



Spirit of Salem

A Publication of the **Salem Area Historical Society**

P.O. Box 75011, Salem, MI 48175

www.sahshistory.org

Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com

"Keeping the Past Alive for Tomorrow"

Volume XXXVII, Issue 1, February 2021

2020 Upcoming SAHS Schedule

- Wednesday, February 24th, 7:30 PM, **SAHS Membership Meeting** at Salem Township Hall and SAHS Facebook Page – Live Event

A SAHS Business agenda and a talk titled **"Underground Railroad – Local Connections"** by Kathy Bilger. Kathy's presentation will include information on local abolitionists, sites and events significant to Southeastern Michigan's Underground Railroad history. Kathy has done a lot of research on this subject and in particular the local connections of the Salem/Northville/Plymouth area. Masks and social distancing will be required at the hall.

<https://www.facebook.com/124128277610297/live/>

- Wednesday, March 24th, 7:30 PM, **SAHS Membership Meeting** at Salem Township Hall

A SAHS Business agenda including the 2021 SAHS Elections and a presentation titled **"Lincoln Presentation - Presidential Trivia"** by Ron Carley. Ron as Abe Lincoln will quiz the audience on presidential facts from George Washington to Donald Trump. This also may be a Facebook Live event.

Message from the SAHS President

Hopefully, you and your loved ones are successfully navigating these unusual times.

The membership activities for SAHS have restarted in the fall of 2020 with Facebook Live Events. We will continue to hold events either in-person or as Facebook Live Events. We have scheduled all four of our fundraising events for 2021: Yard Sale, Arts & Crafts Fair, Barn Dance, and Dinner/Auction.

The COVID-19 restrictions may have changed how SAHS functions, but it has not stopped SAHS from getting things accomplished. SAHS applied for and was awarded the Washtenaw County Historical Society's Pauline Walters Memorial Award (see Pages 5 & 7). After several years of effort, SAHS has applied for a State of Michigan Historical Marker for its school and its barn (see Page 7). As usual, SAHS has a complete membership meeting and event schedule for 2021 (see Page 2).

I encourage you to read about the SAHS COVID-19 Project Challenge (Page 6) and submit your input so that we can capture the local experiences during this "pandemic."

Stay healthy and be safe.

Terry Cwik

2021 SAHS Meeting Schedule

March 24	Salem Township Hall	Lincoln Presentation - Presidential Trivia	7:30 PM
April 28	South Salem Stone School	Dangerous Experiment	7:30 PM
May 26	South Salem Stone School	Houses of Salem Michigan	7:30 PM
Sept. 22	South Salem Stone School	Electric Cars: Past, Present and Future	7:30 PM
Oct. 27	South Salem Stone School	Michigan's Polar Bear Soldiers of WWI	7:30 PM
Dec. 5	TBD	Annual Christmas Party (Members Only)	1 to 4 PM

2021 SAHS Meeting Schedule

May 15	Jarvis Stone School H. D.	Flea Market & Yard Sale	9 AM to 2 PM
June 5	Salem Elementary	Flag Day Parade	11:00 AM
June ??	Jarvis Stone School H. D.	SAHS Excursion	9:00 AM
July 11	South Salem Stone School	Open House	1 PM to 3 PM
August ??	Jarvis Stone School H. D.	SAHS Excursion	12:30 PM
August 21	Jarvis Stone School H. D.	Arts & Craft Fair	10 AM to 4 PM
Sept. 10	Three Cedars Farm	Annual Barn Dance	7 PM to 10 PM
Sept. 19	Fox Hills - Classic Fox	Annual Dinner / Auction	6:00 PM

2021 SAHS Dinner / Auction

The SAHS Dinner / Auction will be a late summer event and will be held in the Fox Hills Log Cabin Clubhouse on Sunday, September 19th, at 6pm. This event was canceled in 2020 as were the other SAHS annual fundraisers. Please reserve this date, 9/19/2021, on your calendar to attend the 2021 SAHS Dinner/Auction.



Salem Area Historical Society

Presents

Lincoln Presents – Presidential Trivia

ON

WEDNESDAY, March 24th – 7:30 PM

AT

Salem Township Hall (9600 Six Mile Road)



Salem Area Historical Society will be holding its monthly meeting on March 24th, at the Salem Township Hall (9600 Six Mile Road) starting at 7:30 PM. After the business portion, there will be a presentation by Ron Carley as Abe Lincoln on Presidential Trivia from George Washington to Donald Trump.

Suggested Donation:
\$2 for non-SAHS Members

Recap of Recent SAHS Events

SAHS September Meeting

On Wednesday, September 23rd at the Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, SAHS held its meeting with limited attendance and via a Facebook Live Event. The talk by Susan Nenadic on “**Women’s Suffrage**” was attended by 4 members in person and many more via Facebook Live.

SAHS October Meeting

On Wednesday, October 28th at the South Salem Stone School, SAHS held its meeting with limited attendance and via a Facebook Live Event. The talk by Paul Schwimmer on “**MIA/POW Recovery Efforts**” was attended by 2 members in person and many more via Facebook Live. Paul’s presentation covered the great successes of the non-profit organization, History Flight (historyflight.com) on the research, field investigation, and recovery efforts in returning home America’s lost heroes, her MIA’s and POW’s from around the world.

SAHS Christmas Party

The **SAHS Christmas Party** that was scheduled for Sunday, December 6th was canceled due to the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place at the time.

SAHS January Meeting

The January Business Meeting was held as a Facebook Live Event. SAHS President, Terry Cwik, presented the 2020 Financial Report and the 2021 Budget Report. This was followed by a presentation of the DVD titled “**Let the Women Vote!**” which looked at the social and political contexts surrounding woman’s suffrage. From the homesteading tradition, in which western women engaged in hard labor with men, to the drafting of new constitutions for Western

territories, and the effect of the Civil War, the program revealed the many changes in America that brought about the women’s movement in the West. The program combined archival photographs and historical political cartoons with contemporary recreations and cinematography to bring to life the story of how women in the West gained the vote.

18th Century Web Browser



This 300-year-old library tool enabled a researcher to have seven books open at once, yet conveniently nearby is in the Palafoxiana Library, Puebla, Mexico. The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is a library in Puebla City's historic centre, in the Mexican state of Puebla. Founded in 1646, it is recognized by the UNESCO for being the first and oldest public library in the Americas. It has more than 45,000 books and manuscripts, ranging from the 15th to the 20th century.

Washtenaw County Historical Society's Pauline Walters Memorial Award

Salem Area Historical Society was awarded 2020's Washtenaw County Historical Society's Pauline Walters Memorial Award for its Salem Township Farming Stories Project.

The Award grants financial support that educates and inspires a community to engage in preservation and presentation of County history. This award honors Pauline Walters, a member, past President and Secretary of WCHS.

The Salem Township Farming Stories Project highlights stories of life in Salem Township from 1825 to the 1930s. It emphasizes inspiring and interesting stories of the citizens of Salem Township and what they did to survive and flourish despite changes in life and farming.

CHALLENGE YOUR BRAIN

Adding puzzles and brain teasers to your daily routine can boost concentration and improve memory.

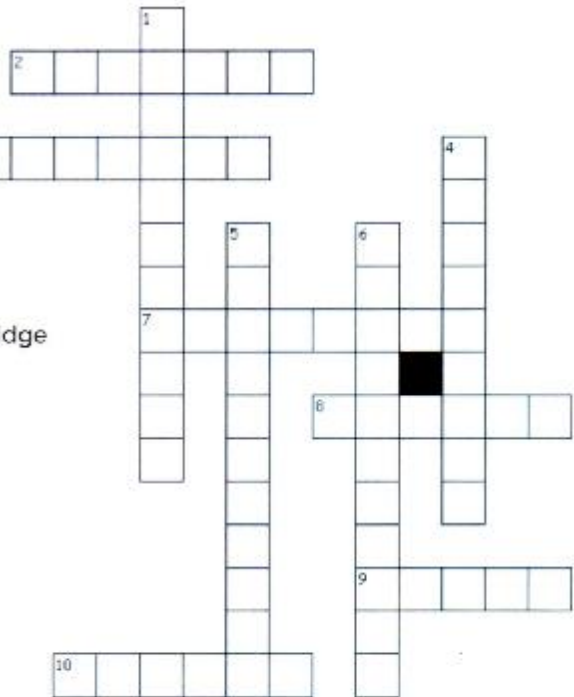
All About Michigan

Across

2. Michigan's first capital
3. Waters beneath the Mackinac Bridge
7. Michigan state stone
8. Temptations' record label
9. Michigan state bird
10. Only state with more coastline

Down

1. Gerald R. Ford library city
4. Invented the Model T
5. Home of Kelloggs
6. Only Great Lake not touching Michigan



Salem Area Historical Society Archive Database Project

In the Archival Project, we are still sorting through the society's records and grouping them into specific categories. Reviewing and cataloging the Salem Area Historical Files will begin in the South Salem Stone School when it is deemed safe to do so. We will be continuing our efforts on Friday mornings.

If you want to join us and/or receive emails informing you about these work sessions, please send an email to Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com. Also, we are working with the EMU Historic Preservation's grad student, Alex Whydell, to digitize individual documents and add them to the SAHS Archive Database. Alex is doing a great job and there are now over 3,200 items in the database, which is available to you at the South Salem Stone School or online at the "[Archives](#)" page of the SAHS Website.

Salem Area Historical Society COVID-19 Project

Since this has been a very strange and unique last 12 months with no end in sight, SAHS has proposed an offer to you. Since SAHS's mission is to preserve the history of Salem Township for the future, we are offering you the opportunity to record that history so that the SAHS can preserve it for the future. We are experiencing a time (COVID-19 Pandemic, Protests on Racial Issues, Rioting, Commerce curtailed, Sports stopped, Schools closed, etc.) that deserves to be remembered for generations to come. There has been and will be a plethora of articles written about these events from the national and state perspectives. However, very few, if any, capture the view of the "ordinary" Salem Township resident. So, we are offering you the opportunity to do just that.

Your challenge, if you dare to accept it, is to submit to the SAHS your views and feelings on what has and is taking place during this unique time. It can be done in almost any format: a letter; an article; a photo album; an audio recording; a video recording; a story; handwritten, typed page, word document, pdf file, etc. The goal is to capture your experiences and to express your views about this unique period of time. All material submitted will become the property of the Salem Area Historical Society and will be made available for the public to view. Please remember this as you create your submission. All submissions will be accepted. There is no deadline for submitting. You are not limited to one submission; multiple submissions will be accepted.

SAHS may share the submissions on its Website or Facebook page. It will compile all the submissions into one collection and preserve them in the SAHS Archives for future reference.

Submissions can be sent to Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com or mailed to the SAHS P.O. Box 75011 Salem, MI 48175. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Terry Cwik via the same email or a phone call. Please accept this challenge.

Salem Area Historical Society Farming Stories Project

SAHS was awarded the Pauline Walters Memorial Award by the Washtenaw County Historical Society. The Salem Township Farming Stories Project highlights stories of life in Salem Township from 1825 to the 1930s. It emphasizes inspiring and interesting stories of the citizens of Salem Township and what they did to survive and flourish despite changes in life and farming. The research and content of the exhibit was completed by Jonathon Bennett while he was a graduate student in the EMU's Historic Preservation program. The award will be used to procure the exhibit material for the stories project. When completed, it will be exhibited in Salem Area Historical Society's Dickerson Barn.

The next steps in this project are:

- To select a vendor to work with SAHS to format the material created by Jonathon so that the vendor can create the exhibit banners.
- Create the layout for the exhibit in the Dickerson Barn
- Prepare the Dickerson Barn for the mounting of the exhibit
- Install the exhibit in the Dickerson Barn

Volunteers are needed to turn this material into an exhibit in the Dickerson Barn. To volunteer, send an email to Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com.

State of Michigan Historical Marker Project



In December 2020, Sue DiMilia completed and submitted Salem Area Historical Society's application for a State of Michigan Historical Marker for the Jarvis Stone School Historic District. The application is for a double-side marker with one side highlighting the South Salem Stone School and the other side highlighting the Dickerson Barn. The application process can take twelve months to be completed in "normal" times. It may take longer due to COVID-19 restrictions. Once approved, the State of Michigan Historical Marker will be placed in an exhibit area north of the South Salem Stone School and east of the shed. Sue Bejin has designed this exhibit area to include, besides the state historical marker, a flagpole, a replica belfry for the school bell, and fieldstone seating. Donations to support the completion of this project can be made [online](#) or by using the last page of this newsletter.

Excerpt from SAHS Publication

Salem Area Historical Society Publication: *Salem Union School History and Memories*

By: Donald Riddering

Date: Historical Monograph No. IX 1992

As soon as settlers began arriving from Europe in the colonial days of our country, parents gave high priority to the education of their children. Many were taught at home by their mothers with only slates, the Bible, and a few textbooks. Church groups often started their own small schools. As the colonists pushed westward, they always kept training of their children uppermost in their minds.

“Since 1785, Acts of Congress and Acts of Michigan (since its beginning) have encouraged popular education by land grants and liberal appropriations of money. The 16th section of each township was early placed in the custody of the State for common school purposes.

“The qualifications of the teachers and the supervision of schools were for many years in the county superintendency system adopted and used for many years, and after 1875 the township system was in vogue. The Township Board of School Inspectors consisted of township clerk, one elected inspector and a township superintendent. The last officer licensed the teachers and visited the school.” ¹

“Throughout much of the 19th century, Michigan was a leader in the field of public education. Probably no other state more successfully carried out the purpose set forth in the Northwest Ordinance that ‘schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged’.” ²

...

The Salem Union School located in Section 11 of Salem Township was built in the village of Salem in 1885. The architect was James Austin, a resident of the town. The original one acre site was purchased from G.S. Wheeler and S.C. Wheeler for \$125. At that time much was said that the building could not withstand high winds, because it was so tall and narrow.

The school year lasted five and three quarter months until 1909, when it was extended to nine months. Salem Union was a high school, until it was graded in 1889. In 1905 the upper room teacher’s salary was \$360.00 per year and the lower room teacher received \$200.00.

...

1. History of Michigan, Vol. 1, pp. 88, 89

2. Michigan, History of Wolverine State, Willis F. Dunbar, 1965 p. 365

SAHS Publications

If you would like to read the entire *Salem Union School History and Memories* Monogram, you can purchase it and any or all of the other SAHS publications on the SAHS Website Publications Page (https://sahshistory.org/?page_id=114).

Local Upcoming Events

Brighton Area Historical Society

The CoBACH Center and the Lyon School are currently closed. BAHS awards the Larry Lawrence Memorial scholarship, which is given yearly to a graduating senior from the Brighton Area that is going to a Vocational School. The scholarship will be for \$1000.00 to support the awardee in his or her education. For more details, go to: <http://brightonareahistorical.com>

Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum and Gordon Hall

DAHS launched a campaign in November to raise \$25,000 in support of the renovation of Gordon Hall. Our wonderful news is that as of February 1 the campaign was completed, and our generous and faithful donors reached and surpassed that goal, having contributed a total of \$28,782!!! Gordon Hall Renovation work is continuing. In addition to our contracted work to add three bathrooms to the ground floor, create a room on the second level and replace the back porch with a replica of the original, volunteers have been busy removing carpeting and plywood in the North Parlor and hallways revealing the original floor boards from the 1840s.

The Museum is now closed for the season. We will open again in May. For more information, go to: <http://www.dexterhistory.org/>

Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County

The February 28, 2021 meeting will be a virtual meeting held on Zoom beginning at 1:30 PM. Non-members wishing to attend may send a request by February 25th to info@washtenawgenealogy.org.

Program: African Americans in Michigan: "Patterns, Problems Progress" presented by De Witt S Dykes.

Learn about the historical patterns of African American settlement and historical development in Michigan.

Class: The Clements and Bentley Library Collections at the University of Michigan taught by Angela Oonk and Ceci Rieker

Interested in learning how the Clements and the Bentley collections differ and are alike? For More Information go to:

<https://washtenawgenealogy.org/>

Plymouth Historical Society

The Plymouth Historical Museum is open 1-4p Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; Adults \$7 / Students \$3 (6-17).

The current exhibit is "First Ladies-Fashion Setters" sponsored by Bill Brown Ford through June 13, 2021.

Their next one day events are:

... March 20, 1-4 pm Super Hero Encounter sponsored by Caviston Insurance Agency

... April 24, 5-8 pm Ghosts of Plymouth Walk sponsored by ATS Advisors

More info at: <http://www.plymouthhistory.org/>

Argus Museum

You are invited to an Argus Collectors Group Event on Saturday March 6th from 4 to 6PM.

The virtual event takes place Saturday, March 6, 4-6pm EST. The virtual event includes a tour of the almost-hidden Argus Museum's offices and storage spaces. Wesley Furr (Bridgewater, VA), is the featured "Getting to know your Fellow ACGer", and will share his lens collection (and whatever else he wants to talk about). A group presentation on the Model Forty Argoflex camera (1950-54) headlines the event. Participants are encouraged to have their Model Forty on hand to share with the group.

To register for the Zoom event go to:

<https://www.washtenawhistory.org/argus-museum>.

Please use the form below to join us as a member of the Salem Area Historical Society for 2021.

SAHS Annual Memberships will last until March 31, 2022. Consider becoming a SAHS Lifetime Member. SAHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions to it may be tax deductible. You can also use this form to send your tax-deductible donation to the Salem Area Historical Society. You are encouraged to make copies and distribute this form to your family and friends. Another option is to join using the form on our Website or via PayPal where a credit card can be used: [SAHS Membership Page](#)

SAHS Membership Application

Make check payable to: Salem Area Historical Society Mail to: SAHS, P. O. Box 75011, Salem, MI 48175

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **email ID:** _____

Membership Fee: _____ **Membership Type:**
+ Donation: _____ \$10 per Senior ____ \$15 per Individual ____
Amount Enclosed: _____ \$25 per Family ____
\$50 per Business/Organization ____ and
\$300 Lifetime Membership per Couple ____

Salem Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 75011
Salem, MI 48175

President	Cwik, Terry
Vice President	Van Fossen, Marcia
Secretary	Bejin, Sue
Treasurer	DiMilia, Sue
Member At-Large	Marlene Donoghue