

## Hadley Mill Museum

With the variety and choice of schools we can send our children to today, it seems appropriate that we take a look at what the rural schools were like not so long ago. A few of us can still remember the big white twelve grade school that sat at the back of the school lot on Pratt Road. More of us can remember the “new” brick and glass school that sat closer to the road. Less of us can remember the “one-room” schools that were scattered throughout the Township. It was the State’s intent that students would have a school located within a one-mile walk. Actually, for a few, it might be closer to two miles. At any rate, as one traveled from his or her home towards school a few more students would join the group and it wasn’t as bad as it seems. Mildred Corey Burget attended the Green’s Corners School, located at the crossroads of Pratt Road and Green Corners Road. The school was made into a residence and still survives. Here are a few of her memories that she wrote in 2007.

I attended Green’s Corners School, a one-room brick building, about a half mile from our 45-acre farm and orchard. I attended from kindergarten through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade; through the decade of the 1940’s. A year or two later, all the one room schools closed and the local county schools were no more. This was also the years of World War II. My three brothers were in the war and my father was sick so it was pretty much a sad time.

I do not remember any specific events in kindergarten. I was six when I started so I already knew how to read. I think kindergarten must have been more like first grade. There was usually a total of 17-18 students. We had wonderful Valentine Day and Halloween parties. At Christmas there was a program when we sang carols and put on plays. I could memorize so I got to be in all the plays. Someone’s father would dress up like Santa Clause and come in at the end of the program. We got to throw popcorn around and make a big mess of the room. The next day we returned to the school and cleaned up. We always had a good time doing that.



**Photo: 1949. Mildred back row right. Lela Eick teacher.**

I did have to walk to school on top of snowdrifts. Sometimes we had snow storms that left snow even with the tops of the fences.

We had morning and afternoon 15-minute recesses and a one-hour noon break. We always went outside and played ball. In the winter we dressed up and dragged our sleds to a nearby hill and got soaking wet but we never missed a chance. Sometimes there would be enough water to freeze and we would skate on a pond.

We were very respectful to our teachers. I do not remember anyone being disciplined for bad behavior.

There was a student at Green’s Corners School, Clarence W. Green, who worked on the Manhattan Project. (atomic bomb) He also wrote a book, *Life at Greene’s Corners*\_(Copyright 1956), about the school and life when he was growing up.



## The Mill Museum Shop: A big success in 2023



Hadley Township residents have learned that quality Hadley-themed gifts and clothing can be found at the Mill Museum Shop. Under the wise guidance of Carol Witulski, who has kept the shop stocked with new items and the latest styles, our retail sales have soared. In 2023 revenues at the Shop were \$4,000! Brisk sales were made the Saturday after Thanksgiving and the evening of the Hadley Bridge lighting ceremony for which Carol recruited a team of volunteers to staff the Shop. This team also signed up many new HTHS members. The Shop brings people to the Mill who have never been inside. They are always impressed and will be coming back to attend our events. Thank you, Carol!

## Seeking a HTHS Membership Coordinator

We have the perfect volunteer job for a person who likes to organize things and could keep an up-to-date membership list.

We are looking for someone who can combine our active membership list with our mailing list on spread sheet on the computer. This would also require sending the spreadsheet by email if necessary. The mailing labels will be printed from the spreadsheet. This would lessen the workload of our Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. All money transactions would continue to be handled by our Treasurer. If you are interested in checking out this job, please call our President, Brenda Reamer at 810.358.0259.

## 2024 Hadley Township Historical Society Calendar

### Mill Open Dates – Evening Programs

June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday	Grand Old Day in Hadley & 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Evening Program: History of the Hadley Mill by Allie Siebert
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Hadley 4 <sup>th</sup> of July: Mill Open, 5K Race, Parades etc.
Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	Evening Program: Edmund Fitzgerald by Ric Mixer
Aug 10 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	Farmers and Flea Market at the Mill
Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Evening Program: TBD
Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Pork and Plaid: Mill Open. Pork dinner. Music by Dave Lagness
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday	Evening Program: Light Houses of Michigan

All Evening Programs take place at the Hadley Township Office building at 7 p.m.



## Volunteers are needed this summer!

This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hadley Mill! We're planning to celebrate all summer long starting with an Anniversary Party on Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>. On that day, there will be the usual 'Grand Old Day in Hadley' activities like the tractor and car show and local friends showing off their antique collections. In addition, to celebrate the Mill's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, there will be an Art Competition, Birthday Cake and Music on the lawn and more! Of course, the Mill Museum will be open too.

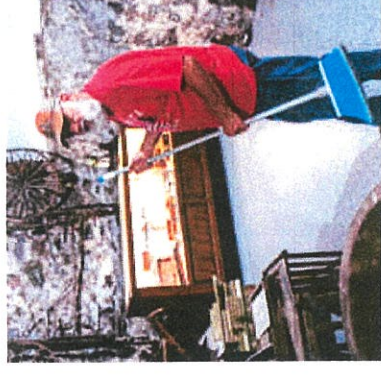
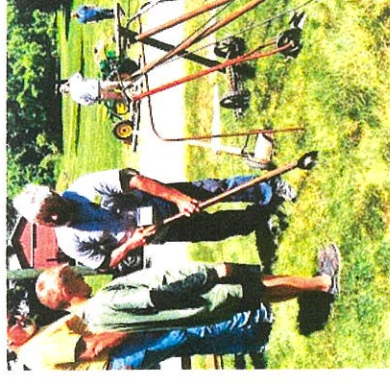
Volunteers are needed to help make this June 1<sup>st</sup> event a success:

- Clean Up Day in May – preparing the Museum exhibits for the summer season and general cleaning
- Event Planning – additional members are needed to serve on the committee that is planning the events for our special celebration on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Event Staffing – 17 HTHS members are needed to assist on June 1<sup>st</sup>: Event set-up, parking management, greet museum visitors, serve cake, serve hot dogs and beverages, assist with games for kids, site clean-up. Volunteers are asked to work 3 to 4 hours shifts.

Volunteers are also needed for our other events this summer:

- Event planning: Special projects under consideration are a community scavenger hunt and preparation of a community time capsule.
- Event/ Museum Staffing on July 4<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup>: Event set-up, parking management, greet Museum visitors, assist with games for kids, site clean-up. Volunteers are asked to work 2 to 4 hours shifts.

Please contact Brenda Reamer soon to volunteer so we can create staffing plans for all our summer events. Thank you very much. Brenda: 810-797-4302 or beemac1357@yahoo.com.





HTHS Financial Report year 2023.

**Income for year 2023**

**Note: The following incomes are only the larger incomes, not all.**

Mott Foundation Grant	\$ 5000.00
Fun Run	\$ 4550.00
Donations over \$100.00	\$ 935.29
Dues	\$ 910.00

**Total incomes year 2023 except Sales/Merchandise \$ 13,037.16**

**Note: Sales/Merchandise, both Income and Expenses, are on separate sheets prepared by the Co-Treasurer, Barbara Hartwig.**

**The following Expenses are only the larger Expenses, not all. Expenses year 2023**

Flooring for Mill Apartment	\$ 2,745.39 (Final Payment, Apt. Carpet)
Stahl Museum (for Summer Loan of Car Displayed)	\$ 300.00
Storage Building for the Mill	\$ 3690.00
Printing / Postage	\$ 646.97
Office / Mill Supplies	\$ 382.96
Signs	\$ 285.50
Programs & Speakers	\$ 559.00
Various Fees were also paid to The Historical Society of Michigan, Michigan Museums Association, State of Michigan, and Lapeer County.	

**Total Expenses year 2023, less Sales/Merchandise \$ 11693.04**

Our **EQUITABLE** Long Term Investment recorded, on January 1, 2023, \$ 85,552.64, but finished the year on a positive note with a gain back up to **\$ 98,183.21**  
Our **CHOICE ONE** Savings/Checking account at year end showed a balance of **\$ 23,300.37**.

Thanks to the Board of Directors, and to all of the many volunteers who worked diligently to help out with the Mill openings and special days, and especially all the hours Ken and Kim Hartwig put in to make the 4<sup>th</sup> Of July Fun Run very successful again, in 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Emery and Barbara Hartwig, Co-Treasurers, HTHS.

**For year 2023**

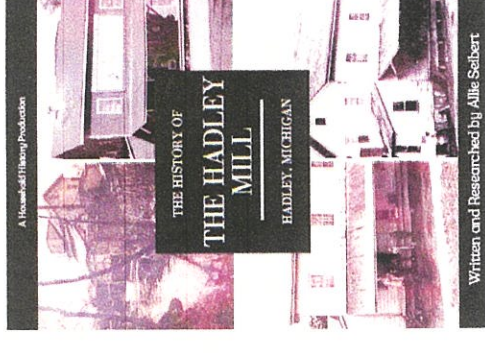
## **New Book: *History of the Hadley Mill***

Did you know that this year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building now known as the Hadley Mill Museum? To commemorate this special event the Hadley Township Historical Society has commissioned a book about the Hadley Mill's history.

*The History of the Hadley Mill* delves deep into the complex past of one of Hadley's most notable landmarks. From the Mill's initial establishment in the 1860s, this comprehensive account tells of the mill's many owners and life in Hadley over the decades. With a foundation in meticulously sourced photographs, deed records, vital records and original newspaper articles, this narrative offers a thorough exploration of the mill that became the cornerstone of Hadley's growth and legacy.

The author is Allie Siebert who writes for her company, Household History. This book is Siebert's third regarding a historical Hadley property.

At the Evening Program on June 6<sup>th</sup> copies will be available for sale and the author will sign your copy if you want. The book will be on sale this summer at the Mill Museum Shop. The price of the book is \$25 and all proceeds go solely to the HTHS. To make arrangements to get a copy right away please email us at [HadleyHistorical@gmail.com](mailto:HadleyHistorical@gmail.com).



## **A letter from the President**

Spring is just around the corner and the bard members have been busy planning the upcoming events. In May we begin with the cleaning of the cobwebs and winter dust. Also, in late Spring, Stahl's Automotive Museum will switch the car that is on display in the lower level in the museum.

I can feel the excitement as we anticipate our yearlong celebration of the Mill's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, another busy year for the Hadley Mill. Look below for this year's schedule. Our events are successful because of great community support and our enthusiastic volunteers. If you can spare some time, we need your help. As we gain new members, we lose some and I'm sorry to share the passing of long-time members Lorianne Jessop and Ed Noll.

So, let's say good bye to Winter and hello to Spring!

*Brenda Green Reamer, President*

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



### Remembered

Two of our members passed away since our last Newsletter. Ed Noll and Loraine Jessop have not been able to attend our evening programs nor our summer events for some years. We do know, however, that their hearts were with us. Ed would ask about the events and happenings at the museum and, even though Loraine had moved to a different state, she would mention how she loved the programs. Both of them will be missed.

### Current Board Members

**President:** Brenda Greene Reamer

**Vice President:** Kent Copeman

**Secretary:** Joyce Ivory

**Treasurer:** Dennis Emery

**Co-Treasurer:** Barb Hartwig

**Archivist:** Elyse Lewis

**Trustees:** Gary Reamer, Ann Goodwin, Mark Polk,  
Brian Martin, and Kristie Walker

**Editor:** Kent Copeman