Open Hours

The Averill Museum remains open to visitation on Fridays from 1-4:00 pm with safety protocols in place: face coverings, distancing, hand sanitizing, and limited capacity. As always, we’d enjoy the opportunity to share local history exhibits with you and discuss all things Ada.

Museum Moment

Behind-the-scenes work continues for the upcoming permanent exhibit on Ada’s early years, Ada Is...Rooted In Trade. Designs are being finalized with production soon to follow. While we normally would host an exhibit opening to celebrate, COVID limits what we are able to do. So, we’re looking into creative ways to share the stories of Ada’s fur-trading days with you until conditions change.

Upcoming Events

Like many things these days, AHS has had to essentially cancel its events and programming calendar for 2020. We’re missing out on our lecture series, including presentations on baseball and in honor of Veterans’ Day, as well as Ada Village events such as Tinsel, Treats, and Trolleys.

In the meantime, we hope you can visit our annual Wreath Sale Fundraiser. It may be difficult to think about the holidays yet, but they are right around the corner! AHS will hold our annual fundraising sale of fresh-cut evergreen wreaths in the barn. An order form will be available soon on the website and via mail.

Beautiful Bounty

As many have taken time to be outdoors these past months, we’ve noticed an up-tick in community members enjoying our beautiful gardens and grounds. We’re so pleased to share this community resource and grateful to our faithful gardeners and helpers for cultivating a lovely asset to the village.
Between 1820-1860, before the advent of the railroads, a common means of travel between cities and towns was the stage coach. The roadways traveled by the coach were unpaved and dusty in the dry months and muddy in wet months. Sometimes the roads were “corrugated” with logs laid perpendicular across the road over wet spots. Traveling 10-15 miles a day along these roads was often uncomfortable yet, until the advent of the railroad, it got you to a destination.

Ada was a stop on the Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids line, stopping at the building seen above on Ada Dr. Other stops included Cascade, Whitneyville, Caledonia, Flat River (Lowell), Saranac and Ionia. The line connected in Middleville to another route to Kalamazoo. Along the way, hotels, restaurants, and bars accommodated passengers.

After the railroads forced an end to the stage coach era, this building served in many other capacities, such as a home, restaurant, popcorn and candy distributor warehouse. The “Coach Stop” still exists today as a commercial building and home to the JH Realty Partners offices.
A hearty welcome to new members since April

Ted Carlson & Suzanne Finney  Thomas & Natoshia Cunningham
Chris & Arlene DeYoung  Claire Fairchild-Brock
Carolyn & Marc Mascho  Karen & Kent Maupin
Jeff & Susan Meyers  Ginny Seyferth & Bob Boss
Roberta & David Swidersky  Lance & Cyn Tennant
Robert Tusch  Don Van Duren & Jennifer Peter
Darryl & Jane Varda  Mike Ward

Dan Carter Advisors  Central Michigan Paper Co.  JH Realty Partners

Coming soon to a barn near you! Our annual Wreath Sale fundraiser will start Friday, November 20th, the Friday before Thanksgiving. We will be open every Friday afternoon and all day Saturdays until they are sold. Order forms will be available soon with open hours and pricing.

Centennial Properties Project

We are on our way to making history! (Or rather we’re making plaques to honor history) To highlight the historic nature of Ada, AHS has created a program to recognize homes and commercial buildings of 100 years in age and older with a “Centennial Home” or “Centennial Property” exterior historic plaque. Through recognition of these structures, Ada’s unique history is appreciated as a tangible element in the community, to be seen and enjoyed by all.

On Friday, September 18, 2020, the Ada Historical Society proudly presented the first plaque and certificate to the DeGood family, stewards of a Centennial Home. Amazingly, the DeGood home can be traced back to the year 1870. Community and Society members, as well as the President of the Ada Historical Society Board and the Museum Manager attended the first of soon to be many such presentations.

As historic structures become more susceptible to the wrecking ball, the Ada Historical Society wishes to increase the visibility of and emphasize the value of historic properties within the village and township at large. Such properties can now be recognized with an exterior cast-aluminum plaque with beautiful bronze and black finish.

Further information on the Centennial Properties Program can be obtained from Centennial Properties Committee members:

Jeanne Ferro – 616.204.2012 / ferrojm@comcast.net
Cindy Janes – 616.914.6901 / cpjanes1@gmail.com
Patric Sullivan – 941.661.8983 / pentwaterart@comcast.net

The Tri River Historical Museum Network is still cancelling our meetings. However, two of our members had birthdays this summer. In early July, Dick Johnson of Bowne Township Historical Commission turned 90. Then late in August, Elaine Garlock of Lake Odessa Area Historical Society turned 100. Many from the group sent birthday cards.

The Ada Historical preserves, shares, and celebrates the unique history of the Ada community.