

# JENISON HISTORY

Sept 2010

Issue No.: 2010-8

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

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

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.

## September Open House

September 18, 2010 2-4 PM

See last page for details

### THE GRAND LADY RIVERBOAT EVENT

On July 17, 2010 the Jenison Historical Association, friends (new and old) and family boarded the Grand Lady Riverboat at the docks in Grandville for a 2 hour tour down the Grand River. Destination, Haire's Landing. Most people brought their lunch to enjoy during the leisurely float down the river, and drinks were available on board.

Captain Bill Boynton (JHA Member) with some help from Historian Ken Williams narrated along the way, pointing out various past and present landmarks.

The boat was packed to capacity with many friends and family of the membership. We also made some new friends that hopefully we will see again.

We forget the beauty that is right on our back doorstep as we hustle thru our daily lives. Out on the river is a different world. We saw an eagle and it's nest, cow's cooling themselves in the water, heron's flying across the river in front of the boat, and other wild life. The vegetation hanging over the river gives you the illusion of being in the deep south. The conclusion of all is that this needs to be an annual trip as great fun was had by all.



*All Aboard!*



*Thank you Captain Bill!!*



## BETTY GALER'S TALK AT THE MARCH 18, 1982 MEETING OF JHA

(continued from July 2010 this is the final installment of this wonderful talk that Betty did)

The furniture here in the front parlor is mostly Eastlake (front parlor). One of the significant things about Eastlake is that it has these little lines going across. Now, Victorian furniture before it (some of it was beautiful like our turret bedroom furniture), got gaudier and gaudier with more gewgaws(?) and gargoyles, more lion's heads, and it really got awful. Many of our furniture craftsmen were from England and this man cleaned it all up and made the lines straighter and cleaner, so he came up with this Eastlake furniture and it came to this country. Now this daybed is a priceless piece of Eastlake, and whoever made it couldn't leave off a little of the Victorian carving so he has that in here, but in very good taste. It opens up into a bed, there are hooks in the back and the whole thing opens out. We are careful to keep the shades drawn in this room to protect from fading. (Since Betty Galer did this talk, we have actually purchased this piece of furniture).

[Betty continued to walk around the room talking about the many pieces] This is a priceless pink marble (table). We probably could never find another like it. It is on loan and they trust us with it. That table is Eastlake. See the lines in it. The piano stool is Eastlake. It was covered with black paint. I feel good about the stool. This was mine and I paid to have work done to get the black paint off. I wanted Tiffany House to have it so I

sold it for \$50 the appraiser estimated it over twice that, so I feel good it is here. I had not cheated anyone. The platform rocker is Eastlake with its tidy that is just priceless. On my grandfather's chair, I went through six layers of towels and tidies to find the original chair. (Betty went on to tell how the layers came about, but it was too unclear on the tape.)

The two matching chairs are supposed to have at one time been on Baldwin Street in 1875. Barb Roelofs and the curator from the Grand Rapids Public Museum called it Art Nouveau. Art Nouveau is 1915, however, I was reading about Art Nouveau going back to about 1885 or so. You never question what a donor or loaner tells you about their item. Old folks, a little bit off their rocker, will have things confused, but most always they are right. I put a little higher value on the love seat than the chair, but the appraiser made them equal. My reason for the loveseat being higher is the throwback to the Hepplewhite period noticed on the back. Furniture craftsmen in the 1890's-1900-1910 went way back, some to the William and Mary period, and this is a Hepplewhite back and I felt it was a better piece of craftsmanship than the chair. So the appraiser disagreed. We call it Art Nouveau even though there is the Hepplewhite. So if someone says Art Nouveau is 1915 say we have it on authority that Art Nouveau began way before that. Here is a real Victorian [unsure which piece she is referencing here] if you want to see--cluttered, great big roses. It is probably Belcher

(?)--a man famous in New York City. And along with the period furniture from English furniture makers, there was Louis XV and Louis XVI from France, then there was Jacobean.

Doris and I would like to see portieres in the doorway between the front and back parlors. If you go to the Voigt House, the doorway there has two sets--one on each side--heavy, heavy portieres. They are very expensive, but it would be nice; however, we have to also have other things like showcases and the historical side that need attention, but this is an historical building and I feel we have to do something about the furniture. Now this chair, Barbara Roelofs was in here and said, "Oh, this is an (sounded like Huzinga chair). The appraiser had never heard of it, and that's all right, you can't know everything about everything. Barbara had read it in some magazine. (I believe the previous was about a little rocker?).

Now the talking machine. In 1904, the year I was born, Edison was at his peak in making talking machines with the cylinder records. It has a morning glory horn although it does not have the morning glories painted on it. But, it is the shape of the morning glory; therefore, it is still a morning glory horn and a member of the Andre family brought this over on the interurban in 1903. The cover stands on the shelf beneath and the horn comes off. (Coincidentally, the talking machine was first played in a house directly north of the museum).

*continued, page 3*

BETTY GALER'S TALK  
(CON'T)

*continued from page 2*

The piano is later than I hoped it was. It is around 1930. Inside it is labeled a spinet grand. When I began to take lessons at age five (1909) my mother had a big old black one that was called a square piano. It wasn't square, but that is what they called it. They got more distinguished and called it the spinet grand. The average piano teacher got 50 cents, but mine got 75 cents. I didn't practice and my mother finally said, "I'm not going to pay that extra 25 cents if you're not going to practice. The person who donated it thought it was 100 years old.

The pianos of 1900 had huge legs called elephant legs. Betty showed us a picture. The rug underneath the piano (that's why it's there so it won't be walked on) is very, very fragile and very, very rare. Mrs. Tiffany gave it to us. It is a Bokara. The appraiser admitted he was not knowledgeable about rugs. This rug is labeled a Caucasian (the large one in front parlor). These are some priceless rugs. The two rugs in the front parlor were originally from the house. The one up in the turret bedroom is a (?). The rug for the front parlor is supposed to go up to where the floorboards go the other way.

After the talk, Betty gave us a test.

**Georgetown Township Library,  
Adult Services Department presents:**

**Registration is required.**

**Walk-ins will be seated after those who are pre-registered are seated, if space allows.**

**Register at the Library or by calling (616) 457-9620**

**JHA is not presenting this information, but thought it may be of interest to our members.**

**Researching your Family's History:  
Where to Begin**

**Thursday October 7, 2010  
7:00 - 8:30 pm**

**A conversation with**

**Don and Jan Upp of Jenison**

**Get pointers you can use to begin your family history research.**

**Don and Jan will share stories from their experiences in researching**



**Michigan's Ghostly Beacons**

**Wednesday October 6, 2010  
7:00 - 8:30 pm**

**What is it about lighthouses that attracts ghostly spirits? Join this lively discussion as Dianna Stampfler of Promote Michigan, shares the stories of Michigan's Ghostly Beacons.**

SEPTEMBER OPEN HOUSE

COFFEE AT TIFFANY'S

SEPT 18 2010  
2-4 PM

COME ENJOY COFFEE ON THE PORCH AT THE MUSEUM AND TAKE A TOUR

ALSO IN SEPTEMBER!!

BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON THE DIRECTION OF JHA

SEPT 25 2010  
AT THE MUSEUM  
9:30-12 PM FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

FOR SALE AT THE MUSEUM

'Bend in the River' Book

Mill Prints and stationary

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

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.

**Community Displays:** An initiative is to get some displays out into the community, possible to local banks,

schools and businesses. What better way to get awareness out into the community than to bring the museum to them. Grayce Lancaster is heading up this project. She would welcome any help you might be able to offer from finding the locations to picking display material and setting up the displays.

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

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

JHA TRUSTEE'S

Chair

Liz Timmer (10)

Vice Chair/Co-Historian

Ken Williams (11)

Treasurer/Editor

Ruth Lowing (11)

Social Secretary

Nellie DeLaat (10)

Recording Secretary

Bev Potter (10)

Tours/Co-Archivist

Joyce Klawiter (12)

Co-Archivist

Barb Semeyn (11)

Displays/Curator

Grayce Lancaster (12)

Maintenance/Co-Historian

Mike Timmer

Trustee

Anne Foote (11)

Township Rep

Del South

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

**Contact Information:** To reach any board member, leave a message at 457-4398.

Historical Society of Michigan

Find us on the registry at:

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

TREASURERS REPORT AND MINUTES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS UPON REQUEST OR AT REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS





Jenison Historical Association  
PO Box 664  
Jenison, MI 49429

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### 2010 Meeting Schedule

Thursday September 16 - Georgetown Library

Thursday, October 21 - Georgetown Library

Thursday, November 18 - Georgetown Library

No Meeting in December, 2010

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

### 2010 Museum Open House Schedule and Themes

September 18 2-4 PM Coffee at Tiffany's

October 16 2-4 PM From Trees to Subdivision

December 4 1-4 PM Holiday Open House