

Review

Vicksburg Historical Society Historic Village & Depot Museum

300 North Richardson St., P.O. Box 103, Vicksburg, MI 49097, 269-649-1733

Summer 2016

The Vicksburg Historical Society publishes this newsletter for all those interested in the history of the area. Feel welcome to attend the programs we sponsor throughout the year as part of our mission to interpret and present history in an engaging format for all to enjoy.

www.VicksburgHistory.org



Historic Skills Workshops

Learn Past Skills Still Practiced Today

All workshops will be held on the Historic Village grounds from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Class size is limited, so register early by calling the office at 269-649-1733 or visit

www.VicksburgHistory.org/historic-workshops.

\$35/non-members, \$30 for Society members unless otherwise noted. Cancellations with full refund will be 5 days prior if a minimum number of participants is not met.

Wednesday, July 20 FILLED

Blacksmithing: Coat Hook (Eric Mattson, Arctic Forge)

Wednesday, August 3

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Make your own coat hook, while learning blacksmith skills using the Village forge. Participants should wear long pants and closed-toe shoes as we will be working near a fire in the blacksmith shop. (Class limited to 4)

Wednesday, August 17

Slip Decorated Sculpture (Cindy Krill, Ceramic Artist)

Make your own sculpture and learn centuries old techniques still used today, including application of slip colors. Pottery will require firing and will be available for pick up at a later date. Wear old clothes or work shirt. (Class limited to 25)

President's Report

By Ted Vlieg

The Historic Village is now up and running five days per week with three new part-time staff members to create new exhibitions, provide new education programs and events, and keep the facility running smoothly including the upcoming gift shop expansion. We need your support as docents in the Village working 2 ½ to 5 hours shifts in the buildings and other areas of the Society operations. Your registrations for workshops and events all go toward bringing history alive in Vicksburg and supporting this valuable asset in our community.

Historic Village Hours

The Village is now open 5 days per week with docents, tours, workshops and more in the Village buildings.

Season May 22- September 5 (Labor Day)

Wednesday–Saturday: 11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sundays: Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Groups welcome, contact info@vicksburghistory.org or call 269-649-1733 to schedule your tour. We also have a new grounds map and general brochure that can be obtained at the Society's office in the train depot or downloaded at www.vicksburghistory.org/tours.

David & Gail Reisterer Fund Community Match

During the building dedication ceremony on May 22, Gail Reisterer announced a gift of \$100,000 to the Vicksburg Historical Society that will go into an endowment. The donation is also a challenge to our members and community to match the gift towards supporting the future of the Society and Historic Village. The Society Board greatly appreciates Gail's gift and efforts toward making history come alive in Vicksburg. To contribute your gift to the challenge, please contact Warren Lawrence at warjack@aol.com, 269-649-2453.



Gail Reisterer (left) and Sue Moore (right) at the dedication ceremony, Photo courtesy of Tom Haroldson

Historic Speaker's Series

Presentations are no charge and held at the Vicksburg Community Center, 100 S. Main St., 7:00 -8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19

Secrets of the Vicksburg Museum

Every object in the Society's collection has a tale to tell, whether it's an autograph book from the 19th century, or Native American artifacts, each is important to preserve and learn about. Come and see for yourself the secrets entrusted to us to preserve.

Tuesday, August 16

WWII Home Front Industries-Vicksburg & Kalamazoo

Well known local historian Steve Rossio tells the story of how the challenges of supplying our fighting forces changed Michigan into one of the most important states in the war effort becoming "The Arsenal for Democracy", producing tanks and bombers.

Tuesday, October 18

The Old Sauk Trail – U.S. 12

A quaint, quizzical and quirky (yet curiously informative) slide lecture by guide Dr. John S. Geisler, as we visit museums, inns, a vintage meat market, theaters, rocks, land offices, tombs, railroad stations, camelback bridge, and a featherbone factory.

Tuesday, November 15

Medieval Mysteries

Mel Starr, medieval mystery writer, tells the tale, spiced with humor, of his remarkable character, Hugh de Singleton, a 14th century surgeon, bailiff, and social commentator. Using logic, observation and diligent effort he solves capital crimes.

Hidden Vicksburg

Saturday, August 6, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Vicksburg Community Center, 101 S. Main St., Vicksburg

In collaboration with the Vicksburg DDA, the Society will present a look back into hidden secrets of Vicksburg's past, including guided tours of the upper levels of historic buildings in the downtown district. The goal of this event is to create awareness of Vicksburg's historical contribution in Kalamazoo County, attract visitors, and as a fundraiser for the DDA's façade improvement fund and operating support for the Historical Society. We also need volunteers as building hosts and tour guides. For more information/register www.vicksburghistory.org/events

Be a Member and Save!

Members save with our new member discounts on workshops, events and the gift shop. Memberships are vital to the Historical Society. Membership dues help cover the costs of events, activities and supplies throughout the year. For information contact Cody Cook at 269-649-1733, education@vicksburghistory.org or visit our new online registration at www.VicksburgHistory.org/membership.

Docents and Volunteers Needed

Make history come alive as a docent or volunteer for the Historic Village. We need people to recreate a working Village in period dress including a farmer, teacher, blacksmith, conductor, print shop operator, ticket master, store clerks, and mayor. Volunteers are also needed for the office, gardening, gift shop, events, collections, exhibits, tours, and more. Learn about the opportunities available at www.VicksburgHistory.org/volunteer-opportunities.

Welcome New Staff

The Vicksburg Historical Society hired three part-time staff in June partially funded through a generous grant from the Vicksburg Foundation. Each of the staff come with extensive education and experience in their areas and will report to the Society Board of Directors. The three positions are to increase efforts in maintaining and growing the collection, daily operations of the Historic Village, and broadening the volunteer capacity and educational offerings at the facility.

- **April Bryan**, Curator of Collections (*below left*)
- **Cody Cook**, Volunteer & Education Director (*below center*)
- **Jessica Zwalua**, Operations Director (*below right*)



Endowment . . . Leave a Historic Legacy in Memory of a Loved One

The growing VHS Endowment Funds are administered and invested by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KZCF). Only the Fund's income (subject to the KZCF spending policy) will be used for the Historical Society's needs. The Fund's principle can never be spent, new donations add to the Historical Society's financial stability. "For Good. For Ever" is the motto of Michigan's Community Foundations. Five percent of all the Society's unrestricted donations and all memorials are placed in the Fund. Remember the Society when planning your estate. Call Warren Lawrence 269-649-2453, www.vicksburghistory.org/endowments.