



Spirit of Salem

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

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“Keeping the Past Alive for Tomorrow”

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 2, November 2022

2022/3 Upcoming SAHS Schedule

- Sunday, Dec. 4th, 1:00 PM, **SAHS Member’s Annual Christmas Party** at South Salem Stone School

SAHS Members only event. SAHS Memberships will be accepted at this event. As has been our society’s past practice, please bring a dish or treat to share with members. Come and kickoff the Christmas Season by sharing the Christmas Spirit with your fellow members in the South Salem Stone School.

- Wednesday, January 25th, 6:00 PM, **SAHS Membership Meeting** at Salem Township Hall

This meeting is SAHS’s annual Potluck Dinner and Business Meeting followed by Dale Leslie’s presentation about **History Through Videos**. Please bring a dish to pass, your own plates and flatware, and your drink.

Message from the SAHS President

We will be closing out another year of SAHS activities with our next event, the SAHS Christmas Party on December 4th. The SAHS Board voted to hold it in the South Salem Stone School, which is where we held it in 2014 and 2018 as well. SAHS was back to a full schedule of activities in 2022 with 8

membership meetings, 2 SAHS Board meetings, 1 excursion, Yard Sale, Arts & Crafts Fair, Barn Dance, the Dinner / Auction, State of Michigan Historic Marker Approval, and Jarvis Stone School Historic District maintenance projects. All of these and more are planned for 2023.

There are two big projects that SAHS will be doing in 2023. The first is to begin the process of creating an addendum to the *History of Salem* book that will cover the 50 years since its initial publication. See more about this on Page 3. The second is the installation of the exhibit area for the State of Michigan Historical Marker. See more about this on Page 5.

In addition to the above, the SAHS Board is investigating the possibility of hosting a Dinner Mystery Theater event and a summer family games and music day. If you would like to become involved in planning any of these events in 2023, please send me an email to Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com

May you and your loved ones be blessed this season and may you enjoy a safe and loved-filled Holyday Season.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!!**

Terry Cwik

SAHS Meeting Times

The Salem Area Historical Society Board voted at its October 2022 meeting to change the starting time for the SAHS General Membership meetings from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM effective with the February 22, 2023 meeting. All future SAHS Membership Meeting will start at 7PM with the exception of those with special features, such as a Potluck Dinner.

2023 SAHS Winter Meeting Schedule

January 25 @ 6pm

Salem Township Hall, 9600 Six Mile

Our annual Potluck dinner. All are welcome to attend, please bring a food item of your choice to pass and bring your own plate, cutlery, and beverage.

SPEAKER: Dale Leslie; **History through Videos.**

February 22 @ 7pm

Salem Township Hall, 9600 Six Mile

SPEAKER: Phil Weittlauf and his ambassador K-9, Tess, of the **Michigan War Dog Memorial.** Phil will discuss why he created the War Dog Memorial, the history of dogs in wartime and how Tess came to be ambassador.

March 22 @ 7pm

Salem Township Hall 9600 Six Mile

SPEAKER: Tobin Buhk; **Michigan's Most Dangerous Women.** A history of some of the most dangerous women held as prisoners in the Detroit House of Correction, DeHoCo.

History of Salem Update

The Salem Area Historical Society (SAHS) was formed in 1975 to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence by the United States of America. One of the Society's first efforts was to research and publish a book titled the *History of Salem*. With the Semiquincentennial coming in 2026, the SAHS Board is asking everyone for their assistance in creating an addendum to this book that will cover the time period since 1976. Anybody can research and submit a write-up that covers this time period. The length of the submission can vary based upon the topic. Photographs can be included. Students are encouraged to coordinate a submission with a school project/assignment. The submissions will be edited and compiled by the SAHS into the addendum. If you are interested in this project or seek more information about this project, please send an email to Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com. The following is a list of some of the possible topics that could be covered. If you have other topics, please send them to us.

Salem Families	Hamlet Sewer System	Obstbaum Orchards	Three Cedars Farm
Salem Farms	Urban Services Dist.	Willow Greenhouse	Salem Elementary
Salem Area Hist. Society	Salem Farm Preserve	Veterinarians	Salem Airport
•South Salem Stone Schl	Shatter Family Preserve	•Country Cat Clinic	Plane Crashes in Salem
•Dickerson Barn	Creekshead Nature Prse	•Remrock Farms Vet	U.S. Post Office
•J S S Historic District	M-14	•Salem Vet Services	Churches
Neighborhoods	Salem Township Maps	Industrial Businesses	•Salem Bible
•Beacon Hills	2020-1 COVID Pandemic	•Arbor Hills Landfill	•Salem Congregational
•Wellington	Salem Community Events	•Calo & Sons Const.	•Tri-County Baptist
•Salem Woods Drive	•Salem Flag Day Parade	•AA Anchor Bolt	•Christ Temple Church
•Hidden Ridge	•Christmas with Santa	•Salem Tool	•Our Savior Apostolic Lu.
•Salem Farms Drive	Salem Promise	•Alumitect Industries	•Mile City
•Wilderness Drive	Karl's Cabin	•Gardner-Westcott	•Salem Walker
•Abi Lane	Convenience Stores	•Storage Facilities	Salem Veterans
•Lapham Way Estates	•The Store	•All American Storage	•Korean
•Saddle Ridge Road	•Country Fair Market	•Plymouth Salem Storage	•Vietnam
•Pinecrest Estates	•Fox Hills Market	•Salem RV	•Gulf War - Desert Storm
•Northville Crossing	•Edith's Market	Gas Stations	•Iraq
Conant Farm Hist. Dstr.	Golf Courses	Rock Shoppe	•War in Afghanistan
Rider House	•Fox Hills	Riding Stables	
Salem Township Hall	•Salem Hills	•Willowbrooke Farm	
Salem Township Officials	•Downing Farms	•Twin Elm Training	
Salem Township Fire Dpt	•Brea Burn	•Meadowlark Equestrian	

Recap of Recent SAHS Events

Arts & Crafts Fair

On Saturday, **August 20th**, the Salem Area Historical Society's Arts & Crafts Fair was held on the grounds of the Jarvis Stone School Historic District. This year's event was led by Jo Ann Heyl and included a Bake Sale in the school. The Fair had 23 vendors, who experienced a steady flow of customers and SAHS netted \$1,446.29.

Annual Barn Dance

Our Annual Barn Dance on Friday, **September 5th**, featured the playing and dance calling of the Picks and Sticks. Our special THANKS to Gary and his staff at Three Cedars Farm for hosting this charitable and family fun event.



Also, thanks to our Major Sponsors, who were:
Salem Tool on Salem Road,
AA Anchor Bolt on Salem Road,
Karl's Cabin Restaurant & Bar on Gotfredson Road,
Plymouth Salem Storage off of Chubb Road,
Gardner-Westcott on Six Mile Road,
Alumitect Industries on Salem Road, and
Three Cedars Farm on Six Mile Road.

SAHS September Meeting

On Wednesday, **September 28th**, SAHS held its meeting for the first time in the Dickerson Barn. The topic appropriately was **Barns** and was presented by Chuck Bultman, a SAHS member and practicing architect in Ann Arbor specializing in the preservation and rehabilitation of historic barns and timber framed structures. Chuck informed us of the many aspects of barn construction and dating while pointing out examples in the Dickerson Barn. Thirteen members and two guests were in attendance.

SAHS Annual Dinner/ Auction

On Sunday, **October 2nd** in the Classic Log Cabin Clubhouse at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 48 tickets were sold for the Dinner/Auction and attendees purchased 63 auction items. As has been the case in the past, this was once again the largest fundraiser for the SAHS with a net of \$4,070.21.



SAHS October Meeting

The October meeting was cancelled due to the illness of the guest speaker. His presentation about the Salem Train Wreck of 1907 has been rescheduled to May 24, 2023.

State of Michigan Historical Marker Project

Earlier this year, a Michigan State Historical Marker was approved for both the South Salem Stone School and the Dickerson Barn. The current task is working with the Michigan Historic Commission to create the text for the two-sided marker. For 2023, the plan is to place State of Michigan Historical Marker 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.

Elections of the Salem Area Historical Society

The Salem Area Historical Society has begun its search for next year's slate of officers with nominations closing at our Membership Meeting on Wednesday, February 22nd and its election at our Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 22nd. If you would like to hold and execute the duties of one of these offices for the 2022/3 Membership Year (April 1st to March 31st), you need to be a current member of the SAHS for at least the last two membership years and you need to contact one of the current SAHS Board Members on or before February 22nd and indicate your desire to run for one of these positions. The Salem Area Historical Society's current Board of Officers encourages you to nominate yourself and for you to encourage others to nominate themselves. The satisfaction of being part of the team that is preserving Salem's past for the future is a great reward for the amount of time that is needed to fulfill the duties of the office. Files describing the duties of each position can be found on [SAHS Membership](#) page of the SAHS Website.

Jarvis Stone School Historic District Maintenance

In 2022, the Salem Area Historical Society, once again, completed annual maintenance projects at the Jarvis Stone School Historic District. This year that included work on the school (paint the exterior peak of front school addition, paint the exterior cinder block walls of front school addition, paint the window exteriors, replace fascia on east side of rear extension, repair roof of rear extension, clean clear plastic ceiling panels), the barn (paint the south fascia and wall), the shed (paint the exterior, repair front floor at the door entrance), and the grounds (regular lawn maintenance, repair letter mounts on outdoor sign, stain merry-go-round seats). All of that was accomplished without asking for new donations, but rather by using the reserve funds that the SAHS Board has set aside for these types of expenditures. Additional grounds keeping (cutting down the dead tree, removing overgrowth along north fence) was accomplished by the volunteer effort of Bryan Wirthlin and his helpers. Jo Ann Heyl, Jane Griffith, and others volunteered and cleaned some areas of the school that had been untouched for years.

Panic Haunted Experience – THANK YOU

Jen and Brian Debler along with Bryan Wirthlin hosted the Panic Haunted Experience north of Seven Mile Road in October. 296 tickets were sold and the net proceeds were donated to the SAHS.

Excerpt from SAHS Publication

Salem Area Historical Society Publication: *Family Memories of the Underground Railroad*

By: **Harold Teter**

Date: Historical Monograph No. XI 2002

My name is Harold Teter. I have lived in Salem Township for about 52 years. This Society has taken considerable interest in early records of the anti-slavery movement in the Township. It seems the area was quite strong abolitionist, and many who fled slavery passed through here on their way to Detroit, where they could cross to Canada and freedom. They were aided on their trip by the Underground Railroad. At that time some of my people, living in Indiana, were active in the Underground Railroad, and some of those whom they helped could very well have passed through here. It was all part of the same organized network.

Stories from these times have been handed down by word of mouth in my family, and I have six of them here. They represent the way things were. They could just as well have happened here, and, as I said, some of the very people involved may have passed through here as they moved along the line.

From the beginning, our nation consisted of southern slave states and northern free states. Also, from the beginning, there were slaves who attempted to flee North to achieve freedom. Frequently they were aided by sympathetic people along the way.

After the enactment of a new fugitive slave law in 1850 the flight to freedom became more difficult. Reaching a free state was not sufficient. A runaway could be captured and forcibly returned to slavery, even from a free state. Slave catching to collect rewards from slave owners became a lucrative business for a rather ruthless breed of people. Those caught aiding the fugitives could be prosecuted and lose all they owned in fines. A runaway had to reach Canada to be safe.

One effect of these laws and of acts of the slave catchers was to arouse public sympathy for the slaves and to greatly strengthen the abolition movement. Those who were ready to help the fleeing slaves became organized into a loose, secret network. They used railroad terms to describe its parts. Since it moved people, it was called a "railroad." Fleeing slaves were "passengers" or, even, "freight." Persons who guided groups of runaways were "conductors." Homes that gave shelter were "stations," and their owners were "station masters."

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SAHS Publications

If you would like to read the entire *Family Memories of the Underground Railroad*, 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

Salem Community Events Association

Salem Community Events will be hosting a visit with Santa December 3 from 1:00-3:30 pm at Salem Township hall. Appointments are required. Please email them at VisitSalemSanta@gmail.com or call 248.491.8117. Leave your name, number and ages of kids and a cell number where they can reach you.

Three Cedars Farm

Celebrate a Country Christmas at Three Cedars Farm. Get yourself in the Holiday spirit by spending an afternoon at Three Cedars! With Christmas trees, wreaths, hot cocoa, cider, donuts and of course Santa Claus, you can be certain that there will something for everyone! Country Christmas begins on Nov 25, 2022 Fri – Sat: 10a-8p and Sun: 10a-5p with Santa Hours of Fri – Sat: 11a-2p & 4p-7p and Sun: 12p-4p. For more details and hours, go to: <https://threecedarsfarm.org/>

South Lyon Historical Society

Christmas at the Village - Saturday, Dec. 3rd beginning at 4 pm with tours of the buildings, lighted parade at 6:30 pm, arrival of Santa & lighting of the village tree, bake sale in the Freight House and music in the chapel.

Brighton Area Historical Society

New Exhibit of “Christmas Memories of Brighton” through December 23rd in CoBACH on Tuesday-Friday 5-8 pm, Saturday 11am – 5 pm, and Sunday 2-5 pm. 202 W Main St, Brighton, MI, Phone: (810) 229-2784

Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum and Gordon Hall

Join DAHS for several exciting events at historic Gordon Hall. Come and see how beautiful Gordon Hall looks all trimmed up for the holidays. Decorations abound, featuring the Christmas Village Collection that previously adorned the windows of Huron Camera in downtown Dexter.

Friday night December 2, DAHS will be hosting a fundraiser featuring hearty hors d'oeuvres, spirits and desserts. Cost is \$75 per person and proceeds support the continuing work to restore Gordon Hall to its original glory. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.dexterhistory.org/> through PayPal or by calling Ina Germain at (734) 395-4106.

On Saturday December 3, Gordon Hall will be open 9-5 and Santa will be there until 3 also featuring make and take gingerbread houses. Suggested donation \$5 per person.

Sunday December 4, join us for a Christmas Tea presented in two seatings - 1:00 or 4:00. Cost is \$30 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (734) 395-4106. Limited to 40 guests for each seating.

December 10, 17 and 28 Gordon Hall will be open in the evening from 6:00 - 8:00. Come and see the holiday decorations including the Christmas Village Collection at Dexter's historic hall. Suggested donation \$5 per person. Location: Gordon Hall, 8311 Island Lake Rd, Dexter, MI.

Plymouth Historical Society

Visit with Santa Claus in the Plymouth Historical Museum's caboose for free each Saturday and Sunday between December 4th through the 24th from 1 PM to 4 PM. Entrance to the Museum is free as well on those dates. The current Special Exhibit is “A Red Ryder Christmas Story” More info at: <http://www.plymouthhistory.org/>

Please use the form below to join us as a member of the Salem Area Historical Society for 2023.

New and Renewing SAHS Annual Memberships will last until March 31, 2024. 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	Heyl, Jo Ann
Secretary	Griffith, Jane
Treasurer	DiMilia, Sue
Member At-Large	Marlene Donoghue