



Canton Historical Society

LINKING THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

PO Box 87362
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cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org

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Canton Historical Society
(Michigan)

MUSEUM HOURS

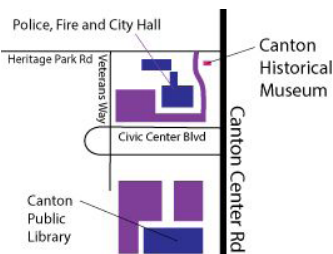
CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

REOPENING SOON!



VISIT THE MUSEUM

1022 Canton Center Rd.
Canton, MI 48188



The Canton Historical Society would like to thank all of the dedicated members who continue to show interest in the museum's education and preservation efforts. We appreciate your ongoing support!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Mabie *President*
Bill Tesen *Vice President*
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CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Est. 1834

Fall 2024 · Edition CXXII

Canton, Michigan

THE JOHN C. LASKO ESTATE

by Kimberly Mabie

I have passed by the large, well-kept estate the on the west side of Canton Center Road just south of Palmer Road many times throughout my thirty-six years residing in Canton. It has intrigued me, as it probably has for many of our readers too. The original house was built by the Carleton family in 1896, but the site is better known as the "Haggerty House" due to its history as the former residence of John S. Haggerty, an influential businessman and political figure in the early 20th century. When Haggerty purchased the farm in 1916, the original house was moved. The current structures were built between 1923-1924. Haggerty was a proponent of paved roads especially as the automotive industry surpassed the horse and buggy days. He served as a Wayne County Road Commissioner and later as Michigan's Secretary of State. After Haggerty's death, the house passed to family members and was later sold.



John C. Lasko, one of four children of Romanian immigrants, was born in 1920 and grew up on the east side of Canton Center Road, just across from the Haggerty House. Haggerty had never married, but over the years, he fostered and adopted many children. John could observe all the comings and goings at the grand home including the well-heeled visitors that included Henry Ford and Alexander Groesbeck, among other well-known local figures. It was a life unlike his own where the future was always uncertain. However, even as a child, he firmly stated his determination to eventually purchase and own the sprawling estate across the road that embodied a life of influence and affluence. (continued on page 3)

QUILTER'S CORNER

by Kimberly Mabie



The Bartlett-Travis House and the Pole Barn Farm Museum are currently closed for tours and visits until Canton Township completes construction at Preservation Park. In the meantime, we would like to introduce you to some items that will be on display this coming spring.

The BT House has a long history of owners that had a dedicated sewing room. In that spirit, I will offer you a brief glimpse at some of the items in our collection that are from the quilting room, one pattern at a time. (continued on page 6)

CHS GUEST LECTURES AT THE CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Canton Historical Society is proud to announce our new initiative, in collaboration with the Canton Public Library, to present our Guest Lecture Series. Join us at the Canton Public Library lively presentations on local and regional history topics by guest speakers from the Huron Clinton Metroparks (<https://www.metroparks.com/>) and the Wayne Historical Museum (<https://cityofwayne.com/323/Wayne-Historical-Museum>). Come and share the history of our community and enjoy some baked goods too! There is no fee to attend.



**The Canton Historical Society
presents**

THE REAL HISTORY OF ELOISE ASYLUM

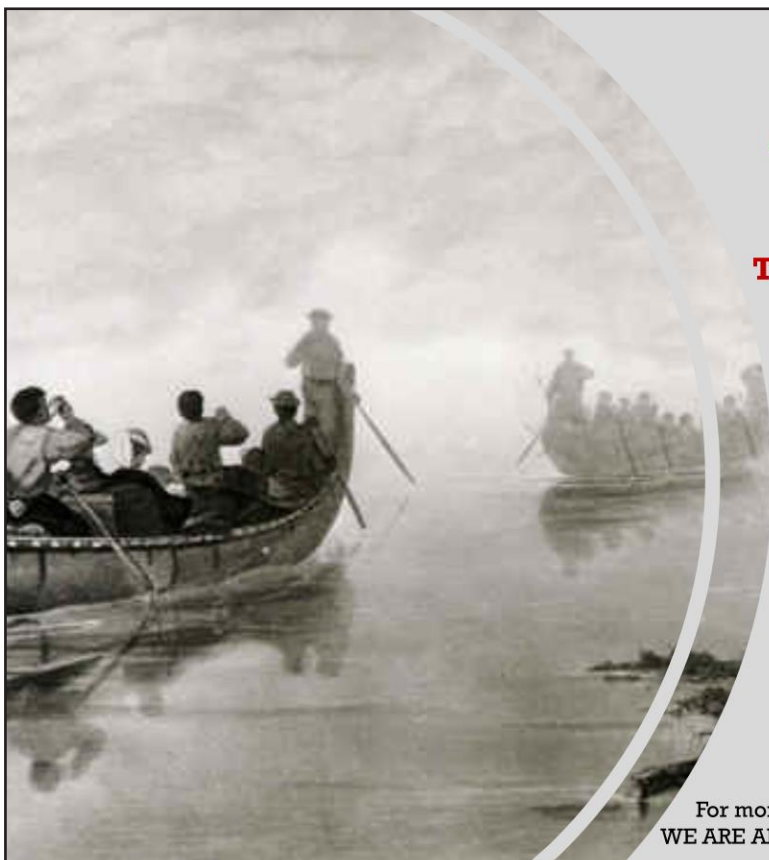
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024 7:00-8:15 PM
AT THE CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Tyler Moll, City of Wayne Historical Museum Director, will explore the 140-year history of Eloise, the Wayne County Poorhouse and Asylum from the early years in Detroit, the heydays of the institution when over 10,000 people lived there, and the final closure of the institution in 1979.

The Canton Historical Society is proud to host this event in collaboration with the Canton Public Library. Come and share the history of our community and enjoy some baked goods too!

There is no fee to attend.

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**The Canton Historical Society
presents**

THE FRENCH & THE FUR TRADE IN THE 18TH CENTURY GREAT LAKES REGION

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 7:00-8:15 PM
AT THE CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Charlie Shelton, Community Outreach Interpreter from the Huron Clinton Metroparks, will explore the fur trade during the French period of Great Lakes History and find out what life was like and how the people, the furs, and the culture shaped Southeast Michigan history in the 1750's.

The Canton Historical Society is proud to host this event in collaboration with the Canton Public Library. Come and share the history of our community and enjoy some baked goods too!

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THE JOHN C. LASKO ESTATE (CONT FROM PAGE 1)

John was only able to complete school through the 6th grade before joining the workforce. He learned that hard work would bring reward, and he dedicated himself to this ethic. He started as an employee at a tool and die shop just south of Canton on Van Born Road and eventually purchased it from the owner in 1947. Under his leadership, Republic Die and Tool went on to become America's largest, independent tool and die maker. During that time, John expanded the business site and embraced progress using computer-aided design and machinery. As impressive as his business accomplishments are, nothing compares to the timeless work of art he produced in renovation and design of the estate's buildings after purchasing the former Haggerty House and property in the early 1960's. He had a brilliant eye for architecture and design and dedicated his life to perfecting every detail in the house when he wasn't embarking on world travel adventures. After seeing this incredible masterpiece myself, I look forward to describing its transformation and grandeur to our readers in future CHS newsletters.

The property is private and is not open to the public. Recently, the Canton Historical Society was invited to a closed tour of the property. The John Lasko Memorial Foundation's purpose is to allow non-profits 501 c3 organizations to use the space for meetings and provide tours. We will keep our members apprised of opportunities to visit the estate as they become available.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR RECENT DONATIONS!

Alexandra Briseno donated a sesquicentennial coin and button.

Joan Rayford donated a corset that had been in her family since the 1920s.

Kim Mabie donated a Canton High School blanket from when the mascot was the Chiefs.

Joshua Ketchel-Buschell of **U Break I Fix** donated several electronics for the exhibit including VCRs and a phone.

Darren Sylvester donated several items from the Cady Boyer Barn.

Janet Brady donated a 1903 sewing machine.

Janice Henke donated a wall phone for the exhibit.

Gordon Campbell donated a wooden toy truck and a set of Takito salt and pepper shakers.

Joyce Gotts Gyde donated several items related to farming or for the kitchen.

Janet Topolsky donated an archive of newsletters from the Royal Holiday Mobile Home Park newsletter Newsmobile.

Tom Yack donated a poster and items from former archery tournaments in Canton as well as signed documents and photographs of former presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush taken when they visited Canton Township.

Shelley Hansen donated several boxes of books and photo albums.

FROM THE CHS PRESIDENT

I hope this fall finds all our members happy and healthy. Volunteers continue to work hard to provide you with culturally rich and exciting experiences as well as fun, social events. Youth activities were well attended and enjoyed by many future members this past summer. They enjoyed painting with nature, paper airplane making during Thunder Over Michigan, and cranking the handle on our c.1900 corn shelling machine. Bartlett-Travis House was open for tours along with our pole barn Farm Museum on Sundays.

Our museum season at the Preservation Park sites was cut short by construction on the property but we hope to reopen as soon as possible. In response, we are extending our museum season at the Canton Center School Museum, and we have set up a temporary office there to continue our work. Until we can return to Bartlett-Travis House, our research capabilities will be limited due to a lack of wifi access. Yet opportunities to learn about our local history continue at our guest lecture series to be held at the library in September, October, and November. We hope to see you there or at one of our other events planned for the remainder of the year.

Kimberly Mabie

PAUL KIDDI'S WOODCUT

By Kathy Martin

This interesting artwork is a woodcut relief created in 1984 by Paul Kiddi. It is easy to assume it depicts Canton Center School with its simple rectangular brick building, single front entrance, windows on each side of the door, and a steep roof with a cupola. The engraving also states in large letters, "CANTON TOWNSHIP" leading the viewer to think about the building closest to the current township hall. However, on closer inspection of the structure in the carving you can see that the cupola is quite tall, the windows are gothic in shape, and, most telling, there is a cemetery to the left of the building. This could only mean that the woodcut is a portrayal of the Canton Methodist Church on Ridge Road, just south of Cherry Hill Road. The dates on Mr. Kiddi's woodcut represent the 150 years since Canton's founding when it was presented at the Canton Township Municipal Hall on October 23, 1984. It provides a unique representation of Canton's past and prompts a deeper discussion about Canton's existing historical buildings.

It is easy to see how the confusion over which building the carving represents occurred because there are four early buildings in the Township that were built in a similar style. These include the Methodist Church, Canton Center School, Sheldon School, and Cherry Hill School.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1836 on property that was owned by Thomas Crandell of Canton. Although a plaque on the present building says it was erected in 1884, the building was dedicated on February 9, 1882, according to former long-time resident, Dorothy West. It is this building that Mr. Kiddi used as the inspiration for his beautiful artistry. Few would mistake Cherry Hill School, which is near the Methodist Church, because it looks much different today. It was originally a log cabin built in 1834 but was replaced in 1876 by red brick structure of a similar style until 1942 when Henry Ford updated the building for the Edison Institute and the exterior red brick was covered giving it a unique white exterior that sets it apart from the other buildings.



The original Canton Center School building was constructed of wood and then, according to public records, it was converted to a red brick building in 1884. However, during repairs and removal of plaster in 1982, Canton Historical Society member, Bill Tesen, found an engraved brick in the upper west side wall bearing the date October 30, 1883.

Sheldon School, on Michigan Avenue, is more easily identified by the rectangular transom window above the front door while all the other buildings have a half-moon window over the entrance door. Similarly built one-room schools and small churches were built in this style throughout the mid-west. Most notably for Canton is that each of these three one-room schools have been relocated over the years and do not sit on their original site. However, the Methodist Church endures in its original location and therefore provides the "give-away" detail in Mr. Kiddi's plaque, the Cherry Hill Cemetery that remains to the north of the school.

SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Canton Historical Society, Canton Township's only nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing and preserving local history, is seeking volunteer leaders to join its dynamic board of directors.

We are an all-volunteer, working board. Therefore, board members are actively involved in organizational governance and provide hands-on assistance with organizational tasks. Board members are expected to attend at least ten of the monthly board meetings, join the Canton Historical Society and keep dues current, chair at least one board committee, assist with fundraising and event efforts, serve as a museum docent as needed, and manage at least three donor or community partner relationships.

Based on our recent review of our current board members' skills and experience we are seeking new board members who will help broaden our abilities. For this reason, we encourage applications from those with writing, technology, marketing, and fundraising skills as well as those with an interest in local history.

The Nominating Committee is accepting applications until November 1, 2024, and those interested can request an application by email at info@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We hope to see you at any of our upcoming events or lectures!

The Canton Historical Society presents

Ghost Stories!

Thursday, October 24

7:00-8:30 PM

*Canton Public Library
Community Room*

The Canton Historical Society is proud to host this event in collaboration with the Canton Public Library. We will feature guest readers and storytellers to present spooky stories for teens and adults. This has been one of our longest running events and we look forward to sharing these stories with you and enjoying some fall treats. There is no fee to attend.



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CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
presents

GAME NIGHT AT CHERRY HILL SCHOOL

Located at 50440 Cherry Hill Rd, Canton, MI

Wednesday, November 13
5:00-8:00 PM

- Gather for fun conversation with friends old and new!
- Join in a friendly game of dice, cards and board games!
- A great night out to chase away the gloom of winter!

- Only \$5 per person/ pay at the door.
- Children 8 and under get in free with paying adult.
- Light refreshments will be available for purchase.



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QUILTER'S CORNER (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)



8-POINTED STAR

Quilts have been keeping people warm and cozy on cold nights for centuries. Over time, many different quilt patterns emerged. One of them is the 8-Pointed Star Quilt. Whether as a religious or navigational symbol, stars are among the most common motifs used on quilts dating back to at least to the early 1800's. This quilt features eight spinning diamond pieces to create a star. The pattern is also known by a variety of names including LeMoyne Star, Puritan Star, and Lemon Star. A single, large radiating star in the center of a full quilt front is often called the Star of Bethlehem or Blazing Star.

Left: This 8-Pointed Star quilt, donated by Flora Gerst Thorman (1913-1999) of Plymouth & Canton, was completed around 1924. It is currently on display in Ella Travis Rowe's former sewing room in the Bartlett-Travis House. Be sure to see it in person when tours resume after construction.

DRESDEN PLATE

For those that make quilts, the practice of deliberately sewing a mistake somewhere in a quilt is often still observed. It is believed to reflect the quilter's faith in God; for only God can make a perfect thing. One popular quilt pattern was the Petal Dresden Plate Quilt. This quilt pattern was allegedly inspired by the design of porcelain plates made in Dresden, Germany in the 1920's & 1930's however, several quilts with this pattern are known to exist from the late 1800's. The pattern was also called Aster because it resembled the flower of the same name. Colorful fabric pieces were laid out in a flower-type design with petals placed around a circular center that would vary in size depending upon the quilter's preference, pattern, or available material. The ends of the petals could be pointed, rounded, or curved to create a circle. Then the pattern was applied to a fabric square. For those interested in the mathematics of quilting, one blade is 18° therefore, 20 petal blades are needed to make one complete circle of 360° for each quilt square.



Right: This Dresden Plate quilt top is attributed to "Grandma" Fowler of Canton and was unfinished when received. It was quilted and bound by Canton Historical Society volunteers. It is currently on display in Ella Travis Rowe's former sewing room in the Bartlett-Travis House. Be sure to see it in person on your next tour at Preservation Park.



DOUBLE WEDDING RING

Many young brides remember this quilt as the Double Wedding Ring pattern. The earliest quilts with this pattern in the Quilt Index Project Database are from the mid-1800's. It also is known by a variety of different names including Pincushion, Rainbow, Around the World, Pickle Dish, Coiled Rattlesnake, Endless Chain, King Tut, and Friendship Knot. The pattern was first published for quilters in the 1920's when feed sacks were a popular source of fabric. This was often presented as a gift from mother to daughter as part of a marriage dowry.

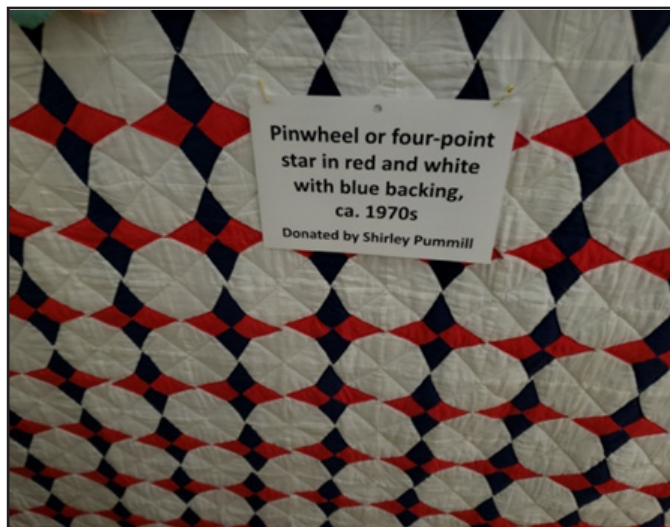
Left: This quilt presented by the Canton Historical Society is a beautiful example of the Double Wedding Ring pattern. It was completed around the 1930's using bold fabric colors and has scalloped edges. Donated by member Liz Carlson, it was made by her great aunt, Molly Belcher.



SIGNATURE QUILT

Marked by family or organization member signatures, it was a way to comfort the receiver or enshrine one's name in history. Signature quilts had the names of those that assisted in making the quilt, donated towards the cost of making the quilt, or purchased a spot for their name, to be embroidered or signed using permanent ink. They gained popularity in the 19th century as a comforting reminder for those moving to the American west. They remained popular in the early 20th century as a fundraising tool when makers collected small sums for each person that signed a quilt block with funds benefiting a church or charity. They continue to be popular items for bridal or baby showers and often include personalized messages to the recipient.

CHS is fortunate to present two quilts of this type. The first (left) is a 2½ inch square pattern made by Sheldon Methodist Church members around 1940. Donated by Helen Morton Crichton, it has 67 names of residents, including several from the Morton Family. The second (right) is a beautiful variant of a Fan Quilt made by members of the Denton Methodist Church around 1935. It was donated by former member Dorothy West and has a whopping 335 signatures.



FOUR-POINTED STAR

This Four-Pointed Star quilt stands out against its negative space octagonal background. Originally known as Periwinkle, it gained popularity again in the 1930's when the Chicago Tribune printed a long running column produced by Nancy Cabot, a pseudonym. With the American public enthralled with far-East styles at the time, traditional patterned quilts were given a slight alteration along with new "exotic" and "oriental" names. This one was renamed Oriental Star and later called Star of the Orient.

You can see this quilt at Bartlett-Travis House. Donated by Shirley Pummill, it was completed in the 1970s. It is one of the newer quilts on display in our collection and is completed in the red, white, and blue colors that were popular around the United States bicentennial in 1976.

GUEST LECTURE PRESENTATION

In September CHS hosted guest lecturer Charlie Shelton (left) from the Huron-Clinton Metroparks presented on the Indigenous Michigan People of the Three Fires. *Right:* CHS member Mary Cayton talks



with Charlie's partner Jodi Brandon of Awishinaabe Consulting. Thank you to all who attended this lecture and we hope to see you at future guest lectures!
(see page 2 for more events)



BECOME A CHS DONOR!

Your donations can help the work of the Canton Historical Society to grow. We rely on both artifact and monetary donations to continue our work documenting and sharing the rich history of our community!

Donor Levels

The Cherry Hill: \$1000-\$500

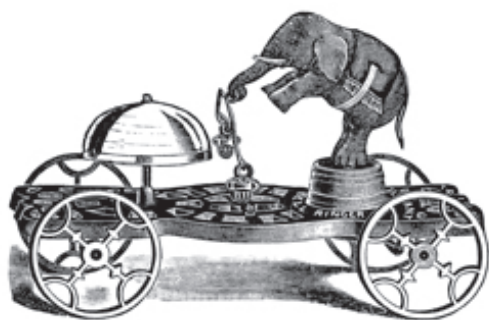
The Sheldon: \$499-\$250

The Denton: \$249-\$100

For monetary donations, please email info@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org or send to P.O. Box 87362, Canton MI 48187.

For history (object) donations, please contact martinrws@gmail.com.

Thank you!



Thank you to
the newest
sponsor of the
Canton
Historical
Society:

Mayflower
TOWING

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!



Check out upcoming events, historical articles, board information, and much more by scanning the QR code or visiting us at:

cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org

Ready to join the Canton Historical Society?

We'd love to have you!

Please indicate the level of membership desired and send in this form with payment.

☐ Individual - \$15

☐ Family - \$18

☐ Student - \$5

☐ Patron - \$50

☐ Business - \$75

☐ Sponsor - \$200

☐ Donation - \$_____

☐ Renewal - \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Yes, I am interested in volunteering with the Canton Historical Society.
Please contact me about upcoming/ongoing opportunities.

Please mail completed form to: Canton Historical Society, PO Box 87362, Canton MI 48187