

Spring 2025

The Crocker • Chronicle

Official Publication of the Macomb County Historical Society
Crocker House Museum and Gardens

Looking Ahead in 2025

as we celebrate the past

2025 Yvonne Leslie Pottery Luncheon

Walking Tour Schedule Preview

MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS



A house is more than a house. It's a home. It's a refuge. It's often the place we hold most dear. Some even claim it's a castle, no matter how humble.

But the center of the Historical Society is the Crocker House. We have long viewed it as a museum, an event space, a social center, the home to a fabulous garden. And so it is. But we can also view it as a hub for history. In the coming weeks and months we are expanding our programming to include offsite opportunities with community partnerships that we have been building for the past year and more. This will include walking tours, information booths at various events and places in Mount Clemens, and programming geared towards engagement with local youth. This last includes working with partners like the YMCA and the Discovery Center in Mount Clemens, and others who we are building continually building relationships with.

We are also bringing groups into the Crocker House to co host programming as well, with the Mount Clemens Public Library leading the way for summer activities planned.

We have also started our own youth "History Hunt" at the Crocker House, an escape room mystery solved in our own historic venue. There is also an adult version and it shows promise for bringing new audiences on site, and hopefully folks like you who already love the Crocker House.

We are building outward, but have not forgotten "the hub" that is the Crocker House. While we are working with partners, and exploring new programs in the community, we are reappraising how we interpret our house and our local history. On the exhibit front we are building out a Fire Department history display and have designs on revamping some of our current interpretation.

In addition we have recently added our first specialty tour in the house, "The Back of House Tour," which despite the name is a whole house tour, but focused on the domestic work, and workers that would have been in the Crocker House in the 19th and early 20th Century. The first members only tour is 6 pm on June 6th (the first night of our Garage Sale!) with more to follow.

As I mentioned above we are going to continue to add to our schedule all year as opportunity and planning come together. My last piece here is an invitation to you: if you are a member of a group who loves Mount Clemens reach out to us, see how we can work together to improve both the Crocker House, and our city. Together we can fashion a better future in our own historic "hub" and the wider community we are a part of.

The Crocker House Museum & Gardens
presents a History by the Plate

ROSIE THE RIVETER

with

Bailey Sisoy-Moore

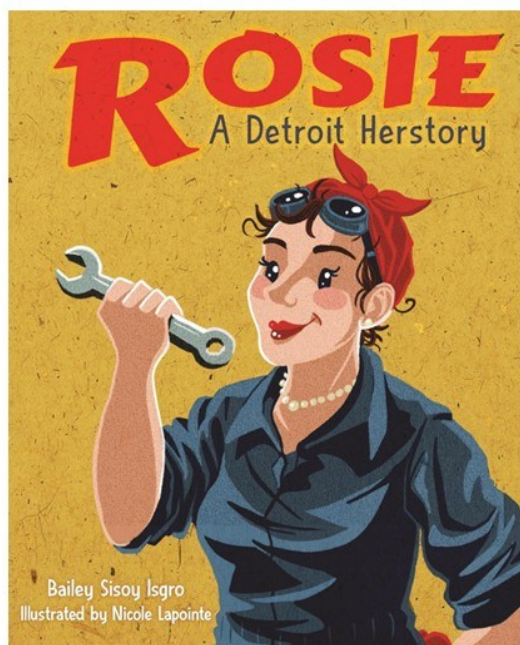
from Detroit History Tours



Sunday March 16th, 2025

1pm to 3pm

Enjoy a delicious lunch inspired by the era, and hear Bailey's captivating presentation on the pivotal role of Rosie the Riveter in Detroit, Michigan. Bailey will also be sharing her published book on this iconic figure, available for purchase. Don't miss this opportunity to explore history and celebrate the women who shaped the war effort!



Scan for more
information and to
purchase tickets!



Tickets:

\$25.00 Member

\$30.00 Non-Member

Tickets available for purchase at
www.crockerhousemuseum.org or call
the Museum office at 586-465-2488

The Crocker House Museum & Gardens

presents

The Yvonne Leslie Pottery Luncheon

“A Touch of Color”

Saturday, April 5th, 2025

Zuccaro's Country House

46601 N. Gratiot Chesterfield Twp. MI 48051



Tickets are now available for the 2025 Yvonne Leslie Pottery Lunch! This year's theme, “A Touch of Color,” will feature beautifully designed tablescapes inspired by talented designers, each bringing their own vibrant style.

The event includes a delicious luncheon buffet, cash bar, raffles, door prizes, and a grand prize raffle. Doors open for viewing at 11:00 AM, with lunch served at 12:15 PM.

Don't miss out on this unique and memorable experience—get your tickets today!

Group seating reservations must be made together with tables seating 8 people. Seating accommodations will be accomplished to the best of our ability. Tickets are \$55.00 and may be purchased using the ordering form below or calling the museum office at 586-465-2488

Please make checks payable to the Macomb County Historical Society and mail to the Crocker House Museum & Gardens at 15 Union Street Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Number of Tickets at \$55.00 each _____

Names of people in your party: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

The Crocker House Museum and Gardens

presents

Pot it Up!

Paint, Pots and Good Vibes at the Crocker House Museum and Gardens

Join us for a lighthearted and creative afternoon as we celebrate spring with a *highly* enjoyable flower pot decorating event! We'll provide the pots, paint, and good vibes—you bring your creativity.

Tickets:

Member: \$7.50

Non-Member: \$10.00

The Deets:

Date: Saturday April 19th, 2025

Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Location: Crocker House Museum & Gardens
(In the Garden, weather permitting)

Call the Museum office at
586-465-2488 or visit our website at
www.crockerhousemuseum.org
to purchase your tickets!

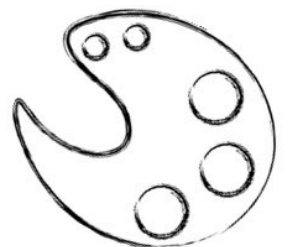


Scan for more
information and to
purchase tickets!



Reservations Required!

*Limited spots available—
reserve yours before they go up in smoke!*



The Healing Waters of Mount Clemens: A Look Back at the Mineral Bath Era

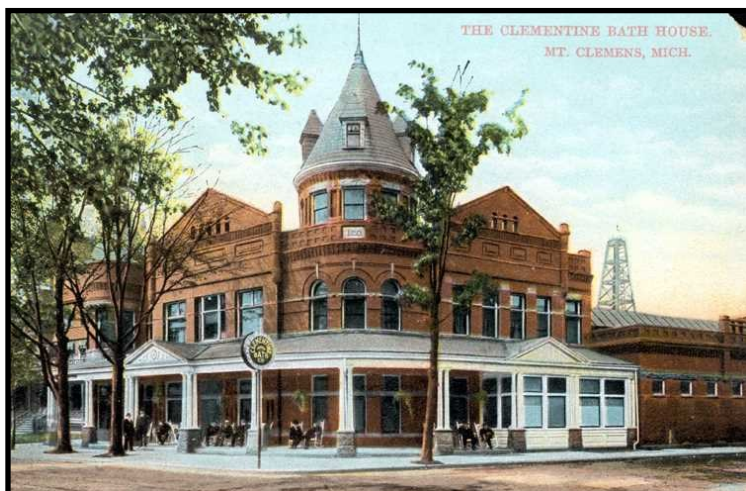
In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Mount Clemens earned the moniker "Bath City of America," attracting visitors from across the nation to experience its renowned mineral baths. The discovery of these therapeutic waters can be traced back to 1865 when the first well was drilled in an attempt to produce salt. While the salt production endeavor was short-lived due to the water's unique mineral composition, the potential health benefits of the mineral-rich waters soon became evident.

A pivotal moment occurred in 1870 when local mill owner Dorr Kellogg, suffering from a severe case of eczema, sought relief by bathing in the mineral water. After a series of baths, he experienced a remarkable cure, sparking interest in the water's curative properties. Recognizing the potential, Dr. Henry Taylor, a local physician, established the first bathhouse in 1873, aptly named "The Original." This facility marked the beginning of Mount Clemens' transformation into a bustling spa destination.

As word of the healing waters spread, the city saw a surge in the construction of bathhouses and hotels to accommodate the influx of health seekers. By the early 20th century, Mount Clemens boasted numerous establishments catering to visitors, including the Medea Bath House, built in 1882, and the Park Bath House, established in 1886. These facilities offered luxurious accommodations and a range of therapeutic services, solidifying the city's reputation as a premier health resort.



Cutter's Guide to Mount Clemens (1893–1916) promoted the city's famous mineral baths, listing bathhouses, hotels, transportation, and recreation for visitors seeking healing waters.



Clementine Bath House, 64 Cass Ave. Built in 1892 by B.B. Coursin, it opened in 1893. Architect: Theophilus Van Damme.

The mineral baths attracted a diverse clientele, from everyday individuals seeking relief from ailments to celebrities and public figures. Notable visitors included Clark Gable, Mae West, Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, and William Randolph Hearst, all drawn to the reputed healing powers of the baths.

However, with the advent of modern medicine and changing public health practices, the popularity of the mineral baths began to wane. By the mid-20th century, many of the bathhouses had closed their doors, and the once-thriving industry faded into history. Today, while the original bathhouses no longer operate, the legacy of Mount Clemens' mineral

bath era remains a significant chapter in the city's rich history.

For those interested in delving deeper into this fascinating period, the Crocker House Museum offers a wealth of information and exhibits dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories of Mount Clemens' storied past.

The Macomb County Historical Society
at the
Crocker House Museum and Gardens
presents

Spring Open House

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday May 3rd, 2025

Explore our historic museum and beautiful gardens
(*weather permitting*). Check out our new exhibit on the Mount Clemens Fire Department,
sip on complimentary refreshments, and enjoy family-friendly activities. Plus, don't miss
the Gift Shop and get your very own Crocker House Museum and Gardens
History Nerd shirt – available for purchase!

1:00 pm to 4:00pm

www.crockerhousemuseum.org

Come for the History,

Stay for the Fun!



Macomb County Historical Society and
The Crocker House Museum and Gardens

GARAGE SALE

All proceeds benefit the Crocker House Museum and Gardens

Friday June 6th, 2025

Saturday June 7th, 2025

9:00am-4:00pm

Driveway of 26 Byron Ct. Mount Clemens MI 48043

DONATIONS:

Monday June 2nd, 2025 & Tuesday June 3rd, 2025

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

unless previously arranged

Any Questions? Contact 586-265-3272

Not Accepting Shoes or Clothing

The Crocker House Museum and Gardens presents it's Annual Garden Walk

Saturday July 19th, 2025

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Explore some of Mount Clemens' most beautiful home gardens! Start at the Crocker House Museum Gardens, where you'll pick up your Garden Walk pin, map, a bottle of water, and a bag of Better Made chips before setting off to enjoy the featured gardens throughout the neighborhood.

Tickets:

Member: \$12.00

Non-Member \$15.00



Scan for more
information and to
purchase tickets

To purchase tickets, call the museum office at 586-465-2488 or visit the website at www.crockerhousemuseum.org and click "Garden Walk" on the Events tab

Macomb County Historical Society | Crocker House Museum and Gardens
15 Union Street Mount Clemens MI 48043 | 586-465-2488
www.crockerhousemuseum.org | @crockerhousemuseum

Call for Gardens: Be a Part of the 2025 Garden Walk!

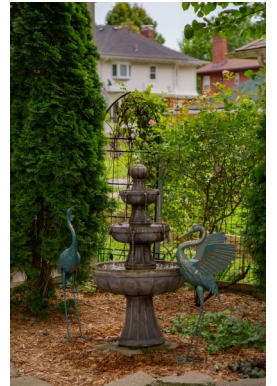
The Crocker House Museum is seeking beautiful home gardens to feature in our
Annual Garden Walk on Saturday, July 19, 2025

Do you or someone you know have a garden that showcases creativity, unique plantings, or stunning landscaping? This is a wonderful opportunity to share your love of gardening with the community while supporting the museum.



If you're interested in having your garden considered, please contact the museum office at **586-465-2488**

Help us make this year's Garden Walk a blooming success!



In Loving Memory of Loretta Clark

October 28, 1941 - January 13, 2025



The Crocker House Museum and Gardens remembers **Loretta Clark**, a dedicated volunteer and friend. A longtime resident of Harrison Township, Loretta had a passion for history, travel, and community service. She volunteered at the **Detroit Historical Society and the Crocker House Museum and Gardens**, where she participated in the **Clinton Grove Cemetery Walk** each year.

Beyond her love for history, she was an active member of the **Red Hat Society** and a parishioner at **St. Louis Catholic Church**, where she served as an usher. Loretta's kindness, adventurous spirit, and dedication to preserving local history will be deeply missed.

2025-2026

Membership & Dues

Macomb County Historical Society Crocker House Museum & Gardens

15 Union Street | Mount Clemens, MI 48043
586-465-2488 | info@crockerhousemuseum.org
crockerhousemuseum.org | [@crockerhousemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/crockerhousemuseum)

Mission Statement

The Macomb County Historical Society and its Crocker House Museum & Gardens provide educational experiences of Mount Clemens and Macomb County history through the use of artifacts, rotating exhibits, publications, stories and special educational programs. Our purpose is to collect and preserve our local heritage to instill an appreciation of our community's unique history.

Why Be a Member?

The Macomb County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which means its survival depends on generous donations, fundraising, and membership contributions. We receive no government funding. Your membership helps to continue our mission and ensure our growth and security for future generations.

In addition to supporting this important work, membership dues come with the following benefits:

- Free Admission to the Crocker House Museum
- Discounts on many events and special programs
- Quarterly Crocker Chronicle Newsletter
- 10% off most gift shop purchases

As a **Contributing** or **Century Member**, you receive the satisfaction of supporting us a higher level, with our sincere appreciation. The membership levels listed below include additional benefits.

As a **Corporate Member**, you receive all the benefits of membership AND:

- Business membership listing on our website to show your community support
- Two Garden Walk Tickets

As a **Benefactor Member**, you receive all the benefits of Corporate membership AND:

- Two additional Garden Walk tickets (four total)
- Two Cemetery Walk tickets

As a **Conservator Member**, you receive all the benefits of a Benefactor membership AND:

- An inscribed brick in the Crocker House Gardens walkway

Membership Dues Levels

(Please mark your choice)

☐ Individual \$25.00

☐ Family \$35.00

☐ Contributing \$50.00

☐ Century \$100.00

☐ Corporate \$200.00

☐ Benefactor \$500.00

☐ Conservator \$1000.00

☐ I would love to Volunteer!

Please fill this section and return with your check made out to "Macomb County Historical Society" or pay online at crockerhousemuseum.org. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Your membership contribution may be tax-deductible.

Please consult your tax professional for more information.

Membership dues run concurrently with our fiscal year: May 1st - April 30th



**MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM**
A LATE VICTORIAN HOME-LIFE EXPERIENCE

15 UNION STREET

MT CLEMENS, MI 48043

(586)465-2488

WWW.CROCKERHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

INFO@CROCKERHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

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Museum Director

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Museum Office Manager

Alexandra Harris

Walking Tour Schedule Preview!

May 24th, 2025 - Clinton Grove: Fallen but Not Forgotten

10 am to 11:15 am

MEMBERS ONLY

Examine the history of some of the city's fallen soldiers and sailors, their stories, and lives through the lens of their final resting place. Unlike our Cemetery Walk we will utilize a traditional tour format to approach our military members' past.

June 6th, 2025 - Crocker House: "Back of House: A Look at Working in the Crocker House"

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

MEMBERS ONLY

Come see and learn what it took to keep the Crocker House running. See the house you know from a different perspective and through a new lens!

June 28th, 2025 - Downtown Mt. Clemens: History Hike

11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Discover the story of Mount Clemens through its unique, oft overlooked and awesome landmarks. The Crocker House Museum and Gardens invites you on an exploration of the history of this county capital by experiencing our first Downtown History Hike.

July 13th, 2025 - "Back of House:" A Look at Working in the Crocker House

MEMBERS ONLY

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

August 10th, 2025 - Downtown Mt. Clemens: History Hike

11:00 am to 12:15 pm