



# The Gatekeeper

Quarterly Newsletter of the Friends of Historic Meridian

Vol. 44, No. 1  
Spring, 2017

## Message From the President



### **AND IT STARTED OFF WITH A BANG!**

2017 that is. Meridian Charter Township kicked off its' 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a spectacular fireworks display on New Years Eve. Studio C!

premiered the film "Meridian: The Lines That Define Us" documenting township history. The movie contained great photos and interesting interviews with longtime residents. The movie proceeds of over \$1000 were donated to Friends of Historic Meridian for operation of the Meridian Historical Village. Thank you Studio C!!

On February 16, Jane Rose and Fred Junger, dressed in period clothes, represented the Friends at "Celebrate Enactment Day" for Meridian and Delhi Townships at the State Capital. Thanks Jane and Fred.

Many events are taking place throughout the year to celebrate this anniversary. The

Friends of Historic Meridian will be displaying the township's traveling Pictorial Exhibit, hosting "Be a Tourist in Your Own Town", and participating in "Celebrate Meridian – Independence Day Celebration".

In August, September, and October Jane Rose will be a guide for historic walking tours in the Township.

Additionally, the village will continue to host many elementary classes throughout the season teaching children life lessons from the past and, new this year, an Adult Day Camp on April 29.

Thanks to all our docents who make these programs successful. As always, we welcome your help in volunteering and appreciate your continued support through membership dues and donations.

- Brad Brogren  
Board President

## Upcoming Community Events

The Village will be a stop on the "Be A Tourist In Your Own Town" event on Saturday, June 3rd. We are thrilled a Revolutionary War re-enactment group (the 42nd Royal Highlanders Regiment) will camp at the Village from Friday evening until Sunday.

On Saturday, July 1st, we will participate in the Celebrate Meridian event. While the larger event lasts until 10:30 pm, the Friends will participate from 11 am-4pm and then host a battle skirmish put on by our partners in the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B Civil War re-enactment club.

We hope you will join us for these free, fun, family-friendly events.

- Renee Tierney, Chair  
Special Events



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### Barn Sale

Saturday, May 6, from 9am-3 pm at Brogren's Barn, 5004 Cornell Rd., Okemos.

Call 517-349-0867 re: donating items for sale.

### Be A Tourist

Village will be open Saturday, June 3, from 10-5. Partners include the 42nd Royal Highlanders Revolutionary War Regiment.

### Heritage Festival

Saturday, July 1, 11-4. Partners include the 7th Michigan Voluntary Infantry, Co. B Civil War re-enactment club.

## Friends of Historic Meridian Directors and Officers 2017

Brad Brogren..... President  
John Grettenberger.....Vice President  
Mary Austin.....Secretary  
Elizabeth Evangelista.....Treasurer

### Board of Directors

Mary Austin.....339-3264  
Brad Brogren.....349-0867  
Linda Brogren.....349-0867  
Norval Burgett.....349-3582  
Roberta DuByne.....339-2772  
Elizabeth Evangelista.....351-3645  
John Grettenberger.....339-4089  
Mary Rhodes.....349-3524  
Renee Tierney.....339-2314

### Staff

Jane Rose, Executive Director  
Melissa Andresen, Education Coordinator  
517-347-7300  
meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com  
www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org

## ENDOWMENT FUND

The Friends of Historic Meridian Endowment Fund was established within the Capital Region Community Foundation in 2014.

Donations to this Foundation for the Friends' Endowment Fund will ensure we can continue our work for years to come.

Contact Executive Director Jane Rose at 517-285-4666 or picketfence1903@att.net with questions.



**Capital Region**  
community foundation<sup>™</sup>  
*The Center for Charitable Giving*

## Smile!

Looking for a quick and easy way to donate to the Friends? You can shop on-line at AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)) and the **AmazonSmile Foundation** will donate 0.05% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

First, visit [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and select FOHM to receive the contribution before you start shopping. Once selected, the site will remember you are a supporter of FOHM and every eligible purchase will result in a donation.

If you are an Amazon shopper, ordering through AmazonSmile will support this organization and make us all smile!

## Club Partnerships

The Friends are fortunate to have partnerships with other clubs whose efforts support and enhance the Village. In addition to the partnerships mentioned previously with the 7th Michigan and the 42nd Royal Highlanders, one of our longest partnerships is with the Meridian Garden Club. Their members have spent over 40 years keeping the Village gardens looking beautiful.

We want to thank the Meridian Garden Club for their commitment to beautifying the Village. You are a special and valued partner.

## A Day Camp Just for Adults!

Are you Looking for a fun and hands-on opportunity to experience life 100 years ago? The Friends are hosting a four-hour camp for adults on Saturday, April 29th, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Meridian Historical Village.

You can learn about life on the homestead and farm chores. Explore a day of life in a log cabin. Participate in a quilting bee (no experience required). Learn about 19th century "up-recycling" with rug hooking. Or explore apprenticeships of old crafts.

Cost is \$30 per adult. Lunch is provided and you will leave with a "goodie" bag courtesy of the Friends of Historic Meridian. See page 5 for detailed information and how to register.

- Day Camp Sub-Committee

## Spring School Tours

We could not offer school tours without our hard-working volunteer docents. Your willingness to volunteer your time with a variety of school groups is vital to our school tour program which generates income to maintain and support the Village.

To date, the following elementary schools have reserved tours which will require our volunteers:

Charlotte	Parkview Washington
Grand Ledge Schools	Delta Center Wacousta Westwood
Holt	Elliott Wilcox
Lansing	New Covenant Christian St. Gerard
Okemos	Bennett Woods Cornell

But that only includes the tours that are docent-led by our volunteers. We are thrilled the “Big Lesson Plan” approach has been adopted by more local schools. What is a “Big Lesson Plan”?

That’s when financial support and school commitment come together to allow students to visit the Village for multiple days. Some schools choose a 3-day program, others 4-days, and some (lucky) schools have committed to participate for a full 5-day, week-long program.

These programs require considerable planning effort on the part of the teachers as they work with their students for weeks ahead to prepare them for life in the 19th century. The teachers also work with parents (and grandparents) to teach the students in various areas that a Village docent would typically provide.

Here are the schools committed to the Big History Lesson Plan for Spring 2017:

Haslett	Ralya
Laingsburg	Laingsburg
Mason	North Aurelius
Okemos	Hiawatha

Once again, 2017 has a very busy spring schedule. Thank you again for all your support and time with this program.

*Melissa Andresen*  
*Education Coordinator*

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Check your mailing label to see when your membership expires. A notation of “(17)” means you have paid for this year and won’t need to renew until January, 2018.

### Welcome New Members!

Jane Crowner  
Phil Deschaine  
Madeline Masterson

### Many Thanks to our Renewing Members:

Nancy and Tom Freeman  
Jean Goetz  
Robert and Renee Leonard  
Eleanor Otis  
Alice Robinson  
William Rutter  
Howard and Helen Tanner  
Liz Troidahl

As a volunteer-driven organization, we rely on your support for our continued success!

## Generous Donations Received

### Many thanks to:

Brad and Linda Brogren  
East Lansing Meridian Lions Club  
Meridian Garden Club  
Richard Scala and Gretchen Bria; and,

### For a donation to the Endowment Fund:

Howard and Helen Tanner

## And For A Donation in Memory of Sue Copland

David Williams

## Loss of a Friend

Life-time member Jean Devendorf passed away on November 26, 2016, at the age of 100. Jean's husband, Don, was the secretary of the board of the Friends for many years and passed away in 2010.

Jean retired from Michigan State University in 1977 and was a member of Edgewood United Church.

Jean is survived by her children, David (Shari) Devendorf and Susan (Devendorf) Shuler; and grandchildren David (Jennifer) Shuler, Kristen (Mark) Kosloski, Scott (Liz) Devendorf and Bryan (Beth) Devendorf. Jean and Don were fortunate to also have *great-grandchildren* including Alex (Georgia) Shuler, Nicolas (Hannah) Shuler, Hannah and Samuel Shuler, Van, Tommy, Kit and Aaden Devendorf; and *great-great-grandchildren* Caden, Aurora, Victoria and Natalie Shuler.

Our condolences go out to her family, friends, and all who cared for her.

- FHM Board

## Spring Barn Sale

Spring is here and we have begun cleaning out unused or unnecessary items taking up space in the Village. Some items (like the old microwave and office printer) will be responsibly recycled. Other items having value and potential interest from others will be added to the Brogren's barn sale.

The sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, from 9 am to 3 pm at the farm of Brad and Linda Brogren, 5004 Cornell Rd., Okemos.

If you can donate items of value for the sale please contact Brad and Linda at 349-0867. Proceeds from donated items will go towards operation of the Meridian Historical Village.



## Did You Know...

...children from four counties helped fund the large bronze tablet in memory of Chief Okemos that hangs on the outside of Okemos' Central Elementary? As reported in the Lansing State Journal in 1923, the cost for the original plan for the tablet exceeded the ability of the committee to raise adequate funding. "Thus their plans were modified, and the tablet, which is a thing of beauty, as well as durability, was purchased instead, at a cost of between \$500 and \$600."

"The design of the tablet is neat and tasteful. In a circle near the top, is Chief Okemos' head in bold relief, and beneath it the following inscription:

'Erected to the memory of Chief Okemos of the Chippewas, whose tribe once occupied the ground upon which this school now stands.'

' Brave in battle, wise in council, honorable in peace.'

'After his people became ravaged by disease and dispersed by the incoming of the white race, he still remained a Chief, proud that he was once the leader of brave men.'

'He died Dec. 5, 1858, and his body rests at Shim-ni-con, on Grand River, in Ionia County...'

"School children numbering over 2,000 living in the townships of Ingham, Clinton, Shiawassee, and Ionia counties, contributed their nickles toward this fund, the balance of which was raised by popular subscription."





# Friends of Historic Meridian Membership Form

Mail to : P.O. Box 155, Okemos, MI 48805-0155

*Are You A Fan of Local History? The Village exists only because of our members!*

**Membership Fees:**

Individual (\$30.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family/Organization (\$40.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Retiree (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime (\$300.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Sponsorship begins at \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (the sky's the limit!)

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  

Street Address
City
State
Zip Code

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Quarterly Newsletter:**  
 (Please circle your preference)

**Membership Fee:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Mail** (black & white copy only)

**Additional donation (much appreciated!):** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** (color copy)

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Adult Day Camp Details

A tour of the Village buildings and a pioneer lunch will be included. Following are areas we can cover, depending on the level of campers interest. Please indicate your top three areas of interest.

To register, visit [www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org](http://www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org) or use the form to the right.



### Visit The Eleanor Otis Gift Shop

Old-fashioned toys, games, candy, and more.

Spring Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am-2pm, March 1-June 15

Saturdays 10 am-2 pm, beginning May 7

Or by appointment - call 347-7300 to schedule.

## Adult Day Camp

REGISTRATION FORM - April 29th

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Friends of Historic Meridian and mail to P.O. Box 155, Okemos, MI 48864-0155**

**Please check your top three choices:**

- Apprenticeships: e.g.
  - Printing
  - Spinning
  - Stenciling
  - Tin Punching
  - Weaving
- Farm chores: e.g.
  - Making Butter and/or Cornmeal
  - Washing laundry
- Food preparation for Pioneer lunch
- Life in a log cabin
- Textiles: e.g.
  - Hooking a rug
  - Piecing and quilting



Friends of Historic Meridian  
PO Box 155  
Okemos, MI 48805-0155

**The Gatekeeper, Spring 2017**

*The Gatekeeper* is a quarterly publication of the Friends of Historic Meridian.

**Look For the Summer Gatekeeper For  
Details on:**

**Celebrate Meridian Township**

**Turning Back the Pages Day Camp**

***Call 517-347-7300 if you have information to share.***

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