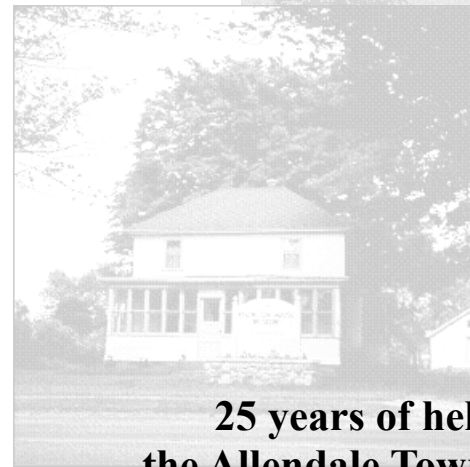


ALLENDALE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
PO BOX 538  
ALLENDALE, MI 49401



# ALLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2009



**25 years of helping preserve  
the Allendale Township area history  
for future generations.**

ALLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER  
2009

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ALLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 16 Annual Allendale Garden Club Plant Sale- 8:00 am-Noon.** Proceeds are used for the maintenance of the Museum Complex Gardens.
- **May 17 40s-60s Museum opens for the season- New hours this season are 2:00-4:00 pm May 15-Nov. 15.** Admission is still free. Come join us for our free ice cream social each Sunday afternoon.
- **June 6—40s-60s 3rd Annual Used Book Sale-Needed,** used books for the sale. Put them in the drop box located under the garage window or drop the off when we are open. If you need us to pick them up or wish more information, contact Ruth Tanis at 895-4327.
- **June 14 and 21 40s-60s Museum Closed-** The (volunteer) curators will be visiting Williamsburg. Everyone who works in the Museum Complex are volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact any of the curators.
- **July 4 Festivities-** The entire Museum Complex will be open. The Allendale Quilter's Guild will be hosting a clothesline display in the 40s-60s Museum and the surrounding grounds. Come join in the fun.
- **July 22 Allendale Lifelong Learners Annual Pie Baking Contest & Picnic in the Park-** The Museum Complex will be open for visitation following the picnic. It is free and everyone is encouraged to see the changes that we have made this year throughout the entire complex.
- **Sept. 19 Folk Life Festival- 10:00 am-4:00 pm-** Join us for fun at the Museum Complex. Participate in making rope, shelling and grinding corn, making cider, quilting, apple butter making, and much more! Free!! Everyone is welcome! Volunteers and demonstrators are needed! contact: Randy Meyers 875-7505
- **Nov. 11 Veteran's Day Reception—2:00-4:00 pm 40s-60s Museum.** Join us in thanking our veterans for all they have done for us. In addition to our military room, Darle Vander Schuur will be displaying many items from his extensive military collection. Don't miss this opportunity! **THANK YOU VETERANS!** contact: Ruth Tanis 895-4327

**KNOWLTON HOUSE MUSEUM:**

Curators: Pat Gemmen 895-6412

Betsy Groendyke 895-9777

Hours: 7-9 pm 1st Monday of the month and by appointment

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**1940'S-60'S MUSEUM:**

Curators: Ruth Tanis 895-4327

Alvina (Al) Meyers 875-7505

Hours: 2-4 pm Sunday, and by appointment.

- Sunday Ice Cream Socials will continue through the summer. We have enjoyed the "old fashioned" fun and it has elicited many fond memories.
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**ALLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETINGS:**

2nd Thurs. of the month (May-Nov.)

Allendale Historical Society Meetings:

3rd Tues. of the month (June, Aug., Oct.)

**Allendale Historical Society Officers:**

President	Randall Meyers
Vice President	Fred Vedders
Secretary	Ruth Tanis
Treasurer	Alvina (Al) Meyers
Knowlton House Rep.	Pat Gemmen
40'-60's Museum Rep.	Ruth Tanis
Member-At-Large	Robert Coffey

**NEEDED! Volunteers for all upcoming events.  
Contact Randy 875-7505 or Ruth 895-4327.**

"A joy that's shared is a joy made double."  
English proverb

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"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."  
Theodore Roosevelt

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"People succeed who have fun in what they're doing."  
Fall 2008, Homestead magazine

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Just a reminder: your membership renewal is due by the end  
of October.

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The beautiful new bench in the Knowlton House  
gardens was built and donated by Bernie Jager in memory of  
Roger Lemmen. For many years, Roger was an invaluable  
member of the Allendale Garden Club. He is missed by both  
the community and the garden club. Thank you Bernie!

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Letter from the President:

I hope you survived the winter. My wife and I kept busy on  
the Texas 1850's Living History Farm we work at during the  
winter. We even had snow. Most of the people we work with  
had never seen snow and were thrilled with the 1 1/2 inches  
that fell. I guess it's all a matter of perspective.

Museums are all about preserving our history but they are  
also about community involvement. The Allendale Historical  
Society Board and museum curators believe in doing both. All  
of us are volunteers, but we put forth 100% to make the  
Museum Complex a welcoming and worthwhile part of this  
community. We hope visitors and community members will  
want to visit us often.

As you read this newsletter, please keep in mind the upcoming  
events. Both your help and attendance is encouraged. For  
further information, contact me at 875-7505 or email me at  
almeyers@centurytel.net.

It looks like we have a beautiful summer ahead of us. I hope  
you all have time to check out the spectacular gardens and  
Museum Complex. -Randy



Next year, 2010, marks the 100th anniversary of  
the Boy Scouts of America. The 40s-60s Museum  
has many scouting items on display upstairs in the  
youth organization section. Randy Meyers also  
owns and operates the Meyers Scouting Museum  
in Borculo. If you wish to visit it, contact him at  
875-7505. His wife, Al, would like you to know that they high-  
light Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls, too, in their museum. If you  
have any scouting items you don't know what to do with,  
donations are always welcomed at both museums.

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The year 2010, is also the 50th anniversary of Grand Valley  
State (College) University. Can you believe that many years have  
passed since it was chartered? Have you seen Randy's 1966  
Grand Valley State College acceptance letter that's on display in  
the 40s-60s Museum? In the fall of 1966, tuition was \$105 per  
term and books were expected to cost between \$20-\$40. Things  
have really changed. We are very fortunate that we had fore-  
sighted people in this community that were looking out for our  
young people's future. Our thanks goes out to each and every-  
one of them.

The curators of the 40s-60s Museum are looking for Grand  
Valley State memorabilia for their display. Contact us if you have  
some to share.

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Have you driven by the Knowlton House re-  
cently? Last August, the Allendale Township  
Board awarded bids to Dave Cole Decorators to  
paint the Knowlton House Museum and to Tim  
Liefers to paint the Carriage House. A special  
thanks to the Township for helping preserve  
these historical buildings for future generations.

**THANK YOU**

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In the 1930's Great Depression, people used the following  
motto to pacify themselves when they had to forego necessities:

**EAT IT UP**

**WEAR IT OUT**

**MAKE IT DO**

**OR DO WITHOUT**

In our current economic situation, it sounds like good advice.

In an effort to preserve the museum's donated items, the 1940s-60s Museum has had sun guard film installed throughout the museum and garage by Interior Window Systems of Kentwood. This installation was made possible by a \$1000 grant that was awarded to the Allendale Historical Society-40s-60s Museum by the Allendale Community Foundation. We wish to thank the members of the Allendale Community Foundation for their continued support of the Museum Complex.

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Throughout the summer, you will see many changes in the 40s-60s Museum. In November, the Downtown Development Authority awarded a \$5000 grant to the 40s-60s Museum. This and the Community Foundation grant are part of the museum's \$7000 "Artifact Protection Project". As a result of this grant, Eric Meyers will be constructing and installing enclosed displays throughout the museum. Just imagine, the floors will no longer be covered with irreplaceable donated items and the displays will be more organized. We wish to thank the members of the Downtown Development Authority for their support of this worthwhile project.

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We wish to express a special thanks to the members of the Allendale Garden Club for their continued support of the Museum Complex gardens. Proceeds of this year's plant sale will go towards maintenance, annuals for the Knowlton House area, chairs that will be placed in conjunction to the recently donated Roger Lemmen memorial bench, and plants/seeds for the 40s-60s Museum Victory Garden. The Garden Club is one of our local service organizations. It's members work hard to make the Museum Complex attractive and welcoming to both visitors and members of our community. Membership is free and if you wish to be a part of this worthwhile organization, contact Kay Erickson 895-4808 or Sue Leem-graven 895-5486.



On July 4, 2008, the Allendale Memorial Garden was dedicated. It is a wonderful addition to this entire complex. We are very fortunate to have a community that is so involved in preserving our heritage and the memory of their loved ones.

As a means of joining the Memorial Gardens to the Museum Complex, Cameron Grienke from Allendale Boy Scout Troop 39, built a walking bridge across the ditch as his Eagle Project. It was a huge undertaking and if you see him around town, we encourage you to thank him for his efforts. He recently completed his requirements and became an Eagle Scout. Congratulations Cameron!



We are very fortunate that the area scouts are so supportive of our museums. Kevin VanderWal from Allendale Troop 93, recently, built and installed three benches for the Museum Complex as his Eagle project. They are located in the backyard of the 40s-60s Museum. They look great and will be used often by museum visitors. Thanks Kevin for your thoughtfulness and support of the Museum Complex. Congratulations as you complete your Eagle Scout requirements.

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**WANTED!** Many items are still needed for the Museum Complex. Your donations are always welcomed. The 1940s-60s Museum Wish List is available at the museum and the Allendale Township office. Thank you for your help.

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Last year, the Victory Garden provided vegetables for many people. This year's garden is just being planted. You are encouraged to check out the garden often and to watch it grow. If you see a weed growing that you just can't resist pulling, **please** do so. In these economic times, fresh vegetables can be both nutritious and uplifting. If you are in need of either, please come see us anytime you see the garage door open.

