



Canton Historical Society

LINKING THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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

cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org
chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org



Canton Historical Society
(Michigan)

MUSEUM HOURS

through October 18, 2025

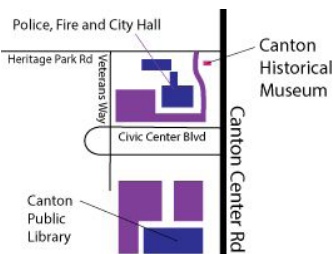
Tuesdays
4 - 7 pm

Saturdays
11 am - 2 pm



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*
Karen Krepps *Vice President*
Heather Piegza *Secretary*
Michael Bonello *Treasurer*

Board Members

David Curtis
Evan Hall
Branden McEuen
Max Rumbaugh

CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Est. 1834

Spring 2025 · Edition CXXIII

Canton, Michigan



MUSEUM TO OPEN FOR THE SEASON ON SATURDAY, MAY 3

The Canton Historical Museum at 1022 South Canton Center Road will be open this summer on Tuesdays from 4-7 pm and Saturdays from 11 am- 2 pm. We will be closed on holiday weekends and during township events. If you are planning a visit, please verify our hours on our website for updates or contact us at 734-391-9260 or chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org.

MURAL PORTRAYING CANTON'S HISTORY TO BE INSTALLED

Thanks to a grant from the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities Grants Program, a mural will highlight the history of our community in the Pole Barn Farm Museum in Preservation Park. We are so excited about this new addition and look forward to working with this organization and the Village Arts Factory in the future. Construction to prepare the building for the painting will begin this spring and the mural is expected to be completed by the end of the summer. Plan to stop by and view this public art display and find out more about Canton's history and culture.



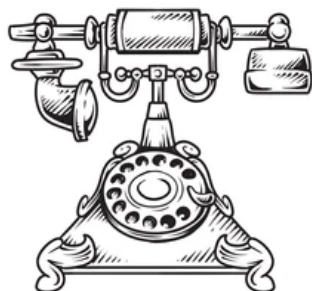
SUMMER SCHEDULE UPDATE POLE BARN FARM MUSEUM AND BT HOUSE TOURS

Due to construction at Preservation Park, the season opening of the Farm Museum and Bartlett-Travis House Tours may be delayed this spring. We will announce our re-opening as soon as possible.



Please note the new phone number for
the Canton Historical Society:
734-391-9260

We look forward to hearing from you!



READY TO JOIN?

SCAN TO PAY WITH A
CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD!



Scan to Pay

LASKO-HAGGERTY ESTATE TOUR NOW AVAILABLE TO CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS!

Another reason to be a CHS member! We are happy to assist the Lasko Foundation to provide tours of the Lasko-Haggerty House on Canton Center Road. The Canton Historical Society has received so many inquiries about the property over the years and you've probably wondered about it too. Now you can tour the manor, carriage house, and property when you sign up for a tour online. The tour is free to Canton Historical Society members in good standing. We are offering four tour dates this spring and summer:



Thursday, May 22 at 10:00 am

Tuesday, June 17 at 2:00 pm

Wednesday, July 16 at 10:00am

Tuesday, August 19 at 1:00 pm

Tours last about 1½-2 hours and start with a brief informative introduction and include a tour of the property if the weather cooperates. The tours are open to members aged 16+. The buildings are not handicap accessible. Please note: photography is not permitted inside the buildings. If you have any questions contact us at 734-391-9260 or chs@cantonhistoricalsocietymi.org.

GETTING TO KNOW THE CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY- PART 3

In our last issue we shared a little bit about the background of our organization. In this issue, we'll briefly describe our organizational structure and how you can attend one of our monthly meetings.

We have over 140 student, individual, family, patron, life, and sponsorship members. Nine members are elected to our leadership board with each serving 3-year terms. Our board consists of a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and five directors. We each serve on several different committees or projects alongside our dedicated volunteers. Some of our committees address genealogical research, community outreach, activity planning, archive and artifact preservation, and fundraising. Volunteers also donate their time as docents at our museum facilities. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 7pm to discuss business, projects, and other timely issues and are open to the public. Our meeting site is usually at the Canton Township Hall; however, due to holidays or number of attendees we may change our location. If you would like to attend a meeting, please contact us by email prior to the meeting if you would like to attend so that we can notify you of any changes.



VISIT 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



A CONNECTION TO CANTON TOWNSHIP

by Jennifer Burd

My beloved grandmother, Polly Bender, inspired a love of family history in me. A graduate of the University of Michigan's school of library science in the 1920s, she knew how to research and organize records and documents. My basement is a testament to that – it holds close to 80 full-sized binders of family history charts, documents, letters and photos on every branch of the family!

This grandmother was my mother's mother, and in my grandmother's later years, my mother and I often helped her organize family history charts and documents. My grandmother put together notebooks for my father's family too, and this is how I learned that my great-great-great-great grandfather, Samuel Burd, was one of the very first to be awarded a land grant from the U.S. government in what is now Canton Township. His land was directly across Beck Road from what is now Canton High School, and his sons Zenas and Philander owned land across the road. Samuel and Philander are buried in Kinyon cemetery, and it is very meaningful to be able to visit them as well as Samuel's wife, my great-to-the-4th grandmother, and other family graves there.



House of Philander Burd located on Joy Road. He was born in 1802 in Oneida, New York. He died in 1881 in Canton and is buried in Kinyon Cemetery.

Both my mother and father's families go back five generations in southern Michigan. I keep trying to find ways to somehow touch the lives of those ancestors who were alive before I was born. This is one of the reasons I moved back to Michigan (from the Pacific Northwest), in December of 1999 – I had lived in Midland as a child, but my family moved when I was 7. Since being back, I have visited cemeteries and the properties where some of these ancestors lived. I enjoy trying to imagine the times my ancestors lived in. It's wonderful to connect with the Canton Township Historical Society, and to be able to learn even more about what the area was like in years past. And I look forward to learning more about Canton Township as I picture my ancestors' lives!

DONATE YOUR OLD TECH DEVICE

You may have what we need! We are asking our members to check their closets and basements for vintage communication devices that are no longer in use. We are interested in smart phones, Blackberrys, Palm Pilots, landline phones with rotary dial or standard desktop push buttons, and early cell phones such as bag cell phones, flip phones, cell phones without screens, etc. We are also interested in other communication devices such as transistor radios, walkie talkies, recorder pens, and other small items. You can donate these at our information booth during the Farmers Market on Sunday mornings. Put your item in a ziplock bag and fill out the form inside with your contact information. If your device is in working order, please erase all personal informatoin. Please include chargers if available. There may be other items you have that are of interest so please email us if you have any questions. All donated items will become property of the Canton Historical Society and may be used in upcoming exhibits. Thank you!



CHERRY HILL SCHOOL

by Angelina Crosby

Canton is surely filled to the brim with many fascinating stories; all holding aspects of how our city is shaped today. I invite you to take a step back in time to explore a particular part of Canton's past having to do with the significance and impact that the Cherry Hill School House has had on the Canton community.

At first, in the early 1830s, Cherry Hill School was located on the west side of Ridge Road, south of Cherry Hill and opposite the cemetery. In 1876 a new school was built at the northwest corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge Rd. Its architecture has come a long way. The original school was built from timber logs and had a wood stove to heat the inside. The newer school was constructed of "soft fired" bricks which came from Canton's natural clay soils that were fired by a nearby brick kiln at a local farm. The school was "Fractional District 1, Canton and Superior" implying that any children within a two-mile radius of the school from Cherry Hill Village or Superior Township could attend.

The school was used primarily for teaching children from grades first through eighth, along with kindergarten. Students were seated in such a way that the older children sat in the back, as the younger children sat in the front. Older children would also help the younger children with their studies, but all the children would bring their own books from home, which normally included a Bible. There was only one teacher there who taught students of all ages and levels: teaching a variety of subjects like reading, writing, math, spelling, and more. As part of the teacher's salary they were paid, they were allowed to stay with various student families throughout the school year.

Despite educational use, there were many other purposes of the school such as its use for church services when the outside temperature got too cold, spelling and writing bees, plays, sing-alongs, and in the midst of summertime, the school grounds were used for enjoyable picnics by the community. Later in 1942, Henry Ford, who owned a small factory in Cherry Hill Village near the school, expressed interest in the Canton community and the school. In 1943 the school became a part of Henry Ford's Edison Institute School System. He granted \$22,000 to the school to make new improvements and a pleasant



environment, consisting of an extended room, indoor plumbing, new roof, water system, and plumbing for indoor bathrooms. He also added a basement that was used to teach workshop classes for the boys. Ford provided teacher education to ensure that teachers could educate the students in music, industrial arts, and home economics, in addition to the usual subjects taught. Other benefits provided the students dental and medical services and regular trips to Greenfield Village for educational purposes.

It's clear that Ford truly had a positive impact on the school in many ways; specifically, the students benefited from the expanded educational opportunities he provided. His improvements were put to good use as students in grades first through third could meet in the extended schoolhouse's room that Ford had built, so that the fourth through eighth graders could meet in the big room upstairs. This allowed the children to work separately and reduced class size. Following Ford's death in 1945, the school was returned to the local district authority, but in 1955, the Cherry Hill School Board voted to give Cherry Hill School to the Plymouth School District, then Canton Township purchased the building from them for our public use today. Overall, with the mix of passionate teachers, eager students, and the generous contributions of Henry Ford, this historical site is a reminder of its success as an incredible school for all of Canton's citizens forever.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We hope to see you at any of our upcoming events or lectures! Check out website for latest information, dates, registration, and more info on these upcoming events:

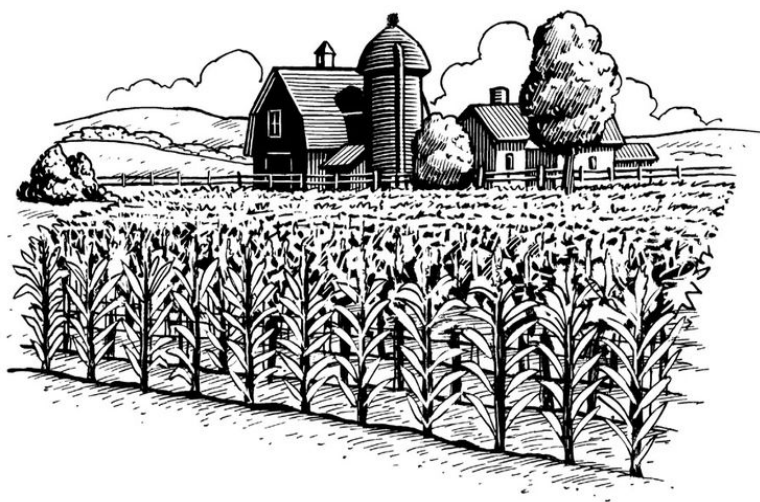
- Canton Liberty Fest:
June 12-14, 2025
- Lasko Estate Tours
- Farmers Market Youth Activities
- Member Appreciation Picnic
- Guest Lecture Series
- ARToberfest
- Ghost Stories Event
- Salute to Service
- Christmas in the Village



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 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. Thank you for helping us to grow our archives!

MEMORIALS

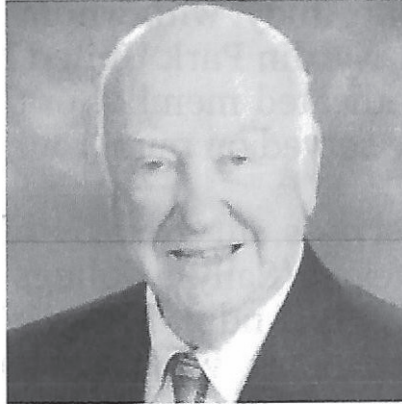
Our condolences go out to the family
and friends of **Terry West**

The Canton Historical Society is sad to report the loss of long time member Terry West. His memories of Cherry Hill Village and financial contributions to the society will not be forgotten.

Terry was born on April 10, 1936 in Ypsilanti, son of Stanley and Dorothy West. Dorothy was one of the founders of the Canton Historical Society. He passed away October 3, 2024.

As he grew up in the rural community of Canton, Terry attended Cherry Hill School, the one room schoolhouse at Cherry Hill and Ridge Road.

At the age of 22, Terry proudly joined the Air National Guard Reserves, serving for seven years. In his professional career, he was a dedicated businessman and licensed real



estate broker. He served as NBD bank branch manager and Vice President of Detroit Federal Savings & Loans for eight years, Vice President of Alexander Hamilton for 15 years, and as a consultant for Rose Moving Company, retiring after 26 years at the age of 87. He was an active member in various organizations, including the VFW and Farmington Area Republicans and a dedicated member of the Nardin Park United Methodist

Church congregation in Farmington Hills, where he served on numerous committees.

Terry is survived by his wife, two sons, five siblings, and four step children. He leaves behind 15 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren. He will be missed by the Canton Historical Society.

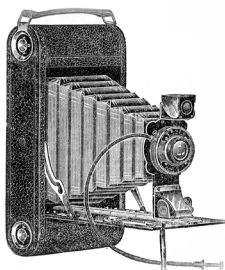
JOIN THE NEXT CHS BOARD MEETING

Join us at our executive board meeting on **Monday, May 19 at 7:00 pm**. This meeting will be held at the Canton Township Building in the lower level. If you plan to join us, please let us know so we can arrange for an adequately sized room for our attendees. Please ask township staff near the entrance to direct you to the correct meeting room.

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 to discuss your items!

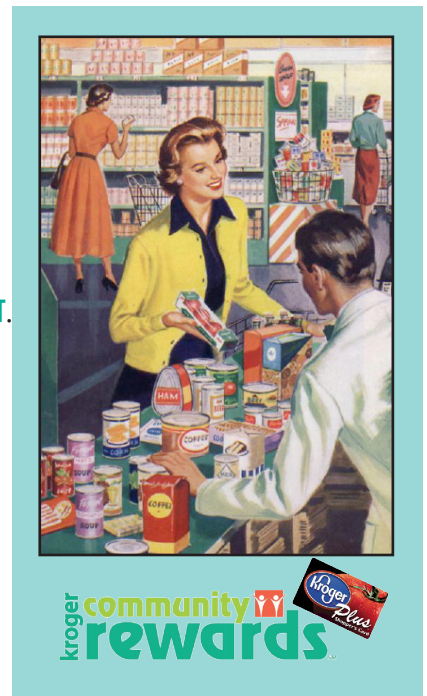


SUPPORT CHS WHILE YOU SHOP FOR GROCERIES

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
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

***We are an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
and rely on memberships and donors like you!***