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**Open for volunteer?**

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*Celebrate White Lake*

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Historic Preservation Awards

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**Ellie Dennis**  
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As I write this the sun is shining, birds are singing, flowers are in bloom, and trees are unfurling their leaves once again. Welcome back to another season of sharing fond memories and learning more of the rich history of our area. We are pleased to announce that the WLAHS has found a “home” in the Meinhardi Building. Thank you, Helen Fink! Thanks, also, to Whitehall Community Education for several file cabinets which now contain our official minutes as well as scrapbooks containing articles and pictures from previous years. A HUGE thank you to Diana Draper, who spent most of the winter organizing and filing our records!! New this year: Denise Marquardt has volunteered her services as grant writer should the need arise, and Carol Olson has volunteered to keep up our scrapbooks. Thank you! We still are in need of someone to step into the position of Vice President, and are still seeking your input for future programs. Our calendar sales went very well, with only a handful remaining, and as part of Montague’s Sesquicentennial Celebration the Historical Society will be selling postcards depicting Montague’s past.

**Cheryl Lohman, President**

NOTE: the Sept. and Oct. programs will NOT be open to the general public, only to current members, so if you need to renew your membership now is a good time to do so. Thank you for making 2016 a great season, and looking forward to our 2017 season.

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.whitelakeareahistoricalsociety.com>

**Programs for 2017**—All programs are held at **7:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of the month, from May through October.

May 18 – *National History Day competitors* from Whitehall Schools with Jan Klco  
Lebanon Lutheran Church, 1101 S. Mears Ave., Whitehall

June 15 – *Milwaukee Clipper* (special tour for our group only) 2098 Lakeshore Dr.,  
Muskegon, MI 49441 Note: Some areas are not handicap accessible \$5/adult

July 15 (Saturday) *25<sup>th</sup> Celebrate White Lake and Classic Wooden Boat Show* 10-4:00  
Goodrich Park, Whitehall

15-29 *MONTAGUE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION EVENTS*

July 20—*Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Montague* Meet at Montague City Hall

August 17 –*Duck Lake’s North Shore: From Scout Camps to State Park* with David  
Pequet at Fruitland Township Hall, 4545 Nestrom Rd. Whitehall (Annual Mtg.)

Sept. 21 and Oct. 19 are “Members Only” meetings at special locations, Oxylodge and  
Al Pack Estate and, in Oct., Whitehall Products—must join by Aug. 17 to attend

This year is Montague's **SESQUICENTENNIAL**. Here's the tentative calendar of events:

*Sunday, June 18	Sesquicentennial Sunday Gathering 6 pm Montague Methodist
*Sunday, June 25	“ “ “ St. James Lutheran
*Sunday, July 2	“ “ “ Ferry Memorial Church
*Sunday, July 9	“ “ “ CosMops at Ferry Memorial
Saturday, July 15	Celebrate White Lake
*Sunday, July 16	Sesquicentennial Sunday Gathering (tba)
Tuesday, July 18	Montague Band Shell Concert 7 pm
Thursday, July 20	Historical Downtown Walk 7 pm
*Sunday, July 23	Sesquicentennial Sunday Gathering 6 pm (tba)
Tuesday, July 25	Montague Band Shell Concert 7 pm
Thursday, July 27	Carolyn's "Tables for Two" evening at Senior Center \$25/person
Fri. and Sat. 28-29	“ “ “ “ \$5/person
Friday, July 28	Cruz'in 7:00 pm
Saturday, July 29	Montague's 150 Birthday Celebration w/picnic & band concert 2 pm "After Cruz Street Party" 7-11:00 pm, Ferry St.
*Sunday, July 30	Sesquicentennial Sunday Service - St. Peter's Episcopal
<i>*Sunday Gatherings include presentation of the history of that church, with music and food</i>	

The website is <http://www.whitelakeareahistoricalociety.com/montague-sesquicentennial/>  
**Mary Payne** could use some volunteer help. Please contact her at **231-557-5011**.

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**TREASURER'S UPDATE** from Jeff Weesies: The regular checking account has \$6,279.33 and our CD has \$7,086.89 for a total of \$13,366.19. The memorial fund has \$1,488.01 in it at the current time. Thus we are sitting in a good spot financially again to start the year with our 3 accounts totaling \$14,919.15 as of April 18, 2016. As per the Board's request we have transferred our accounts from Comerica bank to Shelby State Bank except for the CD which we will do when it matures July 2018.

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**MONTAGUE MUSEUM:** Would you like to spend an afternoon welcoming visitors to the Montague Museum (and exploring things yourself while you are there)? The **Spring Meeting** signing up summer shift help on Sat. and Sunday afternoons (June through Labor Day) is on **May 25, 7:00 pm**, Masonic Hall, corner of Whitbeck and Dowling. Bring your calendar!

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Thanks to Tom Lohman, Membership Chair/Corresponding Secretary of the WLAHS, the WLAHS WEBSITE is looking terrific. <http://www.whitelakeareahistoricalociety.com/> . The website has various pages available where the users can find information about the history and the officers of the society, download past newsletters and various forms, and get the calendar and directions to the next member meetings.

There's another excellent resource online provides oral history interviews of local residents, photographs, and historical films about White Lake: <http://restoringwhitelake.com/history.php> For more about the Historic Howmet Theater, see <http://howmetplayhouse.org> .

Last fall, The Muskegon Chronicle put out a lovely group of historical photos of our area at [http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2016/10/historic\\_photos\\_of\\_two\\_towns\\_s.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2016/10/historic_photos_of_two_towns_s.html)

## **National History Day students competing well again this year**

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We are uniquely fortunate to have a dynamic after-school academic program in our local schools (grades 4-12) in which students volunteer to do research, compile extensive bibliographies, and design a presentation of their work. This nationally-run program is called NATIONAL HISTORY DAY.

Students compete first in District (winter), then winners go statewide (end of April), and finalists can compete for national awards at the June finals near Washington, D.C. Here are recent 2017 winners at **State Level** on the 2017 theme of **TAKE A STAND**, as reported by one of their coaches, Jan Klco:

*The National History Day State contest yesterday [April 29] at Bay City Central High School had 535 students with 320 entries, a 19% increase over last year's record. Our students did very well. The Youth entries are from Ealy Elementary, our Junior Division special award winner is from NBC Middle School in Montague, and in the Senior Division, Lauren and Morgan are from Whitehall High School, while Tiffanie and Jess are with the Whitehall Home School Group. We look forward to having them and their entries at the May meeting.*

### Youth Division (grades 4-6):

**Megan LeaTrea** (Ind. Perf., **3rd place**)--*This Does Not Compute: Katherine Goble Johnson Stands for Equality at NASA*

**Amelia Chen and Laura Thielman** (Group Perf., **Best Entry in Use of Arts/Music**)--*"We Shall Overcome:" Pete Seeger Stands for Folks Through Song*

**Natalie Connors and Isabelle Musk** (Group Exh., **2nd place**)--*Sprinting to Victory: Wilma Rudolph's Stand Against Segregation*

### Junior Division (grades 7-9):

**Emily Olsson** (Ind. Exh., **Best Entry Using Oral History**)--*A Blossoming Resistance: Youths Stand Against Hitler*

### Senior Division (grades 10-12):

**Lauren Geiger** (Ind. Exh., **State Finalist**)--*The Case for White Lake: Citizens Confront Industrial Polluters*

**Tiffanie Cross** (Ind. Perf., **State Finalist**)--*Pardon Who? Ford's Stance on Healing the Nation*

**Morgan VanderLeest** (Ind. Web., **3rd place/alt.**)--*Daring to be Different: The Mattachine Society Stands Up for Gay Rights*

**Jess Arends** (Ind. Exh., **Best Entry in Use of Newspapers**)--*Ida B. Wells: Shining a Light on a Dark Situation*

**THE WHITE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONGRATULATES ALL LOCAL YOUTH WHO COMPETED IN THIS CHALLENGING EVENT!**

## **Historical Postcards will be for sale to commemorate the Montague Sesquicentennial**

Thanks to Professor Dan Yakes, along with Tom Lohman and Roger Scharmer, the WLAHS has collected and is having reprinted 12 historic postcards of memorable locations in Montague. There will be two sets of 6 postcards each available for sale soon. Put this on your list for yourself or for gifts, and celebrate Montague's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in a special way that also contributes to the historical society!

## **Family History site available on our website**

Would you like to tell some of your family history? Please submit a short story of your family history and we will try to include it on the "Memory Lane" part of our website. You can submit your story to [whitelakehistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:whitelakehistorical@yahoo.com). Here's a sample from Tanya Cabala at <http://www.whitelakeareahistoricalociety.com/memory-lane/camp-claybanks/>

## **Michigan's Heritage Park**

Two years ago, my husband and I took our two godchildren, ages 8 and 10, to Michigan's Heritage Park, newly opened just to the east of US31 in Whitehall. As they brushed off the sand-covered mastodon near the entrance, I wondered whether all this 10,000+ years of history would be too much for them. Not to worry! They delighted in the wigwam and touching the artifacts in the fur trader's cabin. An hour passed, and we were only part of the way through, so we went back for lunch at the convenient picnic tables where we had left our little cooler. Then on to the Civil War exhibit. Andy got dressed up as a civil war soldier, feeling the weight of wool clothing, canteen, and multiple other layered items. Hannah was fascinated by the enclosures and showed her brother how she could lock him out. They were both especially fascinated by the secret display out back (you'll have to visit the Civil War encampment yourself to find out). Many other delights followed, including the hoop throwing game at the farmhouse. Suddenly, it was four in the afternoon (we had started at 11:00)! One of our most memorable days together—I can recommend it to all ages, and there is a new wheelchair-accessible trail too, I hear. (written for you personally by Margot Haynes)

*Hours for the park:* May and October only, M-F 10:00-4:00. [www.lakeshoremuseum.org](http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org)  
June-Sept: Thursday-Monday 10:00-4:00 except Sundays 1:00-4:00. (closed T and Wed. in summer)

*Special summer events at Michigan's Heritage Park:*

June 10-11 Civil War Encampment, by members of the Third Mich. Volunteer Infantry Co. F. (both Sat and Sun 10-4)

July 15-16: Honoring Native Heritage Pow Wow –Performers, trade booths, music, dance, food (Sat. 10:00-8:00, Sun10:00-4:00)

Aug. 12 A Taste of History: Celebrations Food samples available for a small fee.

Oct. 27-28 Haunted Trail – Myths and legends from 1600s-1900s 7:30-10:30 ages 13 and up.

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Final question for you to help out with: **Stan Woodard** (age 73) seeks information about his ancestors, including William VanPlees who lived at 200 North Elizabeth St. in Whitehall. William had a daughter Harriet that graduated from Whitehall in 1917. Harriet had a daughter (Stan's grandmother) Maude Miller. Maude died in August 21, 1951. If have info, send to : [whitelakehistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:whitelakehistorical@yahoo.com)