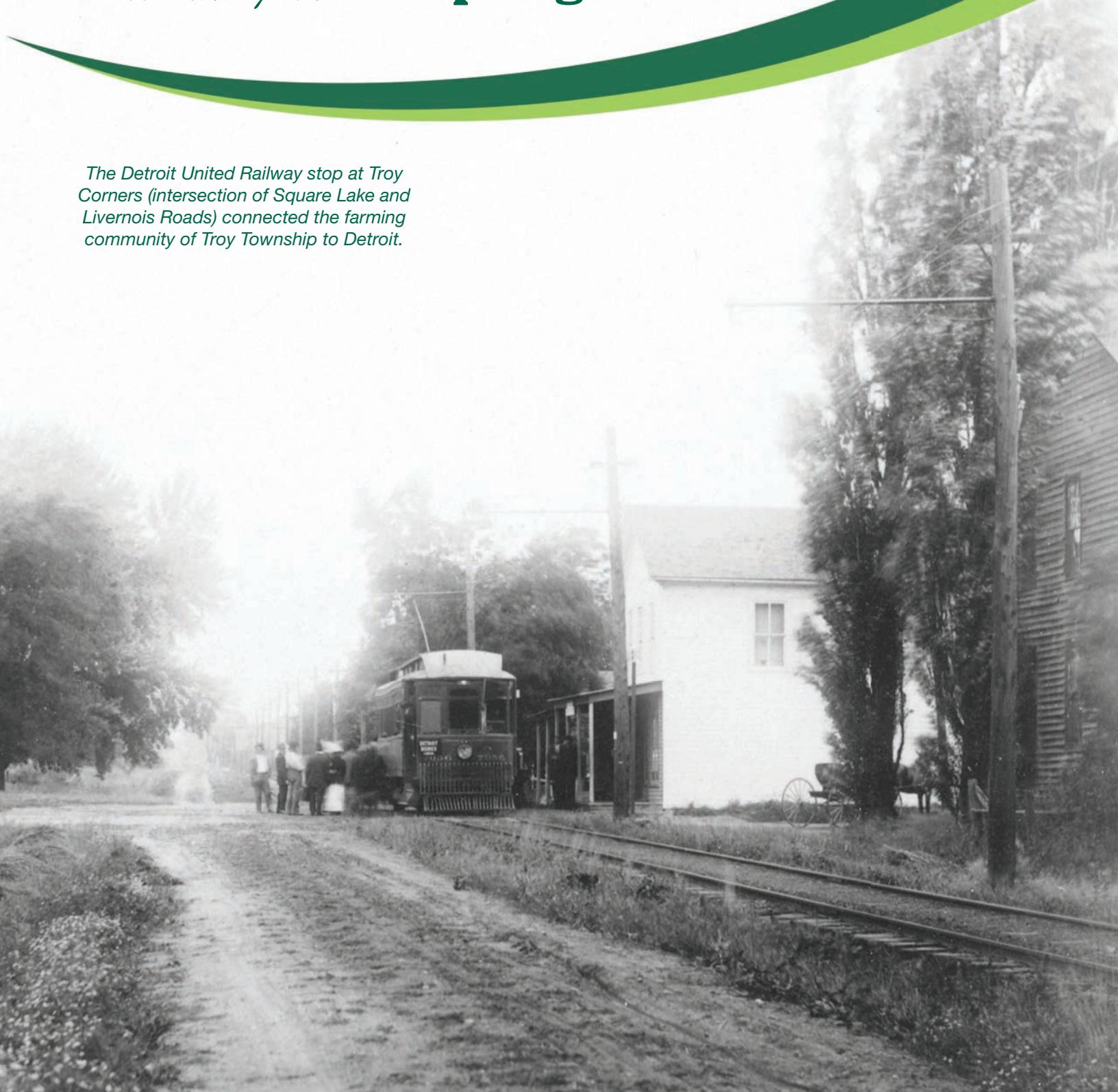




The Village Press

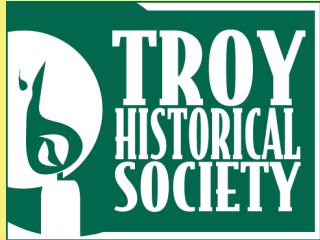
Spring 2026

The Detroit United Railway stop at Troy Corners (intersection of Square Lake and Livernois Roads) connected the farming community of Troy Township to Detroit.



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Executive Director

Publishing Schedule

Spring: March - May

Summer: June - August

Fall: September - November

Winter: December - February

Enjoy your seasonal Village Press!

THS News

Staff Updates

Thank you, Sharon!

After three years with the Village, Community Development Director Sharon Snyder decided to look towards the next chapter in her life. Sharon made connections and developed relationships for the Village and Troy Traffic Jam across the Troy Community. We are thankful for her work and are looking forward to building on it as we move forward.

Welcome Kevin!

Just as the new year started, we brought Kevin Starnes on as our new Community Development Director with a focus on the Troy Traffic Jam. With over a decade of experience in fundraising, managing donor stewardship, and arts marketing, Kevin is a great addition to the Village team and he's ready to continue developing relationships in our community! Kevin's background brings a depth of experience, connections, and collaborations that will benefit the



Village. You may have even caught him in performances at the Detroit Opera House or singing with a troupe at the "other village" over their holiday programs. Kevin's degree in Arts Administration from the University of Michigan means he knows what he's talking about and that he bleeds maize and blue! Kevin has recently worked on using storytelling to inspire philanthropy in a way that fits exactly with our vision for community development, and we are excited to have him on board!

THANK YOU, Oakland County Commissioners!

The Oakland County Commissioners have approved \$10,000 towards our 2025-2026 Civil War Days and Indigenous Voices programs. This funding enables us to continue our partnerships with the reenactors, educators, and culture bearers who make these programs outstanding experiences for our 5th and 8th grade students! A special thank you to Commissioner Penny Luebs and Commissioner Ann Erickson Gault who represent and support the Troy Community!



Thank you for YOUR support!

Our **Year-End Appeal** raised **\$8,133** to support Village programs. General operational support enables staff to plan and research programs throughout the year without adding that cost to the price of each program.

The **West End Expansion Project Appeal** has already raised **\$12,590** towards our two-year goal of **\$60,000**! This multi-year project will enable us to expand programming capacity as we move, preserve, and update the Log Cabin, extend the fence line, and add programming space at the west end of the Village!

It's Never too Early to Start Planning Your Annual Giving!

We know you give generously to causes you care about - but your legacy could be even more impactful.

Here's how: If you're 70 1/2 or older, donating your IRA's required minimum distribution (RMD) through a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) offers a simple, tax efficient way to amplify your giving.



Executive Director...

Jen Peters

From Germany to Ohio to Indiana to Michigan

As we are *Telling Troy's Stories* and exploring the reasons people moved to Troy, two main factors rise to the top: opportunity and necessity. It's so much easier to stay where you are, where you know, and where you have the most connections to family and community, but often factors beyond our control push us in a new direction. If we're lucky, we still have a choice in the matter when it comes to timing and destination.

I was recently reflecting on my own story of how I've gotten to where I am today. Because I'm at least a fourth generation American, it's hard to understand what factors brought my ancestors to the United States and to the Midwest. I heard from my grandfather that many of my great-grandparents were tired of fighting. Between the constant conflict among the German speaking states and the opportunity for affordable farmland, much of my family immigrated to northwest Ohio in the 1840s and 50s. With other German Catholics, they built a stable and prosperous community in the rich farmlands there.

As industry grew, my grandparents, who grew up on those farms, found opportunities in the nearby towns and cities like so many others did from the 1920s to the 1950s. My parents grew up as city kids with strong farming backgrounds since they maintained their connection to their grandparents, aunts, and uncles who maintained the family



farms. As opportunities expanded, my parents were the first generation in their families to go off to college, something not always available to farm kids.

My parents, both education majors, met at college. College was also where my family story took a funny turn. As the story goes, my dad attended a job fair, interviewed with, and got an offer from East Allen County Schools thinking it was in Ohio. Afterward he found out it was in Indiana

(both states have an Allen County school district) but he was encouraged to take the job anyway. It wasn't far from their families, but they hadn't intended on becoming Hoosiers! They moved to Indiana in the early 1970s and have been there ever since.

Similarly, my own college experience and related job

opportunities are how I ended up in Michigan and in Troy. I met my husband (a Michigander) at Albion College and his job as a Methodist Minister has placed us in Morrice, then Fenton, and now Flint. When I had the opportunity to go back to school for a master's degree at Eastern Michigan University, my connections there pointed me to Loraine Campbell and Troy Historic Village.

I hope you spend some time thinking about your own journey and then share it with us! The stories that make us also make our community, and you have the opportunity to record those throughout 2026! Look on page 14 for more information on how to share your story this year!



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)

Spring Hours:
Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm
Select Saturdays & Sundays
for special events and rentals
Closed: May 25

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.

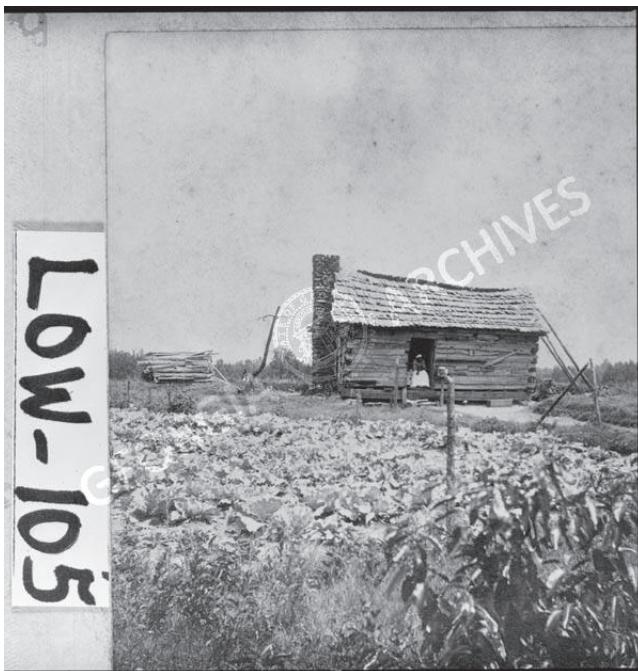
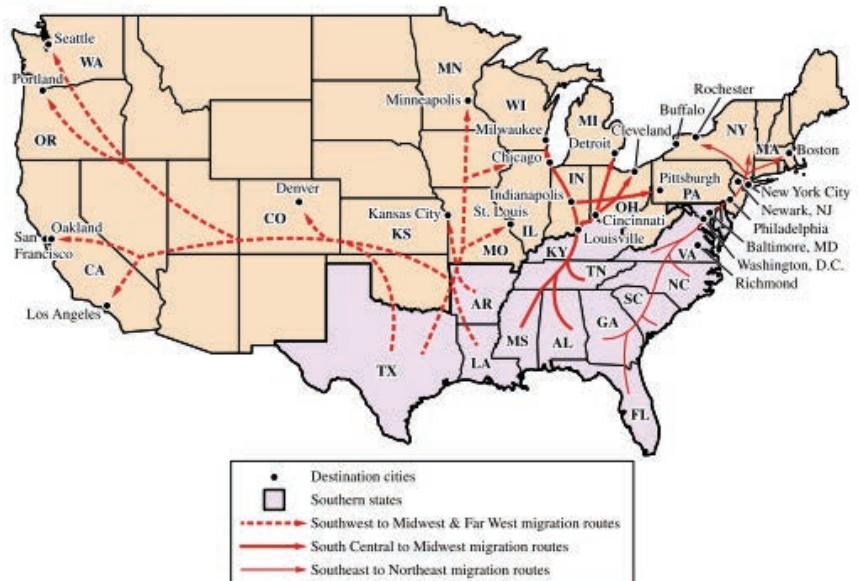
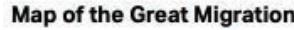
The Beginnings of the Great Migration

by Shelby Nelsen, Troy Historic Village Adult Programs Director

The Great Migration is an excellent example of how people are pushed and pulled from one place to another. It is also an example of how the development of Detroit affected the rest of Southeast Michigan. From the 1910 to 1970, six million African American moved out of the rural South to the cities North and West. Entire families relocated in the hopes of finding higher paying jobs, better education, and escaping racial violence. This increase in population and racial diversity created a new landscape in cities, including Detroit.

The end of the Civil War and the ratification of the 13th Amendment brought an end to slavery and the beginning of long sought after freedoms for Black people in the United States. Formal education and freedom to participate in government, from voting in elections to holding office, were now possibilities. Choosing where to live also became an option. Despite being illegally allowed to move, 90% of African Americans continued to live in the South until the Great Migration. And despite being free, life was still hard and unrelenting with new challenges.

Jim Crow laws were fully in effect by the 1890s which often left Black people stuck in a low economic and social status. These took away the right to vote through grandfather clauses or education tests. Black schools had very



A sharecropper stands in the door of her Lowndes County Home, circa 1910 (Courtesy of Georgia Archives). In that year, Black sharecroppers managed more than 106,000 farms in Georgia.

few resources to educate children and adults alike. The tens of thousands of African Americans who lived in rural areas could only participate in sharecropping to have a home and make money. Sharecropping has been dubbed “Slavery under another name,” as it left people in low economic standings with no hope of moving up. The lives of Black people were also at risk with rise of the Ku Klux Klan and violent lynchings. Even though they were free, African Americans had very little choice in their welfare and safety. All of these factors, and more, pushed Black people out of the South to the North and West where they hoped to find a safe and more sustainable way of life.

The first wave of the Great Migration is typically defined as beginning during World War I and ending with the Great Depression. Even before the United States entered World War I, there was an increased demand in factories to make supplies for the war. That demand skyrocketed when America entered the war as more supplies needed to be made and the men working those jobs were sent over seas to fight. The need for workers in the North began the Great

OLD RUSH ON AT FORD PLANT; MOB FOR JOBS

**Nucleus of 10,000 Crowd
Forms at 2 O'Clock
in Morning.**

**MORE MEN NOT TO
BE EMPLOYED UNTIL
ABOUT JANUARY 15**

**Ford Declares He Has No Inten-
tion of Dismissing For-
eign-Born Laborers.**

Ten thousand industrial argo-
nts, each ready to fight his way
to one of the new \$5-a-day-or-bet-
ter places on Henry Ford's payroll,
took part Tuesday in the Gold
rush of 1914.

*Article from Detroit Free Press
published in 1914 declared a
"Gold Rush" at Ford Plant.*

Migration, that in reality was just waiting to take off. Work opportunities were one of many reasons that lead thousands of people to move to Detroit with the hope life would better than the rural South.

It takes a lot of courage to uproot your family and leave the only home you have ever known. But, when companies were offering a daily wage higher than what a Black person could make in a year sharecropping, how could they not take the risk? Ford Motor company began offering a wage of \$5 a day in 1914, an offer that was open to Black people, too. By 1920, approximately 1,675 African Americans worked at Ford. Detroit's Black population increased by 600% from 1910 to 1920 (5,741 to 40,838 respectfully). Thousands of new residents now had to find homes, a quest that had its own difficulties.

The influx of Black people in Detroit created vibrant communities like Black Bottom and Paradise Valley, but there is a reason that they settled in those spaces. The white population of Detroit struggled to come to terms with their new neighbors and those that could, left the city entirely. Many white residents refused to sell their homes to Black people. Cities created racially based housing ordinances that prohibit African American from living in neighborhoods. The United States Supreme Court declared those ordinances unconstitutional in 1917, but residential neighborhoods and housing developers were still legally able to have covenants that required white property owners to agree not to sell to Black people until 1948. Housing was one of the many struggles African Americans faced in Detroit and other northern cities.

Black people were not the only people who were moving during this time-period. One of the results of the Great Migration was "white flight," where white people moved out of cities from the irrational fear of having Black neighbors. Often white flight is associated with the second wave of the Great Migration, from World War II to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, but it really began during the first wave. Oakland County's population increased from 49,500 to about 211,000 from 1910 to 1930. Macomb County increased from 32,600 to 77,000 people in the same about of time. Dearborn also became a

popular destination for white people. Dearborn went from a population of less than 1,000 to over 50,000 in the same two decades. Records do not show the same amount of growth in Troy specifically until the second wave of the Great Migration, but the numbers do foreshadow the change from farmlands to subdivisions.

The Great Migration includes so many push and pull factors for various groups of people that they could not all be listed here. Are any of these factors similar to the reasons you live in Troy? Let us know by completing an oral history with or as part of "Telling Troy's Stories."



Michigan Central Station in the 1920s. For many African American, this was their first experience of and how they arrived in Detroit.

From Farms to Neighborhoods

by Jen Peters, Troy Historic Village Executive Director

Morris Wattles watched Troy Township change from farmland to neighborhoods during his lifetime, which came as a result of larger national trends like industrialization, modern technologies, and the Great Migration. But what was the local reality of these larger national changes?

Modern settlement of Michigan was limited in the 1700s to the French and later British trading posts and forts. Following the American Revolution and with the Land Ordinance of 1785, the United States laid out the first process for land sales in the territories west of the Appalachian Mountains. The original “metes and bounds” survey system which utilized natural features and artificial markers was replaced by a more systematic “township and range” system. This new system was known as the Public Land Survey System, and it utilized a baseline (running east-west) and meridian (running north-south) in each new territory from which each 6-mile by 6-mile township was surveyed into 36 sections. Ultimately creating a grid.

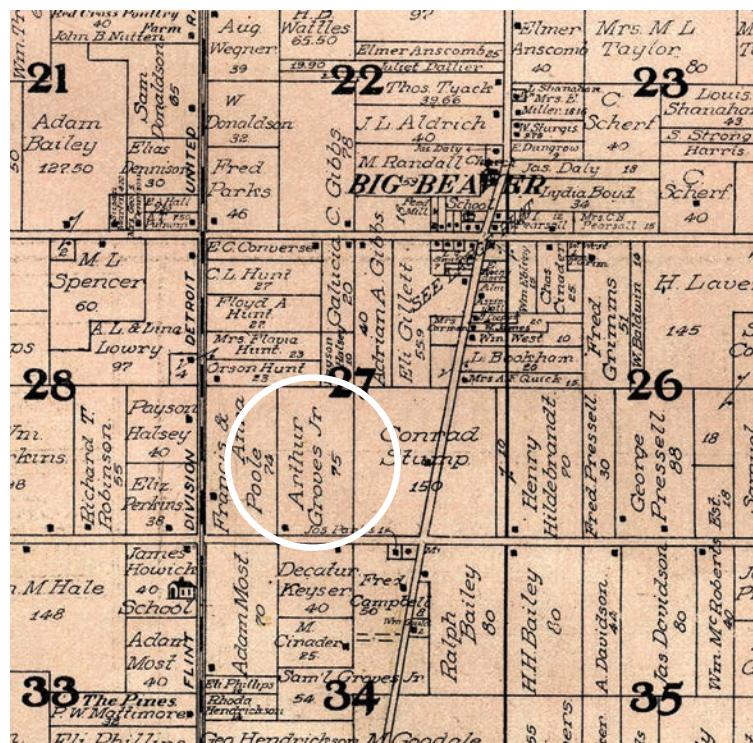
Why was it important to have a uniform way to survey land?

Following the Revolutionary War, the fledgling country was cash poor but land rich. The new Congress was also limited in ways to raise funds as the powers of taxation had not yet been worked out. To pay soldiers what they were due, and raise the funds necessary to run a nation, the land was surveyed so it could be sold or given away as payment. Land was sold in large chunks, typically 160 acres (a quarter of one of the 36 sections of the township) or later 40 acres (a quarter-quarter section). If the purchaser wanted to further subdivide the lot, it was their responsibility (and expense) to have the land surveyed into smaller lots.

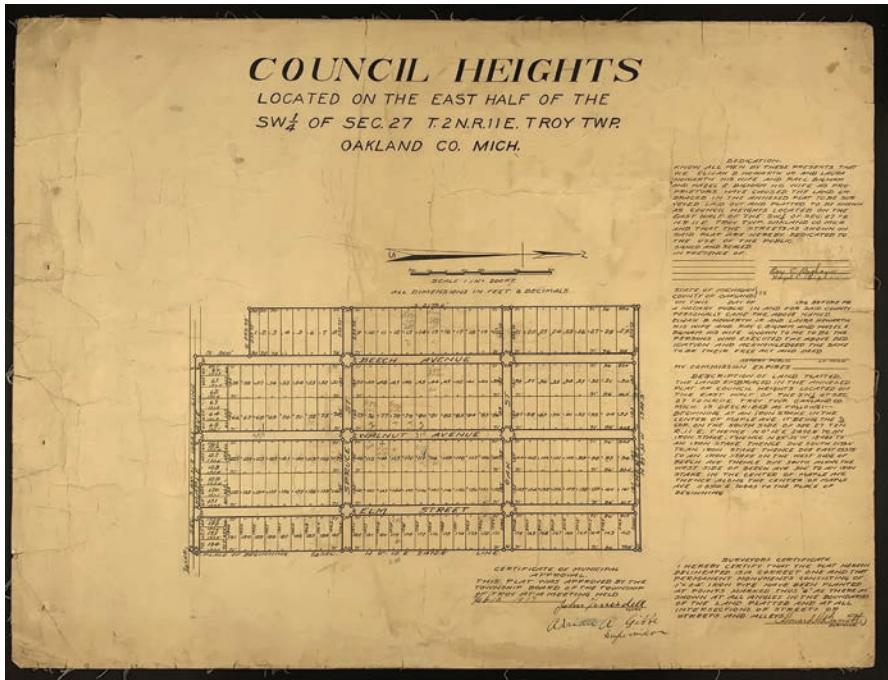
With Troy Township surveyed in 1817, land became available for purchase. The first buyers were land speculators interested only in reselling as values went up. Johnson Niles was one of the first to purchase land in Troy Township for the purpose of settlement, farming, and development. In fact, Niles accumulated nearly a square mile of land and had a portion of it surveyed for the Village of Hastings. Though the Village never came to fruition, this was likely the first “subdivision” of land in Troy Township.

Because it remained mainly farmland, early maps of Troy Township are full of rectangles with property owners, often the farmers themselves, noted. Small black squares on these maps represent a house on each farm strung along the mile roads. Troy Township maps looked much like this all the way up to 1906, broken up by just a few smaller and more tightly packed lots at Troy Corners, Big Beaver, and Clawson. But, then things began to change.

Based on Troy records, beginning in 1914, properties were surveyed, subdivided into plats (groups of lots), and approved by the Township for development. Using a “lot and block” survey system, large parcels of land described by their location within a Township section (for example: Part of the NW 1/4 Sec 31) were mapped with individual lots numbered and ready for sale. The first properties to be subdivided were close to population centers in Birmingham, Clawson, and Troy Corners, which made sense as those communities slowly grew.



Cropped 1906 Troy Atlas with the Groves Farm circled.



Council Heights Plat, 1917.

plowed under for housing. Based on photos that show the Lakies were still running their farm into the early 1920s, it's more likely the lots were platted, the land continued to be farmed, and then as houses were gradually built, they turned into neighborhoods. Though new homes in Troy today can be quite large and expensive, the homes being built in these first subdivisions were small, practical, affordable working-class homes. 190 homes built between 1906 and 1926 are still around and in use today, often hidden in plain sight. A cluster of these working-class homes can be found on Orpington Road in the "Big Beaver Poultry Farm" subdivision and sprinkled around other early Troy subdivisions.

If we were to jump back 100 years, we would hardly recognize the farms and slowly developing subdivisions of Troy in comparison to today's neighborhoods and heavily traveled roads. This wasn't an overnight process, rather it was part of a larger national trend of farms turning into neighborhoods.

Help us document the neighborhoods of Troy today by letting us scan photos of your home or childhood home. We'll keep a digital file of the photo and you keep the original. That way in 100 years, we will have a record of what houses existed in Troy.



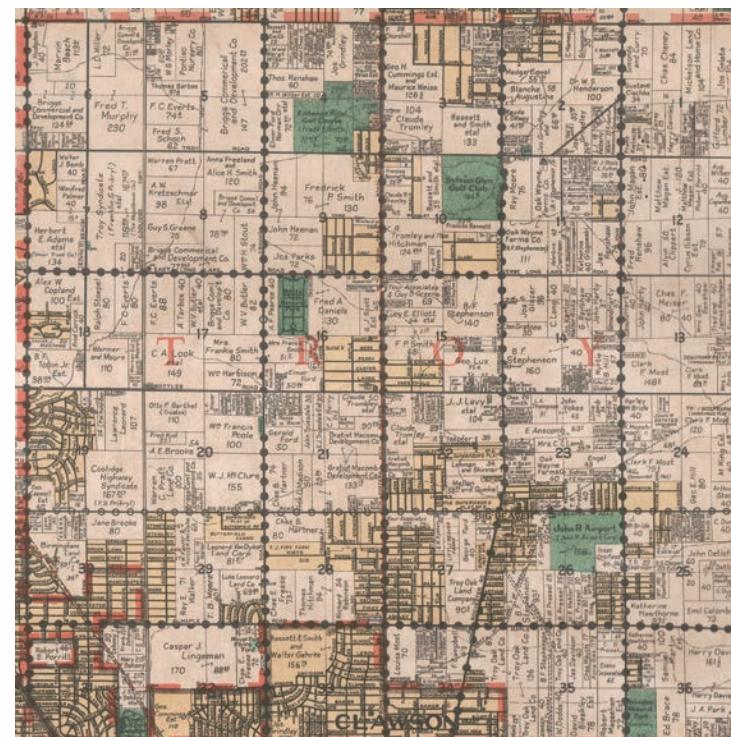
A 1920 house in Big Beaver Poultry Farm Subdivision (image from Google Maps).

Turning large farms into subdivisions was right around the corner. Piecing together plat records, maps, census records, and obituaries, one of the earliest subdivisions in Troy that still exists is the "Council Heights" plat in Section 27, located just east of Livernois on the north side of Maple. Arthur Groves Jr., an Irish immigrant, owned the farm on that section until 1912 when he sold all but a corner of it to Howarth & Bigham. Groves may have continued farming for a time, but he eventually retired to Royal Oak, and the "Council Heights" plat was approved by Troy Township on June 18, 1917. Immediately surrounding the modern-day Village, the "McCormick and Lawrence Little Farms" were created from the old Lakie Farm in 1919, and "Lakewood" was developed from the Heide Farm around 1920.

Unlike today, these farms weren't immediately

Morris Wattles and a Growing Troy

by Alexander Konieczny, Troy Historic Village Youth Programs Director



This map shows property lines and ownership in 1930s Troy. Notice the small plots, and areas of dense roads indicating subdivisions.

We have been talking a lot lately about why people choose to live in Troy. Until around 1920, the answer for most people was "Troy has good farmland," or, "My family has lived here for generations." These days you would be hard-pressed to find someone who would give either of those answers, much less both. You are far more likely to hear about the good schools, safe community, and proximity to work and amenities. When did that change? Ironically, right around the time that Morris Wattles, a fourth generation Troy farmer, became Troy Township Supervisor.

Troy was founded in the early 1800s as a farming community and continued that way for the better part of the next century. According to census records, the population stayed nearly flat at about 1,500 people from 1880 to 1910 with the primary occupation listed being "farmer." This was the Troy that Morris Wattles grew up in.

Morris was born in Troy in 1895. He attended the Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) and returned to the family farm after graduation. Interviews with Morris towards the end of his life suggest he had intended to be a farmer forever. For example, when asked why he had never married, Morris replied that he "got close a couple times, but neither of them knew anything about farming."



Image taken on the Wattles farm with the Township Hall in the background.

Morris was not a farmer for very long, however. Troy was on the verge of change and Morris was about to find himself in the middle of it. When Troy Township Supervisor Seymour Adams passed away in 1925, Morris decided to run for the position, won the election, and became the youngest Township Supervisor in Oakland County at the age of 30.

Later in his life, Morris said that his greatest accomplishment during his time as Supervisor was getting the new Town Hall built – the building that sits on the northwest corner of Livernois and Wattles, and now houses the Troy Historical Society. This new Town Hall replaced the previous one that was “one room and a bathroom” and had “just room enough for farmers to tie their horses there when the farmers came to vote.” The building was built in 1927 and considerably larger and more ornate than its predecessor, which may have seemed unnecessary considering the Township had seen basically no growth from 1880 until 1910. Morris saw the need though, and it was a good thing he did. Between 1920 and 1930, Troy’s population jumped from about 2,500 to almost 3,900. By 1950, Troy was up to 5,200 residents. Within 30 years, the new Town Hall that had probably seemed almost laughably large for Troy’s meager population became so cramped that people joked that you had to go out in the hallway to change your mind.

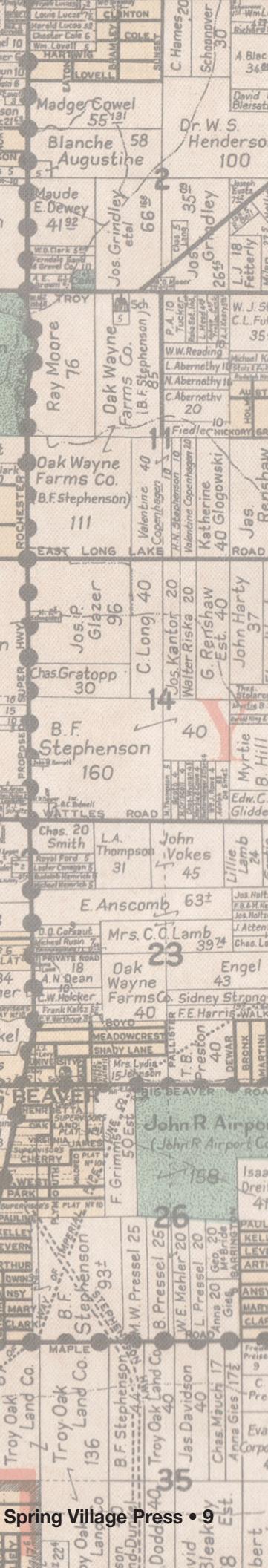
Today Troy boasts almost 90,000 residents and is one of the largest cities in Michigan. So, what changed? How did Troy go from a small farm town to a major city? Transportation and industry are likely culprits, but other factors like the Great Migration are also responsible. With Detroit’s growing industry, good jobs became available in the city and for the first time in history workers did not need to live close to their job. Public transit like the Detroit United Railway (DUR) that ran through Troy and the dropping price of Henry Ford’s Model T, meant that it was becoming common for people to work in the city but live out in “the country,” or what we now call Metro Detroit.

Looking at maps during this era, it’s easy to see the transition. The large lots that were the mark of a farm begin to give way to the much smaller, denser lots of neighborhoods. Close examination of the 1920 and 1930 maps shows that even many of the large lots that may look like farmland are owned by developers. Morris observed this change and wrote in 1920 that “The character of the whole township is rapidly changing. The subdivision of land is absorbing the farms and the farmers becoming fewer and fewer.” It’s also evident in the occupation column of the census records from those decades. The category that had for a century contained almost exclusively “farmer,” suddenly included “machinist,” “electrician,” “plumber,” and a host of factory jobs, particularly in the auto industry.

Troy’s transition from farm community to residential neighborhoods would, of course, continue. New developments are still popping up today. But what happened to Morris Wattles? Following his time as Township Supervisor he, like Troy itself, would transition away from farming and start a new life in a new line of work. He graduated from Wayne State University with a Masters Degree in Education in 1933, and went to work teaching high school biology before retiring in 1963. What did Morris think about how Troy had grown during his life? “I think we’ve maybe progressed too rapidly, and yet I’m happy to see the growth.” Morris passed away in 1988 at the age of 93, having seen almost a century’s worth of change to his once small farming community.



Morris Wattles stands on the steps of the recently built Township Hall.



Collections Update: Piano, Accordion, and Mimeograph take a Restoration Journey

by Elizabeth Thornburg, Troy Historic Village Curator

You may have noticed a few gaps in our displays in the General Store and Parsonage over the last few months. Thanks to conservator Mark Gervasi, our 1900 Schoenhut toy piano, child-sized accordion, and Edison Mimeograph were sent for cleaning and restoration.

Why did we do this? Sometimes, an artifact needs a specialist to help it look its best – but best does not mean brand new! There are many reasons for a piece to be sent out for conservation, including items that need a deep clean, paint retouch, or full restoration. Our artifacts have been in the hands of many people over the years and deserve to look their best, but with some history left on them.



Above: The Edison Mimeograph Case was retouched by removing ink stains and cleaning the brass fixtures. Properly cleaning and restoring objects can help the last longer while also protecting objects are they. Deteriorating metals can cause nearby artifacts to decompose faster. Have you ever seen that happen with a rusty tool in your garage?



The little toy piano was completely unplayable with some loose and broken pieces inside due to wear and tear. Despite this, it still looks amazing for over 100 years old! Mark completely disassembled the piano, cleaned it up, and touched up paint in places where he thought it could benefit. Some internal pieces were completely missing, so he crafted new ones, including strikers and bars. Mark spent over 25 hours on bringing the three pieces back to life!



Left: Here you can see the difference properly cleaning an object can have. Notice the difference in color on the piano key marked "Cleaned." Removing layers of dust, dirt, and grim can make an object look good and keep it around for more generations to see and learn from.

Right: Accordion needed only small amount of surface cleaning.



MARCH 2026

- March 3 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- March 4 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- March 8 **Village Crafting Circle** 10:00am-2:00pm
- March 8 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
- March 9 **Preservation Conversations** 2:00pm
- March 10 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- March 11 **Watercolor Class** 4:30pm
- March 17 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- March 19 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm
- March 24 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- March 24 **Village Open Late** Open until 7:00pm
- March 26-April 30 **Basic Blacksmithing Level 1 (Thursdays)** 6:30pm
- March 27 **Spring Egg Hunt** 4:00pm-7:30pm
- March 28 **Spring Egg Hunt** 10:00am-2:00pm
- March 28 **Blacksmith Sampler** 10:30am
- March 31 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm

APRIL 2026

- April 1 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- April 4 **Volunteer Fair (at Troy Community Center)** 12:00pm-4:00pm
- April 7 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- April 8 **Watercolor Class** 4:30pm
- April 11-May 16 **Basic Blacksmithing Level 1 (Saturdays)** 10:00am
- April 12 **Village Crafting Circle** 10:00am-2:00pm
- April 12 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
- April 14 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- April 16 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm
- April 20 **Preservation Conversations** 2:00pm
- April 21 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- April 21 **Village Open Late** Open until 7:00pm
- April 27 **Members-Only Meetup** 6:00pm-7:30pm
- April 28 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- April 28 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm
- April 29 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am

MAY 2026

- May 5 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- May 9 **Veterans of Early America Cemetery Tour** 10:00am-11:30am or 1:00pm-2:30pm
- May 10 **Village Crafting Circle** 10:00am-2:00pm
- May 10 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm
- May 11 **Preservation Conversations** 2:00pm
- May 12 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- May 12 **Village Open Late** Open until 7:00pm
- May 12 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm
- May 16 **History Tea Tour** 10:00am-3:00pm
- May 19 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- May 20 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm
- May 21 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm
- May 25 **Village CLOSED**
- May 26 **Why Troy Oral Histories** By Appointment
- May 30 **Blacksmithing Partner Project: Ice Cream Spade** 10:00am-1:00pm

■ Kids & Families

■ Adults & Seniors

■ Community Events

■ Artisan-led Class

Maple Sugar Time at Stage Nature Center

Saturday March 7, 14, and 21 | 9am-3pm

Join us at Stage Nature Center for Maple Sugar Time! Sample and purchase Michigan maple cream and other maple infused treats. Program registration and information is available at TroyNatureSociety.org. Michigan maple products are also available for purchase at our Village Gift Shop.



Volunteer Fair at Troy Community Center

Saturday April 4 | 12-4pm



Come find your people! The Volunteer Fair will feature local organizations from Troy looking for volunteers seeking to give back to their community, get to know their neighbors, and make a difference. Prospective volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome. There will be something for every type of interest!

SPRING KIDS & FAMILY PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE



Spring Egg Hunt

Friday, March 27 | 4-7:30pm

Saturday, March 28 | 10am-2pm

Early registration: \$7/THS Member or \$9/Non-member

At the door: \$8/THS Member or \$10/Non-member

Free for children under 2

Hop on over for an EGGStra special day at the Village. Collect eggs to trade for goodies, make a craft, get your EGGSercise with our HOPstacle course, and play carnival-style games with your family. Rather than a free-for-all, the Village egg collection is structured with each family collecting eggs in a designated lane one at a time, so each child gets the same chance.

Sponsored by Genisys Credit Union and the Troy Garden Club.



Village Open Late

March 24, April 21, and May 12

4-7pm | Free with admission

History Interpreters will tend to chores around the cabin, getting ready for Spring.

Come explore the Village and see what our pioneers are up to! Scavenger hunts will be available for kids. Visitors are welcome to bring a picnic dinner to eat on the Village green or at one of our picnic tables. The Village will be

open from 10am-7pm, and History Interpreters will be working around the cabin from 4pm-7pm. Sponsored

by Three Oaks Apartments.



Cheddar's Preschool Story Time

Select Days | 10:30-11:30am

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. Themes, stories, and activities

are carefully chosen to be age-appropriate and help kids have fun while they develop skills and learn about the world around them. Sponsored by Troy Women's Association.



- **March 4: Up in the Air**

This month's book: *Curious George and the Hot Air Balloon* by H.A. Rey

We will be thinking about things up in the air! We will make a kite in the clouds! We also will do bird nest math and play with playdough. Our snack will be Lucky Charms and fruit.

- **April 1: Dinosaurs!**

This month's book: *How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?* by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague

We will be counting and making patterns with tiny colorful dinosaurs, playing a matching game with dinosaur cards, creating a dinosaur craft, and looking for fossils in the sand, as we have fun learning.

- **April 29: In the Garden**

This month's book: *Whose Garden is it?* by Mary Ann Hoberman

We will be reading and doing a little gardening of our own! We will create flowers with different numbers of petals out of buttons and play with plastic bugs in a pretend garden.

Partner Project: Ice Cream Spade

Saturday May 30 | 10am-1pm

THS Member: \$175/pair | Non-member: \$210/pair

Come forge an "ice cream spade" as you discover the world of traditional blacksmithing! The two of you will learn 5 hand forging techniques while making this fun serving utensil together. There will be a 30 minute break in this 3 hour class. One partner must be 18 years or older. A child partner must be age 10 years or older. No prerequisite.



BOOK YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: SCOUTS AND HOMESCHOOLS

Individuals, families, homeschool groups, and scout troops/packs will enjoy these engaging, educational programs. To book your group's adventure, call 248-524-3598 or email YPD@THVMAIL.ORG.



Shopping Back-in-Time

Price: \$9/person

Approximately 60 minutes

Visit the Village and join our costumed interpreters as they lead you through a make-believe shopping trip at our 1910s general store. Students will be given various scenarios involving math, history, and economics (such as needs vs. wants, scarcity, bartering, and incentives). Children will also be given an old-fashioned candy to take home!

Tin Crafts

Price: \$8/adult, \$10/child

Approximately 60 minutes

Learn about the importance of tin products in the 1800s as well as today's households. You'll also learn about the job of a tinsmith. Children will be taught how to punch patterns on tin and make crafts to take home.

Pioneer Kids: Chores

Price: \$9/person

Approximately 90 minutes

Learn about life in a cabin on the frontier. Kids had a lot of chores to do back then; get hands on with history as you spend time in a log cabin and experience the life of a pioneer kid by doing the chores they would have done. This program is for ages 7 and older.

Letterboxing

Price: \$8/adult, \$11/child

Approximately 60-90 minutes

Find clues leading to hidden "letterboxes" all over the Village. You'll create your own personalized stamp, then trade and collect stamp images as you follow the clues. Remind you of geocaching? Meets "Letterboxer" badge requirements. This program is for ages 7 and older (readers).

Playing the Past

Price: \$9/person

Approximately 90 minutes

Be a student in the one-room school. Spend time in our Log Cabin while the fire blazes. Try chores from the past like making butter and carrying water with a yoke. Have some old-fashioned fun! Meets "Playing the Past" badge requirements.

Scouts Woodworking

Price: \$8/adult, \$14/child

Approximately 90-120 minutes

Cut, hammer, and build as Cadette Scouts and Bear Scouts make an individual project. Practice your skills to use a hammer, saw, level, and a screwdriver. To schedule your troop or den, please give at least three weeks' notice for us to prepare materials. Meets GS Cadette "Woodworker" and Cub Scout "Baloo the Builder" requirements.

Earth Rocks for Scouts

Price: \$8/adult, \$12/child

(Add-on a Petoskey Polishing workshop for additional \$2/person. Please notify Village at time of booking if you would like this add-on)

Approximately 90 minutes

(120 minutes if adding-on Petoskey Polishing Workshop)

Hey Rock Hounds! Learn how rocks and minerals can be S.I.M.P.L.E and explore all different types. Break open a geode to see how minerals can form beautiful crystals and grow your own! Use our minerals or bring in your own to test using MOH's Scale of Hardness. To schedule your troop or den, please give at least three weeks' notice for us to prepare materials. This program fulfills most of the requirements for "Webelos Earth Rocks". This program is for ages 8 and up.



SPRING ADULT & SENIOR PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE

History Tea Tour

Saturday, May 16, 10am -3pm

THS Member: \$15

Non-member: \$20

Travel back in time and taste teas from around the world!

You will receive a cup to sample five distinct teas as you learn about each tea's history. A short presentation will be given in the Old Troy Church every half hour beginning at 10:30am. Plan to spend an hour sipping tea and touring the Village. What a perfect way to extend Mother's Day another week! Sponsored by Troy 100 Women Who Care.



Veterans of Early America Cemetery Tour



Sunday, May 9 | 10-11:30am

OR 1-2:30pm

THS Member: \$7

Non-member: \$10

Many war veterans have been laid to rest in Troy but what do we know of them before or after war? Discover connections written in stone as we show you the markers of soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and/or Civil War on this walking tour of Crooks Road Cemetery. This rain or shine tour lasts about 90 minutes, requires some standing and walking over uneven ground.

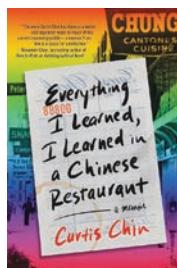
Great Michigan Read

Select Dates | FREE

Free copies of "Curtis Chin's Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant," the 2025-26 Great Michigan Read, are available at the Village until August 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.

Upcoming Related Programs:

- Free Book Discussions with the Troy Public Library on January 29 and February 24
- "Lost Restaurants of Detroit" presentation by author Paul Vachon on March 19



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.

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.



• March 19: Lost Restaurants of Detroit

Through stories and recipes nearly lost to time, author Paul Vachon explores the history of the Motor City's fine dining, ethnic eateries and everything in between.

• April 16: Hats Then & Now

Author Linda Hannah will explore the fascinating world of hats – from historic styles to the stories they tell today. Along the way, attendees will enjoy surprising tales, fun trivia, and fashion insights.

• May 21: U.S. Life-Saving Service

THV History Interpreter, Jolie, will share about the men who aided in the rescue of shipwrecked crews while surviving their own harsh conditions.

Members-Only Meetup: Field Trip

April 27, 6-7:30pm | Free for THS Members

Calling all members of the Troy Historical Society! We invite members to step back in time to when they were in second grade and experience what the Village does best- a field trip! Make a toy to learn about wants and needs, learn and become a tinsmith, and attend the one room school as an 1880s student. Not a member yet? Join today! Visit www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/support/membership for details.

Why Troy Oral Histories

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 26, 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.

Telling Troy's Story and related programs are made possible with support from America250MI.



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.



- **March 8: Future Amendments?** Article V of the U.S. Constitution outlines the process for amending the Constitution. Is this too high of a bar?
- **April 12: The Right to Privacy?** Montana has a Constitutional provision that states “individual privacy is essential to the well-being of a free society.” Is it time we recognize a Federal Right to Privacy?
- **May 10: Encouragement of Literature, and Control of Corporations and Monopolies.** The New Hampshire Constitution has an article that demands the government “to cherish the interest of literature and the sciences... public schools, and to encourage the promotion of agriculture, arts, sciences, commerce, trades, manufactures, and natural history of the country...” Should we adopt this into the Federal Constitution?

Preservation Conversations

Select 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.

- **March 9: Michigan Historical Markers Program, from Application to Installation** EMU Graduate Student and DNR Intern Steven Hilberg will walk us through the process of getting one of these iconic marker and share an example from concept to completed sign.
- **April 20: Saving Places: The Story of the Julia & Ulysses S. Grant House** Tobi Voigt, Director of Museums at Michigan History Center, will talk about the move and rehabilitation of the Detroit home.
- **May 11: Michigan Barn Preservation Network** Learn how MBPN preserves, promotes, and advocates for the historic barns across Michigan and enjoy a virtual tour across the state.

Village Crafting Circle

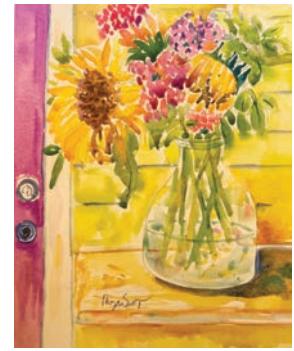
Select Sundays & 10am-2pm

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.

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, March 11, 4:30pm – 6:30pm**
Ford House Rose
- **Tuesday, March 31, 5:30pm – 7:30pm**
Watercolor Basics for Beginners
- **Wednesday, April 8, 4:30pm – 6:30pm**
Northern Michigan Dragonfly
- **Tuesday, April 28, 5:30pm – 7:30pm**
Surprise Green Heron
- **Tuesday, May 12, 5:30pm – 7:30pm**
Lilacs in Painted Vase
- **Wednesday, May 20, 4:30pm – 6:30pm**
Bouquet at Purple Door

Blacksmithing Classes

Learn the art of blacksmithing in our historic Wagon Shop!!



Blacksmithing Sampler

Saturday, March 28
10-11:30am

THS Member: \$48 | Non-member: \$58

Step alongside the Village forge and discover what it's like to “make the anvil ring!” Learn 4 basic hand forging techniques while making your own square tapered nail as it was done centuries ago. Ages 10 & older. No prerequisite.

Basic Blacksmithing Level 1

Choose from: Thursdays March 26-April 30, 6:30-9pm

OR Saturdays April 11-May 16, 10am-12:30pm

THS Member: \$310 | Non-member: \$360

During this six-week introductory course focusing on the fundamental processes of traditional blacksmithing, you will learn 12 basic hand-forging techniques as you make your own trowel. Learn how to properly swing a hammer, operate a coal forge, and pump a centuries-old bellows. Ages 12 & older. No prerequisite.

Classes for Basic Blacksmithing Levels 2-4 are forming now! Visit TroyHistoricVillage.org to add your name to the scheduling list.

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 MI 48098

60 W. Wattles Road

Troy Historical Society

Troy Historic Village