



Swartz Creek Area Historical Society

Pub # 96

swartzcreekhistory.com

May/June 2018

May 9 - Show & Tell & Elections - Everyone Invited to join

June 13 - The Life of Death - Ralph Rossell

Regular meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Swartz Creek City Hall, 8083 Civic Drive, Swartz Creek, MI 48473.

Please join us.

"It is the mission of the Swartz Creek Area Historical Society to keep alive the chronicle of our community's yesterdays, today's, and tomorrows in the hearts and minds of those around us."

Please note that occasionally our meetings are relocated from City Hall to a different location and time. Those changes will be mentioned in this newsletter and posted on the door at city hall.

If we have your email address, you will receive an email as well!

Notes from the President



The month of May brings us the promise of warmer weather, green grass and flowers in our gardens. It is also a busy month with graduations, Mother's Day and Memorial Day celebrations. I remember when I was younger, we always referred to the holiday as Decoration Day, so I turned to Wikipedia to see when the name was changed.

In 1868 General John A. Logan, com-

mander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a proclamation that "Decoration Day" be observed annually and nationwide, following a practice of ladies in the south laying flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers. The northern states quickly adopted the holiday. In fact, in 1868 memorial events were held in 183 cemeteries in 27 states. Michigan made "Decoration Day" an official holiday in 1871.

After World War II, the holiday was commonly referred to as Memorial Day, but it was not until 1967 that a Federal law declared it to be official. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved the dates of four holidays to Mondays to create a three day weekend, including Memorial Day. The date was changed to the last Monday of May from its traditional date of May 30th. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, whereas Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

Congratulations go out to Dick & Boots Abrams, longtime members of the Society. In recognition of their many years of service to the Swartz Creek area, Winshall Park has been renamed



Abrams Park, a well-deserved honor.

We hope to see many of you at our May 9th meeting, which is Show & Tell Night, always a fun event. Bring something to stump the audience, bring back a memory or something you collect. Over the years, we have seen some very interesting objects!

Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers!

Susan Swan, President

March 14th Meeting

Railroad Safety/Hobos & Tramps -
Curtis Stewart



At our March meeting, we were happy to have with us, Curtis Stewart. Curtis is a retired Lansing Fire Department Captain and member of Michigan Department of "Operation Lifesaver". Curtis is also

presently working regularly as a volunteer at the Durand Union Station Depot.

Curtis shared with us lifesaving facts to keep in mind while being anywhere near any train tracks. For an example, did you realize that there is a sign just like the one he is at every RR crossing? That sign has a emergency phone number on it and a number identifying the crossing. It is there for our use to get help ASAP.



Yes there is a difference between a hobo and a tramp and they will be the first to tell you about them. For the most part they are all hard working people, they just simply do not want to be tied down to one place. Hobos travel from place to place on trains. They have coded signs along the way tell-



ing them where to find work or a hot meal. Tramps prefer to travel on foot.

If you missed this meeting and have the chance to listen to Stewart at another time, it is well worth the time to go. We all enjoyed his presentation.

April 11 Meeting

Michigan CW Battle Flags -Matt Van Acker

Matt Van Acker has a job that he loves,



helping to preserve the Civil War, Spanish American War, and WWI battle flags that are housed in the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

These were flags that were made and presented to the soldiers headed off to war by women of the area they lived in.

After the war the troops returned with their flags and many were presented to Michigan's Governor, Henry Crapo for safe keeping so all would know and remember how important they were to the men who fought.

The flags hung in the state capitol for many years, until it was discovered that the shear weight of the flags and the environment they were in was beginning to destroy them.

Upon the recommendation of one the country's leading textile conservators the flags were removed from the Capitol and placed in a specially designed archival storage unit in the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing. There, the flags are being preserved, researched and saved. This is a very expensive process and the state of



Michigan does not have the funds to restore all of these flags.

As part of "Save The Flags," a project to preserve the state's collection of historic battle flags, groups, individuals or families may adopt a flag by contributing financially to its preservation. By donating these needed funds our citizens are ensuring that the flags and the history of the men who so courageously fought and died under them will be preserved.

Condolences



David Semark, age 90, died Friday, April 27, 2018. David was a 1947 graduate of Mary Crapo High School. He was an active member of SC Area Historical Society and we

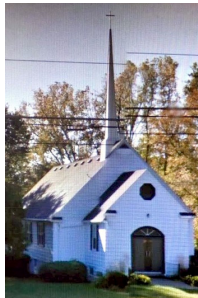
will miss him at our meetings

We send our heartfelt sympathies to his wife Nathalie and his entire family.

Hope Lutheran Church

With the closing of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, after 71 years of service to our community, Pastor David Krueger has allowed us to digitize some of the photographs and articles for our archives.

We are grateful for this donation, as it provides information that we did not have in our files. Pastor Krueger was the last pastor to serve the church; he has also served as Mayor of the City of Swartz Creek.



Social Media

All of our publications are listed with prices on our website: swartzcreekhistory.com

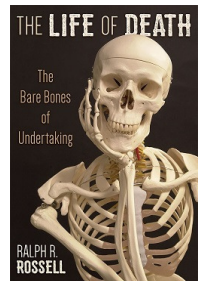
Watch for our posts on Facebook!

Upcoming Events

- May 9 - **Show & Tell** - Election of the Board of Trustees
- June 13—**Life of Death**- Ralph Rossell

Our May meeting will start with the election of board members whose terms are ending, also you are welcome to join in on our Show and Tell Bring in an item or two that you would like to share with the group. Anything historical will do. This is a very popular annual event, so please limit your time to about 5 minutes.

Ralph Rossell from the Rossell Funeral Home in Flushing will be with us in June. He has recently published a book, "Life of Death: The Bare Bones of Undertaking".



Please note that all of our speakers are tentative and sometimes do get changed. We will do our best to inform you of any last minute changes by email or newspaper and they are always posted at the door of the mini museum in City Hall!

2018

- May 9 - **Show & Tell** - Election of the Board of Trustees
- June 13—**Life of Death**- Ralph Rossell
- July 11 - **Ice Cream Social** –Swartz Creek Trivia Night
- August - No Meeting
- September 12 - **Lightning Rods & their decorative glass** - Rod Krupka
- October- To be determined

Remember our meetings are cancelled if the SC Community Schools are closed due to bad weather!

Donations

- **Village of Gaines** - Birth Record for the Village of Gaines 1898-1971, Death Records for the Village of Gaines 1906-1939
- **Monetary Donation** - Tim & Angie Buda

Board Member Changes

As of April 20, 2018, Ron & Carolyn West have resigned from the board of trustees. We thank them both for the time that they served.

New Member

We welcome Nancy Cherry of Rapid City, SD. Nancy is the great granddaughter of Homer Wade, the Swartz Creek Blacksmith.

Welcome also to Paul Braun of Swartz Creek. Paul attended the last meeting and decided to join.

SC Area Obituary Index

Len Thomas is continuing to update area obituaries for the file located at the Perkins Library in Swartz Creek. With people contributing and the current obituary search each day in the Flint Journal as of November, 2017 there are 3,885 obituaries on file.

If you haven't looked at the obituary file, check it out; you will be amazed! Board trustee, Chris Campbell has volunteered to continue clipping current obituaries from local newspapers. SCAHS member, Paul Williams has been scouting the internet for any very old obituaries he can find. All of this help is truly appreciated as we continue our mission of serving our own communities. If you have family **obituaries**, not just the info, please mail them to:

**Len Thomas 4267 Springbrook Drive,
Swartz Creek, MI 48473**

Membership Information

Dues

Dues have been coming in very slowly, so please help us out by sending them to the address shown below and your new membership card will be sent with the next newsletter. A big thanks to those of you that have paid. ***Please let us know of any address changes so our newsletters get to you in a timely manner.*** We are a **501 C-3** non profit group and all of your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Contributions and memorials are always welcome.

Membership dues levels:

Seniors: (60 and up) and **Students** (18 and under) \$5.00

Individuals: under 60 years of age \$10.00

Family: (all related persons in the same household) \$20.00

Patron: \$50

Send all payments or correspondence to:

S.C.A.H.S.

11353 Cook Rd.

Gaines, Michigan 48436 – 9742

Email: tbuda@shianet.org or

abuda@shianet.org - **Phone: 989-271-9193**

OFFICERS

President.....	Susan Swan - 2020
Vice-President.....	Christine Campbell - 2018
Secretary.....	Angie Buda - 2018
Treasurer.....	Tim Buda - 2019
Trustees.....	Bill Miller - 2020
Dave Spillane - 2019	Lisa Spillane - 2018
Len Thomas - 2019	Scott Roy - 2020
Alternates.....	Jim Barclay - 2020
	Paul Williams - 2020