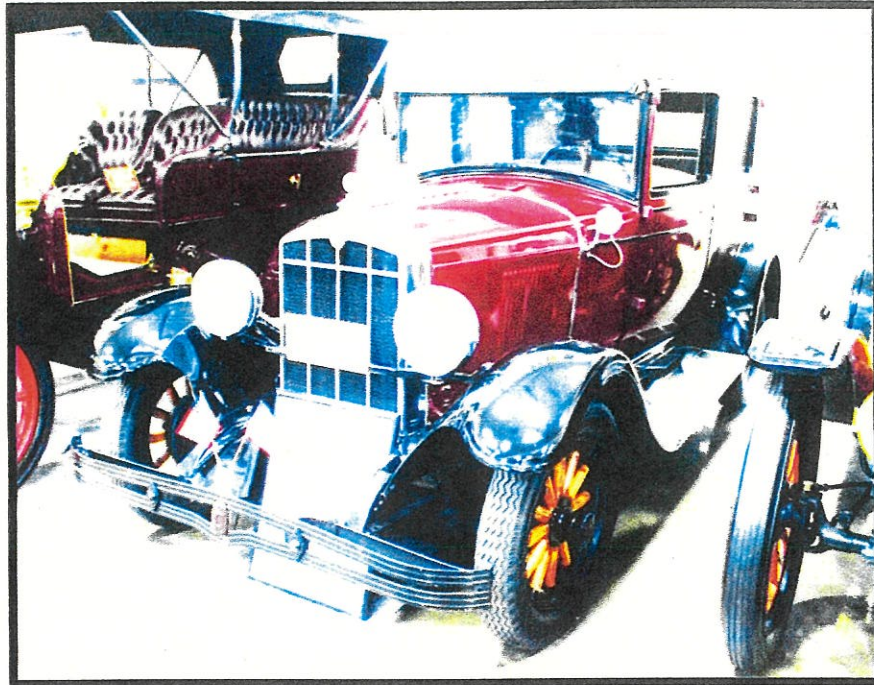


Hadley Mill Museum



1929 Durant Automobile

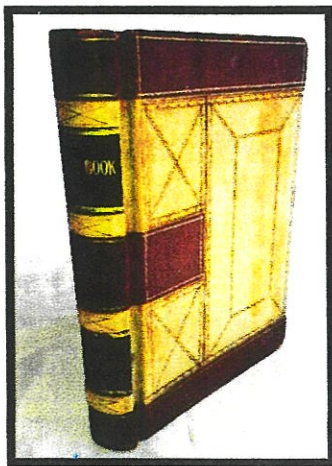
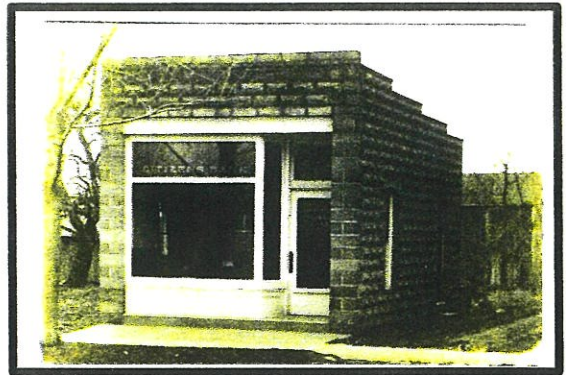
2023 Program and Events

- May 6** Clean the Mill *9-12 Noon* Cleaning supplies provided. We need you!
- June 3** Grand Old Day in Hadley *9-3 p.m.* Bring your car, tractor, garage sale, displays, all are welcome.
Flag Retiring *4 p.m.* Ceremony lead by the American Legion
- July 4** Hadley's 5-K run/walk *8 a.m.*
Mill Museum Open *9-3 p.m.*
Parade *Noon*
- Aug 3** Evening Program* *7 p.m.* "The Compadres" & Vernor's floats!
- Aug 12** Fleas and Farmers Market *9-3 p.m.* Mill Open
- Sept 7** Evening Program* *7 p.m.* Building the Soo Locks
- Sept 15** Pork and Plaid. Join us for a pork roast on a Friday
Mill Museum Open *3-9 p.m.*
- Oct 5** Evening Program* *7 p.m.* Covered Bridges in Michigan

**Evening programs are held at the Hadley Township Office building.*

History Revived: Hadley Citizen's Bank

The HTHS recently received a large collection of documents and ledgers from the old Citizen's Bank that was on Pratt Road. Today the building houses an antique store and it has had a variety of uses over the years but it was built in 1908 or 1909 for the purpose of a bank. Much about the operations of the bank had been lost to memory, except of course, the robbery of 1926 is still talked about. Now with the help of our new documents we are able to refresh our memory. This generous new donation came from the Ivory Family of Hadley Township.



An exciting find among the many new records was the original Partnership Agreement signed on December 13, 1909. The Partners collectively invested \$4,000 to start the bank. They were Henry Brigham, E.J. Hemingway, Bart Marston, Grant Stimson, Earl Ivory, Peter Stewart and Newman and Elizabeth Barber. The Bank opened on January 10, 1910. But when did it close its doors? No one these days seemed to know for sure. It was known that the building was sold in 1944 to the Township which used it to store firefighting equipment. And some folks remember the Citizen's Bank operating out of a corner of the hardware store in the mid 1940's.

Our new acquisition includes Ledger Books, Draft Registers and Account Registers. Among them is an Account Register and General Ledger for 1944 to 1946. This book shows the amounts in the accounts for each customer and a daily register of the bank's assets. Collectively the records show that the Bank operated continuously from 1910 to 1946. It surprises many that such a little bank survived two World Wars and the Great Depression.

Records like these are the documentation of daily life of a small community; a history as important as anything that happens in Lansing or Washington D.C. by Elyse Lewis, Archivist

Family Histories/Stories and Genealogies

The Hadley Mill Museum is not considered to be a complete resource for family history research. Locally, the Lapeer Genealogical Society is the best place to find many different types of vital records and obituaries. However, over the years the Museum has accumulated some family trees and family history stories. Since December Elaine Noake and Elyse Lewis have been organizing these documents and they are now consolidated in one place and digitally cataloged. There are about 30 files and can be searched by family last name. You are welcome to review our files. And we are always looking for volunteers who are willing to work on similar projects. by Elyse Lewis, Archivist

Building Lake Lapeer by Dennis Emery

In the 1930's, two young Hadley area boys who were neighbors, became the best of friends. Both graduated from high school and went on to college. World War II interrupted finishing college for the one, and he finished soon after the war.

One taught school for a while and, after much discussion, in 1948 they decided to start a construction company, building roads and whatever else they could do in that line of work. The two best friends, Alfred Corey and Ralph Hartwig, started out very slowly purchasing whatever machinery they could afford to build whatever they could. Their company was called Corey and Hartwig and during the following years they became larger, branching out and employing many people from the Hadley area. A building was put up on their property just east of Hadley, giving them a place to work on equipment as well as an office. As the years progressed, more equipment was obtained and more complex jobs were taken including road building, sewer jobs and the purchasing of a gravel pit. In the following years even the building of lakes would be accomplished.

I started to work for the company in 1962, again in 1967, and also in 1968 when the construction of Lake Lapeer was going full tilt. The company had worked on a large lake project outside Clare. They had purchased a dredge built in Hallandale, Florida, and had built Lake Metamora and also worked on Merritt Lake so they had quite a bit of lake building experience by this time. In late 1967 the building of Lake Lapeer was moving along. During the summer of 1968 I was asked to help out with the running of the dredge, so after figuring out (with lots of help), and "hands on" training, I became an operator of the dredge.

When I started, we were dredging the area in front of the present Lake Hill Drive off Stewart Road, on the corner of Hadley and Elba Township. Much excavating had already taken place using bulldozers, draglines and earth movers. This was the equipment that was needed to work on a project of this scale. Trees were cut down, stumps removed, yards and yards of dirt moved and, in order to even start dredging, the waterway which was the creek, had to be deepened to allow the dredge to float.

Farmers Creek had flowed through this area for many years. Wynn's Mill Road, which at that time cut through the very middle part of the creek itself, and was named after the former Wynn's Mill, a small working grist mill, known as the Little Red Mill, which had operated many years earlier, on the bank of the creek.



Example of the type of dredge used

Back to the dredge; the actual operation of the dredge took some getting used to. A diesel engine ran the whole operation of the dredge. The cutting head, the "business" part, used an air/hydraulic system for moving the cutting head back and forth. The cutting head did the real work of the dredge, controlled by the operator moving a lever for up and down and back and forth (side to side). Water and material were

sucked up from the area being worked on, by a large pump located in line with the engine, and then pumped through a large 12-inch diameter pipe across the waterway onto the shoreline that was being built up. Once the material dried out, bulldozers and other equipment was used to build up the grade. Many of the lots were built up this way.

I can remember so many times the cutting head would literally bounce a bit, trying to cut the extremely hard pan in order to get the material. Not all areas were this way but some were. We would slow the speed on the down motion of the cutting head when this happened, but we really needed to keep pushing to get the job done. As soon as the area being worked on was cleaned out, we had to move the cables holding the dredge in place to another location. This was done to allow side to side, back and forth movement for the cutting head to clean another area. We would anchor on trees or a large machine to hold the position of the dredge. We used a small rowboat to get to and from land to the dredge...unless you felt brave enough to walk the 12-inch pipe. We did wear life preservers while on the water. The afternoon operator (I was the morning man) walked the pipe all the time! One morning something happened overnight with the dredge and it had partially sunk. It was a battle getting it pumped out and floating again.

I want to explain some of the "behind the scenes" prior to the actual lake development itself. The proposed area was selected because of the "lay of the land", with high ground all the way around, and the waterway of Farmers Creek running through the middle of it. Of course, property had to be obtained and transferred, blueprints drawn up showing the lots which would be offered for sale and so on. Sandy

Williams Wright remembers that her father was close friends the project engineer and investors, and was brought in to help in the project planning. He drove the property before the lake was dug to determine where both the dam and boat launch would be located. She also explained that her father later on, tried to get Lapeer County to maintain the dam, explaining that the lake could flood Lapeer if not managed properly. Later on, parts of Lapeer did flood because of a leak in the dam area.

Steve Jackson, another resident living on the lake, explained to me that his father also worked for Corey and Hartwig on the project, operating large equipment and had enjoyed watching him running a big bulldozer knocking large trees down, roots and all, and moving them out of the way.

Down through the years many beautiful homes have been built on the very ground that I pumped material to build the shoreline. The dredge is long gone. Corey and Hartwig, the company who provided jobs for many area people, is gone. The memories, however, remain of the people who worked for them, of those who lived where the lake is now, and how the area looked before Lake Lapeer was built. My old school house, Wynns School, sat on the corner of Stewart Road, Wynns Mill Road and Bullock Road. We swam in the creek, hunted where the lake is now. We played ball in the field near where present-day Lake Hill Drive is located. We skated on and fell through the ice in the creek in the winter.

From the vision that Al Corey, Ralph Hartwig and the partners had seen we had no idea that, many years later, the area would encompass such a beautiful lake known far and wide as Lake Lapeer with the water covering 367 acres.

A Note from the President

Spring season is here and excitement is in the air as we prepare for our new year at the Mill Museum. Of course, after being closed up all winter there is cleaning that needs to be done before we have visitors. We need help with light cleaning which would be dusting, vacuuming, window washing and small repairs. Come if you can. We will furnish supplies, donuts and coffee. We will be there from 9 until 12 noon.

Over the past year many new members have joined the Historical Society and we hope you will become involved so we can get to know you. One way is to come to our events and volunteer to help. Don't miss our fun evening programs which are held the first Thursday in August, September and October at the Hadley Township Office on Pratt Road. We don't have monthly Board meetings scheduled yet so if you want to know when they are, contact us through email at Hadley Historical @ gmail.com or call me at (810) 797.4302. All are welcome.

Our first event is June 3; Grand Old Day in Hadley. You can bring something to display or sell. Contact Gary Reamer for more information at (810) 797.4302. Our events and programs are free to attend and we look forward to seeing members and non-members, alike.

President Brenda Greene Reamer



William C "Billy" Durant was one of the most colorful characters in the history of the automobile. His brash, flamboyant business style afforded him both great success and massive failure. His most famous achievement was the foundation of General Motors in 1908. While Henry Ford concentrated on a single, inexpensive model, Billy Durant used his experience from the carriage industry and acquired a number of companies that catered to a wide variety of buyers. Durant lost control of General Motors in 1909 and was ousted, only to regain control by 1916. After stock market gambles, he lost control again in 1920.

On Display at the Mill Museum

The automobile displayed this year is a 1929 Durant Model 6-60. A model that was only sold for the 1929 Model year. This 6-60 features the 5-Passenger Sedan body, which was the only 4-door Durant offered in 1929. It cost when new: \$750. Equal to paying \$13,195 in 2023.

This car is on loan from the Stahls Automobile Museum. They have been very generous in loaning show cars from their museum to us at no charge. Please pick up one of their brochures located on the running boards of the car. The Stahl's Museum is well worth the visit for the entire family.

Hadley Township Historical
Society
Hadley Mill Museum
3633 Hadley Road
P.O. Box 20 Hadley, MI 48440



Current Board Members

President: Brenda Greene Reamer

Vice President: Kent Copeman

Secretary: Joyce Ivory

Treasurer: Dennis Emery

Co-Treasurer: Barb Hartwig

Archivist: Elyse Lewis

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Editor: Kent Copeman