

FALL 2022

The Crocker Chronicle

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS

HALLOWE'EN

AT THE CROCKER HOUSE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR
PORCH WALK



MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello Members,

Happy autumn. This is a lovely time of year with cool days, apple cider, donuts, pumpkins and pumpkin pie. Be sure to stop by the Crocker House Museum and enjoy the garden on a nice autumn afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Member Picnic. In spite of the rain, a good time was had by all. When the clouds cleared, we enjoyed dessert, completed the annual election, awards and introduced our new Museum Director, Katie Annett to the membership. In case you missed that, be sure to read her introduction on the next page.

We were pleased to honor all of our volunteers and especially our two volunteers of the year; Linda Paton and Dan Kirby. It is thanks to the hard work of the museum's volunteer team that our events are successful. We always welcome new volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the museum, be sure to call Sue Thiry at (586) 465-2488 and she will send you all of the volunteer information.

A special proclamation from the city of Mount Clemens paid tribute to Macomb County Historical Society's President and long time volunteer, Ross Champion. It was with pleasure we commemorated and named the garden; the Ross Champion Crocker House Garden. Ross was instrumental in designing, establishing and maintaining the memorial brick pathway and gardens of the Crocker House Museum. It is thanks to his efforts that we enjoy a beautiful garden every year.

Our Museum Director, Katie Annett has been working with board member Mike Bradley to plan two unusual and interesting Hallowe'en events. Have you ever wondered about the history of football? You will learn all about it at a presentation in November. The holidays will be here soon with our annual open house and a special holiday tea.

We will be running a contribution drive this fall to include an option to contribute to building maintenance and repair needed on the Crocker House.

Our annual Christmas decorating will be paired with a volunteer potluck on November 3. Decorating will start in the morning, followed by a potluck in the afternoon. Please call the museum if you would like to participate in this fun event.

Enjoy these beautiful autumn days. We hope to see you soon.



The Crocker Chronicle



MEET KATIE.

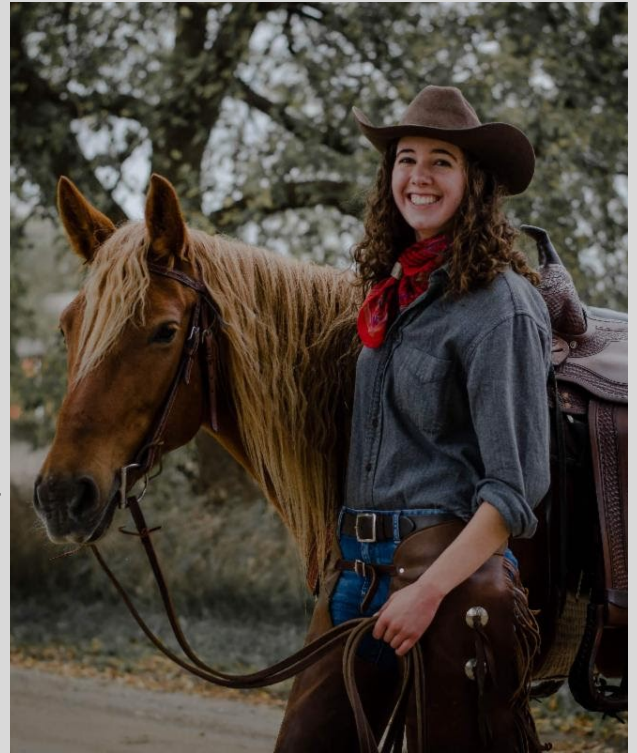
My name is Katie Annett, and I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new director of the Macomb County Historical Society, Crocker House Museum and Gardens. I started work on July 5th, and so far I've been busy meeting with board members and volunteers, learning about the history of the house and the organization, making connections in the community, and starting to plan for the future. If I haven't met you already, I hope we'll meet soon!

I'm originally from Waterford, and grew up volunteering for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society and the Waterford Historical Society. I graduated from Hillsdale College in 2014 with a major in American Studies, a mixture of history, English, and politics. After a summer wrangling horses at a guest ranch in Montana—I later returned for another summer with my own horse, an always-trusty, always-hungry mustang named Sally—I started working at The Henry Ford, first as a holiday presenter in the museum and then giving carriage tours at Greenfield Village. I spent the summer of 2018 running the print shop at Crossroads Village, a living history museum in Flint, before moving to the former Wild West town of Hays, Kansas. There, I was the curatorial assistant and interim director for the Ellis County Historical Society, preserving stories of gunfighters, lawmen, soldiers, saloon girls, and other colorful characters, as well as the Volga German immigrants who arrived afterward. I also researched for the Western novel that had brought me to Kansas in the first place.

Of course Sally came with me, and one of the highlights of living in Hays was getting to ride alongside the old Kansas Pacific railroad, which had connected several infamous cattle towns.

I returned to Michigan at the end of 2020 to be closer to family during the pandemic, and worked as a receptionist at an eye doctor's office before finding the Crocker House Museum position. I've missed working in the history field, and I'm glad to be back! I recently moved to Clinton Township and have been having fun getting to know the area. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with family, visiting Sally at the barn, and working on my Western and other writing projects.

I'm looking forward to working with you!



THE 19TH-CENTURY EVOLUTION OF FOOTBALL: FROM FOLK FOOTBALL TO SOCCER, RUGBY, AND AMERICAN FOOTBALL

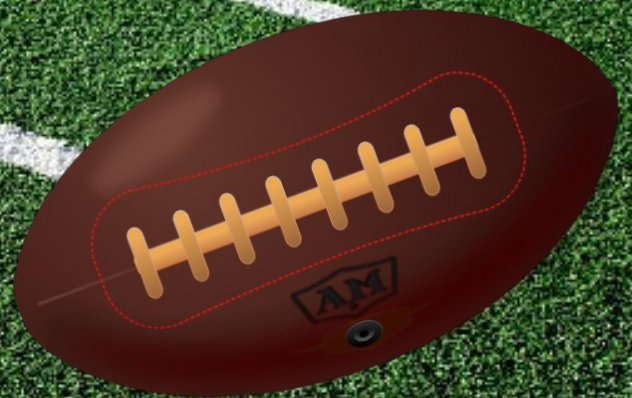
Wednesday, November 16th, 2022

Doors open 5:30 P.M. | Program 6:00 P.M. | Optional Museum Tour: 7:30 P.M.

Join historian Jim Craft for a look at how Great Britain's unruly sport of folk football, played for nearly 1000 years, developed into today's soccer, rugby, and American football.

Includes football snacks and an optional tour of the Crocker House Museum, featuring a brand-new exhibit on Mount Clemens High School's Battling Bathers.

LIMITED SEATING: To reserve your ticket, call 586-465-2488 or buy on our web site, \$8 Members, \$10 Non-Members, \$5 Under Age 18.



ANNUAL PORCH WALK

The Third Annual Porch Walk was held on August 13th and included a fascinating neighborhood on the north part of Mt. Clemens. During this event, ten homeowners shared their home's history. We had homes from as early as 1876 with interesting stories behind them.

We also had the "Ban-Joes" performing with a 1908 Brush Automobile, 1926 Ford Model T, and a 1930 Ford Model A surrounding the band. We had a 1964 Airstream travel trailer on the tour as well where refreshments and entertainment was provided.

If you were not able to attend this year's Porch Walk, be sure to ask us for one of the event programs to learn the history of the homes presented.





HALLOWE'EN AT THE CROCKER HOUSE

MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
HALLOWE'EN
AT THE CROCKER HOUSE
A PLACE SO SPOOKY IT HAD TO BE MOVED...TWICE!
6-10 PM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
15 UNION ST., MT. CLEMENS, MI. 48043

- GHOST HUNTING WITH PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION TEAM
- EXHIBITS FROM THE ANATOMY OF DEATH MUSEUM
- SEASONAL TREATS & BEVERAGES
- FOLKLORE & TALL TALES
- SPOOKY CANDLELIT TOURS OF THE MUSEUM
- CELEBRATION OF VINTAGE BEISTLE HALLOWE'EN DECORATIONS

Hallowe'en is fast approaching and the Macomb County Historical Society is excited to announce that we have an all new event planned celebrating the fun of the season.

"Hallowe'en at the Crocker House." will be on Friday, October 21st from 6 to 10 P.M. and is catered to more an adult / young-adult audience. This evening event will be an experience of the old Crocker House that you've never seen before. The house will be candle lit and you'll be able to experience the house with all new exhibits. We will even have fortunes being told in the formal parlor.

We've invited the "Third Eye Eclipse Paranormal Society" to the grounds on that night to help summon the spirits from the other side. You'll be able to ask questions from the spirits who choose to visit us that night. Could be a Crocker, a resident from the past or just a spirit passing through to pay us a visit? This paranormal group will all-

low you to speak to the spirits as they tell their own story. Caution —we cannot predict or censor what spirits might say to you!

We have also teamed up with the incredible "Anatomy of Death Museum" in Mt. Clemens to help round out our event. Owner Todd will bring the obscure and unusual from his personal collection of mortuary items and give the history of their use. Beware, some of these items just might make your hair stand up on end!

We also are exploring the fascinating history of Hallowe'en and highlighting the incredible artwork of the Beistle Company, who has manufactured Hallowe'en decorations for over 100 years. We will also be showcasing vintage and antique items from Hallowe'en past from a personal collection throughout the entire home and grounds.

The night will round out with folklore & tall tales being told around the campfire. Share your own ghostly experiences with others and listen in amazement of out of this world things that have happened in the area. Be sure to ask about the woman with the red bandana; truly a creepy story from a century ago!

Tickets are only \$5 to attend. You can purchase them online from our web site or purchase them at the door. Get your tickets early, as we've seen a lot of interest in this event so far!



COLLECTOR'S CORNER

BY MIKE BRADLEY

You may have used a pillowcase, brown paper grocery bag or a McDonald's Happy Meal pail for the collection of your Halloween treats. I personally remember using a pillowcase in my pre-teen years to maximize the load of treats we could haul home on an evening. While looking at younger photos of myself during Halloween, my siblings and I were each carrying a modest plastic store-bought pumpkin pail.

Collecting pumpkin pails has been a recent interest I acquired. Like many collectors, an interest in collecting a particular genre of something can stem from another. For me, it started from collecting tabletop light up pumpkins that I remember blinking in the front windows of the neighborhood on Halloween. While searching for different variations of these at flea markets, I would see bright orange pumpkin pails mixed in the secondhand Halloween decorations. This resulted in me purchasing unique pails here and there.

What fueled my interest in collecting pails was when I stumbled across the YouTube channel "Shiny Brite Doggo." On this channel, Jeannine and her partner Laura go on adventures at estate sales, thrift stores and even garbage picking looking for vintage holiday items. A highlight of their channel is the pair looking for vintage pumpkin pails with the 'tongue and cheek' mission of "No Pumpkin Left Behind."



Pumpkin pails gained popularity in the 1960s with department stores selling them to the masses in newspaper ads. They were produced with the process called blow molding, where plastic is injected into a mold and air is blown in to make the object hollow. Manufacturers included in these early years were Union Products, General Foam Plastics, Empire, and Bayshore Industries. My personal favorite are Halloween items from Bayshore Industries with their unique facial expressions on their products.

In the past few years, big box stores like Lowes and Menards are sensing the popularity of people collecting blow mold items and now are selling modern versions of these items. If you ever find yourself interested in collecting pumpkin pails or

other blow mold items, I recommend the web site Blow-Molded.com, which has a digital archive from the 1950s to modern day.

Be sure to visit the Crocker House during the month of October, or at our Halloween event on Friday, October 21st, to see the exhibit of vintage Halloween decorations, including vintage pumpkin pails.

If you would like to contribute to our next "Collector's Corner", please contact us. We'd love to share the story of something you collect!





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

15 Union Street

Mount Clemens, MI 48043

(586)465-2488

www.crockerhousemuseum.org

info@crockerhousemuseum.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 146
MT. CLEMENS, MI

SAVE THE DATE

Please contact the Museum at (586) 465-2488 or info@crockerhousemuseum.org for additional info about these events.

Katie Annett, Museum Director
Sue Thiry, Office Manager

Board Members:

Ross Champion, President
Barb Dempsey, Vice President
Gary Peters, Vice President
Paula Loviner, Treasurer
Diane Dueweke, Secretary
Gary Baarck, Director
Mike Bradley, Director
Joy Glover, Director
Brian Korth, Director



“Hallowe’en at the Crocker House”

6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Friday, October 21st, \$5 Admission.

“Holiday Decorating and Volunteer Potluck”

10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 3rd

“The 19th-Century Evolution of Football”

Wednesday, November 16th, Doors open 5:30 P.M.
Program 6:00 P.M. | Optional Museum Tour: 7:30 P.M.
\$8 Members, \$10 Non-Members, \$5 under age 18.

“Holiday Open House”

1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 3rd

“Silver Skates Tea”

1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 10th
\$20 Members, \$22 Non-Members

The Crocker House Museum follows Health Department recommended guidelines to keep our guests and volunteers safe from COVID-19. Face masks are available to guests. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required.