



Review

Vicksburg Historical Society Historic Village & Depot Museum
300 North Richardson St., P.O. Box 103, Vicksburg, MI 49097, 269-649-1733

Spring 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.

Wednesdays, May 25 & June 1

Vintage Printing Basics (David Aubry, Kristina Powers-Aubry)

Create your own one-page newsletter, flyer or poster, using the vintage Washington hand printing press. The first session will involve learning press operation and typesetting, with the second session focusing on final typesetting and document printing. (Class limited to 8; \$70/\$60 for Society Members)

Wednesday, June 15

Quilting (Ruthie Dorrance, Ruthie's Paint & Yarn)

Create your own quilt block and learn how to plan patterns, and hand sewing techniques as they did in the 1900s. Bring one light and one dark fabric swatch and a sharp pair of shears. There will be some fabric and shears available to use. (Class limited to 25)

Wednesday, July 20

Blacksmithing: Coat Hook (Eric Mattson, Arctic Forge)

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)

OPENING DAY May 22

We are opening up the Village this year with period dress 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.

General Store/Doris-Lee Sweet Shop

Dedication & Gail Reisterer Gift Recognition

Sunday, May 22, Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Vicksburg Depot Museum

Noon- 1:00

Buildings open for visitors

1:00 – 2:00

Building Dedication & Recognition



President's Report

By Ted Vlieg

The Historic Village is going live this spring! We will be opening different buildings each day, Wednesday through Sunday, with docents dressed in period costumes to recreate a living, interactive historic Village. We need your support to make the Historic Village a unique educational and cultural facility to learn about life in times long past. We also have another great Historic Speaker Series this season, and explore our new Historic Skills Workshops where you can learn tasks as they were done 100 years ago from pottery painting and quilting, to blacksmithing and printing press basics.

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, May 17

Vicksburg's Quilt Trail (held at Vicksburg District Library)

National author, Suzi Parron, takes us on a humorous journey along the national quilt trail from the first barn quilt painted in Ohio in 2001; features over 100 stunning photographs from around the country including a book signing of "[Following the Barn Quilt Trail](#)" with a section devoted to the Vicksburg Quilt Trail.

Tuesday, June 21

Battle of Sunset Lake

The country's history formed during the Revolutionary War will be examined by AJ Hartman, teacher of history in Schoolcraft. His presentation will focus on the pivotal battles of the war and how we almost lost to the British. His talk is a prelude to The Battle of Sunset Lake, sponsored by Society to be held from June 25-26.

Tuesday, July 19

Secret's 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, 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.

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. Because 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.

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. We also need building coordinators to manage individual buildings in the Village, including staffing and exhibit ideas. Volunteers are needed for the office, gardening, gift shop, events, collections, exhibits, tours, and more. Learn about the opportunities available at www.VicksburgHistory.org/volunteer-opportunities.

Gift Shop Opening Soon

Looking for historic items for your gift giving? The Train Depot will once again be stocked with items from mugs and books to reproduction items from the 1880s. Vintage postcard reproductions, prints, maps, hats and more will be available after May 22. Look for the online store coming soon. All proceeds go toward continuing operations of the Society and Village.



Barn Quilt Painting Workshop

Saturday, May 21, 12:30-4:30

Vicksburg District Library, 212 S. Michigan Ave, Vicksburg Lower Level (handicap access)

Learn to draft, tape & paint your own 2'X2' pre-primed board suitable for outdoor display. Fee \$40 and class limited to 20. Register now with Hugh & Kitch Rinehart, 269-329-0481.

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 Donna Seilheimer at 649-5521 or visit our new online registration at www.VicksburgHistory.org/membership.