



Jenison Historical Association Footnotes

Jenison Historical Association
Box 664—28 Port Sheldon
Jenison, Michigan 49429

May 2009

From the Archives

“From the Archives articles are initially from the files of Virginia Timmer, however if you have a topic you would like to contribute, please contact Ruth Lowing. Virginia has kept detailed diaries of her research and contacts over the years, and these are her stories...

Board Members

Chairman

Liz Timmer (10)

Vice Chairman/Co-Historian

Ken Williams (11)

Treasurer/Editor

Ruth Lowing (11)

Twp. Rep

Del South

Secretary

Nellie DeLaat (10)

Trustee/Tours, Co-Archivist

Joyce Klawiter (09)

Trustee/ Co-Archivist

Barb Semeyn (11)

Trustee / Displays/Curator

Grayce Lancaster (09)

Maintenance/Co-Historian

Mike Timmer (10)

Trustee

Beverly Potter (10)

Trustee

Anne Foote (11)

(##) = year this position will be re-elected

Contact Information:

To reach any board member, leave a message at 457-4398



Historical Association of Michigan

Find us on the registry of the Historical Society of Michigan:

www.hsmichigan.org



Newsletter Notice

If anyone would like to receive this newsletter electronically, we have an email option.

Please contact Ruth Lowing at rlowing@aol.com or call 616-662-4137 to e-subscribe

STORY OF THE PINE STUMP FENCE

The pine stump fence is a reminder of the lumbering days in Jenison. The Jenison family made their fortune in lumbering. In 1839, twin Luman Jenison, at the age of 16, ran the first raft of lumber down the Grand River.

During logging days the pine trees were harvested, leaving the stumps. When the farmers moved into the area, they used stump pullers or dynamite to remove them. Fires burned for days as the fields were

cleared for planting. Some learned that the stumps made good fences. In recent years, the stumps became artistic ornaments for landscaping.

Betty Galer, former member of the Jenison Historical Association, had the idea that we should have a pine stump fence. Gerald Scholma got a trailer from the township and, along with Paul Zwyhuizen, ar-

ranged them as they are today. The stumps came off property owned by John Koetje. Ken Williams did a sketch of the pine stump fence at that time.



(Sources: Gerald Scholma and Virginia Timmer. Written by Virginia Timmer, April 23, 1999).

From the Archives (can't)

FIRST RAPID TRANSIT, OTHER THAN THE RAILROAD:

The first shovel full of dirt on the Grand Rapids, Holland & Lake Michigan Rapid Transit Railway was thrown by Ben S. Hanchett, vice president of the road on October 26, 1900.

In April of 1901, the construction company had about a hundred men working in the vicinity of Jenison. Teams with drivers were paid \$3.50 per day. The main power station was at Jenison which is midway between Grand Rapids and Zeeland.

On Tuesday, July 9, 1901, the first cars began running between Grand Rapids and Jenison.

On August 31, 1901 the last single track was laid and the first trip ever was made on that day. (eventually it became a double track). The trip was made by a party that included Benjamin S. Hanchett, Jr. Vice president of the construction company. The company was required to operate a car between Zeeland and Grand Rapids by Saturday, August 31, 1901 or forfeit the \$1000 franchise guarantee deposited with Zeeland Township. Ben Hanchett had promoted the railway and became its first president.

Regular service of the Grand Rapids, Holland and Lake Michigan Interurban began October 14, 1901. Several years later, it became known as Grand Rapids, Holland & Chicago Railroad.

Construction was not without obstacles, among them being: a sink hole (a bottomless pit) that couldn't be filled, so 1,000 pilings were put in

place. It turned out to be the most expensive mile of track in the whole system: inclement weather; objections from property owners who didn't want the interurban coming over their land; tunneling under or building over railroad tracks. One hundred Zeeland farmers tore up 400 feet of the line just west of Zeeland which was the result of the alleged non-compliance of the railway company with the contract.



Early 1930's, Virginia Timmer with Main St., Interurban Depot and Tracks behind her

The interurban provided men with a way to work and students to school; a way for people to get to Grand Rapids for shopping. To find out when the interurban was coming, some people put their ear to the track. A faint humming sound signaled the arrival of the interurban. If it was still dark a piece of paper would be lit to signal the interurban to stop. The interurban delivered produce to boats in Holland for shipment to Chi-

cago the next morning. Farmers also shipped potatoes, hay, grain and eggs. People from Grand Rapids and west used the interurban to get to Jenison Electric Park on Lake Macatawa.

The interurban cars were far from slow moving. The interurban ran behind the Ben Buikema house which still stands within sight of Jenison Museum. Ben recalled the day when the interurban raced from Holland to Grand Rapids in a record time of 29 minutes--close to 50 miles per hour.

Such speed, coupled with the omission of modern track warning systems, sometimes spelled disaster. Five people were killed near Buikema's house. Ten were injured in Grandville when a Pere Marquette steam engine smashed into an interurban car.

In 1916, the line was being leased by the Michigan Railway which operated it for seven years. The lease ended on New Year's Eve, 1923 and returned to its owner. The interurban went into receivership. An abbreviated version ran from Grand Rapids to Jenison and survived for a year, but on November 15, 1926, the interurban made its last run.

The interurban right-of-way between Zeeland and Holland was paved over and became M-21. Chicago Drive between the west limits of Grandville to a short distance west of the Ottawa/Kent county line in Jenison is built on the old interurban line.

[from the files of Virginia Timmer]

Meeting Minutes—April 16, 2009

Submitted by **Bev Potter**

Present: Bev Potter, Liz Timmer, Ruth Lowing, Ken Williams, Yvonne Williams, Nellie DeLaat, Joyce Klawiter, Grayce Lancaster, Mike Timmer, Virginia Timmer, Bev Potter, Anne Foote

Association business

Minutes: One correction to minutes – Mike Timmer moved to accept and Virginia seconded. Liz is to contact the Fair not Grayce Aye’s carried.

Treasurer’s Report & Treasurer’s Duties: Ken moved to accept, Grayce seconded. Talked to board, needed to talk to the bank, either 1 person signs or 2 can sign checks. Treasurer will make the deposit from any funds collected. And sign checks. Mail goes to the board, and Dan will give it to Mike or Ken. Needs to be seen by Liz first and Dan can turn over the key to us for the mailbox. Dan will no longer be our treasurer and we will have to elect a treasurer. We do not yet know who will be our township representative. Grayce nominated Ruth Lowing for Treasurer and Ann seconded. Ayes’s carried.

Webpage – Ruth: Ruth gave up trying to connect with one of the contacts. Found someone else, that for \$100 dollars will set up and get us a domain name, 50 e-mail addresses, 2 gigabytes of storage. And he would maintain it for \$100 per year. Or he would show us (for another \$100) how to maintain it ourselves, calling him in as needed. So \$200 dollars, he would set it up and train us to take care of it. Then it would 100 dollars a year to keep it up – an annual fee for the domain. Then we could go from there – if we need more storage, etc. Grayce made the motion to proceed, Barb seconded, Ayes carried.

Brief history, bylaws, officers, membership form, events coming up, what we do for the community. Maybe a members only tab where we could get info. A place for donations.

Set up so 1 or 2 people are checking the e-mails. Agreed to have something started by June

Museum business

Maintenance Report – Mike: Final quotes for the water-proofing are with Dan and the township will vote on

them. Basement door is fixed. Can get cotton gloves for .39. Need to empty basement before May 16. Need to refinish the door to the front porch. Power wash stone on the house exterior. Work on quote for new sprinkler system for 2010 township budget. New shades

April Open House – Ken: He is ready for the April open house.

May Open House – Anne: She is ready for May, and is fine tuning the details. Grayce has the posters done and they look great. Anne also reported on contacting the high school and she will be talking to some groups about helping out at the museum.

Other business

Grayce reported that she talked to the advance about membership, and about advertising fees.

She also talked to the Grand Rapids Press. And she talked to Meijer's about a donation. She gave them our tax number.

Grayce said she has also sent a letter to the high schools to see if they had any interest in coming tonight.

We adjourned to begin the program “Paths of Destruction” presented by Ernest J. Ostuno. On the 1956 Tornado’s that came thru Western Michigan.

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

Treasurers Report – May 1 2009

Submitted by D. Carlton

Cash on Hand	
Retained Earnings 2008	\$ 2,381.28
	\$ -
As of 12/31/08	\$ 2,381.28
Total Income 2009	\$ 516.96
Total Expenses 2009	\$ (47.47)
Total Equity	\$ 2,850.77
Receivables- Unpaid Dues	\$ (130.00)
Total Liabilities	\$ 60.00
Cash on Hand	\$ 2,780.77



Income:	3/31 thru 4/29/09	Year to date 09
Books	17.00	20.00
Donations	120.00	199.00
Memorials	0.00	0.00
Dues	0.00	295.00
Mill Print& Photos	0.00	0.00
Stationery	0.00	2.00
Sub Total	\$137.00	\$516.00
Interest	0.37	0.96
Total Income	\$137.37	\$516.96

Expenses:	3/31 thru 4/29/09	Year to date 09
Equipment Rental	0.00	0.00
Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	0.00
Fees	0.00	0.00
Postage	0.00	0.00
Repairs/Security	\$ -	(47.47)
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Supplies	0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00	(\$47.47)
Due Grandville for books	\$	60.00

Volunteer Opportunities!!

Museum Cleaning: A cleaning schedule is being developed. 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 is such a rewarding experience. You won't regret being a part of this experi-

ence for our local children. Joyce Klawiter would love to hear from you.

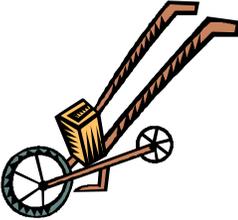
Community Displays: An initiative is to get some displays out into the community, possibly to local banks, schools and businesses. What better way to get awareness out into the community than to bring the museum to them. Grayce Lancaster is heading up this project. She would welcome any help you might 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.

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

2009 Calendar of Open House Events

<p>May 16, 2009 2-4 PM</p> <p>How does your garden grow!</p> 	<p>July 18, 2009 2-4 PM</p> <p>Voyagers</p> 	<p>September 19, 2009 2-4 PM</p> <p>Jenison Transportation</p> 
<p>October 17, 2009 2-4 PM</p> <p>Muck Farming & Harvesting</p> 	<p>December 5, 2009....1-4 PM</p> <p>Holiday Open House</p> 	<p>January 9, 2010....2-4 PM</p> <p>2nd Holiday Open House</p> 
<p>Cut out and Save!!</p> <p>If you can help on any of these open houses, Please call the museum</p>		

2009 Meeting Schedule

Thursday, May 21 ———Rosewood Ref. Church
 Thursday, June 18 ———Georgetown Library
 Thursday, July 16 ———Georgetown Library
 Thursday, August 20 ———Georgetown Library
 Thursday, September 17 —Georgetown Library
 Thursday, October 15 ———Georgetown Library
 Thursday, November 19 —-Georgetown Library
 No meeting in December, 2009

All meetings start at 6:45 PM unless noted.

Note: Rosewood Ref. Church is located on the corner of Rosewood and 28th Ave in Jenison.

2009 Museum Open House Schedule and Themes

May 16 from 2-4 p.m. – How does your garden grow? -- Anne
 July 18 from 2-4 p.m. – Voyagers (reenactment) – Grayce/Nellie
 September 19 from 2-4 p.m. – Jenison Transportation Thru the Ages – Mike/Liz
 October 17 from 2-4 p.m. – Muck Farming & Harvesting -- Ken
 December 5 from 1-4 p.m. – Holiday Open House -- Grayce
 January 9, 2010 from 2-4 p.m. – 2nd Holiday Open House



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Jenison Historical Association Mission Statement:

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.

Next Meeting of the Jenison Historical Association

May 21, 2009 6:45 PM

Rosewood Reformed Church

General Public Welcome