



James and Mary Ann Lovell
(moved to Troy in the 1800s)



Solomon Caswell (moved to Troy in 1823)
and his son, George (born in Troy in 1845)



Morris Wattles (born in Troy in 1895)
and his mother Mattie Axtell Wattles



Mary, Lydia, and Elizabeth Dodd (all born in
Troy in 1876, 1877, and 1877 respectfully)



Zada Poppleton
(moved to Troy in 1825)



Marietta Ann Davis Beach
(moved to Michigan in 1820)



Washington Stanley
(moved to Troy in 1826)

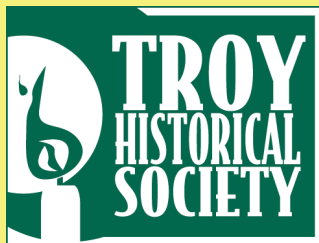


Silas Sprague
(moved to Troy in 1824)



Rhoda Phelps Niles
(moved to Troy in 1822)

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Padma Kuppa

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Jen Peters
Executive Director

Publishing Schedule

Spring: March - May

Summer: June - August

Fall: September -
November

Winter: December -
February

**Enjoy your seasonal
Village Press!**

THS News

Board of Trustees Updates

During the September Annual Member's Meeting, Ken Meskin, Jagdish Karira, and Kevin Lindsey were re-elected for 3-year terms, and Jeni Carino was elected to her first 3-year term on the Board of Trustees. John Lavender and Padma Kuppa retired from the Board, and Kristi Hudson did not seek an additional term on the Board. We want to thank all our Board Members for another year of service to the Troy Historical Society and Troy Historic Village!

Members also passed an updated set of Troy Historical Society bylaws at the Annual Meeting. The updated bylaws have been posted to the website at www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/About/Troy-Historical-Society.

THANK YOU, John and Padma!

John Lavender and Padma Kuppa recently retired after serving a combined 27 years on the Board! John joined the board while the

Village was still managed by the City of Troy and was a critical part of the transition to THS Operations. For many years he served as THS Treasurer, often volunteering more than 20 hours a week.

Padma joined the board while her kids were still in grade school and she was working full time. When she was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives, Padma chose to stay on the Board because history and education are her passion. Both John and Padma have agreed to a 2-year advisory term on the Board.

THANK YOU, Scarecrow Row Sponsors!

You can see the full list in our attached Scarecrow Row Thank You Flyer (and your favorite little can color in their own fall scarecrow). Please consider supporting those amazing businesses across the Troy area that support the Village through this FUNdraiser!



Looking Forward to Our Future

Donations are crucial for providing financial stability and sustainable growth for Troy Historic Village. There are many ways that you can support the Village financially. Philanthropic giving opportunities include

supporting programs and classes and sponsoring events.

On the individual level, becoming a member or renewing your membership provides continual support to the Village's mission. You can also give annually as you are able through our Spring Appeal that focuses on specific projects such as accessibility updates and the Year-End Appeal which supports all our fantastic programs. You might also consider special donations like those in honor or in memory of a person you love.

Planned personal gifts are the best way to provide a legacy for the Village. These gifts can be set up through wills or trusts with funds dispersed at a future time. You can also make plans to donate to our endowment. For planned gifts you should meet with your financial advisor to decide the best plan. Whatever way you choose to give, remember that your donations will be tax deductible.

Troy Historic Village values and appreciates the support from our friends and Villagers. As you are planning your last donation of 2025 and first donations of 2026, we hope you will consider helping us promote life-long exploration of history at the Village.

If you have questions, contact our Community Development Director at fund@thvmail.org or 248-524-3571.



Executive Director...

Jen Peters

What is YOUR Story?

This past summer my husband and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary with a dream trip—a European river cruise. We both love to travel and for years all those commercials about river cruises just kept tempting us. We reviewed all our cruising options and decided to start with one of the most popular, a trip from Amsterdam to Basel on the Rhine River with windmills, castles, and stops in beautiful historic cities like Cologne and Strasbourg.

One of the added bonuses of the trip was that several of my great grandparents were from the Rhine River region. I'm only an armchair genealogist, but with the magic of Ancestry.com and the continued digitization of so many archival records, I know that the Fuerst, Sorg, Darr, Hofingerb, Jaufman, Shwartz, and LeJeune families were all from this region. In fact, looking at US census records, the LeJeune's listed themselves from either Germany or France depending on the year because the Alsace-Lorraine region changed hands so many times! Through our trip we learned that this turmoil coupled with the fighting between German city-states prior to unification and the suppression of the Catholic religion drove many Catholic Germans, including my ancestors, to emigrate to the rich farm fields of northwestern Ohio from the 1840s thru the 1880s.

While I really enjoy digging into the archives and trying to imagine why people moved where they did, I often forget that

one day my descendants might ask the same about me. Simply following the trail left by census records, you could trace my story from the Rhine River to Ohio and on to Indiana then Michigan, but why? Those documents tell us where but contain very few clues about why.



This is the exact thing we want to learn more about in Troy! Looking through census records of Troy Township can tell us that we were established in the early to mid-1800s as a farming community with a heavy amount of immigration from New York, but that doesn't explain why so many farmers moved here. Without those individuals to ask, we must extrapolate their motives from the remnants of letters and memoirs coupled with contextual history. Wouldn't it be wonderful to go back and have that conversation with Johnson and Rhoda Niles or Solomon

and Hulda Caswell to understand why they left an area they knew well for wooded, undeveloped land and barely passable roads?

And what about Troy today? Our city looks nothing like it did in the 1850s or even the 1950s, and now we have the opportunity to ask why! This winter with support from America250MI we hope to record some of those stories as part of the larger project to "Telling Troy's Story." We hope you will add your story to the project so that years from now future historians can hear about why Troy became such a vibrant community!



Address:

60 W. Wattles Rd.
Troy, MI 48098

Phone:

248-524-3570

Website:

www.troyhistoricvillage.org

Facebook:

[/troyhistvillage](https://www.facebook.com/troyhistvillage)

Village Critter Corner:

(Private Group on Facebook)

[/groups/thvcrittercorner](https://www.facebook.com/groups/thvcrittercorner)

Instagram:

[@troyhistvillage](https://www.instagram.com/troyhistvillage)

Winter Hours:

Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm

Select Saturdays & Sundays
for special events and rentals

Closed: Dec 24-Jan 1

Admission:

Adults \$7, Seniors \$5,

Children 6-17 \$5

Children under 6 FREE

Troy Historical Society

Members FREE

The Troy Historical Society engages the community and enables life-long exploration of history by sharing and preserving our stories, artifacts, and buildings through creative, meaningful experiences.

The Village offers accessible parking spaces and building entry. Visit TroyHistoricVillage.org/About/Accessibility for details about accessibility at our site.

Land Act of 1820

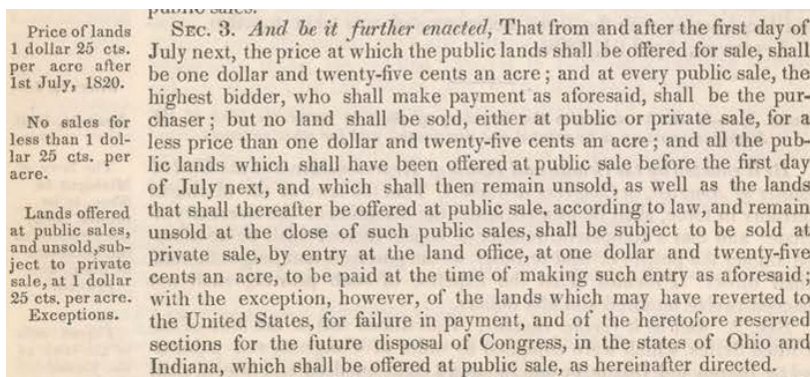
by Shelby Nelsen, Troy Historic Village Adult Programs Director

Over the centuries, there have been many push and pull factors that lead people to settle in new places. Common push factors include poverty, famine, war, natural disasters, and religious persecution where they are currently living. Some well-known pull factors are job opportunities, political stability, education, and an overall higher standard of living somewhere else. These factors drive people to leave their home in search of something better, and often cause whole families to relocate. Over the next year, we will be zooming in on a handful of push and pull factors that made people move to Troy; this issue is talking about our very first white-European settlers.



Map show the North Western and Michigan Territories around 1819
(courtesy of the Library of Congress)

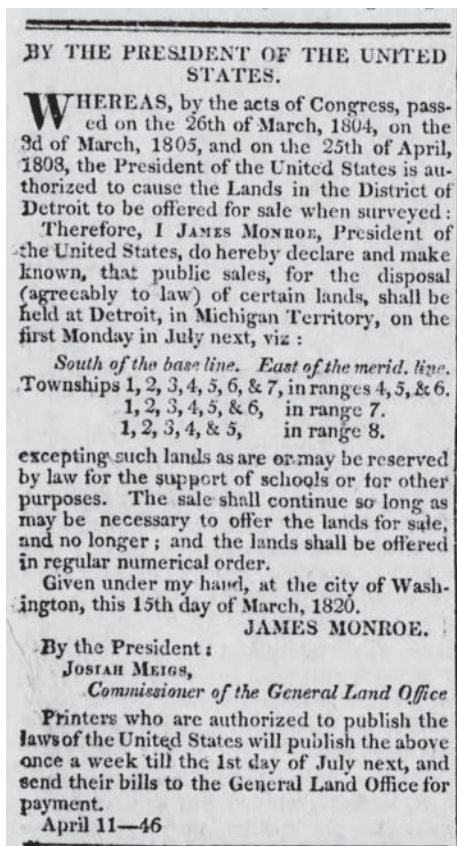
The land we now call Michigan changed hands several times before it became a part of the United States. France began exploring the area in the 1600s and eventually began settling outposts for trading. The French lost control of the territory after the French and Indian War in 1763. Then the land was under British control until they were defeated in the Revolutionary War, and the land became property of the new United States in 1783. Michigan then became part of the Northwest Territory until Ohio became a state in 1802. This caused the Northwest Territory to be broken up into smaller territories that were set up to become future states. Those smaller territories included the Michigan Territory. However, it would take a few more decades for Michigan's population to develop.



Land Act of 1820, section 3 (3 Stat. 566, 1820). The above describes the new price of land, either public or private sale, as no less than \$1.25.

So, what made people move to Michigan? Simply put, it was good and cheap land that brought vast amounts of people to the area beginning with the Land Act of 1820. This federal law stopped people from purchasing government-controlled land, like that of the Michigan Territory, on credit or via payment plans. Instead, full payment was required at the time of purchase. Alone, this would have severely limited people from purchasing land in Michigan and the rest of west, but the Land Act of 1820 also reduced the price per acre from \$2.00 to \$1.25 and changed the minimum size of a parcel from 160 to 80 acres. For the average American, paying the minimum of \$100 was more realistic than paying the previous minimum amount of \$320.

It was not just the price of the land but new claims that Michigan's climate and soil were suitable for farming that enticed people to move out west to the undeveloped territory. In 1815, Edward Tiffin, the U.S Surveyor General,



Announcement for the sale of land in Detroit by the Commissioner of the General Land Office in June 1820 (courtesy of Daily National Intelligencer and Washington Express).

The overall population in Michigan went up from 9,000 to 31,000 in the 10 years after the Land Act. After another decade, it increased to 212,000, and by 1870, the population was over one million. Troy Township became officially settled during this time, but its population was small and it remained a farming community for quite some time. So what made Troy boom into the almost 90,000-person city that it is today?



U.S. Land Office located in White Pigeon, Michigan, c. 2019. This is the oldest Land Office remaining in Michigan and one of only a few left in what was the Northwest Territory. This site contains a Michigan Historical Marker and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (courtesy of St. Joseph County Historical Society)

published a report that led to Michigan being referred to an “Interminable Swamp” and that there was very little suitable farmland available. Five years later, Lewis Cass, the Territorial Governor of Michigan, published a report challenging Tiffin’s findings. Cass proclaimed that the climate was “temperate and healthy” and the soil “generally rich and fertile.” Between the dismissal of Tiffin’s report and the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, land sales began to boom in Michigan.

By the 1830s, Michigan was the fastest growing territory in America. Thousands of people traveled to the area from New England and New York, passing through Detroit to purchase land along the way. The Detroit Land Office was located at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Randolph Street. In 1836, the office had to close its doors and operate through a window instead because of the large crowds that showed up everyday. They sold nearly half a million acres of land that year including land in Troy.

As sales increased and settlements expanded north and west across the state, more Land Offices were opened to accommodate across the territory. Additional offices were established in Monroe, White Pigeon, Ionia, Flint, Sault Ste. Marie, and Duncan from 1823 through 1854. After the Civil War, many of the Land Offices moved or consolidated. Eventually, an office in Marquette was the only one left by 1898 until it closed in 1925. The closing of Land Offices reflects the slowing of people moving to the area for land, but it does not mean that people stopped moving to Michigan.

That is where you can help by sharing the story of why your family lives in Troy today! Did your family move here because it was affordable to find home and easier to make a living? Or was it something entirely different? You can participate in our *Why Troy Oral Histories* program to share this information! If you have questions or concerns that make you hesitant to participate, please reach out to info@thvmail.org or call 248-524-3570. We are happy to work with you so you can comfortably and confidently share your story with us.

The Niles Family: *What does it mean to be the first?*

by Jen Peters, Troy Historic Village Executive Director

At the Village, we talk about what it means to be a pioneer. A pioneer is the first to do something. They might be a pioneer in science or engineering, but more often in the Village context we think about the first people to live someplace. Troy was not an ideal space for long-term indigenous settlements. Without a river, the landscape was better suited for seasonal hunting, sugar production, and possibly some light farming or gathering. For that reason, we turn to the 1800s Euro-American settlement of the area when we look for “the first” people to live in Troy.



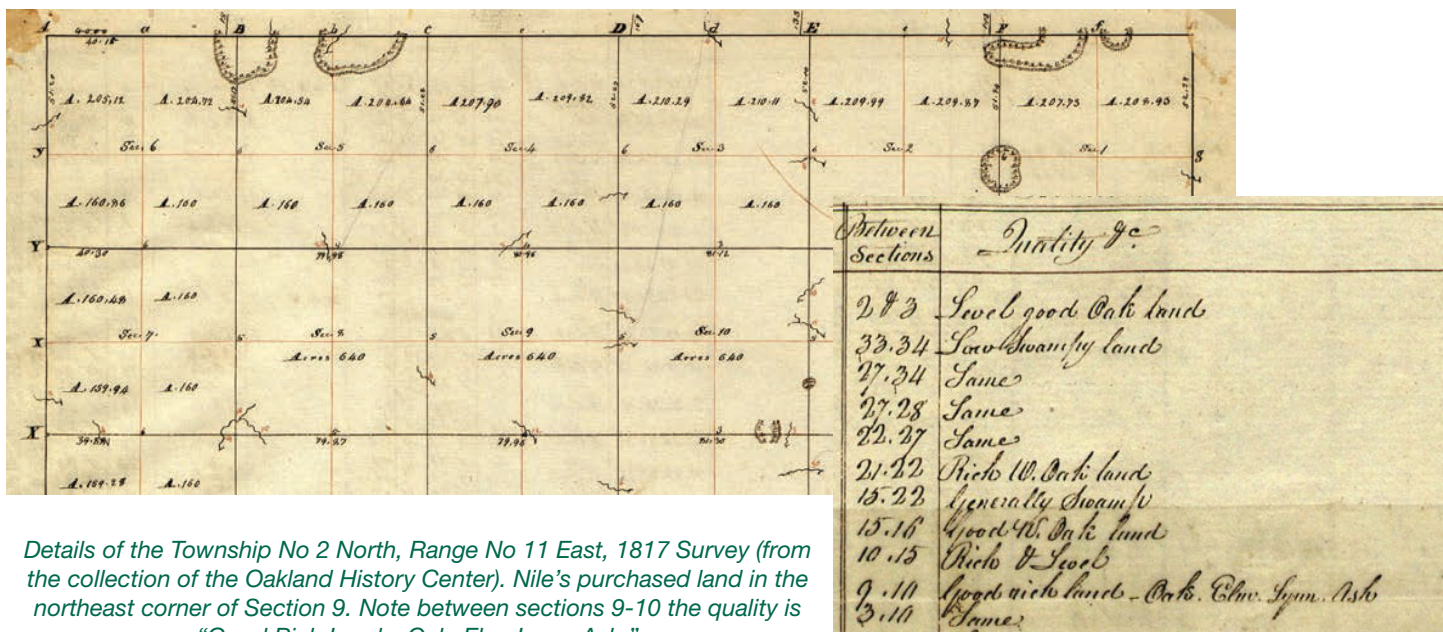
Otsego County, New York 1865 (from the collection of the Albany Institute of History & Art).

The Niles Family is recognized as Troy’s pioneers. They were the first to settle in Troy Township in the 1820s, and just the fourteenth family to settle in Oakland County. While land prospectors were snapping up property following Territorial Governor Cass’s more favorable report of land in Michigan and the Land Act of 1820, only a few buyers were building homes in these places. Johnson Niles at the age of 27 traveled to Michigan in the spring of 1821 and purchased two 80-acre tracts of land. Then, he returned to New York and packed up his household and moved his wife Rhoda (also 27-years-old) and their three young children Julia (5-years-old), Orange (age 3-years old), and George (1-year-old) later that same year. The Niles moved their entire family and livelihood to a place with limited community resources, development, and connections.

But why? Why would a family with three young children move from their community in New York to a place like the Michigan Territory? And why Troy? Since Johnson and Rhoda left no written first-person accounts of their move or their reasons behind it, the best we can do is piece together their story from the records they left behind, later narratives, contextual history, and logical reasoning.

Johnson’s parents were originally from Rhode Island, where his father Samuel served with the Rhode Island troops in the Revolutionary War. Following the war, it looks as though Samuel with his wife Susannah moved around the east coast before settling in Richfield, New York, where Anthony and Johnson, youngest two of six children, were born. The family seems to have stayed in Richfield for more than 30 years. In 1815, Johnson married Rhoda Phelps of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, though we don’t know how the two met.

The young couple moved to Painted Post, New York where their three children were born. An 1820 census states seven people were living in Johnson’s household: Johnson, Rhoda, their three children, and two other males between the ages of 16-25. It also notes that two of the seven in the household were foreigners, and two persons were engaged in agriculture. This suggests that the Niles family had two farm laborers, were able to survive the Year Without a Summer in 1816 (learn about it in the Fall 2025 Village Press!), and maybe even thrived in the following years. If this was the snapshot of the Niles family in 1820, why did Johnson travel to Michigan and purchase land there in 1821? The Land Act of 1820 most likely created an opportunity that Johnson and Rhoda decided to take.



Details of the Township No 2 North, Range No 11 East, 1817 Survey (from the collection of the Oakland History Center). Nile's purchased land in the northeast corner of Section 9. Note between sections 9-10 the quality is "Good Rich Land – Oak, Elm, Lynn, Ash."

We also might ask what drew them to the piece of land that would become Niles Corners? We can draw a conclusion from several sources. First, the 1817 Troy Township survey marked the boundaries of land parcels and recorded a description of the soil along sectional lines. We don't know if Johnson personally viewed the land, but we know that while several survey lines were recorded as "low swampy land" the survey lines around his property were reported to be "Good Rich Land – Oak, Elm, Lynn, Ash" and "Level & Rich."

Second, looking at *The Oakland County History of 1877*, we know that Johnson Niles "improved his land at once, and in the fall of 1822 seeded several acres with wheat." To accomplish this, the land needed to be a prairie or cleared. Considering how few people lived in the area, he may have chosen property that already had some natural prairies. Finally, the History also notes that Niles "began at once to lay the foundation for making a trading point by supplying himself with trinkets, with which he bartered with the Indians." The survey shows that Johnson's property was a little more than a mile from a well-established Native American pathway from Detroit to Rochester that was used by the Indigenous people as well as Euro-American settlers to the area.

The price of land with the opportunities it brought was likely the draw that Johnson and Rhoda Niles needed. Once he arrived, Johnson purchased more land and encouraged settlement near his homestead by donating land to two churches and a school. He grew his trading business and opened a tavern then later a hotel. He even platted the land for an aspirational town he named Hastings. While the community never grew beyond a small crossroads, several Niles and Phelps family members among hundreds of others made their way from New York to Michigan. Being among the first to Oakland County, Johnson and Rhoda's home was likely a base for many families moving into the area throughout the early 1800s including their own.



Possibly the four Phelps Brothers (publicly shared on Ancestry.com). All four of Rhoda Niles' brothers (Benjamin, Elbathan, Alfred, and William Phelps) moved to Michigan. Alfred is buried in the Crooks Road Cemetery near Rhoda and Johnson.

Objects Tell Stories

by Shelby Nelsen, Troy Historic Village Adult Programs Director

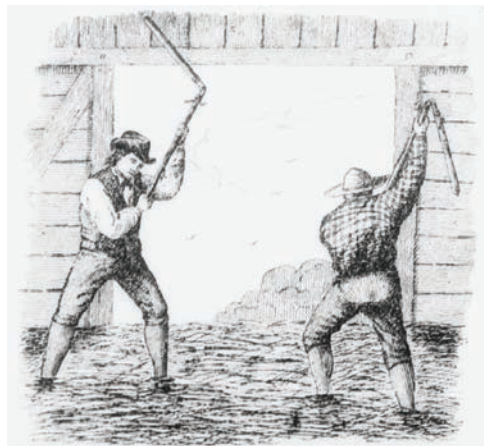


Thresher hanging above the west doorway in the Niles-Barnard House at the Village.

If you have ever been inside the Niles-Barnard House, you may have noticed that most of the artifacts are hanging on the wall because it is rented out for parties and is used for programs like watercolor classes. This is, of course, not how the house would have looked for either the Niles or the Barnard family, instead we intentionally display items that tell their stories. One of the most fascinating objects, positioned above a doorway as if to symbolize its importance to an 1800s farmer, is Johnson Niles' thresher. This one item tells part of Johnson's story, but also leads to other interesting historic observations and questions.

Johnson's flail-style thresher was used to beat wheat by hand so that the grains of the plant could be collected. The grains could then be ground into flour for baking and eating or saved and planted for the next crop. The entire process is called threshing, and farmers in Troy during the 1800s would have used a flail, or very similar methods, to process the grain before mechanical threshers were readily available. Threshing by hand was extremely

labor intensive and often used extended family, neighbors, or hired help to complete the task on time. But when you think about it, it seems odd that it took almost two centuries after the Industrial Revolution for someone to develop a machine to do the task. How did we go from essentially beating wheat on the ground with a stick to modern day combine harvesters? That is just one of the interesting questions inspired by Johnson's thresher that we could dive into.



Example of the threshing process using flails printed in 1892 (courtesy of the Library of Congress).

Johnson was one of Troy's earliest settlers. He purchased land in the area and moved his wife and three children to Michigan in the 1820s. We assume that Johnson left his life in the state of New York simply to make a living as a farmer on

the frontier. Land was cheaper in Michigan, so it was easier for him to expand that career here than in New York. For many men at that time, owning and maintaining a farm was just one of their many sources of income. We know that Solomon Caswell was a jack-of-all-trades including cobbling. Johnson was an early developer, investing in Troy through

his businesses and by donating land for schools and churches to entice settlement. He helped create a community that eventually thrived and became so much more than farmland. All that being said, we will probably never know why Johnson chose land in Troy. We can, however, use his thresher to tell the story of the man who chose to relocate his family to build a new farming community.



Two people collecting wheat for threshing in the Wattles farm in 1928. You can see the Main Building of the Village in the background.

If you have ever seen a picture of Johnson Niles, especially late in his life, you might describe him as a hard-looking man—much like you would imagine a pioneer! It is easy to image how a man like Johnson would have used a flail thresher and all other physical labor needed to succeed on a farm in the earliest days of Troy. Farming was largely done by hand and a few animals, such as horses or oxen, if one could afford them. Someone who had many acres of land, like Johnson, would have hired hands to help with the immense workload. Moving to the area and working on farms is how many people earned and saved money to eventually buy their own land. Given the number of people living in Troy at this time, neighbors also relied heavily on each other for help. Threshing season in particular was a time when the community came together to help each other. Johnson's thresher could be used as a symbol for community that survived the hard life of a pioneer or the community of the frontier in Troy.



Johnson Niles

But why does the Village have Johnson's thresher in its collection? Where did it come from? The thresher was donated with the Niles-Barnard house to the Village by Harriet Barnard, whose husband, Norman, was fascinated by Johnson Niles. Records recount that Norman would listen to stories of Johnson and Rhoda Niles told by their granddaughter Robie. He was fascinated by their pioneer tales and dreamt of owning the house one day. He collected artifacts and any piece of history related to Johnson, and finally in 1940 he purchased the house and raised his own family there. The thresher could be used to tell the story of how one man saved parts of history that the Village might not otherwise have.

Hopefully, this article has shown you the importance of preserving objects. As part of our Telling Troy's Story project, which includes the *Why Troy Oral Histories*, the Village is also asking for people to provide photographs of their homes, schools, and celebrations in the City. These images will be scanned and added to our digital archive while you keep the original copies. If you are interested in donating photographs to be scanned, please contact info@thvmail.org to set up an appointment.



Thank You to Our 2025 Volunteers!

by Barbara Hubbard, Troy Historic Village Volunteer Coordinator and Administrative Assistant

Our volunteers dedicate thousands of hours each year to help us bring the Village's mission to life, and 2025 was another year of greatness! Reflecting on their contributions over the last year fills us with gratitude. Our volunteers passed out flyers and postcards at events and around town, led you on a guided tour, greeted you as you checked in for an event, or led your child in a super fun activity during an annual seasonal event. We are so thankful for our volunteers who help create a welcoming and safe environment for all who join us.

We put on a lot of programs at the Village, and a lot of teamwork goes on behind the scenes to make them happen. Our volunteers have dipped thousands of candles and taped thousands of strings to sticks for field trips, built and maintained Scarecrow Row with 88 scarecrows, helped with 360 cars and over 7,000 guests during Troy Traffic Jam, and sold Summer Raffle and 50/50 Raffle tickets. We can't believe we are so lucky to have so many folks helping us create the best programs we can.

Preserving and maintaining our resources is another task our volunteers take to heart. Volunteers installed a historic bell and multiple sign holders, painted inside buildings and around the Village, helped move heavy furniture, preserved collection items, and managed our Pioneer Garden. We're grateful they donate their craftsmanship and attention to detail to help maintain the Village.

While we listed a lot of our volunteers' accomplishments, it's not a complete list of their generous efforts. We pride ourselves on being a valuable community-building resource, and we know it's because of the dedication, passion, and commitment of our invaluable volunteer team.



DECEMBER 2025

- Dec 1 **Book Pick-up Begins for the Michigan Great Read**
- Dec 3 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- Dec 3 **Holiday Card-Making & Cosmos** 5:30pm
- Dec 6 **Cocoa and Crafts with Santa** 10:00am-2:00pm
- Dec 7 **Cocoa and Crafts with Santa** 10:00am-2:00pm
- Dec 10 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm
- Dec 12 **Victorian Christmas** 6:00pm-8:30pm
- Dec 13 **Victorian Christmas** 10:00am-1:30pm & 6:00pm-8:30pm
- Dec 14 **Village Crafting Circle** 10:00am-2:00pm
- Dec 14 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
- Dec 18 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm
- Dec 18 **Longest Night** Open until 7:00pm
- Dec 19 **Longest Night** Open until 7:00pm
- Dec 22 **Longest Night** Open until 7:00pm
- Dec 23 **Longest Night** Open until 7:00pm
- Dec 24-Jan 1 **Village CLOSED**

FEBRUARY 2026

- Feb 3 **Why Troy Oral Histories By Appointment**
- Feb 4 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- Feb 8 **Village Crafting Circle** 10:00am-2:00pm
- Feb 8 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
- Feb 9 **Preservation Conversations** 2:00pm
- Feb 10 **Why Troy Oral Histories By Appointment**
- Feb 10 **Watercolor Class** 4:30pm
- Feb 11 **Village Open Late** Open until 7:00pm
- Feb 16 **Free Mid-Winter Break Open House** 10:00am-3:00pm
- Feb 17 **Free Mid-Winter Break Open House** 10:00am-3:00pm
- Feb 17 **Why Troy Oral Histories By Appointment**
- Feb 21 **Members-Only Meetup** 11:00am
- Feb 24 **Why Troy Oral Histories By Appointment**
- Feb 25 **Watercolor Class** 4:30pm
- Feb 26 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm

- Kids & Families
- Community Events
- Adults & Seniors
- Artisan-led Class

JANUARY 2026

- Jan 7 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- Jan 11 **Village Crafting Circle** 10:00am-2:00pm
- Jan 11 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
- Jan 12 **Preservation Conversations** 2:00pm
- Jan 13 **Watercolor Class** 4:30pm
- Jan 14 **Village Open Late** Open until 7:00pm
- Jan 20 **Why Troy Oral Histories By Appointment**
- Jan 22 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm
- Jan 27 **Why Troy Oral Histories By Appointment**
- Jan 28 **Watercolor Class** 4:30pm
- Jan 31 **Drop-In Crafty Day** 10:00am-3:00pm

Come join us! Learn a new skill, find your people, and give back to your community. Fill out a volunteer application by scanning the QR or visit www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/support/volunteer. You can also stop by the Village to pick one up!



Thank you, John and Padma!

John Lavender and Padma Kuppa recently retired after serving a combined 27 years on the Board! Both John and Padma have agreed to a 2-year advisory term on the Board.



Padma Kuppa



John Lavendar (left)

WINTER KIDS & FAMILY PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE



Cocoa And Crafts With Santa

Saturday December 6 &
Sunday December 7
10 Am-2pm

In Advance:

THS Members: \$7

Non-Members: \$9

At The Door:

THS Members: \$8

Non-Members \$10

All Children Under 2
Years Old: Free

Start your season of
family fun and holiday
tradition at the Troy

Historic Village! Spend time with Santa, make a simple holiday craft, play holiday games, and sample the sights and smells of the season. Warm up with hot cocoa, courtesy of Troy Garden Club. Space is limited! *Sponsored by Genisys Credit Union.*

Longest Night in the Village

Thursday December 18 &
Friday December 19

4pm-7pm

Monday December 22 &

Tuesday December 23,

4pm-7pm

General Admission Rates

Apply | All Ages

Come visit the Village at
night! Enjoy the sights,
sounds, and smells of a
long winter night on the
frontier. Admission includes
a special Sources of Light
scavenger hunt featuring historic lighting (great for kids and
adults!) and a cup of warm cider or hot cocoa.



Free Mid-Winter Break Open House

Monday February 16 and Tuesday February 17

10:00am - 3:00pm | FREE | All Ages

Shake off some cabin fever and visit the Village free of charge!
Tour historic buildings, try out our smartphone app, look for
Cheddar the Village Mouse, or try a Village scavenger hunts.
Learn about our fun family programs coming up this spring.
Great for all ages!



Drop-in Crafty Day

Saturday January 31 | 10:00am - 3:00pm

\$15/participant (child) | \$7/accompanying adult

Shake your winter blues and join us for a day of getting crafty!
The Village has a slew of crafts at the ready to put your skills
to the test or teach you some new ones. Tie some knots on
a rag doll, try your hand at knitting, make a toy, and dip a
beeswax candle! Expect to be here approximately 2 hours.
Check our website for more details and to register.

Cheddar's Preschool Story Time

Select Wednesdays, 10:30 am

Ages 2-5 accompanied by an adult

THS Members: \$5/child, \$3/adult

Non-members: \$7/child, \$5/adult

Join Cheddar the Village Mouse and Mrs. Laura for story time! This monthly program for preschool-aged kids features stories, games, activities, songs, crafts, and snacks that connect with each month's theme to help kids have fun while they develop skills and learn about the world around them. *Sponsored by Troy Women's Association.*



- **December 3: Playing Music**

This month's book: *Before John was a Jazz Giant* by Carole Boston
Groove along with some great hands-on music activities like imaginative play with instruments, matching games, and experimenting with drums, tambourines, and other real instruments. Snack included.

- **January 7: Cars and Carriages**

This month's book: *Eat my Dust: Henry Ford's 1st Race* by Monica Kulling
On your mark, get set, play! Make a fun car craft, play with cars on a racetrack, match numbers and carriages and more. Snack included.

- **February 4: Groundhogs and Shadows**

This month's book: *Go to Sleep, Groundhog!* by Judy Cox
If you see your shadow, come visit Cheddar! Make a groundhog craft, play with light and shadows, and match silhouettes, cut out snowflakes, and more! Snack included.

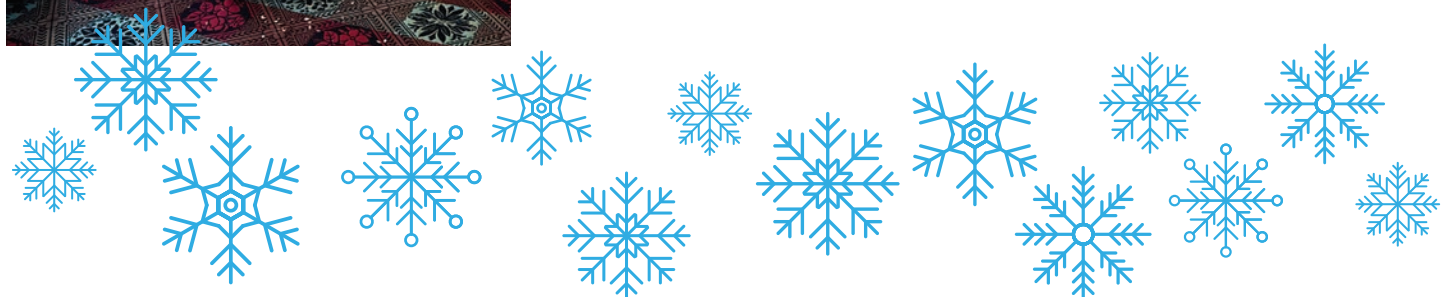


Village Open Late

January 14 & February 11 | 10am-7pm

Included with General Admission

The Village will be Open Late, and the Villagers will be at work! History Interpreters will be out and about the Village playing parlor games. Come explore the Village and see what our pioneers are up to! Scavenger hunts will be available for kids. The Village will be open from 10am-7pm, and History Interpreters will be working around the cabin from 4pm-7pm.



WINTER ADULT & SENIOR PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE



Victorian Christmas

Friday December 12,
6:00pm-8:30pm
Saturday December 13,
10:00am-1:30pm &
6:00pm-8:30pm
In advance:
THS Member: \$10
Non-Member: \$12
At the door:
THS Member: \$12
Non-Member \$14
Experience Christmas during the Victorian Era! Costumed reenactors will perform activities of the season including

playing games, decorating, exchanging gifts, and calling on friends. Enjoy music, crafts, a mini-exhibit, and complimentary hot cider and cocoa. Fun for all ages!

Why Troy Oral Histories

Tuesdays, January 20 – February 24, 1:00pm-3:00pm
FREE Reservation Required | All Ages

Come tell us about your family's story! In conjunction with American250, the Village is looking to record the stories of Troy today. Share about why your family moved to Troy, your favorite memory of living in Troy, and more by giving an oral history. The Village is also looking to scan photos of homes, businesses, community events, and Troy families. Visit our website for more information and to reserve a timeslot. Questions? Call 248-524-3570 or email info@thvmail.org.

Members-Only Meetup: Coffee and Conversations

Saturday February 21 | 11am - 12:30pm
FREE for THS Members

Calling all members of the Troy Historical Society! Gather for an informal conversation about how to make the most of your membership and get to know others who enjoy and support the Troy Historic Village. Hosted by our Troy Historical Society Board of Trustees, this conversation is FREE to all members and includes a hot drink and a light snack. Not a member? Join today! Visit www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/Support/Membership for details.

Thursday Teas

Select Thursdays, 2pm
THS Member: \$10
Non-member: \$15

Join us each month for history talks led by guest presenters or Village staff on various topics.

Sponsored by Oakmont Manor and Oakmont Sterling.

- **December 18: Mail by the Pail**

Michigan is the home of the only boat in the United States with its own Zip Code-48222! How did this come about? What is it like to work for a company that delivers men, mail, and materials to ships passing by on the Detroit River? Come and hear the voices of those who work for the J.W. Westcott Co. with Jim Cameron, President of the Michigan Oral History Association.

- **January 22: Daring Dames in Michigan History**

Astronaut Christina Koch of Grand Rapids spent a year on the International Space Station and is now training for a mission to the Moon! Author Patricia Majher will share her research on other fearless females including Bay City's Annie Edson Taylor and Dryden's Katie Hettinger.

- **February 26: Death to Square Pianos**

Find out why square pianos became so popular and why they became the laughingstock of instruments. THV Adult Programs Director, Shelby, will explore how square pianos fell from grace to become literal firewood.



Holiday Gift Tags & Gimlets

Wednesday December 3, 5:30-8:00pm

THS Member: \$60 | Non-Member: \$68 | Ages 21 & older

Enjoy creating clever holiday gift tags while sipping on festive gimlets and indulging in a few sweet and savory treats!

Watercolor teacher Megan Swoyer has a sleigh-full of ideas to make handcrafted beauties to decorate your holiday presents!



Constitution Cafés

Select Sundays, 2pm | FREE

Utilizing the Socratic Method of inquiry, engage in civil discourse to explore different aspects of the Constitution each month.

Sponsored by the Oakland County Bar Foundation.



- **December 14: A Proposed Amendment – Legislative Veto!** Does the Presidential Veto power help create an Imperial Presidency? We'll explore reforming the Presidential veto power.
- **January 11: Proposed Amendment – Impeachment!** It's easy to submit articles of impeachment, but nearly impossible to convict! We'll look at reform proposals that address this issue.
- **February 8: Proposed Amendment – The Appointment and Confirmation process.** Right now, Congress can sit on appointments and confirmations, effectively leaving seats open on the Supreme Court and the Heads of Federal agencies. Should we stop playing politics with the basic functioning of government?

Preservation Conversations

Mondays, 2 pm | THS Member: FREE | Non-Member: \$7

Do you enjoy old houses, good stories, and great places to visit locally and nationally? Come join the conversation as we learn more about preserving and utilizing our historic assets! Presented by the Phillip & Elizabeth Filmer Memorial Charitable Trust.

- **Monday, January 12: Albert Kahn's Work and Impact on a Modern World.** Learn about the architect Albert Kahn, his work here in metro Detroit, and his legacy. Retired Architect, Robert F Sharrow will present this inspiring history and how the Albert Kahn Foundation preserves it.
- **Monday, February 9: Bungalows Galor!** How did the concept of a low angled roof and wide front veranda make its way from India and England to create an iconic house type of the Arts & Crafts movement? Find out how all these pieces came together at the turn of the 20th century!

Village Crafting Circle

Select Sundays & 10am-2pm

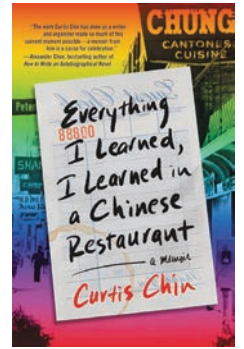
FREE Reservation Required | All Ages

Do you have a craft you enjoy? The Village will open to crafters to bring in their own supplies and socialize with other crafters. Types of crafts include but are not limited to drawing, painting, all forms of needle work like crochet and knitting, whittling, and other hands-on crafts. Visit our website for specific dates. Preregistration is required.

Great Michigan Read

Select Dates | FREE

This winter, the Village will host a series of book discussions and programs related to Curtis Chin's *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*, the 2025-26 Great Michigan Read. Free copies of the book are available at the Village starting in December on a first come, first served basis. Call or visit our website for more information on receiving a free copy of the book and related programs including free book discussions with Troy Public Library.



The 2025-2026 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including: The Meijer Foundation, Library of Michigan, and MSU Federal Credit Union.

Watercolor Classes

Select Days, Times Vary

Ages 16 & older

THS Member: \$40/class

Non-member: \$48/class

Watercolor teacher and artist Megan Swoyer guides students in using watercolor techniques to create colorful scenes. No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided.



- **Wednesday, December 10, 5:30pm – 7:30pm**
Poinsettia A gorgeous pink poinsettia takes center stage for this fun watercolor workshop. Megan Swoyer will lead students down a path of leaves, petals, bracts, and more to create a gorgeous holiday-themed watercolor painting.
- **Tuesday, January 13, 4:30 pm – 6:30pm**
Belle Isle Lighthouse Lighthouses in winter take on a special appeal. In this class, students will capture pretty early-winter tones, the Detroit River blues, and the towering William Livingston Memorial Lighthouse on Belle Isle.
- **Wednesday, January 28 5:30pm – 7:30pm**
Farmers Market Bouquet Create your own painting of vibrant flowers. Students will learn how to create glass imagery and improve their composition skills in this class.
- **Tuesday, February 10 4:30 pm – 6:30pm**
Rooster A colorful, proud rooster in a barnyard takes center stage in this class that focuses on texture, merging colors, grasses and a pretty sky.
- **Wednesday, February 25 5:30pm – 7:30pm**
Merganser Duck Students will learn the nuances of the handsome merganser duck. We'll go wet-into-wet and wet-into-dry for this process and will let a background magically come to life!

Become a Villager Today!

Support quality, engaging education for all ages and enjoy:

- FREE Admission to the Village
- Discounts on Village programs
- 10% discount on your Village Gift Shop purchases
- "Members Only" Tours for new and existing members
- The option to purchase a discounted two-year membership
- Quarterly Village Press and regular news updates
- An invitation to the Annual Members Meeting and Ice Cream Social

YES! I want to be a Villager. Please process my Troy Historical Society membership at the following level:

- ☐ **\$35/one year \$60/two years Individual Membership**
One adult 18 or older
- ☐ **\$55/one year \$90/two years Household Membership**
Up to 6 adults and/or children
- ☐ **\$150/one year \$250/two years Patron Membership**
Up to 6 adults and/or children
Additional benefits include:
 - 4 tickets to the Annual Barnard Bash Donor Event
 - North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Membership
- ☐ **\$350/one year \$600/two years Barnard Benefactor**
Up to 10 adults and/or children
Additional benefits include Patron-level plus:
 - 20% discount on the base rate of any Village Rental
- ☐ **\$1000 one year Business Membership**
Call us today for more information!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The quarterly Village Press Newsletter will be emailed to you unless you check this box ☐

Already a Villager?

I would like to make an additional donation to the Troy Historic Village. Please put \$ _____ towards the general fund to support preservation and programs at the Village.

Payment Options:

- ☐ Enclosed Check / Check # _____
- ☐ Call the Village at 248-524-3570 or visit www.troyhistoricvillage.org/membership to pay by credit card

Return completed form & payment to:
60 W. Wattles Road, Troy, MI 48098
Make checks payable to: Troy Historical Society

Troy Historic Village
Troy Historical Society
60 W. Wattles Road
Troy MI 48098

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2025

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