



Swartz Creek Area Historical Society

Pub # 94

swartzcreekhistory.com

Jan-Feb 2018

January 10 - "STRANGLERS OF THE REVOLUTION" - Mike Grobbel

February 14 - THE PASSION PLAY (Germany) - Jan Wilson

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

Happy New Year! As a snowy December fades away, we welcome 2018. Here are some highlights of 2017:

- We had a very successful celebration with the dedication of the Historical marker at Gaines Station Depot.
- The Senior Center from Goodrich visited the Chippewa Burial Ground and told us, once again, what a peaceful, sacred place it is to visit.
- We had a nice variety of well attended meetings.
- Our President Len Thomas decided to step down,



after six very successful years, to concentrate on some personal projects he had been setting aside.

- Sadly, we lost members, some very suddenly.

Our Society faces several challenges in this new year of 2018. Our treasury is meager, our dues have remained very low, and as a result, the Board has begun thinking about some fund raising efforts. We welcome any suggestions you may have and we will be sharing our ideas in the future.

Swartz Creek Historical Society has joined the wave of social media! We now have a Facebook page, thanks to Valerie Sharp, a relatively new (and enthusiastic) member. If you are on Facebook check it out. You will get updates and posts about future meetings.

The Board of Trustees has some interesting programs lined up for future meetings. We hope you will attend, support and get involved. In order to succeed, we all must work together.

Susan Swan, President

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

On Saturday, December 8, 2017, SCAHS member Paul Williams was given a special name badge from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Governor Crapo Camp No. 145 of Flint. Paul was one of eight charter members when the post was chartered, in 1992, by the National Sons of Union of the Civil War. Seven of those char-



ter members are still living. The Gov. Crapo Camp is very involved in community service projects and serves as the bellwether for keeping alive the memory of those who fought, lived and died during our nation's worst tragic war. Congratulations, PAUL WILLIAMS for receiving this recognition at the annual Christmas Dinner sponsored by the organization.

November 8th Meeting

Factory One - Kevin Kurbitz



It was certainly a pleasure having Kevin Kurbitz, operations manager of Factory One, as our November speaker. Kevin took us through the history of this wonderful landmark building and how General Motors restored

Factory One, considered to be the company's birthplace and epicenter of the global auto industry.

Located just north of downtown Flint, the factory dates to 1880, when it was built by the Flint Woolen Mills company as a short-lived venture into cotton textiles. In 1886, William Crapo "Billy" Durant and business partner Josiah Dallas Dort leased the facility and formed the Flint Road Cart Company – which became the Durant-Dort Carriage Factory and one of the largest carriage builders in the world.

GM purchased Factory One in 2013 and transformed it, with the goal of preserving and showcasing the original architecture.

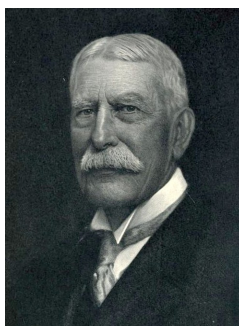


Henry Morrison Flagler

Gaines Area Beginnings

Having been involved in many activities about the Henry Howland Crapo farm, and knowing some of the employees, I was fascinated when I came across the following article from the May 20, 1955 article in the Flint Journal:

"CRAPO FARM HAND WENT ON TO FAME"



"Henry M. Flagler, the late builder of the Florida East Coast Railway and of palatial hotels which opened up Florida's fabulous Atlantic beach resort trade, once was a hand on the Crapo Farm.

Edwin O. Wood, who chronicled Genesee County history in detail in 1916, mentions Flagler as having found employment of the farm while a young boy and said young Flagler had lived there for a number of years.

Flagler was also an originator with the late John D. Rockefeller of the firm which later became known as Standard Oil."

You may have noticed a street named Flagler, running eastward off Dye Road between Lennon and Corunna Roads.

Henry Morrison Flagler was born January 2, 1830 in Hopewell, New York. He left school at age 14 to seek his fortune in Bellevue, Ohio. Penniless, he became a successful businessman working in the family mercantile business. He married his half-brother's sister, Mary Harkness and they had two daughters. Through his work, he met John D. Rockefeller and formed the Rockefeller, Andrews and Flagler Oil Refinery - which later became the largest and richest industrial company in the world - Standard Oil Company.

His wife, Mary, was plagued with many health issues and whose doctors ordered them to move to Jacksonville, Florida. Mary's tuberculosis took her life in 1881 at age 47, leaving Flagler alone with their ten-year-old son. In 1883, Flagler married one of his first wife's nurses and he began pursuing business interests in Florida. He built grand hotels and purchased a railroad that eventually be-

came the Florida East Coast Railway.

Not without controversy, Flagler's most interesting undertaking was "Flagler's Folly," which would span seven miles of open water on its way to Key West. Completed in 1912, the railroad proved to be a disaster and was destroyed by a 1935 Labor Day hurricane.

In 1913, at the age of 84, Flagler died falling down a flight of marble stairs at "Whitehall," his Palm Beach mansion built in 1902 as a gift to his third wife, Mary Kenan, and is buried in St. Augustine alongside his daughter, Jennie Louise and his first wife, Mary. There is a Henry Flagler Museum in Palm Beach that visitors enjoy.

We should be proud of this connection to this gentleman and be reminded, again, that once a person decides his/her future, countless success can be achieved.

Len Thomas - Swartz Creek

December Fun!

The Swartz Creek Women's Club sponsored "Christmas In the Creek" December 2nd. It began at noon with events happening at the Perkins Library & Senior Center, the Pajtas Theater, and our own Swartz Creek Area Historical Society Mini-Museum.

Below are members, Elaine Tucker, Len Thomas, and Susan Swan all dressed in period clothing posing in the museum, ready to pass out old fashion candy sticks. All the events were scheduled to end just before the annual SC Area Firefighters Parade.



Upcoming Events

- January 10 - **"Stranglers of the Revolution", American Polar Bears** - Mike Grobbel; The American North Russia expeditionary Force of 1918-1919. The story of the US Army, mostly from MI, who fought the Bolshevik Red Army during the Allied Intervention in the Russian Civil War.



- February 14 - **Oberammergau Passion Play** - Jan Wilson; A passion play performed since 1634 as a tradition by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany,



depicting the death of Jesus. This play is performed every 10 years.

Social Media

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



Watch for our posts on Facebook!

Pease 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!

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

2018

January 10 - **"STRANGLERS OF THE REVOLUTION"** - Mike Grobbel

February 14 - **PASSION PLAY** - Jan Wilson

Donations

- **Terry O'Brien** - Monetary Donation in memory of **Dr James English**
- Monetary donation in Honor of **Dee Buchanan's 90th Birthday!** - **Norma Buchanan** & family from Illinois

Condolences

Our sincere condolences go out to the family of Life member Lou MacGready of Swartz Creek. Lou died November 10, 2017 at the age of 81. She was a teacher and assistant principal at Swartz Creek High School for 28 years retiring in June of 1993. She and John MacGready were married on July 13, 1957 and he preceded her in death on December 11, 2016.

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 on the current list, please mail them to:

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

Membership Information

Dues

Once again it's time for dues to be paid. *Membership dues can be paid at our meetings or can be sent to the address shown below and your new membership card will be sent with the next newsletter. If you owe, a green sticker will be placed on the newsletter envelope.*

Please let us know of any address changes. 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	Carolyn West - 2019
Alternates.....	Scott Roy - 2020
	Ron West - 2020