



Wayne Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2021



Up until the 1880s Wayne was just a small farming village with less than 800 people. Around the mid-1880s a group of business owners got together and formed a civic group with the goal of attracting a factory of some kind to town. The Prouty and Glass Carriage company had been established in Detroit just a few years before, but were already outgrowing their space, so in 1888 they were given free land along the railroad in Wayne to build a new factory. Prouty and Glass Carriages were highly respected, and they became one of the largest producers of carriages and sleighs in the country. The carriage company employed hundreds of townspeople, who worked as wood carvers, blacksmiths and wheel makers. The employees by all accounts loved working there, as the company would have excursions for picnics and concerts, dances, and even had an employee brass band. By the mid-teens automobiles were coming onto the scene though and sales of carriages declined. In 1916 Prouty and Glass went out of business, and the buildings and tools were sold to a new car manufacturer, Harroun.



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Info

Summer 2021



A message from the President

Hello members! Hope you're staying healthy and happy amid the ongoing pandemic, hopefully we will begin seeing a decline in cases soon. All of our summer programs will be outside on the side lawn, with masks and social distance, so don't be afraid to come out and enjoy our great programming. In other news we have been working on several grants for the museum, and keeping it open for tours and research. We would also like to have a flea market this summer so clean out your closets and basements, we will take donations (no clothes please) to re-sell.

-Nicole Conklin – Society President



Object Spotlight – Cigar Boxes

-Did you know Wayne used to grow tobacco and even had a few small cigar manufacturers? Its likely that formerly enslaved people heading north brought the knowledge and techniques of tobacco growing up from the south after the civil war. Tobacco grows well in the Michigan summers, but competition from larger companies ended the practice by the 1930s. Local cigar maker Erastus “Rat” Coy called his cigars “The Rattler”.

Business Meetings

-Business meetings are now the first Friday of the month, so if you would like to be more active in the Society, help plan events or volunteer, join us at 6pm the first Friday of every month.

Cruisin' the Museum



Join us for this fun summer event!

July 10 will be the annual Wayne US12 Car Cruise where thousands of cars old and new descend upon Wayne to show off their cool toys. Come by the museum where we will have a car show, the Dearborn Old Engine Club, kids crafts, historic demonstrations and the star of the show – A Harroun Car made in Wayne in 1919. The owner of the Harroun will be bringing it from Kalamazoo for the day, so don't miss this opportunity! We could also use some volunteer help that day, so if you're interested call the museum or email the society.





Wayne Historical Society

Upcoming Events

Summer 2021

- All events are at the Historical Museum, unless otherwise noted
- Events are free and open to the public
- Light refreshments are provided

Historical Museum

1 Town Square
Wayne, Michigan 48184
(Corner of Main and Biddle)

Historical Society

P.O. Box 486
Wayne, Michigan 48184
Business Meetings:
First Wed. of Month 6pm

Museum Hours

Wednesdays 10-7
Thursdays 10-6

Board of Trustees

Ann Zimmerman
Al Damitio
John Mills
Kathy Koveleski
Tyler Moll
Brenda Ozog
Nicole Conklin
Angela Acosta

Support the Historical Society

- Select the Wayne Historical Society as your charity on Amazon Smile
- Make us a part of your legacy planning

- **May. 13 - Many Hands and Hard Work:
Farm families 1850-1910**
-7pm. - Join us for guest speaker Debra Reid of the Henry Ford as she talks about what it was like living on a farm in Wayne.
- **June 9 - Make a Stained Glass Mosaic**
-6pm. - Learn how to make a stained glass mosaic with Michelles Pieces - Reserve your spot for \$45 - Fundraiser for the museum.
- **June 10 - History of Motorized Emergency Vehicles**
-7pm. - Join us for guest speaker Anthony Rzucidlo as he shares the history of motorized emergency equipment, such as fire trucks and ambulances.
- **June 24 - Historic Walking Tour of Monroe Street**
-7pm. Get out your walking shoes as we do a guided tour with pictures following the route of old Monroe Street, Waynes former business district.
- **July 10 - Cruisin' The Museum**
-10-5pm. - Join us at the museum for kids crafts, old cars, historic demonstrations, old engines and other fun as the museum participates in the annual Wayne US12 Cruise.
- **July 22 - Historic Walking Tour of Michigan Avenue**
-7pm. - Join us for another walking tour, this time up and down Michigan Avenue as we show and tell the buildings and businesses that used to be here.

- **Stay tuned for future events!**

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