

# The Village Press

January-March 2013

## Civil War Twilight Tour

As the sun sets over the quiet Village Green, soldiers huddle together to stay warm, a widow grieves alone, and the postmaster finishes his day. The Civil War Twilight Tour returns to the Troy Historic Village on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 6:15-9 p.m. to bring the sights and sounds of the war to life. The tours will take visitors around the Village to relive the triumphs, pains and family trials of the era. As the night sky darkens over our ten historic structures, soothing fiddle and dulcimer music will fill the air, courtesy of the Golden Griffin Stringtet.



Led by Village volunteers, the event acts as a means for the community to reflect on this important period in U.S. history. After taking a year off in 2012, the tour has been renamed “Twilight,” to reflect the beautiful early evening setting, and the fading way of life brought on by the Civil War, and later, Reconstruction. The re-enactors, including the postmaster, Union officer, and widow, will all tell their stories to give visitors a deeper understanding of life during this difficult era. In addition, members of the 8th Arkansas will be on hand, gathered around their campfire and ready to chat with visitors about their lives.

“We could not possibly provide such events as this without the time and dedication of our volunteers” says Ginny Czerwinski, who originally designed the tours for the Village in 2011. “Many hours are spent by these volunteers to support our programs.” Ms. Czerwinski, who also works as a historic interpreter at the Village, shares her passion for Civil War history with children as well when she helps to organize “Civil War Days” for school groups.

Reservations are required for this event, so please call the Village starting on March 11th at 248.524.3570 to be added to a tour. Tickets are \$15 and tours—which begin every 15 minutes—last approximately one-and-a-half hours.

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## Troy Historic Village Staff Listing & Contact:

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ERIC FRANCHY  
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Troy Historic Village  
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Troy, MI 48098

248.524.3570

[www.troyhistoricvillage.org](http://www.troyhistoricvillage.org)  
[facebook.com/  
troyhistoricvillage](https://facebook.com/troyhistoricvillage)

**Hours and Pricing:**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Adults \$5, Children \$3

## From Executive Director Loraine Campbell

Dr. Philip P. Mason is a distinguished historian, with a deep understanding of American, Michigan, and labor history. For more than 50 years he taught at Wayne State University and worked to preserve our nation's history. He was my favorite history professor and a wonderful advisor. But what impressed me the most about Phil was that he still considered himself a student. "I will always be a student" he told me, "because there are always new things to learn."

Fifty-five years ago, Phil organized the first *Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference*. He established this one-and-a-half day learning experience for anyone interested in their community's history. Each conference welcomed school teachers, historical society members, amateur genealogists, museum volunteers, and historical re-enactors, as well as academicians and "professional" historians. Topics at local conferences have ranged from Michigan barns to Cornish miners in the Upper Peninsula, how-to genealogy sessions, maritime history presentations, programs on ethnic neighborhoods, and significant new research issues. The common denominator at every conference remains sharing the history of people, events and issues rooted in Michigan communities. It is history from the bottom up, rather than a historic perspective through the lens of national political leaders and issues.

Five years ago, the Historical Society of Michigan incorporated the Local History Conference into its annual calendar of events. The organizing committee agreed to rotate the event's location on a three-year cycle to Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. This year, Wayne County hosts **March 22nd and 23rd at the Holiday Inn Detroit-Livonia Conference Center**. The Troy Historical Society is a proud sponsor of this year's event, packed with interesting presentations and terrific speakers.

You can download a program at [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org), click on a link at [www.troyhistoricvillage.org](http://www.troyhistoricvillage.org), or pick up a flyer at the Village Store.

Please join me at this great event as we gain knowledge and understanding as lifelong students of history!

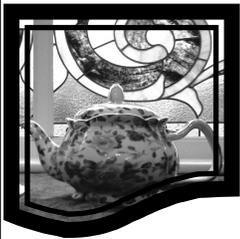
## About the Village

Located in the heart of Troy, Michigan, the Troy Historic Village serves the counties of Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb by providing richly original and interactive educational programming. Over 12,000 children visit the Village each year, exploring each of the ten historic Troy buildings on display. The intimate charm of the Village also provides an ideal backdrop for weddings, which take place in Old Troy Church. The Troy Historic Village looks back to the past, offering visitors a unique chance to understand a way of life now gone. The Village is also proud to celebrate our diversity, with programming that resonates with persons of all backgrounds.

## Seasonal Programs:

*An in-depth look at what's happening*

### Thursday Teas at Two



Presentations begin in Old Troy Church at 2 p.m. Price: \$7. Guests may bring their own tea cups if preferred. Registration required.

#### **2/28: Presidents Tea**

Did you know that tea played an important role in the lives of this country's founding families? Certified tea etiquette consultant Pat Sagert cordially invites you to travel through American history with our presidential families as they take tea.

#### **3/21: Patti Clocks Tea**

During the 19th century, Welch, Spring & Co. produced a series of expensive rosewood clocks named after famous opera singers of the day. Join Andy Dervan for the story behind these "Patti Clocks" and the opera stars for whom they are named.

#### **4/25: Zoo Tea**

Drawing more than one million visitors each year, the Detroit Zoo, first opened in 1928, continues to fascinate. Join fifteen-year senior docent Janet Rosenthal for a comparison of "then" and "now" with a look at the Zoo's history, exhibits and animals.

### Village Talks

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Old Troy Church at the Village. Price: \$5; \$3 for Troy Historical Society members. Refreshments provided.

#### **2/20: Dr. Ben Carson: Physician and Scientist**

Raised by his mother in a poor Detroit neighborhood, Dr. Ben Carson was gifted with a love of books and a drive to succeed. This distinguished pediatric neurosurgeon, educator and scientist received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008. Troy Historic Village Director Loraine Campbell will explore Dr. Carson's life, accomplishments and the opportunities he offers to young people today.



#### **3/20: Michigan Women's Hall of Fame: Women Who Dared**

The Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame was dedicated in 1987 on the anniversary of Michigan's ratification of the Women's Suffrage Amendment. Since then the Center has inducted 8-10 outstanding women into the Hall of Fame each year. We'll explore the contributions of historic and contemporary honorees.

### Cheddar's Preschool Story Hour

Join Cheddar the Village Mouse on the first Wednesday of every month from 10:30-11:15 a.m. in listening to a classic tale in our program for little historians! A simple craft and a yummy treat will make your child's visit complete. Appropriate for children 2-5; child must be accompanied by an adult. Price: \$2 Children, \$3 Adults

**3/6: Green**

**4/3: Spring**



## Featured Program:

### *Maple Syrup Time-Past and Present*

New this year, staff and volunteers from the Troy Nature Society & Troy Historical Society will join forces to present, “Maple Syrup Time – Past and Present,” at the Troy Nature Center. The interactive program brings together a love of nature with history-enriched themes to give a deeper insight into both the historical and ecological impact of the maple tree. Join us as we discover how maple trees make sugar and how people, from Native Americans to 21st Century tech-savvy-sap-tappers, have harvested it to make maple syrup. We’ll venture into the woods, visit a historic sugar camp, participate in activities to learn more about syrup making, and stop in the sugar shed to see the wood-stoked evaporator in action. The tour finishes with syrup tasting over warm mini-waffles and our version of the pioneer treat called sugar on snow. Programs start every half hour between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Register for a specific day and time at [www.troynaturesociety.org](http://www.troynaturesociety.org). Walk-ins are welcome the day of the program on a space available basis only.

Price: \$7 TNS/THS Member Price: \$6 Saturdays: March 2, 9 & 16

## A Bit of History:

### *Written by John W McFarland, Contributed by Kay McFarland*

On a wintertime Friday or Saturday night, after helping with the dishes, we would grab our skates and sticks. Our skating spot was about one-half mile from home, south of Long Lake (18 Mile Road), in a frozen swamp. We would gather up dead wood and start a fire. We would put on our skates and then put our boots near the fire to keep warm for the trek home. We would clear the ice, skate around a bit, break out the sticks and drop the puck. And the game was on. One night, when the time came to change back into our boots and head for home “oh brother” (as mom would say) one of Paul’s boots was burnt beyond wear ability. I’m sure the walk home seemed more than a mile to Paul!

## Village Spotlight:

### *Introducing our Marketing and Communications Coordinators*

Eric Franchy, Marketing Coordinator and Brian Wigman, Communications Coordinator are the latest additions to the Troy Historic Village staff. Both are innovative, hard working and bring a unique perspective in marketing and communications. Together, they share a strong interest in helping the Village grow and evolve.

Eric Franchy has worked for three non-profits and runs his own business on the campus of Oakland University, where he earned his BS in Marketing. Eric has been instrumental in redesigning the THV website and is creating a wide array of marketing materials to promote the Village’s events.

Brian Wigman has seven years experience working in non-profits and has also worked as a student officer at OU, which is where he obtained his BA in Communications. Brian has been heavily involved in re-evaluating the Village’s print materials, website content and various other projects.

# Troy Historical Society:

## *Thinking Strategically*

In 2011 the Troy Historical Society (THS) responded to the City of Troy’s financial crisis by assuming management of the Troy Historic Village. Our immediate goals were keeping the facility open to the public and continuing to provide core programs and services to communities in our region. We accomplished these objectives with a small staff, many volunteer hours, significant donor support and a very lean budget.

However, it is now important for THS to advance from crisis mode to a position where our organization and the Village are operationally and financially sustainable. A very important step in the process is careful strategic planning.

During the next six months, board member David Zuza will work with a newly-assigned committee and the Board of Directors to assess our organization’s resources and the position and role of the Troy Historic Village in southeast Michigan’s arts and culture community. The work group and the Board will identify critical issues we will face during the next three years and develop realistic steps or strategies to meet these challenges. In simple terms, to reach our finish line we will complete a diagnostic check of our vehicle, adjust the engine, make sure we have enough fuel, and chart a course that dodges potholes, costly detours and speed traps. We must also be prepared to adjust course when we encounter new road blocks.

Thoughtful, comprehensive strategic planning provides more than a guide. It is a framework that builds awareness and informed consensus among staff, volunteers, and THS members. It’s an opportunity to examine the changing role of museums, including the Village, in our technology-driven society. It is a mandate to think creatively as we redefine our role and the services that we provide in new cost-effective ways. As board member Judy Siess observed, “We really need to think outside the box.”

**We want your input.** The first step in the strategic planning process is assessment. “The work group will bring their insights to the table, but we want our membership’s perspective,” explained David Zuza. So we ask each of you, *what do you consider the most significant issue or challenge facing the Troy Historical Society and the Troy Historic Village?*”

You can email your reply to [lm.campbell@troymi.gov](mailto:lm.campbell@troymi.gov), or mail in the tear off response card at the bottom of this page by February 28. Your answers will be compiled, shared with the work group and summarized in the next issue of the Village Press. As always, we appreciate your active participation!

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I believe that the greatest challenge the Troy Historical Society and the Troy Historic Village face in the next three years is:

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Optional:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

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60 W. Wattles Road,  
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**General Admission**

Adults: \$5  
Seniors: \$3  
Children (6-12): \$3  
Children (Under 6): FREE

**Troy Historical Society Membership**

Free admission to the Village (excludes special events)

Family: \$45/year  
Individual: \$30/year

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