

WINDOW TO THE PAST

A Publication of the Trenton Historical Society

January 2012



2012

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MEMBERSHIP

The Trenton Historical Society needs you! Your support during our annual membership drive shows your interest in continuing efforts to collect, assemble, house and preserve in a permanent collection, mementos related to the history of Monguagon Township and Trenton. Renewing your membership is a way of showing support.

The last page of this Newsletter contains the membership renewal form. Please fill it in, enclose a check and mail it to:

Trenton Historical Society
PO Box 596
Trenton, MI 48183

Your membership dues include this fantastic newsletter, all programs, and any help with genealogy and the archives.

The economy is not great and so non-profit organizations like the historical society are really hurting. Anything you can do to help, including new or renewed membership, would be great.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

In 2012, in addition to publishing our "Images of America – Trenton", the THS would like to begin taking oral histories from some of the older Trenton residents – stories and anecdotes of their memories and living in Trenton. For this we will need a small tape recorder, tapes and a transcription machine. Hopefully we may

be able to obtain enough information for another book.

We also have a project that includes software to enable us to enter all the information stored in the archives onto data bases. This would allow us to locate information quickly and easily.

Another project includes an enclosed bookcase for the Trenton High School Library students. This will contain information about the history of Trenton.

HELP WANTED NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

All the materials such as photographs, papers, clippings and books which have been acquired by the Trenton Historical Society need to be sorted, filed and eventually entered into a computer database. It's a never ending job, but if the THS archives are to be available for general use, it must be done. A few hours on a one time basis or on several visits would be a donation to the Society very much appreciated. Please call Carol Hendricks at (734) 676-4375. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** The "Lucy Shirmer Historical Center" (a/k/a the Archives) is located next to the Media Center in the Trenton High School. Hours are flexible and whatever time you care to donate can be arranged.

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THIS BOARD OPENING

The retirement from the Trenton Historical Society Board of Directors of Evelyn Chekan has left an opening. If you are interested in filling this position, please contact Carol Hendricks at (734) 676-4375.

2012 CALENDARS

The Trenton Historical Society 2012 calendars are in! Randi Lynn Owen-Olson and Sharleen Stack have selected a great group of photographs from the past. Calendars are \$10 each and are available at the following locations:

- Trenton City Hall
- West Grange Pharmacy
- Charlie's Marathon
- Timber's Salon
- The Framery & Gallery

Or please contact Sharleen Stack at (734)362-8036 and we will see that a calendar gets to you.

DON'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY

We are looking for family histories, business, church or organizational histories or memorabilia; pictures, newspaper clippings – anything in print or handwritten that has to do with Trenton. Today's happenings are tomorrow's history. If you don't want to give these things away, the Trenton Historical Society would be happy to become the

custodian of a collection while you remain the legal owner. Or you could lend them to us to be copied. Anything would be appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW? TRENTON HISTORICAL TIDBITS

- ✍ In 1860 the "Davis and David" sawmill began operating at the foot of Pine Street (now West Road). This mill sawed pine logs exclusively and was still in operation in 1875.
- ✍ The Village began a program of replacing wooden sidewalks with cement walks in 1901. The plan was to lay 20,000 the first year. That was about two blocks on both sides of the street.
- ✍ Downtown Trenton had three department stores: Mulias and Ellias, Felder's and Kline's.
- ✍ Trenton once had a permanent voting booth. Built in 1939-40 with WPA funds, it was a small brick building used only for voting. It was located on the north side of St. Joseph Street between Riverside and Jefferson. It was precinct #2.
- ✍ The Trenton Horsemen Association property on Jefferson across from Elizabeth Park was sold to make way for the present mobile home park in 1971.

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(4th Michigan Infantry Battle Flag)

4th MICHIGAN INFANTRY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for **Sunday, February 19, 2012**, at 2:00 pm at the Westfield Center, Fireplace Room.

The Trenton Historical Society will present Martin N. Bertera and Kim Crawford, authors of The 4th Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. Mr. Bertera and Mr. Crawford will narrate stories of a remarkable regiment at the center of Civil War history.

The 4th Infantry was recruited from the southern tier of counties of Michigan and was organized by Col. Dwight A. Woodbury at Adrian. It was comprised of independent companies – the Peninsular Guard of Sturgis, Barry Guard of Ann Arbor, Smith Guard of Monroe, Trenton Volunteers, Dexter Union Guard, Hudson Volunteers, Adrian Volunteers, Hillside Volunteers, Grosvenor Union Guard of Jonesville and Tecumseh Volunteers.

Trenton members included Capt. David Granger; 1st Lt. Marshall Chapin; 2nd Lt. Francis Earle, and enlisted men: Charles Calhoon, John Fitzpatrick, William Haven, Phillip Leighton, James McCann, William Woods and Edward Henry Courtney Taylor.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY TOPICS OR SPEAKERS YOU KNOW THAT WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO OUR GROUP.

GENEALOGY

The Trenton Historical Society holds workshops at the Veterans Memorial Library for anyone who wants to know more about their ancestry.

Times are: the First Tuesday of the month from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm; and the fourth Saturday of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. We offer tutoring sessions for the amateur genealogist and help on the Library's www.ancestry.com. For more information visit our website at <http://www.trentonhistoricalsociety.org>. In addition, you can use the Library's internet stations for 2 hours per day for FREE. It's a wonderful way to get started and a great savings.

THANK YOU

A great **THANK YOU** to Cris Howe for presenting Genealogy 201.

OUT AND ABOUT FLAT ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

If you happen to have some free time on **Sunday, January 8, 2012**, start the new year off right by attending a program and open house sponsored by the **Flat Rock Historical Society**. The topic is Historic Armament (Revolutionary War to WWII) and will be held at the Munger Historical Museum, behind the Flat Rock Library from 1 to 4 PM. Also, take some time and also visit the Hotel and Carriage House.

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IMAGES OF AMERICA - TRENTON

The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each book presents distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today.

In November the THS sent its first draft to Arcadia Publishing for review and editing. Hopefully you will be seeing this book for sale sometime in the fall of 2012.

E-MAIL vs. SNAIL-MAIL

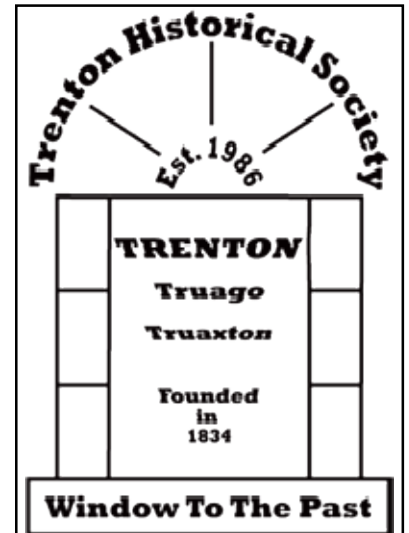
Now you can receive your Window to the Past Newsletter faster! In the past, the Historical Society has copied the newsletter, folded it, stuffed it into an envelope, labeled it, stamped it and trudged to the post office to mail it to all of our members.

DON'T GO SNAIL-MAIL GO E-MAIL!



Costs are mounting regarding printing and stamps. Therefore, if you do use E-Mail, you can now have your newsletter the same day it is finalized and have it in color. Just let Carol Hendricks know at carol.ann.hendricks@gmail.com.

Your E-mail address is for the Trenton Historical Society only and will not be given out to anyone



TRENTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Hendricks
Bill Olson
John Holmes
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Randi Lynn Owen Olson
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2012 Membership

Your Trenton Historical Society membership is now due. With your membership, you will receive the Society's newsletter filled with stories and articles about Trenton's past and information about our quarterly programs usually held at the Westfield Activity Building.

Genealogical research also can be done using our family files, Trenton High School yearbooks, *The Shirmer Collection*, newspaper articles, obituaries and our photo collection, just to name a few sources of family tree materials.

TRENTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 596 Trenton, MI 48183

www.trentonhistoricalsociety.org

Membership – 2012

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail _____

_____ Adult Membership - \$10.00 _____ Family Membership - \$15.00

_____ Student Membership - \$5.00 _____ Patron Membership - \$50.00

_____ Business Membership - \$25.00+ _____ Contributing Member - \$25.00+

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