

(2015 Programs, continued)

July 11 **Celebrate White Lake** (watch for more information in [The White Lake Beacon](#))

July 16 *Dowling Park/Pinebrook Camp for Girls: The Changing Landscape* (Nancy O'Connell property, 5130 Stanton Blvd ) Park safe distance from Nancy's corner, on nearby streets--Green, Whitney, Stanton or Pinebrook. Walk in on 5130 Entrance Drive.  
**BRING A LAWN CHAIR!**

August 20 *A Visit to Hilt's Landing* (includes Annual Meeting). The Center is located on N Durham Road just beyond the Comfort Inn on the North side of Holton-Whitehall Road.

September 17 *Tour of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp*, Summer School of the Arts since 1966 (for bus tour, park in field on Crystal Lake Road; parking lot is across from Marek Hall)

October 15 *Muskeon Heritage Museum--Muskegon's Industrial Past* featuring two new exhibits, including Whitehall Products (561 W. Western Ave., Muskegon)

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### **REFLECTING BACK on 2014 Historical Society Events**

The 2014 Historical Society year brought record attendance at its meetings. The Old Log House (June) and Amanda's Bequest and Bygone Basics (July) both included lawn chair gatherings followed by inside tours of the dwellings, the former one of the oldest in the area (which no one has come forward to rescue), the latter a beautifully restored bed and breakfast which had been moved from its original role as parsonage for Ferry Memorial Church. Another terrific outdoor program culminated with a guided walk along the north pier of White Lake Channel after we heard several presenters recreate the image of dwellings and activities of Grover's Fishery (Sept). Three other programs benefited from the hospitality of Lebanon Lutheran Church. Enthusiastic students shared their winning historical projects in May; Jack Lipka and Harold Kassner showed a wonderful collection slides of historical White Lake photos for Oct; and the August business meeting absolutely packed the church lounge with attendees eager to view the film about Sadony's Valley of the Pines--compiled with the help of Art and Joe Sadony, along with Roger Scharmer (guide and narrator), Jerry Grady (drone specialist), and Oscar Osbo (videographer). As always we treasured especially spontaneous stories from audience volunteers, vividly recreating the past.

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### **FINANCES: Excerpted from informal report by Diana Draper and Margot Haynes, Dec. 2014**

“As agreed to at the Oct. Board meeting of WLAHS, we spend about 4 hours reviewing the check records, bank statements, and receipts that Jim Haley kindly made available to us.

The current monies on hand in the cash box included \$113 in cash and \$4.55 in coins.

The materials spanned Jan. 2014-Oct. 2014, at which time the balance on the bank statement for checking account was \$6,136.60.

There is also a Memorial Fund and a CD. ”

***The Board is looking for someone for the duties of Treasurer—contact any Board member!***

### **Special Winter Gathering of the WLAHS two months ago**

About thirty members gathered together for a potluck with the White Lake Area Historical Society at the White Lake Senior Center on Ferry Street in early March. Vice President Cheryl Lohman called the meeting to order after much socializing and good food. There was a consensus about purchasing a brick for the Meinhardi patio, to honor Norm and June Ullman. People shared their reminiscences about people, places, and events of years past in the White lake area, and a collection of vintage greeting cards from the 1930s-1950s was passed around. They provided an interesting reflection of the changing culture, both in theme and the printing process.

### **Students' National History Day**

After a suggestion from Norm Ullman several years ago, the Historical Society began inviting student stars in our community to present their historical projects at our May meeting each year. Both Whitehall and Montague participate in this contest, which begins with a yearly theme set up by the national organization. Students develop specific research projects based on that theme, choosing to work individually or in a group and selecting whether their research will culminate in a performance, a website, an exhibit, or a research paper. All of the students prepare an annotated bibliography for the judges along with their chosen format for presentation. After the judges see each project, they have a time to question the student(s) directly about their process and knowledge on the topic. This is a tremendous challenge, taken up by courageous, ambitious students—even some in elementary school. The District contest is followed by a statewide contest at the end of April. The Historical Society is fortunate enough to get to see some of the topic projects before a few students move on to the national competition at in early June.

**Hilt's Landing :** We're looking forward to touring the new Hilt's Landing, Michigan's Heritage Park, created by Muskegon's Lakeshore Museum Center with generous donations from the Hilt family, the Hilt Family Foundation and other donors. Gather first at the new Reception Center. Following WLAHS business and a presentation on the Center's creation and evolution, we'll progress along the Historical Trail route with various action displays taking us through 10,000 years of Michigan's history. A great history learning experience all in a green Michigan woods setting. See you there!

### **On the gift of volunteering**

*We have been very fortunate to have dedicated leadership in the historical society over the past decades. But none of us are getting any younger—so sad to have lost Norm's deep knowledge and wisdom this year! And, we can only continue if members are willing to step up and volunteer. The Board only meets once a month from May to October (second Monday 9:30-11:30 am), so the commitment is not overwhelming. Please consider giving of your time to keep this fine organization going! Speak to any Board member about where your talents might help out.*