Membership

The purpose of the historical society is to bring together those people interested in history, especially in the history of our community.

Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and helps us better to appreciate our American Heritage.

The society’s major function is to discover and collect any material which may help to establish and illustrate the history of the county and state with objects, pictures, news events and activities of the past.

The Breckenridge-Wheeler Area Historical Society Inc.

Established 1995

404 E. Saginaw St.
P O Box 52
Breckenridge, MI 48615

Telephone: 989-842-1241

Yearly Memberships:
$20.00 Per Individual,
$30.00 for family

Plank Road Museum

This museum is named after the Saginaw and Gratiot County State Road, built in 1869 out of Saginaw. This building is the first church built in Breckenridge in 1882 and was purchased by the society in 1997 and had its ribbon cutting on May 17, 1998. It contains many artifacts from the lumbering and early agriculture eras to businesses, wars, and other. It also houses a Research Library containing early history on Michigan, Gratiot County, Wheeler township and the Villages of Breckenridge and Wheeler. It is open to the public from May to September. Special tours may be arranged.
The Drake Memorial House is located at the corner of Fourth St. and East Saginaw St., (M-46). It was constructed in 1906 and was the home of Dr. Wilkie Drake and his wife, Rhoda Waggoner Drake. It is a two-story structure with a Michigan basement and was considered modern in its day as it had a coal-burning furnace rather than a fireplace. It has clapboard siding, decorative fretwork on the gables and a cupola extending upward from the open porch which contains a closet shared by the upstairs bedrooms.

The main floor has a parlor, sitting room, dining room, two bedrooms, kitchen and pantry. The main rooms have their original hardwood maple floor. It has an attached wood shed and an enclosed porch which are both accessible from the kitchen.

The upper floor has an attic, an open room at the top of the stairs and two bedrooms.

Behind the house are the gardens which are being restored using Rhoda’s diaries as a guide. There is a goldfish pond in the corner of the garden and in the side yard is a summer house where Dr. Drake liked to sit and read. There is also a gazebo where their daughter Margaret used to sell lemonade to passersby.

Beyond the gardens are a carriage barn and a smaller building called the Memory house which now houses Dr. Drake’s medical books and equipment.

The home received and dedicated a State of Michigan Historical Marker for historic sites at a dedication.

The original furnishings of the Drake family are on display in each of the 9 rooms. The mission of the Drake Memorial House museum is to be a teaching tool to show what life was like at the turn of the century in a country doctor’s home.