



Canton Historical Society

LINKING THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

PO Box 87362  
Canton, MI 48187  
734-391-9260

cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org  
info@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org



Canton Historical Society  
(Michigan)

### MUSEUM HOURS

through October 18, 2025

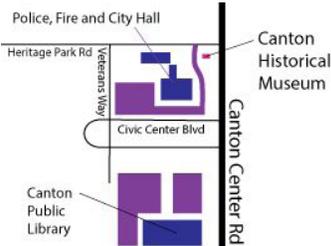
Select Tuesdays  
4 - 7 pm

Select Saturdays  
11 am - 2 pm

Hours subject to change. Please  
call ahead at 734-397-0088 to  
confirm the museum is open.

### 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*  
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# CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Est. 1834

Summer 2025 · Edition CXXIV

Canton, Michigan

## WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION MAKES ITS MARK ON HISTORY



In 1883, the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was less than a decade old, had recently replaced their founding leader, and Detroit was hosting their national convention. That same year, Michigan's WCTU Annual Meeting was held in Adrian. Both sites were within a day's travel from Canton Township which certainly increased attendance of local women. The WCTU's original focus was on the prohibition of alcohol, yet they also engaged in other initiatives such as eliminating tobacco, prostitution, indecency, domestic violence, and child labor, while promoting hereditary health, hygiene, prison reform, kindergartens, and Americanization. As a Christian organization they promoted their religious and moral beliefs through community education initiatives and literature. They expressed compassion for those in crisis yet were quick to denounce practices which they disapproved of with a zeal for rhetoric. With the motto, "*Do Everything*", their focus expanded to influence a broad range of social reform ideas that were controversial both then and now. The timing of their prohibitionist activities coincided with the suffragette movement to provide women the right to vote. These organizations provided women greater opportunities for freedom and influence outside of the home. It took courage for a woman to stand up for her beliefs, risking disapproval from her family, church, and community, yet several women from Canton and surrounding communities were early members of the WCTU.

### LOCAL WOMEN ACT

**Elizabeth Charlotte Fairman Root** was born in the newly formed Canton Township in 1835. After marrying Henry R. Root in 1857 they made their home in Plymouth and raised three sons. In May of 1883, at age 49, she attended the Michigan State Woman's Christian Temperance Union 10th Annual Convention as a member of the First District. This included a substantial portion of Wayne County including Canton, Denton, Cherry Hill, and Plymouth. In 1891, she served as the superintendent of the Plymouth Union and the 1st Michigan District Superintendent of Lumberman, tasked providing comfort and spiritual guidance to the lumberjacks in our region. *(continued on page 2)*

## MAKE YOUR MARK ON CANTON HISTORY

Puzzle pieces are now available at the CHS Farmers Market table, Canton Historical Museum and at Bartlett-Travis House tours for this unique fundraiser! To celebrate our country's 250th birthday in 2026, you can help to piece together a new display for CHS. Each puzzle piece is available for a \$1 donation. You may sign, print, or initial your name on the back side of the puzzle piece to be on display. The completed puzzle will be displayed in a double-sided acrylic frame next year in celebration of the diversity and beauty of our great nation.



(cont. from page 1) The president of the Plymouth Union in 1883 was **Jennie Gillespie Moreland Voorhies**. She was born in Canton in 1841. That year, the WCTU held its National Convention in Detroit. Her commitment to the WCTU grew alongside the organization's popularity. By 1891, the WCTU had grown considerably and sought to increase their influence too. Through the press and literature, they promoted their temperance agenda, and the state organization reported that the Plymouth union had done "good work" in that respect. Jennie continued to serve as a vice-president of the Plymouth union and oversaw the committee tasked with persuading the lumbermen and miners of the area to avoid the vice of drinking. It was reported that \$16 was raised and that one package of literature was distributed. Over the years she would serve in more leadership roles including Michigan's WCTU 1st District President, State WCTU Vice-president, State WCTU Treasurer, Committee Supervisor, and a delegate to several national meetings. She was remembered by her son, Paul, as sending him out to distribute leaflets for the organization. He was one of the few boys that did not ditch them in the plank sidewalk. As an adult, he went on to serve as the assistant prosecuting attorney for Wayne County from 1912-1918, the State of Michigan prosecuting attorney from 1921-1924, and the Attorney General of Michigan from 1931-1932.

**Jennie Wiles**, daughter of James Wiles and Anna Jane McKinstry, was born in Canton in 1857. She first appears in WCTU literature in 1891. In 1898, she married Walter Wright of Albion, Michigan, and they divorced in 1927. WCTU programs show that she served as the 1st Michigan District president of the Cherry Hill Union in 1891 then as Canton Union president in 1896 and 1897. Undoubtedly, she held other positions as she continued to volunteer throughout her years with the organization.

Also joining their ranks in 1891 was **Elizabeth Murray Safford**, who was born in Canton Township in 1839 and educated at Ypsilanti Normal School, now known as Eastern Michigan University. Elizabeth Safford was married in 1863 to Robert Crawford Safford, also a native of Canton. They moved to Plymouth Township where they raised their two children. When she was 52 years old when the 1891 Michigan WCTU annual convention was held in Grand Rapids. According to their Annual Report, there were 1,141 members in District 1 at that time. Among the communities represented were Cherry Hill, Canton Center, Denton, and Plymouth resulting in total dues of \$26.20 paid. Additionally, funds were raised for the Nebraska campaign, Grand Rapids Home and Hospital, and the Temperance Temple in Chicago. She lived to be 92 years old.

**Dora Lyndon Corwin Cole** was born in 1853 in Canton. She was first married to Frank Adelbert Corwin in 1874, gave birth to a son in 1878 and a daughter in 1881 before being widowed in 1884. Then in 1889, she married Fred

A. Cole; they had one daughter and divorced in 1908. In 1896, she served as the recording secretary for the Canton Center Union.

**Margaret Rebecca Cramer Hanford** was born in 1836 in New York State and married Henry O. Hanford in 1866. She was his second wife. They owned a farm immediately north of Hanford Road on both the east and west side of Ridge Road in Canton where they raised three children from his first marriage and then four more from their own. A portion of their property was donated for a rural one-room schoolhouse. The school was later razed but in 1891, Margaret was serving as the president of the Canton Center Union and then president of the Cherry Hill Union in 1896.

**Louise A. Platts Artley** was born in 1840 in Prussia. At age 19, she married William Artley, who was a farmer in Canton. She was the mother of one daughter, Anna Artley Howsen, born in 1861. She served as the 1st District Superintendent of Sunday School Work for the Canton Union in 1896 and 1897. She died shortly afterwards in 1898 at age 58, and her dedication to the organization is memorialized on the couple's headstone in Sheldon Cemetery with



the inscription "IN GOD WE TRUST W.C.T.U."

*Louisa A. Platts Artley and William Artley c. 1875 photo courtesy Linda Artley Theriault. Grave photo courtesy TomWebber1955 on Ancestry.com*

For more information about the Women's Christian Temperance Union see these resources:

*African American Women in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union: Document-based question, (Binghamton, NY: State University of New York at Binghamton, 2004).*

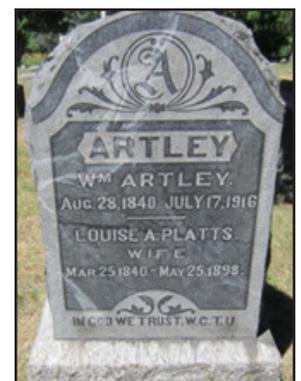
*Blocker, Jack S. "Separate Paths: Suffragists and the Women's Temperance Crusade." Signs, vol. 10, no. 3, 1985, pp. 460-76. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3174261>. Accessed 28 May 2025.*

*Sklar, Kathryn Kish. Temperance & Suffrage, © 2025 Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), [www.pbs.org/kenburns/not-for-ourselves-alone/temperance-suffrage](http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/not-for-ourselves-alone/temperance-suffrage). Accessed 28 May 2025.*

*Stevenson, Katharine Lent. A brief history of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union: outline course of study for local unions. Evanston, Ill.: The Union Signal, 1907. Pdf. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <[www.loc.gov/item/07011008/](http://www.loc.gov/item/07011008/)>.*

*Wagner, Ella, "'The Saloon Is Their Palace': Race, Immigration, and Politics in the Woman's Christian*

*Temperance Union, 1874-1933" (2022). Dissertations. 3956. [https://ecommons.luc.edu/luc\\_diss/3956](https://ecommons.luc.edu/luc_diss/3956).*



# MEMBERS-ONLY LASKO-HAGGERTY ESTATE TOURS

The Canton Historical Society is happy to assist our members tour the **Lasko Estate**. Formerly known as the *Haggerty House*, on Canton Center Road south of Palmer, this exquisitely designed house and property are now available to visitors for the first time. Don't miss out on your chance to view this delightful masterpiece yourself. You must be a Canton Historical Society member in good standing to register. There is no fee for the tour. Please note that visitors must be aged 16+, tours include climbing stairs, and photography is not permitted inside the buildings. Space is limited so make your reservation today on our website at [www.cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org](http://www.cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org).



**Wednesday, July 16 from 10am-12pm**

**Tuesday, August 19 from 1pm-3pm**

## UPDATE: MURAL PORTRAYING CANTON'S HISTORY IS UNDERWAY!

Thanks to a grant from the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities Grants Program, a new mural will highlight the history of our community in the Pole Barn Farm Museum in Preservation Park. Muralist Gabbi Dolin has started painting in the barn. Plan to stop by and view this public art display when it is finished and find out more about Canton's history and culture.



## SOCIETY'S KALAMAZOO STOVE WAS A COVER MODEL



In 1935, the **Kalamazoo Stove Company**, based in Kalamazoo, Michigan, was a major player in the heating and cooking appliance industry. The company operated under the slogan: "*A Kalamazoo - Direct to You*", emphasizing its direct-to-consumer mail order sales which was a pioneering approach at the time. They manufactured stoves, furnaces, and heaters, and in 1935, the company was still actively using mail order and factory prices to reach consumers.

The Canton Historical Society's Kalamazoo Stove is now on display at the Bartlett-Travis House kitchen in Preservation Park. Ours is a bright, cheery green President model stove that was frequently depicted in many magazines and catalogs. Manufactured throughout the mid 1930's they were also available in gray, blue and tan. The typical purchase price for this model at the time was between \$82- \$89 including freight charges. Stop by to visit this beautiful artifact!





# Share Your Story

A Canton Historical Society and Canton Township Historical District Commission collaborative exhibit.

Join the Detroit Historical Society in partnership with the Wayne County Executive's Office to celebrate the illustrious heritage and communities of Wayne County. This project includes a series of six rotating history exhibitions featuring each of the 43 communities of Wayne County, that will be on display at the Guardian Building in Detroit from June 2025 through December 2026. This exciting project also includes a searchable public database that will chronicle the history of Wayne County and its neighborhoods.

Visit the Canton Township history display in Detroit's Guardian Building located at 500 Griswold Street starting September 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information on rotating exhibits from other Wayne County communities visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org).



## RETURNING THIS FALL: CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY GUEST LECTURE SERIES

The Canton Historical Society, in collaboration with the Canton Public Library, will present our second **Guest Lecture Series**. Join us at the Canton Public Library for lively presentations on local and regional history topics by engaging guest speakers with a passion for history. Come and share the history of our community. Our first lecture date is **Tuesday, September 16 at 7pm**. Check out our website at [cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org](http://cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org) for updated information on the series.

Visit us at the **Canton Farmers Market** Sundays July 13 and 20 from 9-11:30am at the Village Arts Factory at 50755 Cherry Hill Rd., and Sundays July 27, August 3, 10, 17 and 24 back at Preservation Park at 500 N. Ridge Rd. Stop by our table for information about membership, CHS merchandise, and local history books.

Youth activities will be offered on July 27 and August 24.

Market guests can enjoy live music, cooking demonstrations, and more.

For Cherry Hill Village parking information visit [www.cantonmi.gov/1384](http://www.cantonmi.gov/1384)



Thank you to our volunteers who manned the CHS table at Liberty Fest. We hope you stopped by to say hello!

# VISIT OUR HISTORICAL SITES



## Canton Historical Museum

Select dates from July to October on Tuesdays from 4-7pm and Saturdays from 11am-2pm. Call us at 734-391-9260 to confirm our open hours at least two days in advance of your scheduled visit.

## Pole Barn Farm Museum and Bartlett-Travis House

Preservation Park is set to re-open for the Farmers Market on Sunday, July 27. We will resume our Sunday farm museum open hours from 8:30am-12pm and house tours from 9:30-11:30am on Farmers Market Sundays as soon as possible.



## BROWSE OUR WEBSITE!

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

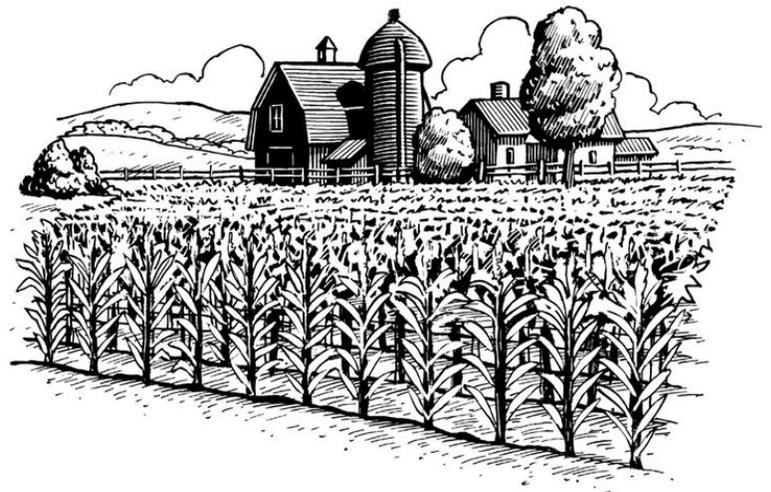
**[www.cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org](http://www.cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org)**



# DID YOU GROW UP IN CANTON?

If you were/are a longtime resident of Canton, we want to hear from you! What are your memories from the township? What was life like for you and your family?

Even if you no longer live locally, we still value your stories and memories! Email the society at [chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org](mailto:chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org) or call the museum at 734-391-9260 and leave a message. Someone will reach out to you to discuss your memories and you may even see your story appear in a future newsletter!



# ADD TO OUR COLLECTION

Over the decades the society archives has accumulated hundreds of photos that give us a glimpse into the history of Canton. We are always looking for anyone who has old photos of Canton to add to our collection. We accept photos of businesses, long gone buildings, homes, streets, events and people. If you do not wish to donate your original copy, we are always happy to scan a copy and return the original to you. These photos are a great resource for the archives as well as the community and family genealogist.

If you are willing to donate photos or a copy of them, please contact us at [chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org](mailto:chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org). Thank you for helping us to grow our archives!

# MEMORIALS

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of **Marie Florence Gentz**

Marie Florence Gentz died on April 14, 2025. Born in 1929, she was the wife of the late Robert, mother of Raymond and Steven, mother-in-law of Wendy, grandmother of Walter and Brittani and great-grandmother of Reagan.



Marie was a lifelong resident of Canton Township. She graduated from Plymouth High School in 1946. She was a member of the Canton Historical Society, the Canton Pioneers, and past member of the Canton Senior Advisory Council. She was a past member of the Canton Garden Club and was a docent at Matthaei Botanical Gardens for nine years.

After high school she was employed by the Kaiser-Frazer Auto Co. at Willow Run until the company went out of business. She later

was employed by the J.L. Hudson Co. at Westland Mall.

Marie enjoyed gardening, growing house plants, playing cards and participating in trivia contests. She was an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers and the University of Michigan Men's Basketball Team.

Memorial donations may be made to the Canton Historical Society or the Canton Public Library's "Wings of Wonder Garden."

Funeral services took place for Marie on Saturday, April 19, at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church then she was laid to rest at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

The Canton Historical Society honors Marie for her life-long dedication to our community.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools



LEARN. PREPARE. THRIVE.

TIM FREEMAN

734-693-7380

**SHINES HANDYMANS SERVICE**

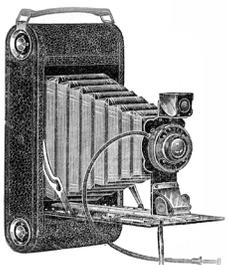
HANDYMAN

timfreeman205@yahoo.com



**DID YOU OR YOUR FAMILY GROW UP IN CANTON?  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

If you have memorabilia in any form, such as pictures, letters, journals, or artifact objects, we would love to hear about it! Our archives are always in need of more Canton-specific history so researchers in the future can learn from us and help preserve the township's history.



Please contact us at 734-391-9260 or [chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org](mailto:chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org) to discuss your items!

**Mayflower  
TOWING**



1179 Starkweather St  
Plymouth, MI  
734-459-0053

# SUPPORT CHS WHILE YOU SHOP FOR GROCERIES

Did you know that you can support the Canton Historical Society simply by shopping for your groceries at Kroger? It's easy and doesn't cost you a penny!

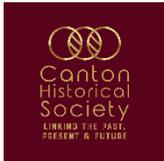
## ALREADY HAVE A KROGER PLUS CARD?

1. Go to [www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com)
2. If you have an existing account click **SIGN IN**, otherwise click on **CREATE AN ACCOUNT**.  
Note: If you are a new customer, you will need to create a new account. Once you create your account you will receive a confirmation email with a link to activate your account.
3. After clicking **SIGN IN**, click **COMMUNITY** then **COMMUNITY REWARDS** then click **ENROLL NOW**.
4. Complete personal information and click **SAVE**.
5. Enter "Canton Historical Society" and then click on **SEARCH**.
6. Select "Canton Historical Society" and then click **SAVE**.  
If enrolled correctly you will see our name on the right side of your account settings page.
7. Swipe your Kroger Plus card each time you shop and earn rewards for CHS!



## DON'T HAVE A KROGER PLUS CARD?

You can obtain a Kroger Plus Card when creating an account online or at any Kroger store. Follow the above steps. Please note that you must link your car each year on August 1st. The Canton Historical Society will be issued a check each quarter based on the rewards earned from everyone's shopping trips. Thank you for taking time to register!



## WELCOME TO THE CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

NEW

RENEWAL

2025 MEMBERSHIP TYPE:  INDIVIDUAL \$20

HOUSEHOLD \$25

STUDENT \$5

PATRON \$50

BUSINESS \$75

SPONSOR \$200

DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER/ ORGANIZATION/ BUSINESS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER MEMBER(S) NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET NUMBER & ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS (necessary for receiving newsletter): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to Canton Historical Society then mail with completed form to:  
Canton Historical Society, PO Box 87362, Canton, MI 48187**

OR

**Pay online at [www.cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org](http://www.cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org)  
We are an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
and rely on memberships and donors like you!**