

# JENISON HISTORY

February 2014

Issue No.: 2014-1

[www.jenisonhistory.org](http://www.jenisonhistory.org)

JENISON HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 664  
Jenison, Michigan 49429  
TELEPHONE  
(616) 457-4398

## FROM THE CHAIR

The purpose of the Jenison Historical Association is to discover, gather, explore, disseminate and preserve knowledge about Jenison and its vicinity; to collect and classify property, objects, letters, pictures, records, documents and other information relating to the past of Jenison and its vicinity, its exploration, settlement, development, institutions and other activities; to publish and sell, print and produce books, brochures in connection with the foregoing.

The Association is also responsible for administering and maintaining, with the help of the Georgetown Township Board, the Jenison Historical Museum.

As you see, there is a lot of work involved with preserving the history of Jenison. A small but dedicated group has brought the work of the association and the Jenison Historical Museum to where it is today. It has taken a great number of "man" hours from this small dedicated group to get it to this point.

The current board has developed a Master Plan for the next 5 to 10 years. In order to accomplish this plan, we need members, active members. I am coming to you for help in recruiting new members.

Our mission is to learn about Jenison history, obtain artifacts relating to its history, and maintain the Jenison Historical Museum as a place to share and display our heritage.



Moody Gas  
Pump



(CON'T)

Do you have a family member or friend who has expressed interest in history? Please encourage them to attend a meeting and see if helping preserve the history of Jenison is something they might want to help with.

Do you know someone who has a special skill that could help with our purpose? Encourage them to attend a meeting.

Membership dues are \$10 per year. Meetings are held at 6:45 p.m. the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Georgetown Library.

Do you know someone who likes just helping out with projects? Encourage them to attend a meeting and find out what projects they could help with. We need help with displays, inputting inventory items into a computer program, cleaning the house, and taking care of the flowers in the yard at the museum. These are just a few of the areas in which we could use help.

Please refer anyone who has questions to me via email at [ltimmer1@comcast.net](mailto:ltimmer1@comcast.net) or have them call me 457-3708.

Thanks for your help.

Liz Timmer, Chairperson

## Loom Restored!

It's lived in the attic since approximately 2002, when donated by Jeff Merrill of Jenison. But now, thanks to Melissa Huisman it is restored to working order and she has been teaching some of the younger volunteers how to run it. If you haven't seen it in action, come to an open house soon!



*Editors Note: the article below is one of the many jewels left in our archives by our past historian, Virginia Timmer.*

## Our first gas station:

Our first gas pump/station stood on Cottonwood just behind the present "76" Station [Editors Note: this is now an auto service and no longer sells fuel] at the "v" of Cottonwood and Baldwin. It was owned by Charles I. Moody who, in 1913, bought a 1911 Ford Roadster, one of the earliest cars in town. The original garage was a double stall. A year later he bought a woodshed from a schoolhouse and hooked it to the garage. He overhauled cars and pumped gas for about 15 years.

John S. Huizenga purchased the Moody property to build a small strip mall behind what is now "76" Station. In 1962, the first commercial "Moody" garage in Jenison was torn down. The old gas pump of Moody was given to Ed and Francis (Closterhouse) De Weerd. Fran's father, John Closterhouse, pumped gas for Mr. Moody. This strip mall housed the House of Flavors [Editors Note: House of Flavors was owned and operated by my father, Hugh Lowing] and Dream Donut--just two of the businesses there. This strip mall was torn down for a bank that opened

The old gas pump was donated to the Jenison Historical Association by Francis De Weerd and can be seen at the Jenison Museum.

The only other gas pump in the area was at Tubb's Corners (the five corners of Godfrey and Grandville Ave. Etc.) Before there was a gas pump, gas and kerosene was delivered door to door.

New information found (by V Timmer) on the Moody gas pump in the attic: The "Moody" gas pump is called a Bowser or Bouser and was first made in 1914. It was one of the first gas pumps.

Source: Dick Evans, WOTV, Dec. 18, 1984 and Dec. 26, 1985.

By: Virginia Timmer, past historian

## Holiday Wrap-up

We have wrapped up the Holiday season with our final Christmas Open House in January and all the decorations are down and packed away for another year.

We were able to have several 'ad-hoc' open houses thru the holiday's that brought in visitors with family in town. We met many new friends.

Now we are taking a winter break from open houses, but working harder than ever, getting the house clean and spruced up for our March open house. We also have some surprises coming this spring with some changes we are very excited about.

## March and April 2014

### Quilts - Old and New

We will be digging thru the boxes to bring out all the quilts to display. Come visit during one of the March or April open houses

## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

or call to arrange a private tour.

**Watch the calendar on the web for more upcoming events.**  
([www.jenisonhistory.org](http://www.jenisonhistory.org))

We look forward to seeing you, and if you would like to volunteer to help at any of these events, please contact the museum at 457-4398 or email us at [info@jenisonhistory.org](mailto:info@jenisonhistory.org).

### Are you a member??

If you are not a dues paying member, please consider joining to help support the Association. Dues are a bargain at only \$10 per year, you will receive monthly updates to the happenings of the Association. Contact the JHA at [info@jenisonhistory.org](mailto:info@jenisonhistory.org) or calling the museum

616-457-4398

### Web Site:

Keep up to date by stopping by our website for a list of the our meeting and Open House dates and times ([www.jenisonhistory.org](http://www.jenisonhistory.org))



**Souvenir Ornaments Still Available**

We have plenty of ornaments still available. Send an email to [info@jenisonhistory.org](mailto:info@jenisonhistory.org) or call the museum

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Museum Cleaning:** This is a big job, as you can well imagine, that needs constant attention in order to have the museum look it's best during the open houses. Contact any board member if you can lend a few hours.

**Tour Guides:** The school tours are a great way of teaching the children about our history and is such a rewarding experience. You won't regret being a part of this experience for our local children.

Joyce Klawiter would love to hear from you.

**And the list goes on...** Monthly Open Houses, Theme's for Open Houses, Inventory, Museum Maintenance, board trustee.

You can come to a monthly meeting or reach out to any board member if you would like to volunteer in any particular area.

## Restorations Needed

The picture shown is but one of the pictures that JHA is looking to restore. This picture is of President Garfield and his family. He came to our area to visit his brother, Thomas, who lived in Jamestown, one account says his last visit was 3 years before he was assassination in 1881. This picture of Garfield and his family, is showing signs of deterioration which can still be stopped, but the price is upwards of \$600 for just this one picture.



JHA an ongoing drive to build a restoration fund with the donations earmarked for just such projects. Would you be willing to donate to help restore this picture and others in need of repair?

Come to the next open house to learn more, or you can send your donation to PO Box 664, Jenison MI 49429 and mark it for the Restoration Fund.

## For Sale at the Museum

Jenison Museum Note Pads	\$ 1.50
Stationary with Envelopes	\$ 2.00
Book: Bend in the River	\$10.00
Book: At the Bend	\$ 4.00
Mill Print (unframed)	\$10.00
Jenison at the Bend CD	\$10.00
Historical Prints:	
Large	\$10.00
Small	\$ 7.50
Souvenir Ornament	\$15.00

Available during any open house, or call the Museum at 457-4398

## JHA TRUSTEE'S

### Chair/Membership

Liz Timmer (16)  
457-3708

### Vice Chair/Curator

Ken Williams (14)  
772.6523

### Treasurer/Editor

Ruth Lowing (14)  
896-1447

### Social Secretary

Nellie DeLaat (16)  
457-1193

### Recording Secretary

Linda Droog (15)  
457-3016

### Tours/Co-Archivist

Joyce Klawiter  
457-9018

### Co-Archivist

Barb Semeyn (14)  
457-9343

### Maintenance/Historian

Mike Timmer (16)  
531-1218

### Trustee

Yvonne Williams (14)  
772-6523  
Gene Kort (16)  
534-6769

### Township Rep

Ron Villerius

(##) = year of re-election to the board

**Contact Information:** Members may contact the board at the above phone numbers or leave a message at 457-4398 or [info@jenisonhistory.org](mailto:info@jenisonhistory.org)

## Historical Association of Michigan

Find us on the registry at

[www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org)





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PO Box 664  
Jenison, MI 49429

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### 2014 Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are all open to the public and are held on the **3rd Thursday** of the month at 6:45 PM at the Georgetown Library, unless noted. No meeting in the month of December.

**All meetings begin at 6:45 PM unless noted**

Call to volunteer your time at the open houses

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### 2014 Museum Open House Schedule

March 15, 2014	2-4 PM	Quilts Old and New
April 19, 2014	2-4 PM	
May 17, 2014	2-4 PM	Jenison Electric Park
June 21, 2014	2-4 PM	
July 19, 2014	Noon - 2PM	Grand Lady Riverboat Tour
	2:30 - 4 PM	Museum Open
Sept. 20, 2014	2-4 PM	Glimpses of early Hudsonville
October 18, 2014	2-4 PM	
December 6, 2014	1-4 PM	Christmas at the Jenison Museum
January 10, 2014	2-4 PM	

ALSO: 1st Tuesday of the month April thru November -  
10 AM - Noon