



MILL RACE QUARTERLY

58 YEARS

Vol. LVIII No. 1

A Publication of the Northville Historical Society

Spring 2022

Martha's Musings – March 2022

Martha Michalak, NHS President

On this sunny 35-degree day, I (like many other Michiganders) am thinking about spring.

But before we go down that road, a quick and random look back at this winter:

We hired a Maintenance Manager, and what a smart move on our part! Mark Buckley has been enthusiastically clearing snow and salting all winter. And those of us who love to walk the Village in all seasons are very grateful!

Our Christmas in the Village, Festival of Trees and Children's Christmas Workshop were all hosted successfully and safely in December. There was also a Christmas Tea hosted in the Cady Inn for the first time in two years.

The Lecture Series has been entertaining and educational. Plan to attend in April if you can. Next up – History of the Banjo in Early America on April 6th.

Work has been going on behind the scenes to prepare the Village for spring and our Summer Open Sundays premiere in mid-June. There has been interior work done on many of the buildings, including updating HVAC systems, which are so important to maintaining our collection of artifacts.

We have two great events to finish out the winter in style. We will host Pi(e) Day in the Cady Inn on Friday, March 11th and the Young Artist Art Fair on Saturday, March 19th.

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NHS Board of Directors Adopts Strategic Plan

Leanie Bayly, Executive Director

On March 13, 2020, we took our first official step to address the growing Covid crisis by closing our doors to the public indefinitely. As the world attempted to cope with Covid-19, we at the Northville Historical Society were no exception. While some of our long-standing functions may have been curbed or restricted, we more than compensated by using our down time to create a Five-Year Strategic Plan for the organization.

Interviews were conducted with the board, staff, community leaders, and various volunteer group members compiling significant data which addressed ideas, wishes, growth, and expectations. We urged interviewees to be candid, describe their experiences and rate our strengths and weaknesses. From these discussions, we were able to compile significant data to help us focus on the future, both for our organization and Mill Race Village.

We engaged a professional consultant, Wendy Bice of WRB Consulting. She reviewed the collected survey comments and developed a "Sculpted Strategic Plan" which was presented last September. Her plan outlines and defines our mission and vision regarding priorities, programs, archives, education, and community integration with volunteers, and partnership engagement.

Recommendations were made to achieve sustainability, professional governance, appealing venue, relevant programming, and fund development as both short and long-term goals.

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In Memoriam

Leanie Bayly, NHS Executive Director

~Farewell Dear Friends~

It is with great sadness, that we report the recent passing of two of our beloved charter members, Lucy Curtis and Judy Davis. On behalf of the Northville Historical Society, we extend our sincere condolences to their families. Lucy passed on September 4th, 2021, followed by Judy, most recently, on January 30th, 2022. These grand ladies dedicated many, many years leading the Sunday docent program. Lucy enjoyed donning period attire and fancy hats while providing reassurance to many brides and grooms as she served as a wedding docent for hundreds of weddings. Judy continued to remain active, serving on the Board of Directors and as proprietress of the Country Store when it was housed in the Hirsch Blacksmith Shop. After her retirement, she missed us so much, she rejoined me in the JM Mead General Store continuing to support the Sunday open seasons. Judy and Lucy were both awarded the NHS Gold Key award in 2009 after their volunteer retirement at Mill Race Village.

Their collective passion, great spirit, dedication, and love of Mill Race Village will continue to inspire us as we plan for future generations to continue our legacy of love for Northville. Farewell dear friends.

"We come here by the grace of those who work and support us in our mission." lb



Pictured side-by-side as befitting their warm relationship, Lucy Curtis (left) and Judy Davis were affectionately known as the Dynamic Duo. During their years of service, they co-chaired our Docent program, both earning the Gold Key Award in 2009.



Tickets on Sale April 1 - \$125 for one or \$225 for two

Strategic Plan continued from page 1

The board has enthusiastically begun efforts to implement the 24-month priorities which are as follows:

Leadership, Development and Governance: Continue transition to a professionally staffed nonprofit supported by a well-informed and active board and volunteer base.

Acquire a historic barn or construct a pole barn: Increase our venue capacity, allow for re-purpose/expansion of other structures, i.e. to grow the archive, offer more community space.

Greening of Mill Race Historic Village: Address flood plain using bio-swales and lane improvements, update the Landscaping Master Plan, continue to be a leader in environmental practices.

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Mill Race Village: Grow awareness and participation in NHS programs, and increase NHS membership.

This may appear a rather ambitious plan; however, at the 50-year mark, these are the fiduciary duties that must be undertaken to ensure that our past legacy transitions into the future. Please stay tuned – the best is yet to come!

The 2022 Lecture Series Begins

by Paul Snyder, NHS Archivist

The 2022 Lecture Series began on January 26 with a wonderful lecture by Grace Wilfong of the Northville Genealogy Society. Grace led the attendees through a virtual lecture through several local resources that can be employed to discover your family history. Prior to the lecture, Grace visited the Archive to review the collection features available for that purpose. Scheduling of the lecture became a challenge as the nation suffered a spike in Covid during early and mid-January. Although originally planned to be a live event, it was decided to offer her lecture virtually.

Our first in-person lecture in two years was held on February 23 in the New School Church. Carole Jean and Bill Stockhausen presented the story of how they turned an abandoned mill in Bellevue, Michigan into a working operation. The Gothic-style structure had fallen to disuse and was destined to be razed by the city of Bellevue until the Stockhausen's came on the scene with their enthusiasm and know-how. With only the restriction of refreshing the façade and securing the property to keep it safe from vandals and vagrants within five years of taking possession, the Stockhausen's with the aid of friends and family, now proudly operate a power-generating mill that sells its excess power back to Consumers Energy each month.



Grace Wilfong, Northville Genealogy Society

Martha's Musings continued from page 1

Spring! Yes, it's a little way off still, but I can smell it in the air. (Sorry – I'm probably setting us up for a snowstorm with this kind of talk.)

We are committed to safe and community-minded events for the spring/summer season, starting with Patriot's Day on April 30th. Patriot's Day has been on hiatus for the last two years, so we are excited to host this historical event again. This event is free and open to the public.

On May 26th, we will be hosting the Northville High School Seniors for prom photos throughout the Village. This event was first held in 2021, as the normal prom was changed to an outdoor walking prom in downtown Northville. We aren't sure yet what the actual prom plans are for 2022, but we know that we will be open and decorated for the seniors to come out and take pictures.

And on Friday, June 3rd, we will reprise our fabulous wine tasting event, Wines of the World. This will be our 3rd year hosting this event and it will be bigger and better than ever. Mark your calendar – tickets will go on sale in early April.

One last, but very important, note: 2022 is the 50th Anniversary of Mill Race Village! Look for special anniversary events and news to come soon!



Bill Stockhausen plays a video from YouTube telling the story of how the Bellevue Gothic Mill was restored.

Christmas comes to the Village! Christmas in the Village, Christmas Tea and Festival of Trees 2021

by Martha Michalak, NHS President

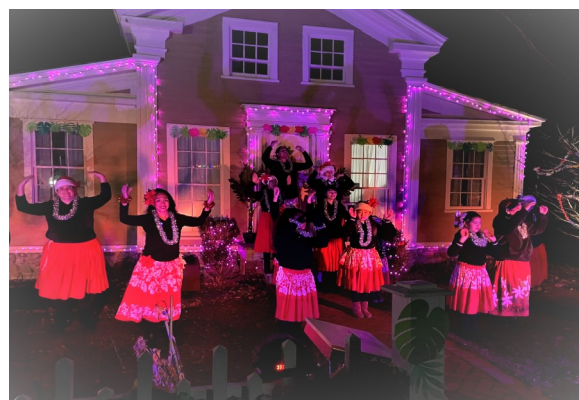
Our annual holiday event, Christmas in the Village, was held on December 3rd and 4th, 2021. The weather was close to perfect and both nights sold out. The highlights of the event included meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Yerkes House, where kids could also have their faces painted by friendly elves, and The Polynesian Dancers of Michigan performing in front of the Hunter House. Also featured: Story Time (sponsored by the Northville Public Library) in the Gazebo, a Christmas Market in the Hirsch Blacksmith Shop, and professional family portraits (taken by Pam McCormick) on the porch of the Church. The children enjoyed the inflatables scattered around the Village and the candy and other goodies handed out by volunteer elves. As usual, the buildings were decorated, and the trees were alight with thousands of multi-colored bulbs. The gazebo was home to a beautifully decorated 12-foot tall "Twelve Days of Christmas" tree. It was a wonderful event, made possible by many hours of volunteer time and talent.

In conjunction with Christmas in the Village, we hosted the 2nd annual Festival of Trees along the Village lane. Trees were offered to area businesses, classes, and individuals to decorate in whatever theme they chose. This year's sponsors were The Country Garden Club of Northville, Scleroderma Foundation, Northville Christian School, The Winn/Caudill Family in honor of Benjamin Winn, The Northville Rotary Club, The Northville Public Library, photographer Laura Fawaz, and the Northville Public Schools Early Childhood program. The winner of the Best of Show prize was the Country Garden Club of Northville. All of the trees were beautiful and added a special touch to the Christmas festivities.



Placed in the gazebo, a giant tree depicts the 12 Days of Christmas!

The Festival of Trees gives vision to the community's spirit of the season.



The Polynesian Dancers of Michigan provided a rare holiday treat.



Revelers took time out to do a little shopping in the Hirsch Museum converted for the occasion.



Enjoying the Christmas Tea.



50th Anniversary Section

Origin Stories

In this section of each edition of the Quarterly for the year 2022 you will find articles dedicated to the history of the Northville Historical Society, the city whose history we love, and Mill Race Village. It will feature the people and events that have shaped what our community has become today, a vibrant hub of civic activity. We will revisit touchstone moments over the years that charted our course earning their place in our collective memory. The Herculean efforts to fundraise, move, and restore buildings brought to the property over more than three decades will be explored. No less important but far less visible, we'll also take a closer look at the day-to-day efforts required to maintain the buildings and services at Mill Race Village. A variety of contributors will share their perspectives and experiences. Other features will reveal seldom-seen images from Northville and Mill Race Village's past. The pages have been designed to be separated from the body of the Quarterly to become a brief, 16-page history for your review in times to come. We hope you enjoy what you see.

Mill Race



Quarterly

Volume I, Number 1

Acting Editor—Laura Hixson

September, 1974

The Mill Race Quarterly Beginnings

Laura Hixson assembled the first edition of the Mill Race Quarterly in September of 1974. Its mission was a simple one. Keep the membership informed of upcoming events, apprise them of the plans of the Northville Historical Society (NHS), report on success (or failure) recent past events, and provide a glimpse into Northville's historical past. All efforts were focused on advocating for the value of preserving Northville's history and the worth of supporting a non-profit organization working towards that end.

Although the overwhelming majority of our community was behind the NHS and its mission to create a Victorian era Village on the property donated by the Ford Motor Company, not all were enthralled with the idea. That sentiment can be seen in the accompanying, "Letter to the Editor" article. The negative plea got the attention it deserved, and the Village blossomed into a beautiful, historic, city park that has thrived for the last 50 years.

While it has undergone some changes over the years, the Mill Race Quarterly pursues the same mission it undertook those many years ago; keeping its members informed and cheerleading the guardians of our historic heritage.

Mayor's Corner / Reflections on the Mill Race Village



As we ready for the 50th anniversary of the Mill Race Village, I would like to slow down and thank all in the community for their support of this historical treasure. I grew up with my parents being involved in establishing the Village (docents) some 50+ years ago. Once established, my father taught history on the grounds to Northville third graders during the Victorian Festival days. I have always encouraged everyone to discover the magic of this special place. As the official Northville **Justice of the Peace**, I have officiated a total of 43 weddings, with most being conducted in the picturesque setting of the Mill Race.

Originally the site of the Yerkes grist mill, the "**Mill Race**" was later owned by Henry Ford who strolled these grounds on his honeymoon in the 1880's. Today, the Village contains eight historic local buildings which I remember seeing moved there when I was young. It was quite a sight!

The Mill Race Historic Village is truly a gem in our town, providing a walking history of our village and set in a scenic environment with its topography (river, pond, hills, and greenspace).

We're fortunate to have the Northville Historical Society providing a very clear lens into our proud history dating back roughly 200 years. The Village provides a far better historical experience than any book ever could.

This area preserves a slice of what Northville was like before 1900, during its first 100 years. Today, we are closing in on our *second* 100 years, readying for the celebration of our bicentennial in 2027. The Village will certainly be in the spotlight of this huge milestone event.

I encourage you to take a stroll around the Mill Race area, it's a great way to absorb our history. We have to know where we've been to wisely guide us into our future. Happy 50th Anniversary!

Keep that Northville Historical Faith!

Brian Turnbull
Mayor – Northville

BTurnbull@ci.northville.mi.us / 248.505.6849

Bruce Turnbull (Mayor Turnbull's father) leads a group on a tour of Mill Race Village in 1985. The Mayor's late father led tours and made scores of historical presentations throughout his life in Northville.





Allen Cox presents check to Allan Burkman

Police Contributions Provide Much Needed Boost

by Hugh Jordan

The Northville Police Officers Association (NPOA) donated \$500.00 to the Northville Historical Society in May of 1973 to help preserve the community's past. The donation was the result of hard work by the association and its members in putting together the 1st annual Policeman's Ball. It was held in April of this year and was a big hit in the community. NPOA President Allen Cox presented the check to John Burkman, President of Northville's Historical Society.

The donation will go towards paying for the concrete basements. Proceeds from the event were divided between the Historical Society, March of Dimes, and other local charities.

Source: Northville Record May 1973



Left: Carole Jean Stockhausen stands next to her husband Bill who is holding their child Juliet Culp.

Window on the Past



**Back row: Bill Stockhausen and Jim Harris
Middle row: Don Fee and John Teeter
Front row: John Carter, Jack Burkman,
and Elmer Schubert**



Green Ridge Nursery donated five maple trees to NHS. Shown are Jack Burkman and Paul Vernon with shovels. Also, Wilson Funk, Mayor A. M. Allen, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Burkman, and Ann and Mary Brueck.

Not all voices were united in support, as attested to by this letter to the editor. Some of the comments have been removed, but none altered. Editor

From a 1974 Northville Record Letter to the Editor

This week's issue of the Northville Record shows that this town is a perfect example of people with more time, energy and money than they know what to do with. We have a Historical Society.

Pardon me if I sound stupid, but what historical event took place here in Northville? Northville is a very pleasant town and I choose to live here. However, I've been reading the Centennial Edition of the Northville record and cannot find anything for the Historical Society to represent.

A mill was started, somebody opened a store, people settled farms – just like thousands of towns all over the country. Just what is the Historical Society preserving and for what? What is Northville so proud of? Gettysburg it isn't. every city, town and burg has old buildings-big deal! The Mill Race Village has two dilapidated buildings...empty shells that the society will have to buy things to put in to them. That's historical? Perhaps they should change their names to the /Society for the Preservation of Old Buildings.

I for one will never take any visitors to Mill Race Historical Village because no history was ever made there. If I want to show them how the townfolks preserve old houses, I shall take them down Dunlap, Randolph, Rogers, etc.

Balls bazars, home tours, etc. to raise money for what? \$350 for a brick on a wall. How much medicine for the victims of Guatemala would \$350 buy?

Charities everywhere are crying for help and money. Police Athletic League, POS's, Crippled Children's Society, Fish, Big Brother, St Jude, MS, Cancer Society, etc. These societies help PEOPLE. They try to chance society for the betterment of all society.

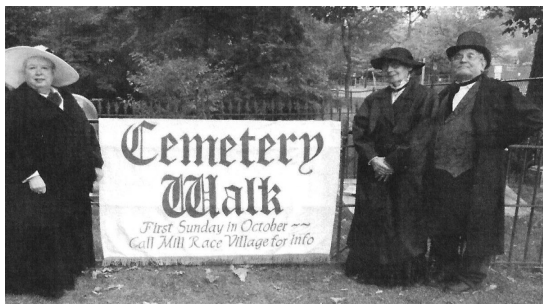
The Historical Society seems like a big cop-out... a real status symbol... something to get our name in the Northville Record.

So please people, don't ask me to contribute time, money or energy to the Historical Society. I'm too busy teaching my pet rock to sit up and beg.

(signed) Revolutionary



Have an opinion about this letter? Feel free to share your thoughts at: psnyder@millracenorthville.org. Maybe you'll see your response in print!



Tiilie Van Sickle, Pat Allen, and Fred Shadko.



Junior Docents making ice cream on the Yerkes porch.



Debra Whitaker, JoAnne McClure, and Leanie Bayly at Victorian Festival.

Open Call for Mill Race Photos and Memories

For the 50th Anniversary of the Village, we are seeking your photos and memories! Please submit your treasured photos through the years. We are particularly interested in photos of you and your family and friends doing your favorite things at Mill Race. Ideas include family photos for holiday cards, the Duck Race, scouting events, weddings and Open Sundays. They can be from the day we opened in 1972 until today! We will credit all photos that are used.

Additionally, we would like memories (100 words or less) of your connection to Mill Race Village. Idea starters are how you first became involved with Mill Race, projects you've worked on and wonderful times you will never forget. Please email your photos and memories to Maria Simonte (msimonte@millracenorthville.org) by April 15, 2022. We have several ideas of how the photos/memories will be documented for posterity and presented.

Annual Garage Sale - 2022

The annual garage sale that benefits the Northville Historical Society, the Dr. Karl Stockhausen Medical Scholarship and the Mackinac Island Honor Girl Scouts has been a success over the last 24 years because of the support of all those who donate and those who leave with something they can't live without.

The first full week in June we put up our canopies and prepare the sale. We get everything from valuable antiques to garage sale leftovers - yet someone will come along that can "repurpose" any item and turn it into something useful.

Unfortunately, it will come to an end unless we can get some people to volunteer to help move some of the furniture. Heavy lifters are needed, mostly on the Saturday before the sale starts, as we do most major pick-ups then. The sale runs Monday thru Friday from 9am-9pm, so is available to people with any kind of schedule.

If willing to donate your time, or your high school or college age children, please contact the Stockhausens:
248-719-1219 or cjstockha@sbcglobal.net.

Pi Day

at Mill Race Village

Friday, March 11

3-6 pm

Pick up a pie to take home or buy a slice and enjoy it in the Village!

Save the Date!

The link to purchase whole pies will be posted on March 4 at www.millracenorthville.org. All proceeds benefit the Northville Historical Society and its work to maintain Mill Race Village.






Mill Race Village
March 19 from 11 am ~ 4 pm
 The Northville Art House is partnering with the Northville Historical Society

Come support young artists from grades 2 through 12 at this event. Accompanying the young visual artists will be a host of student musicians throughout Mill Race Village. For more information, please contact the Northville Art House at 248-344-0497 or visit <https://northvillearthouse.org/yaaf/>



The History of the Banjo in Early America

April 6 from 7 pm ~ 9 pm at
Mill Race Village
New School Church

With Al Smitley, Tim Twiss,
and Timothy Person

Join us for good music and
 some good stories about early
 American music!



Welcome New Members!

New Members:

Bridgett McDowell
Sabine Zwettler
Carolyn Koup
Janice Nelson
Marie Killen
Amy Mustonen
Bob Weidendorf
Arlette & Kenneth Comben

Donations up to \$50

Janet Evans
David & Lynn Kirkpatrick
James & Kathryn Klein
Cynthia McCullough
Mark & Kathy Rogish
Jim & Judy Russell
Jim & Carolyn Stuart
Corinne Vincent

Donations \$50-\$99

Arjun Namineni
Toulla & Jeff Palazeti
Bill & Karen Schaumann
Paul & Carolyn Seymour
Tracy & James Wick
Dale Zahm

Donations \$100-\$499

Bob & Cathy Anthony
Earl & Judy Baxtresser
J.Paul & Susan Conway
Gail Dunlap: *In Honor of George and Joelle Sarkozy*
Phyllis Ely
Craig & Patricia Fishbeck
Jack & Marlene Harrigan
Dale & Jacqueline Haskin
Kathy & Edward Huyck
Orin & Tina Mazzoni
Tish Lee & Bill Moses
Tim O'Callaghan
Diane Rockall
George & Joelle Sarkozy
Charles & Karen Smith
LeAnne & Rob Stevens

Donations over \$500

Marilyn & Ron Breuhan
Martha & Jeff Michalak
Sue & Dave Woodsum



*Introducing a new
staff member:
Mark Buckley
Maintenance Manager*

Since officially joining our staff, Mark has taken on the challenge of day-to-day maintenance of our buildings and grounds. Welcome Mark!

Gnome Scavenger Hunt 2022

This year the Northville Art House, the Northville Downtown Development Authority and the Northville Chamber of Commerce presented their second annual **Gnome Around Northville** event. Certain places outside the DDA were designated as bonus areas, including Mill Race Village. We are pleased to announce our bonus winner, Mr. Drew Roberts!



Northville Historical Society Member Info:

For questions about your membership or what's going on at Mill Race Village, please contact us at 248.348.1845 or office@millracevillage.org. Visit our website at www.millracenorthville.org.

Please donate or join at www.millracenorthville.org/join-give
Donations and memberships support Mill Race Village, the historic heart of Northville.

Children's Christmas Workshop Returns for 2021

by *Bill and Carole Jean Stockhausen*

The 42nd Annual Children's Christmas Workshop was held on December 4, 2021 (the first Saturday of December - as has been the case up until Covid changed many events). Even with Covid, the registrations for 150 children again filled within an hour.

The workshop being suspended in 2020 due to Covid, extra caution was warranted. To keep the children safe, all six of the buildings were used instead of confining everyone to the Church and the School. Each building hosted a project and adults coordinated the movement of the young craftspeople from one project to the next.

Eight sewing machine stations were being used to sew potholders in the Cady Inn, ornament-making in the School House, the cookie cutter, leather deck of cards holder, and the toy tractor in the Church, the terrarium in the Hunter, and a food item in the Yerkes.

The only downside to the event was not having all the kids working in one building making noise, adding to the busy chaos, and emulating the industrious elves in Santa's workshop.



Ornament-making in the School House



Busy in the Cady Inn



**Cooking in the Yerkes (above) and
crafting in the Hunter (below)**



**Kids and
guides
enjoying their
time in the
Church**



**Photos courtesy of Andrea Johanson and
Martha Michalak**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * March 11 Pi Day ~ from 3~6 pm
- *April 6 Early American Banjo / Lecture Series at 7 pm
- *April 17 Patriot's Day on the Grounds of MRV 10 am~4 pm
- *April 27 Northville Jet Crash / Lecture Series at 7 pm
- *May 13-15 Scout Campout Weekend ALL DAY ~ 3 Days
- *May 25 The Haven / Lecture Series at 7 pm
- *May 26 Northville High School Prom Event
- *June 3 Wines of the World Fundraiser 6 to 9 pm
- Tickets available online on 1 April
- *June 5-11 Annual Garage Sale, 218 W. Dunlap St, 9 am~9 pm
- *June 7 Docent Sign up Meeting
- *June 19 thru October 2 Village Open Season

Please visit Mill Race Village during our open season
Sundays from 1pm until 4pm with Docents to share their
knowledge of the buildings

*With the weather getting warmer, now may be the perfect time
to stroll through Historic Northville. Guide books are available
on Tuesdays at the Cady Inn at Mill Race Village or online at:
<https://www.millracenorthville.org/publications-for-sale>.*

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1972 rendering of the Mill Race Historical Village
by Don Fee

