



Linden Mills Historical Society

201 N. Main St. P. O. Box 823
Linden, Michigan 48451

No. 14

Summer 2023

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are April - November on second Tuesday of the month 7:00 PM. Shiawassee Shores Clubhouse #1.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Peter Maas
Vice President	Cindy Shane
Secretary	Nancy Wallace
Treasurer	Amanda Whitney
Trustee	Aaron Wiles
Trustee	Kathy Button
Trustee	Pat Burgess

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Karen Breasbois
Pat Burgess
Barb Maas
Marguerite Plumb
Cindy Shane (Chair Person)
Jim Thompson
Nancy Wallace
Aaron Wiles

MUSEUM HOURS

Open: Memorial Day thru October. Saturdays 12-3 pm and Sundays 1-4 pm. No Saturday hours after Labor Day. Private or group tours contact 810 265- 2821

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Newsletter	Peter Maas
Refreshments	Members
Genealogist	Beth Carr
Genealogist	Pete Maas
Genealogist	Jayne Larion

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

At our April 2023 Executive Board Meeting, it was approved to grant Lifetime Honorary Memberships to **David and Barbara Kincaid** and **Sandra Wenger** for their dedication and interest toward the amelioration of the Linden Mills Historical Society.

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Linden Butter Was Available Long After The Linden Creamery Closed



(Above) Linden butter 1lb brick from Linden Creamery and currently in General Store display of Linden Museum. (right) Linden Butter and Oak Meadow butter displayed in Hadley Museum.



Pete's Ponderings — When Pat Burgess, Barb Maas and myself visited Hadley, Michigan on May 20, as part of the Small Museum Networking Program, we enjoyed a wonderful and informative visit to the Hadley Mill Museum. Although smaller than Linden's mill, the Hadley Mill also serves as the local museum. I had long wanted to visit this museum having read that when Linden closed its creamery, everything, including the brand was sold to Hadley. I recall reading an article which appeared in the Fenton Independent in November 1980 written by **Bryan Bowles**. It seems most appropriate to reprint the article at this time:

MEMORIES OF A LONG AGO LINDEN BUTTER MAKER

Bryan Bowles spoke of the Linden Co-op, bringing memories back to many who attended the meeting of the *Linden Mills Historical Society*, Tuesday evening, November 11, 1980.

"The year 1916 saw *Joseph Stehle* and *Jim McFarland* forming a group of farmers that became the Linden Co-op. It stayed in business from 1916 to 1949. Jim McFarland donated the land for the creamery and a cement building was erected on the river behind the Fairbanks gas station, (now Eagle's Wooden Park). By June 16, 1916, all the necessary equipment was in the building and the operation started with around 150 farmers.

They all held stock certificates in the business. The shares were based upon the number of cows the farmer owned. One cow, one share. In December of 1916, *George McNeil*, the butter maker for the co-op left their employ. Later that month, *Bryan Bowles* became the new butter maker.

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The cattle in this area were for the most part dairy breeds, and some were beef breeds. Beef cattle are not high on milk production. People other than those belonging to the co-op, also sold their cream there. With this mixture the test ran around 3.5 for an average on 100 pounds. A number of things happened to cream before it became butter. It was weighed, stirred, sampled, tested, strained, to name some of them. 1,000 pounds were churned at one time. It took one hour to do this. Before it could be churned, it had to be cooled down to 40 degrees overnight. 42-44 degrees about right when it was churned. This was so you get all the butter possible from it instead of leaving your profits in the buttermilk. The butter then had to be washed in 60 degree water to remove all the buttermilk from the butter. If you failed to do this you had white spots in the butter, and no one wanted it.

After this was accomplished, water and salt which had been wet with warm water, was worked into the butter with paddles, 100 turns or more would do the job. The butter was then put in parchment-lined tubs weighing 63 lbs and boxes weighing 90 lbs. This was made into prints. Every weekend the floors were covered with several inches of lime and later washed down. Sanitation has come a long way since then.

By calling the depot each morning, you would learn from Elgin, IL what the price was each day on this product, as well as how much was on hand and how much was being imported. This also included cheese.

During the spring months cows gave considerably more milk than they give during the summer months, known as the "dry season." There was also a 10-15% decrease on spring produce, pricewise. During the spring months no artificial coloring was needed in the butter. This came in a bottle. called Dandelion Butter Coloring. The co-op bought it by the gallon.

Other things that had to be dealt with concerning this product, were the people who put the cream can under the spout on the separator, and ran the warm cream on top of the cold cream. This caused the cream to cake in the can. So stirrers would have to be purchased and sent out to the farms with instructions to use them. Other problems with this product, had to do with rodents, insects and various animals. Cheesecloth folded several times and a heavy rubber band to hold the cloth over the open can tops were sent out to the producers. The handwriting was on the wall in the form of the "milk man" for this business. Farmers could sell their milk at the farm for \$3.25 per hundred weight. Their "Base" was taken during the summer (dry) months when it was lowest all surplus over this they received \$1.25 per hundred. It also meant they had no skim milk to feed calves pigs, chickens, cats or dogs."

The depression years brought an end to the co-op. Cream was then sold to such places as the "Artic Dairy" as well as others. During its years in business, "Linden Butter" was sold in many places. A great deal of the sweet unsalted butter went to the Jewish trade in New York, and Conner's ice cream used it too. Others did too. The operation of this business closed in 1948-49. Later the brand name and such supplies as were left were sold to a man from Hadley, MI. Linden Butter was still available for purchase in the 1980's.





Chapter members (from left) are Barb Maas, Nancy Dulin, Karen Breasbois, Nancy Wallace, Kate Nickels and Marian Seguin. Members not pictured are as follows: Shelley Alexander, Marguerite Plumb and Cindy Shane.

Local Questers group receives award

■ Award given for raising awareness of Linden Mills Historical Mill and Museum

The Shiawassee Mills #420 Questers Chapter recently received an award at the Annual Spring Michigan Questers meeting in Lansing. The award was presented to the chapter by the Michigan Questers president, Judith Coelby, and 2nd Vice president, Pamela Yokey.

The award stated the following:

"Michigan Organization of the Questers 'Educational Long Range Service Award' was presented to the Shiawassee Mills #420. In recognition of their ongoing community project in cooperation with the Linden Historical Society to increase awareness and visitation at the Linden Mills Historical Mill and Museum.

"Their contribution included acting as docents and providing program-

ming for 2nd grader visits. They helped with a visit from Santa, River Roast, Memorial Day, Back to the Bricks and Holiday Happenings. In addition, they helped with exhibit changes, and cleaning the museum. With their assistance visitation increased from approximately 300 in previous years to 1,700 persons in 2022. The members contributed 587 hours to this project.

"The chapter also provided a fundraiser for the Restoration and Preservation of the Mill in October of 2022 also."

Karen Breasbois, president of the chapter, said, "We are very proud of our small group of nine members. However, we would love to expand our membership of the Shiawassee Mills #420 chapter."

If interested in joining the group, contact Breasbois at (864) 993-1541.



Please remember to wear your name tags to our meetings and especially when serving as a volunteer in the museum.

SAVE THE DATE !!!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023
SPRING MEADOWS COUNTRY CLUB
5:30 P.M.
DETAILS TO FOLLOW

In Loving Memory

Robert William (Bob) Cole
1936-2023

Robert "Bob"

William Cole, the father of LMHS Member Beth (Cole) Carr, was the youngest born to H. Delbert and Nina (Clark) Cole August 5, 1936. He grew up on the banks of the Shiawassee River in



Argentine. Robert hated school, he hid the first day of kindergarten but couldn't the 2nd when he laid in the hallway crying. He should have graduated from Linden in 1954 but when he had to go to Gaines, he stopped going. Bob was self employed for his work life, he wheeled and dealt, he also started out installing septic tanks, but went into cleaning them, which Bob Cole III is still doing. Bob married *Janet Groleau Miller*, November 25, 1955. They made their home in Byron. He is survived by his wife, Janet; children, Robert Jr. (Cheryl), Lucinda (Ed) Chapko, Rodney and Bethany (Mike) Carr; grandchildren, Robert III (Ashley) Cole, Adam Fred (Starrleen) Cole, Elliot Kastner, Rebecca (Richard) Clark, Joshua (Nicole) Chapko, Matthew (Rachel) Chapko, Abigail & Johanna Carr; 16 great grandchildren; sister, Margaret Drake; many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Donald; sister, Mary Bidelman; granddaughter, Nina Cole Kastner.

Alpine
Marketplace

SAVE YOUR ALPINE RECEIPTS

Help raise funds for upkeep and improvements to your museum.

2023 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

May 9 Phil Naud Civilian Conservation Corps



With an executive order on April 5, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This was part of his New Deal legislation, combating high unemployment during the Great Depression by putting hundreds of thousands of young men to work on environmental conservation projects. Many of these projects are still in existence. This program was the beginning of Michigan's State Parks.

June 13 Nancy Wallace Pewabic Pottery



Our very own **Nancy Wallace** gave an informative and very interesting presentation on Pewabic Pottery. Founded in 1903 by *Mary Chase Perry (Stratton)*, Pewabic is one of the oldest continually operating potteries in the United States. Working out of its National Historic Landmark studio on Detroit's east side, it presents a tradition of hand-craftsmanship that has enriched lives for years. Nancy displayed part of her personal collection.

July 11 Partick Ross Longway Planetarium



Mr. Patrick Ross, the Manager at Flint's Longway Planetarium, discussed searching the ruins of ancient structures for insights into how civilizations integrated astronomy into their architecture. From the Southwest U.S. to the jungles of Mexico, we learned about the Ancestral Puebloan and Mesoamerican astronomy by using state of the art LiDAR mapping and imaging. Prior to his current position, Ross acted as the Planetarium and Observatory Manager and Instructor at Texas A&M University.

COMING UP

August 8 Show & Tell and Ice Cream Social. Linden Mills Historical Society members can enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship at our annual Show and Tell & Ice Cream Social. Door prizes and prize for most unusual item brought for show and tell.

September 12 Where do the medicines in your cabinet come from? - Pam Howd - Linden Mills Historical Society member Pam Howd, who currently works with environmental education and the intern program for the State of Michigan, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, will give an informative presentation providing information on common medicines and their plant origins.

October 10 Custom Ukulele Builder - Dave Talsma Dave is among an elite few being regarded as top custom ukulele builders in the United States. Though his waiting list is long, never has anyone claimed it was not worth the wait. Dave has designed and built custom ukuleles for people around the world, including 2 he built for Warren Buffett. A hobby that started 25 years ago has evolved into a product that is in great demand world wide.

November 14 Sloan Museum of Discovery - Geoff Woodcox, Curator of Collections. The Sloan Museum in the Flint Cultural Center opened to the public July 16, 2022, as a totally re-imagined, re-built Sloan Museum of Discovery with four all-new interactive galleries. Preserving more than 150 years of Flint and Genesee County history has led to a very diverse collection of artifacts. Collections staff works hard to preserve our area's rich history, from automobiles to clothing, furniture and photographs.

December 13 Annual Christmas Dinner - Spring Meadows Country Club

MUSEUM NEWS

Spring Cleaning Day

May 1, 2023 was our annual Spring Cleaning Day. Thank you to the following volunteers who worked on giving the museum a good deep cleaning including washing of the floors, stairs and windows.

*Karen Breasbois
Pat Burgess
Mary Finney
Paul Hogan
Peggy Judson
Barb Maas
Pete Maas
Cindy Shane
Sheliah Shepard
Jim Thompson
Nancy Wallace*



Jim works on Military display.

Most of the winter was dedicated to improvements to the top floor. The school room, Military display, vintage cameras display and children's corner were amongst the existing exhibits getting a complete make-over. The Linden Leader section was added along with a new storage area, Farm implements, and logging display are our new exhibits for 2023.

WINTER PROJECTS



The large sleigh which has been occupying the top floor of the museum for the last 19 years was dismantled this past winter to allow more room to display other exhibits and create a more efficient pathway for our visitors to navigate and see the exhibits. Originally the logging sleigh used in the U.P., worked its way to Linden via Holly and was owned by the *Townsend family* who resided on Tickner Street on the Mill Pond. In addition, the early 1900's sulky, which also was dismantled and along with the sleigh is now in the new storage space.



Hanging the Howd Family light are from l to r: Pete Maas, Nancy Wallace, Lucas Wiles, Jim Thompson & Joe Burgess.



LMHS Members from L to R are Joe Burgess, Jim Thompson and Pete Maas



One of two new display cases built by Founding Member Keith Wenger. L to r Aaron and Lucas Wiles, Jim Thompson and Sandi Wenger (Keith's 2nd wife)



Cindy Shane puts finishing touches on the popular Native American display.

MUSEUM TAKES ON A NEW LOOK



Linden's Second Graders Visit Museum

The second graders from Linden Elementary and Hyatt Elementary kicked off the 2023 Linden Mills Museum tours with their annual visit on May 23 and 24. For over 25 years these young curious youngsters have taken part in this educational and fun excursion to downtown. This year they visited City Hall, the police and fire stations, some local businesses and all three levels of the Historic Linden Mill building. A total of 205 visitors (170 students and 35 teachers and chaperones). A special thank you to all the docents who did a fantastic job, and a very special thanks to Barb Maas for coordinating the event.



Linden Elementary, May 23. Left to right: Jim Thompson, Joe Burgess, Karen Breasbois, Jill Maxwell, Anna Allison, Nancy Dulin, Pat Burgess, Amanda Whitney



Hyatt Elementary, May 24, Left to right: Jim Thompson, Karen Breasbois, Joe Burgess, Maggie Yerman, Pete Maas, Mary Finney, Cheryl Most, Sheliah Shepard

