkins, peaches...)
- 5 people wearing gloves or mittens
- 3 people wearing warm sweaters
- 2 people wearing coats

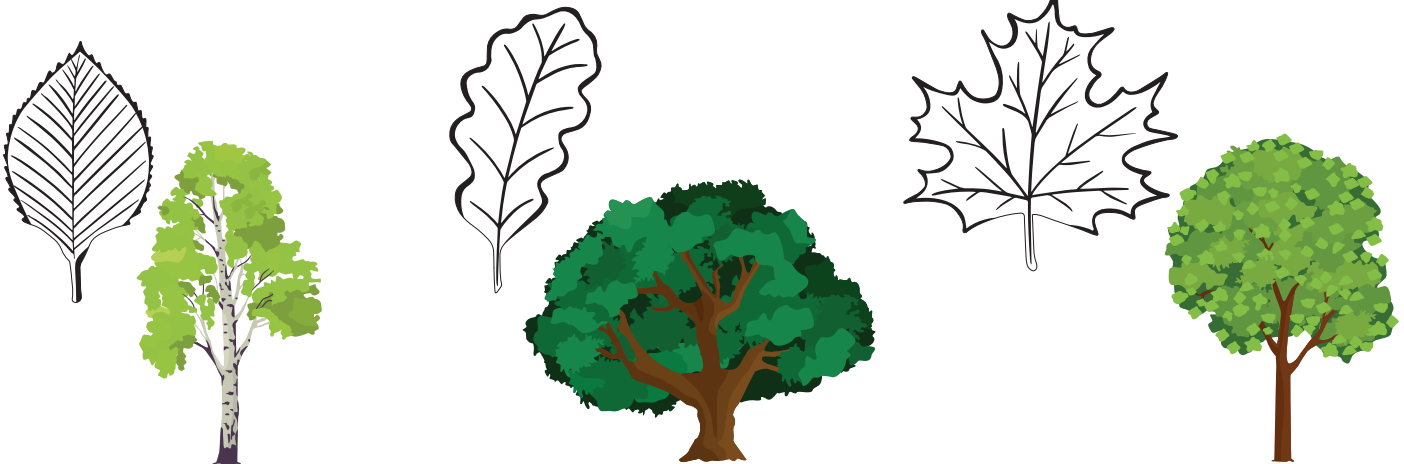
What do you like best about Fall?
What do you like to do in the Fall?
Cheddar likes to roll in piles of leaves with his friends.



Color the letters to the word LEAVES. Try to use Fall colors.

LEAVES

Do you see these trees and the picture of each tree's leaf? Take a walk outside with a grown up. Can you find a leaf on the ground for each tree? Which is your favorite? Write it on the line. _____.



Dig for Words

Help Digger find these words about Autumn (Fall). Circle or high-light the words. They'll be found vertically, horizontally, and even backwards!

H	T	R	A	K	E	L	E	A	V	E	S	M	N
T	R	I	C	K	O	R	T	R	E	A	T	A	A
P	E	O	A	R	B	B	A	O	G	A	H	K	P
N	R	R	R	R	A	A	H	P	N	T	P	E	P
N	V	E	V	O	K	C	E	L	I	S	P	A	L
E	R	B	E	P	I	K	Y	E	V	E	C	S	E
E	E	M	A	I	N	T	E	N	I	V	O	C	S
W	B	E	P	C	G	O	K	N	G	R	L	A	R
O	O	T	U	K	C	S	R	A	S	A	O	R	S
L	T	P	M	C	H	C	U	L	K	H	R	E	L
L	C	E	P	R	I	H	T	F	N	O	F	C	O
A	O	S	K	O	L	O	F	K	A	K	U	R	E
H	Y	O	I	P	L	O	G	N	H	U	L	O	P
R	R	R	N	S	Y	L	A	O	T	R	K	W	A

- CARVE A PUMPKIN
- MAKE A SCARECROW
- TURKEY
- HARVEST
- HALLOWEEN
- BAKING
- TRICK OR TREAT
- COLORFUL
- THANKSGIVING
- PICK CROPS
- RAKE LEAVES
- OCTOBER
- FLANNEL
- APPLES
- BACK TO SCHOOL
- SEPTEMBER
- CHILLY



Digger's Detectives

Mr. Tom is showing a guest this mysterious object from our Caswell house. Can you guess what it is and how it was used long ago?
Hint: It was used in the kitchen.



HISTORY ADVENTURES



Cheddar and Digger know that cemeteries aren't scary places. They visited Crooks Cemetery in Troy and found this beautiful tombstone.

The cemetery has many families connected to the Village, including the Caswells, Crooks', Wattles, and Poppletons.

Have you seen those names near your house, such as on road signs or at shopping centers?

Here are some kids enjoying our Victorian Strawberry Festival on June 25. They are having a sack race! Who is going to win?

Want to be featured on the next issue of Village Critter Corner? Take some selfies doing fun historical things this summer, like visiting other museums, reenactments, historical markers, playing with old-fashioned toys - anything you can think of! You could have a Cheddar or Digger puppet or your favorite stuffy in the photo too. Visit our facebook page "Village Critter Corner" to share your pics (no names please) and you might see yourself here in the winter issue!



Digger's Detectives answer: This is a BUTTER CHURN from about 1850. At that time, you couldn't buy butter at stores, so you made it yourself at home. People used the metal crank to turn cream into butter. It came from the family of Solomon Caswell, who was one of Troy's first settlers. He started his farm here in the 1820s. The Troy Historical Society acquired the butter churn in 1971.