

JANUARY 2025

# The Crocker. Chronicle

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



*Celebrating the Heritage of our  
Historic Mount Clemens*

## MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS



**2024 is in the books!** It was a year of learning, changing and doing that has me excited for the upcoming challenges and opportunities that we face. While some of these are unknown, it is a good time to preview what lies ahead.

First, we are expanding and building on our programming. While we don't have a 100% complete picture of ALL that we are going to do, we do know we are going to do more. Our off-site tour program will be expanded, you'll see us out at Clinton Grove (not just for Cemetery Walk!), downtown and anywhere else we can bring history home. Our History by the Plate, where we "take over" a location for some historical fun and a meal will have at least two, and likely more, dates in the upcoming year. Additionally, we are going to hold a Spring Open House, in a similar vein to our Christmas Open House, but focusing on new exhibits, volunteer opportunities for the year and beginning a push to increase membership. This year we will have a focus on the Fire Department, a bookend from last year's Cemetery Walk, and the rich and vibrant history of the firefighters who have called Mount Clemens home. Finally, we have crafted, in partnership with Detroit History Tours and The Detroit History Club, an escape room style program for the Crocker House to diversify the ways people can experience the house and our history.

We are also going to be focusing on developing a sustainable, and varied children's program for the Crocker House. This will not be a solo project, meaning we are actively seeking, exploring and using partnerships in Mount Clemens to craft and implement this programming. While this isn't easy it is the road to sustained and vibrant children's programming.

In other areas we are continuing the work that has traditionally gone on at the Crocker House, preservation of the property in particular. We will be working on repairs of the porch, fencing and the house's exterior. As you, the membership, know the work of preservation is continuous, but well worth the time and energy needed to perpetuate our mission.

Of course we are keeping our pillars and premier events like the Pottery Luncheon on Saturday April 5th, 2025 and our Cemetery Walk on Saturday October 4th, 2025, but we are also adding new events this year. We can't wait to see you there, and we can't wait to see what else this year brings.

Take a look at our preliminary schedule, found in this issue, and know it is far from complete. We are going to be adding more before our next issue in March and more as the year goes on. As always we want to hear from you. If you have a question, reach out. If you have an exhibit idea or want, likewise let us know!

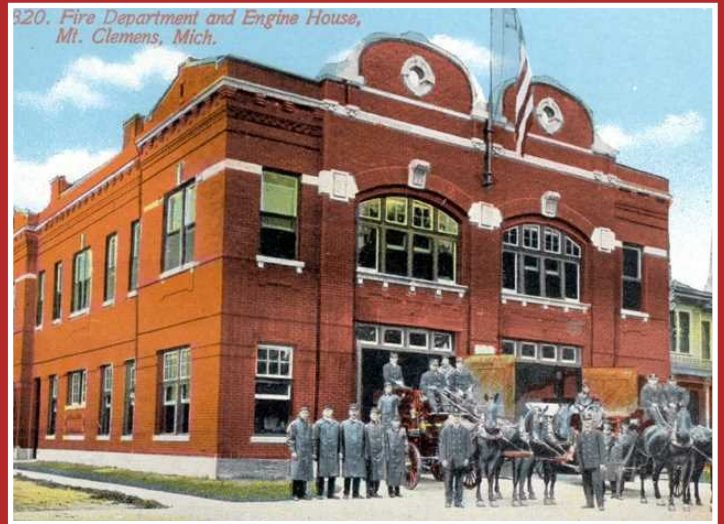
**I look forward to a year of challenges, achievements and history!**



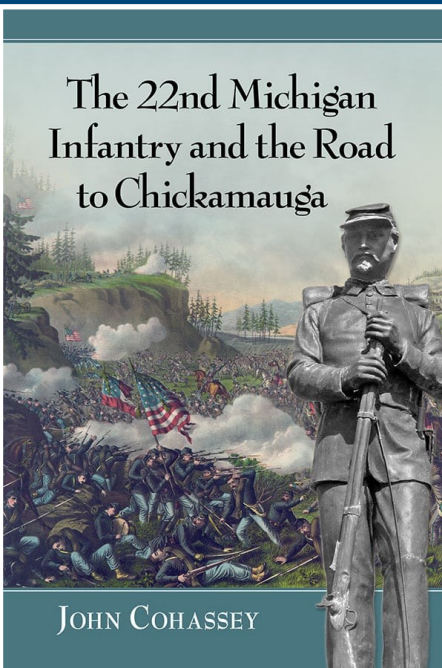
# 2024 Cemetery Walk

On October 5th, 2024, Clinton Grove Cemetery served as the backdrop for an unforgettable afternoon dedicated to the stories of Mount Clemens firefighters and volunteer firefighters. This year's Cemetery Walk was a tremendous success, with tickets selling out well before the event. Attendees enjoyed ideal weather, enhancing the overall experience and atmosphere.

We owe the success of this event to the incredible efforts of our dedicated reenactors, volunteers, and generous sponsors. Your contributions ensured the event was both engaging and memorable.



## The 22nd Michigan Infantry and the Road to Chickamauga



## Lunch with John Cohassey

Guests enjoyed a captivating afternoon on Sunday, November 2nd, 2024 as author John Cohassey delved into the Civil War battle of Chickamauga, highlighting the bravery and sacrifices of the 22nd Michigan Infantry Soldiers. Paired with a delicious lunch, the event offered a compelling blend of history and community, leaving attendees inspired by the stories of courage from this pivotal moment in American history.

# Disastrous Mount Clemens

## *History by the Plate Series*

Originally planned for September 22nd, 2024, but rescheduled to November 10th, 2024, due to COVID, our lunch at the Engine House in downtown Mount Clemens explored the city's dramatic history of disasters. From a plane crash in the city center to a devastating twister and a series of catastrophic floods, Mount Clemens has endured its share of calamities, each with its own harrowing tale and lasting impact on the community. Guests enjoyed a captivating presentation alongside delicious pizza and salad.

A special thank you to the Engine House for hosting this event, marking the first of many in our *History by the Plate* series!



## Hallowe'en at the Crocker Manor

On Saturday, October 26th, 2024, the Crocker House transformed into the eerie *Crocker Manor* for a night of spine-tingling fun! Guests explored spooky candlelit tours adorned with historical Hallowe'en decorations, discovered creepy morbid artifacts, and participated in thrilling paranormal investigations. Tea leaf fortune-telling added a mystical touch, while a bonfire hosted folklore and tall tales.

Seasonal treats and beverages, including delicious donuts from Delightful Donuts, delighted guests of all ages, alongside engaging crafts for kids and other special activities for adults. It was a hauntingly delightful celebration of Hallowe'en!

## Paranormal Investigation *at the Crocker Manor*

As part of our spooky season lineup, the *Crocker Manor* opened its doors for a chilling paranormal investigation that captivated participants. Armed with ghost-hunting tools and a spirit of curiosity, guests explored the historic Crocker House Museum and Gardens after dark.

The evening was filled with eerie excitement, from unsettling voices echoing through the halls to encounters with what seemed to be the playful spirit of a young boy. The stories and evidence uncovered added a layer of intrigue to the already rich history of the site. It was an unforgettable night of mystery and spine-tingling discoveries that left everyone eager for the next supernatural adventure!





# Holiday Open House

On Saturday, December 2nd, 2024, the Crocker House Museum welcomed the community to our festive Annual Holiday Open House. The atmosphere was filled with holiday cheer as Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special appearance, delighting children and adults alike. Little ones had a blast creating crafts, while Marge led joyful holiday sing-alongs that brought warmth and laughter to the gathering.

Our gift shop was bustling with activity, offering a fabulous selection of seasonal treats at our bake sale, featuring an array of delicious homemade goodies. It was the perfect way to celebrate the season and share in the joy of the holidays with friends and family.

Thank you to all who joined us for this heartwarming event!



## Polish Supper *Christmas Eve Wigilia*

On December 14th, 2024, the Crocker House Museum hosted a festive Polish Supper, also known as *Wigilia*, a traditional Christmas Eve celebration, at the Presbyterian Church on Cass Avenue. Guests enjoyed a delectable spread from Polonia in Hamtramck, featuring dishes like perogies, kraut, Polish sausage, and many other traditional favorites that offered an authentic taste of Poland.

Our guest speaker, Ann Bankowski, captivated the audience with her deep knowledge of Polish customs, sharing the rich history and meaningful traditions that make *Wigilia* so special. From the twelve dishes served to the customs surrounding the evening, Ann brought to life the cultural significance of this beloved holiday celebration. It was a delightful and educational evening, filled with delicious food, heartfelt traditions, and a true sense of holiday spirit.



# Upcoming Events for 2025

*Events to be added throughout the year!*

**Sunday, March 16th 2025**

History by the Plate Series - Lecture & Lunch with  
Bailey Sisoy Moore, Rosie the Riveter

**Saturday, April 5th 2025**

Annual Yvonne Leslie Pottery Luncheon -  
Zuccaro's Country House



**Saturday, April 19th 2025**

Pot Decorating in the Crocker House Museum Gardens

**Saturday, May 3rd 2025**

Spring Open House and Exhibit Opening

**Saturday, July 19th 2025**

Annual Garden Walk



## 2025 Garage Sale

**June 6th & 7th**

The Crocker House Museum is hosting a garage sale, and we're excited to invite our members to contribute. If you're cleaning out your closets or decluttering, please consider saving your donations for this event. Your support will help us raise funds for future museum programs and events.

**Stay tuned for more details on how to drop off your items!**





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 #: \_\_\_\_\_



**MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY &  
CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM**

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