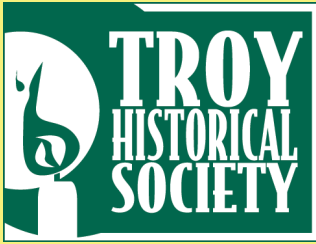




*Caswell House sitting at its original location on the east side of Adams Road just north of Big Beaver Road.*

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JoAnn Preston

Cindy Stewart

### Ex Officio

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

## Thank you, Troy 100 Women Who Care!

Troy Women Who Care (TWWC) is a group of local women who pool their financial resources to support various projects through a one-time donation. Board Trustee, JoAnn Preston, presented the Village's Indigenous Voices program to the TWWC this past spring. She shared how impactful this program has been to 5th grade students, and how the 2024 federal grant that kept the costs low for students to attend is no longer available due to federal budget cuts. In response to JoAnn's presentation, the TWWC selected our Indigenous Voices program to be the recipient of a \$3,800 donation! We are grateful for these women who are dedicated to supporting our community and for the financial support that will help make the 2025 program happen.

## America250MI Grant Supports our Local Project

This year is Troy's 70th birthday, but next summer the nation will be celebrating the United States' 250th birthday! As part of the semiquincentennial celebration, the Troy Historic Village has been awarded a \$12,513 grant for the **Telling Troy's Story** project which will involve research into why people moved to Troy, from our earliest pioneers to more recent migrants, and to record and share those stories. An important part of this project will be collecting the stories of Troy's diverse population because this is an area underrepresented in our historical records and archives. Next spring we will work with Troy schools by sharing the stories we've researched and inviting students to collect and share their own family histories. Start thinking about why your family chose Troy and get ready to share your story!

## Congratulations Ava!

Local Troy Girl Scout, Ava Bunao, recently earned a Gold Award and was named Young Woman of Distinction Runner Up—two of the highest honors a Girl Scout can achieve! For her Gold Award project, On the Spot Community First-Aid Awareness for Outdoor Recreation, Ava sought to provide people with basic first aid supplies while out and out in the community. Ava met with Village staff to better understand our facilities and others across the city, and to find practical ways to fill this need. Ava worked with a team to raise funds, presented at local schools, and worked with students to make and distribute more than 700 kits to recreation areas including the Village! For her work, Ava was selected as the sole recipient of the GSSEM-GSUSA National Scholarship, and even though she didn't have to, she acknowledges the Village staff in the development of her project. Way to go Ava!



## Want to support our capital projects?

One of the ways you can support our capital projects, like the Log Cabin move, is through your yearly qualified charitable distribution. For more information on how to donate, contact us [info@thvmail.org](mailto:info@thvmail.org).



# Executive Director...

Jen Peters

## The Village West End Expansion Project

We are thrilled to announce that the Troy Historical Society and Troy Historic Village are one of twenty recipients of a Community Museum Grant from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development! This \$399,770 capital grant will enable us to complete 11 Master Plan projects as part of the West End Expansion Project with a focus on moving the Log Cabin and expanding the Village fence line and programming spaces.

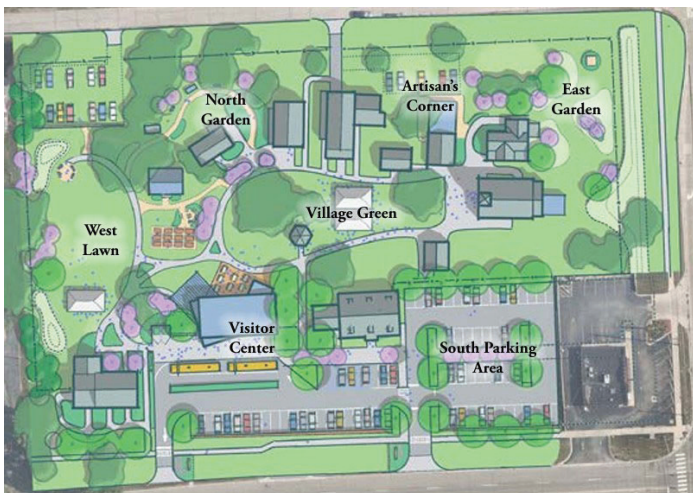
In 2022, we worked with the City, Staff, and key stakeholders to develop a new Troy Historic Village Master Plan. The mission of this new plan is to better utilize our space and create new programming opportunities. The Master Plan is composed of projects, including moving the Log Cabin, in simply a rough sketch to be further developed as the funding becomes available. I'll be honest, I was excited and doubtful as we put this plan together as I had no idea if or when we could fund any of it.

Last summer, a keen donor asked how much it would cost to move the Log Cabin. They had studied the Master Plan and felt that moving the Log Cabin

was the first step to making our plan a reality, and they were prepared to make a substantial donation towards it. The donor funded a feasibility study which concluded it would cost roughly \$250,000 to move the Log Cabin. We decided that even with their monetary commitment we had to say, "not yet."

A few months later, the State of Michigan announced they were offering grants of up to \$1 million dollars to museums! With a Master Plan on hand, feasibility study already complete, a donor commitment, and the City's support, our staff packaged together moving the Log Cabin with 10 other Master Plan projects into the "West End Expansion Project." We wrote a grant proposal highlighting all the ways we were ready and prepared to take on this expansion, and we are thrilled the State of Michigan agreed!

We are currently working with the City of Troy on the engineering and specifications for the Log Cabin move, which is the biggest piece of the project. We already have a committed donation of \$40,000, but we will need to raise an additional \$30,000 specifically for the other capital projects in the grant. The remaining project funds will come from other grants, foundations, and the City. In the next few months, I'll be reaching out to see if you can donate above and beyond your normal support. And don't worry about being too generous, any leftover funds will roll into our next Master Plan project! We are very excited to see the Village change and grow and we hope you are excited to be a part of it, too!



### Address:

60 W. Wattles Rd.  
Troy, MI 48098

### Phone:

248-524-3570

### Website:

[www.troyhistoricvillage.org](http://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)

### Fall Hours:

Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm

Select Saturdays & Sundays  
for special events and rentals

Closed: Sept 1, Nov 27-28

### 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](http://TroyHistoricVillage.org/About/Accessibility) for details about accessibility at our site.



# Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death

by Alex Konieczny, Troy Historic Village Youth Programs Director

Why Troy? It's a theme we have been thinking about lately, and plan to explore as part of America250MI Grant attached to the United States' 250th anniversary. What brings people here? What are the stories, twists, and turns that lead people to leave where they were and come to Troy? Many people move to Troy today for good schools, safe neighborhoods, and the cultural communities that are present here, but what about our earliest settlers? What about people like the Caswell family? Why would a family leave the relative comfort and civilization of New York to come to the frontier that was, at the time, the Northwest Territory? The answer may be a volcanic eruption on the other side of the world and a year with no summer.



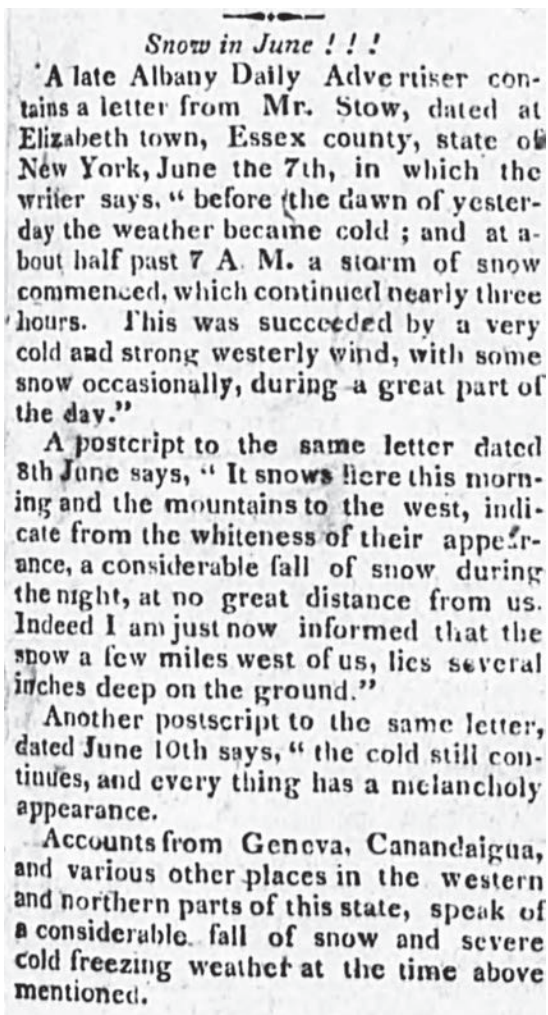
*"Winter in the Country" (Currier and Ives, 1863)*

We do not know exactly what brought Solomon and his family out of New York and into Ohio, where he lived before moving to Michigan. In his memoir, Solomon merely states that his stepfather "exchanged his farm in [New York] for one in Ohio about six miles Southwest of Cleveland." What may be telling though, is the year – 1817. The previous year, 1816, had been a very difficult year for most of the world. Unseasonably cold weather throughout the summer months resulted in crop failure, food shortages, and significant societal and economic strife, and 1816 was later labeled the "Year Without a Summer." In the United States, the following years saw a large-scale migration out of the Northeastern United States and into the Northwest Territory, mostly composed of people looking for better farming opportunities or escaping their debts. Solomon and his family could very well have been a part of that migration.



*Mount Tambora in Indonesia  
(Iwan Setiawan/KOMPAS via Associate Press)*

The Year Without a Summer, sometimes labeled in the period as "Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death," is considered by most scientists to be the result of the massive volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora in modern day Indonesia. The eruption is the largest in over 1,300 years, even larger than the infamous eruption of Mount Vesuvius that buried Pompeii and Herculaneum. Ash and debris were thrown into the air and spread around the world, reducing sunlight and cooling the earth. In the Northeast United States, the cooling resulted in widespread frosts from May through August of 1816, as well as frozen ground and snow in June. Some reports reference 12-inch-long icicles in June, and a diary entry from Massachusetts that year describes it as "weather backward." Connecticut Clockmaker Chauncey Jerome wrote in his autobiography



*Article from the Poughkeepsie Journal describing account of snow through New York (June 26, 1816).*

heard of inexpensive land and the improved description of the territory and its possibilities, got married in 1820 and left Ohio behind to head to Michigan with his new wife Hulda.

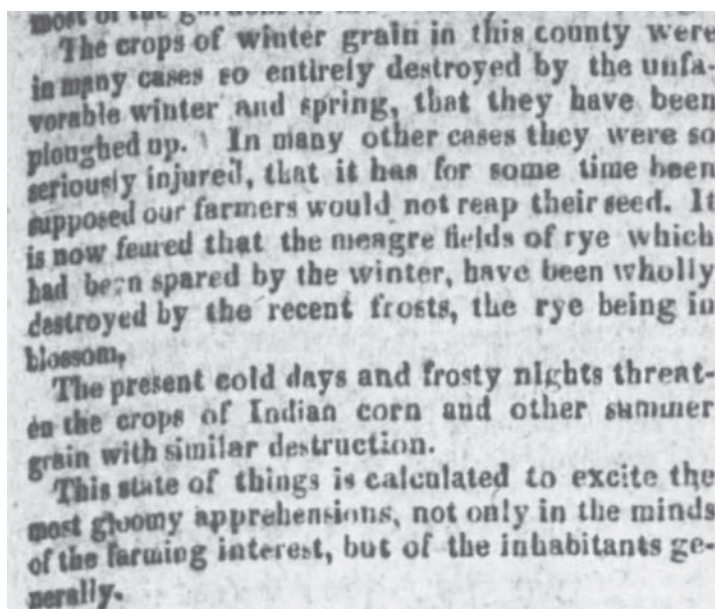
While we cannot confirm if Solomon moved because of the Year Without a Summer, the timing is uncanny. And while we cannot ask Solomon for an answer, we will be asking the Troy community next year to share why they moved here. So, start thinking about your answer! Share your story with your family so that your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, can preserve that part of their family history.

that he walked to work on June 6 wearing heavy woolen clothes, an overcoat, and mittens.

The cold and lack of sunlight proved disastrous for New England farmers. Many crops barely ripened, with only a small fraction fit for harvest. Corn was hit hard – a crop on which the poorest families relied heavily. It is difficult to determine a death toll in the United States attributable to the cold and starvation, but certainly well into the thousands. Europe in particular suffered heavily; the recent Napoleonic Wars had created their own strife, and food shortages caused by the Year with No Summer (as well as the related outbreaks of disease) exacerbated the already poor conditions.

Following the Year Without a Summer, many farmers started looking for better prospects. States like Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois saw population booms as people began moving west looking for warmer climates and new opportunities. Samuel Griswold Goodrich, a Connecticut author and publisher, wrote “Ohio—with its rich soil, its mild climate, its inviting prairies—was opened fully upon the alarmed and anxious vision. As was natural under the circumstances, a sort of stampede took place from cold, desolate, worn-out New England to this land of promise.” Some described this “stampede” as “Ohio Fever.”

Michigan largely missed out on this wave of immigration due to the recent land survey by Edward Tiffin, who described the land of Michigan as unfit for settlement or farming. Possibly due to this fact, the Caswell family landed in Ohio. It was not until Lewis Cass ordered a new survey a few years later that Michigan was redeemed in the eyes of prospective pioneers. Solomon, having



*The Evening Post article describing summer crop failures (June 13, 1816).*



# Death to Square Pianos

by *Shelby Nelsen, Troy Historic Village Adult Programs Director*

The large piano sitting in the parlor of Caswell House makes quite the statement. While it is easy to marvel at its beauty, the piano's history is quite elusive. The Caswell House was built in 1832 by pioneer Solomon Caswell and the piano itself was manufactured in 1864 by Steinway & Sons. According to the piano's tune log written inside to the top of the piano, it was first tuned in 1872. There are no records of when or where the piano was purchased by the Caswell family, but it can be assumed that it was sometime between the manufacture date and the first recorded tune. Archival records indicate that the piano was moved to Troy Historic Village inside the Caswell House when the building was moved to its current location in 1968. Therefore, since the piano made its way inside the home, it has never left.



*1864 Steinway & Sons square piano on display in the parlor of Caswell House.*

Its age is only one factor that makes the piano unique, if not rare. Its general shape and function are similar to that of all square pianos. Square pianos, also called square grand pianos or box pianos, evolved from the clavichord with a more robust sound but similar mechanics. They were also a more compact and less expensive alternative to grand pianos beginning in 1760. As time went on, square pianos grew slightly in size to accommodate more keys thus providing a greater range of music to play and by the Victorian Era, the pianos became extremely ornate. The 1864 square piano in Caswell House is an excellent example of the Rococo Victorian Style carved out of Brazilian Rosewood. With 88 keys, the Caswell piano was one of the largest square pianos at the time and could have cost anywhere between \$400 to \$800.



*Faint handwritten tune log inside the 1864 Steinway & Sons square piano over its serial number "9177."*

Square pianos were very popular in the 18th and 19th Centuries; however, their reign came to a rather gruesome end. The pianos were only produced in the United States from 1850s to the 1890s. Those that had the space opted for a regular grand piano as they have an overall richer and more robust sound. Upright pianos became the number one choice for those looking for an affordable piano at the end of the 19th Century and they could be put into even smaller space than a square piano. But those that had square pianos seldom acquired another style of piano or exchanged them and that posed a problem to American piano dealers.

In the spring of 1904, the National Association of Piano Dealers of America staged a spectacle during their annual conference to demonstrate the inferiority of square pianos to that of traditional grand pianos and the new modern upright pianos. This inferiority was grounded on the mechanical aspect of the square piano versus grand and upright pianos. Tuners found square pianos uncomfortable to tune as they had to stretch across the piano from the keys to the tuning pins located in the rear. Pianists claimed that the keys of the square pianos were not smooth and equally distributed, with lower keys feeling heavier than the higher pitched keys. Though it appears that the aesthetic of the square pianos is what led to their demise. The once petite piano took up as much space as a grand piano by the end of the 1900s.

Mechanical and design factors aside, American piano dealers were having hard time selling new upright pianos because everyone already had a square piano. Their solution was to set fire to all the square pianos they could find. On May 24, 1904, during the National Association of Piano Dealers of America Annual Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, a celebration was held with 200 or more square pianos stacked in a large pile and ceremonially burned. No photos appear to have survived, if any were taken, but the event made international news appearing in newspapers from London and Australia. Just days after the piano pyre, the Atlantic City Sunday Press wrote documented the event:

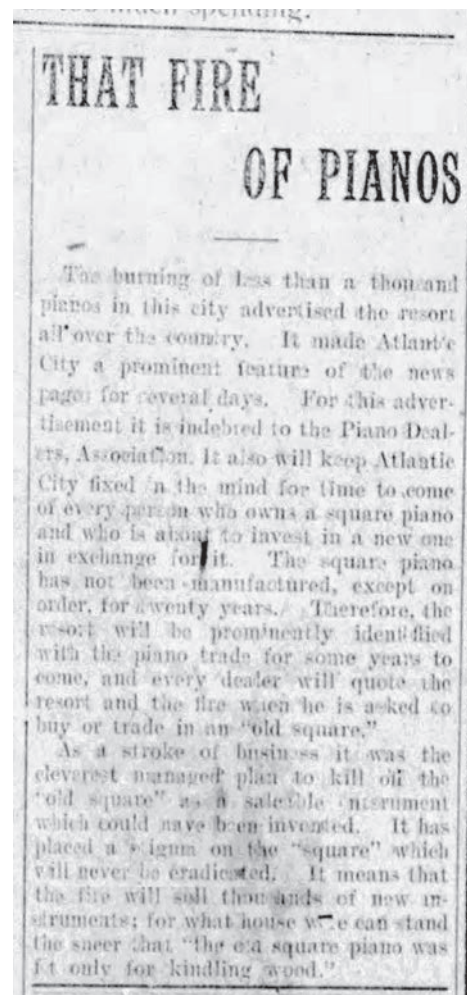
“As a stroke of business it was the cleverest managed plan to kill off the ‘old square’ as a saleable instrument which could have been invented. It has placed a stigma on the ‘square’ which will never be eradicated. It means that the fire will sell thousands of new instruments: for what house wife[?] can stand the sneer that ‘the old square piano was fit only kindling wood.’”

And the piano burning stunt seems to have eradicated square pianos from people's home with those that remain in the collection of museums. For the next decade some piano dealers would allow people to trade in the square pianos repairs and tuning costs began increasing. In 1913, you could buy a square piano in Michigan for as little as \$2, and by 1939, they were little more than a memory in poems.

Eventually, people either repurposed the wood to make other furniture or to fuel their fireplaces. Piano manufacturers disassembled what square pianos they could get their hands on and repurposed their parts. Today square pianos are a rarity, and most are in a state of disrepair, including the one in Caswell House. Once restored, the pianos

sell for upwards of \$60,000 because of the time, skill, and unique parts that are required to make them sing again.

Though it is woefully out of tune, many keys on the square piano in Caswell House do work. Those interested in hearing how a square piano sounds should go to YouTube and search “Square Grand Pianos” by TheAntiquePianoShop. And who knows, maybe we will see the square pianos comeback into fashion again.



*Atlantic City Sunday Press article published on May 29, 1904.*



*Woman playing the square piano inside Caswell House in 1972 after it was moved the Village.*



# Fine Hair Makes Fine Art

*by Alex Konieczny, Troy Historic Village Youth Programs Director*

Those of you who have visited the Village over the last year may have noticed that we have been taking a fresh look at some of our spaces and breathing some new life into them. We refinished the floors and desks in Poppleton School last summer, the Parsonage jumped forward into the 1920s, and now we have turned our attention to Caswell House. We have long felt that Caswell House has been lacking in terms of art and other decorations. One of the artifacts coming out of storage to adorn a parlor wall aims to fix that: a hair wreath.

The Victorians were a peculiar people and often had more than a passing interest in death and mourning. Many readers have probably encountered the habit of wearing black mourning clothing, but may be less familiar with jewelry featuring skull motifs, picnics in the cemetery, seances, and indeed, hair art. While not new during the Victorian Era, hair art enjoyed the height of its popularity during that time, probably in part due to its connection to mourning and memorials. Queen Victoria was also quite fond of it and her influence on culture was considerable, even in the United States.

Hair art is just what it sounds like: artistically woven or braided human hair.

Hair was formed into lockets, earrings, bracelets, or rings. Men often had their wife's hair woven into a watch chain, and for the truly enterprising, hair was braided into elaborate wreaths. Hair was also woven and set into more traditional jewelry pieces like belt buckles and brooches. In brief, the process involves attaching "strands" of hairs (anywhere from 12 to 80 hairs forms a strand) to bobbins and hanging them from a point in the center of a braiding table. One then manipulates strands over and under each other to form patterns similar to making lace by hand. Hair may also be woven and braided with wire and then formed into shapes, as is often seen on wreaths.



*Margaret Glinz Rausch's hair wreath in the collection of the Troy Historic Village. The interior of the case is approximately 23 inches by 26 inches which demonstrates the large size of the hair wreath.*



*Snake hair bracelet circa 1840-60 (courtesy of Platt Hall, Manchester Art Gallery).*



*Brooch consisting of a wide crescent-shaped piece made of woven brown hair capped at the ends with gold. Within the crescent are three balls of woven hair; hanging below it are three teardrop-shaped pendants of woven brown hair, accented with gold hardware (courtesy of Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum).*



Hair taken from a loved one – living or dead – was often used for sentimental pieces of jewelry, as a way to carry them with you or keep them in your thoughts. However, this was not always the case, as it was fashionable to make and wear hair art pieces without any such connection. Sentimental pieces could be made in the home as a hobby, but it was also common practice to send away a loved one's hair to be made into jewelry of your choosing. A *Sears and Roebuck Catalogue* from 1902 offered such a service and less sentimental pieces were also commercially available.

The hair wreath in our collection came to us as a donation in the early 1970s. Amelia Rausch Cline donated the wreath along with a collection of other family artifacts. In an interview at the time, she shared it was made by her grandmother, Margaret Glinz Rausch, around the 1860s in Canada. Some quick digging by our Curator suggests it was probably more like the 1880s or later since Margaret was born in 1858. Regardless of the year, this is a particularly well-made hair wreath. The pattern is complex, the delicate flowers and leaves are even and neatly formed, and it's in remarkably good condition. These are sometimes made over the course of many years with new elements added to represent different family members, but it's impossible to say if that is the case with our hair wreath.

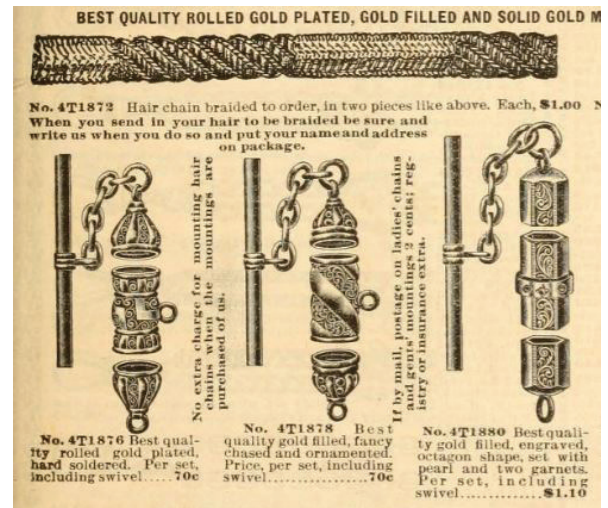
Where did all this hair come from? Surely, people weren't shaving their heads for the purpose. On a small scale, it was a common practice for a woman to keep a container for hair that came out while brushing and certainly cut hair could be saved for the purpose as well. For those who pursued hair art as a hobby or business though, greater quantities were required. Hair jewelry was so popular that hair was imported into the United States from Europe.



In his 1867 book on the subject, *Art of Hair Work; Dressing Hair, Making Curls, Switches, Braids, Hair Jewelry of Every Description*, Mark Campbell details the quantity of imported hair in 1860 as being nearly 200,000 pounds, a total value of nearly \$1,000,000 at the time. While he doesn't specify, this probably includes hair for the purposes of wigs. Campbell also writes that the best hair is "that which is obtained in France and Italy...being of a much finer texture, even color, and of a glossier appearance than that from other countries." The price of hair could range from \$15- \$200 per pound making the practice quite an investment.

Hair art has been practiced throughout history and all over the world, but its popularity waned around the 1920s though it has not disappeared entirely. There are still people who practice the craft today, some even offering classes to those who are interested. If you are really interested (and happen to be in Missouri) Leila's Hair Museum boasts a collection of over 600 hair wreaths and 2,000 pieces of jewelry.

*Image of a man working at a braiding table (from "Art of Hair Work; etc." by Mark Campbell, 1867).*



*Clipping of a Sears and Roebuck Catalogue from 1902, featuring an advertisement for custom-made hair art watch chains (courtesy of Archive.org).*



# Changes Coming to Caswell House

by Elizabeth Thornburg, Troy Historic Village Curator



*Visitors will be able to enter the formal parlor to experience the space that was the center of the social and entertaining heart of the home.*



*Documents and books will be placed on Solomon Caswell's desk giving the feeling that he has just stepped away from his business.*

Exciting updates are happening around the Village! Caswell House is getting refreshed to look as it may have in 1865. The walls are already freshly painted, and we have selected new pictures to hang. Little touches of everyday life will be introduced to better illustrate the Caswell family's story. Ground floor spaces will be made more accessible and immersive to the public as we rearrange furniture in the kitchen, keeping room, and parlor. Though the upper floor of the Caswell House is still closed to the public, virtual tours of the upper floor will be made available in the future thanks to the generous donors of our 2025 Spring Appeal and the Allison Family Foundation.

By 1865 Solomon Caswell and his family were long established in Troy Township, and they had lived in the home for about 30 years. Solomon's youngest son, George, and his stepdaughter, Hannah, were probably the only children still living at home during that time. Due to Solomon's success in his various business adventures, Solomon and Malinda were able to afford finer things, including their square piano and employing a housekeeper.



*New furnishings will bring Caswell House to life, including houseplants and decorations such as this framed sampler displaying the needlework skills of nine-year-old Mary Ann Cook.*



# SEPTEMBER 2025

- Sept 1 **Village CLOSED**  
 Sept 3 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am  
 Sept 4-Oct 9 **Basic Blacksmithing Level 1 (Thursdays)**  
 6:30pm-9:00pm  
 Sept 9 **Yoga & Wine Night** 6:00pm  
 Sept 10 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm  
 Sept 13 **Free Fall Open House & Adoption Day**  
 10:00am-3:00pm  
 Sept 14 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm  
 Sept 17 **Village Open Late** 10:00am-7:00pm  
 Sept 18 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm  
 Sept 20 **Snapshot Saturdays** 10:00am-4:00pm  
 Sept 22 **Preservation Conversations** 2:00pm  
 Sept 23 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm  
 Sept 25 **Fire & Flannel with Troy Chamber of Commerce** 4:00pm-6:30pm  
 Sept 27 **Handcrafted: A Traditional Trades and Crafts Fair** 10:00am-5:00pm  
 Sept 27 **Adult-Child Blacksmithing: Ice Cream Spade**  
 10:00am-1:00pm

# NOVEMBER 2025

- Nov 5 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am  
 Nov 5 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm  
 Nov 8 **The Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald: A Dramatic Retelling (Troy Community Center)** 4:00pm  
 Nov 9 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm  
 Nov 10 **Preservation Conversations** 2:00pm  
 Nov 11 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm  
 Nov 15 **Adult-Child Blacksmithing: Ice Cream Spade**  
 10:00am-1:00pm  
 Nov 18 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm  
 Nov 19 **Village Open Late** 10:00am-7:00pm  
 Nov 20 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm  
 Nov 27 **Village CLOSED**  
 Nov 28 **Village CLOSED**

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

# OCTOBER 2025

- Oct 1-31 **Visit Scarecrow Row**  
 Oct 1 **Village Open Late** 10:00am-7:00pm  
 Oct 3 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am  
 Oct 4 **Snapshot Saturdays** 10:00am-4:00pm  
 Oct 7 **Members-Only Meetup** 5:00pm-6:30pm  
 Oct 11 **Odd Deaths & Unique Markers Cemetery Tour**  
 10:00am-11:30am & 1:00pm-2:30pm  
 Oct 12 **Constitution Café** 2:00pm  
 Oct 15 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm  
 Oct 18 **Blacksmithing Sampler** 10:00am-11:30am  
 Oct 22-Nov 26 **Basic Blacksmithing Level 1 (Wednesdays)** 6:30pm-9:00pm  
 Oct 23 **Thursday Teas** 2:00pm  
 Oct 24 **Trick-or-Treat: Out of this World!**  
 4:00pm-8:00pm  
 Oct 25 **Trick-or-Treat: Out of this World!**  
 10:00am-1:00pm  
 Oct 27 **Preservation Conversations** 2:00pm

## Join Our Volunteer Team!

Use your skills (or learn new ones), make new friends, share your love of history and community, and have fun! Whether you have a little or a lot of free time, there are plenty of ways to get involved. Visit [www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/Volunteer](http://www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/Volunteer) or email [Volunteer@THVmail.org](mailto:Volunteer@THVmail.org) to find out more!



## FIRE & FLANNEL

Join the Troy Chamber & Troy Historic Village for an evening of live music entertainment, whiskey tastings, networking, s'mores, yard games, a blacksmith station, & more!

**Sept. 25th | 4-6:30 PM**



# FALL KIDS & FAMILY PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE

## Trick-or-Treat: Out of this World!

Friday October 24,  
4pm – 8pm & Saturday  
October 25, 10am – 1pm

In advance:

THS Members: \$5;

Non-Members: \$9

At the door:

THS Members: \$7;

Non-Members \$10

All Children Under 2 Years

Old: FREE

Trick or Treating at Troy Historic Village is out of this world! Enjoy space-themed games and activities as your family explores the Village. Fill your bag with candy and trinkets including teal pumpkin options at each stop. As always, trick-or-treating at the Village is friendly, not scary. Register in advance at [www.TroyHistoricVillage.org](http://www.TroyHistoricVillage.org) for reduced admission. Families can expect to spend 1-2 hours at Troy Historic Village playing games, doing activities, making a craft, collecting candy and other treats, and making memories! *Sponsored by Genisys Credit Union.*



## Village Open Late

September 17,  
October 1, &  
November 19 | 4pm-  
7pm | Included with  
General Admission

The Village will be Open Late, and the Villagers will be at work! History Interpreters will tend to chores around the cabin and working on seasonal activities. 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. Rent an immersive game for your family or group of friends including a private Escape Room, Village Clue, or The Michigan Trail. Price per game is in addition to General Admission.



## Free Fall Open House & Adoption Day

Saturday September 13

10am-3pm | All Ages | FREE

Enjoy 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 Fall. A local animal rescue will be outside the Main Building with animals available for adoption! Find yourself a new furry friend or bring a donation for rescue! Check our website to see what supplies they need.

## Snapshot Saturdays

September 20 & October 4 | Slots available 10am-4pm

Price Varies

Get your portrait taken on the picturesque grounds of Troy Historic Village! Book a family, engagement, or other type of photo session with photographer Philippe Cicchini, owner of VozzaPhoto and Troy resident. Visit our website for more information, rates, and registration.







## 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.



- Wednesday September 3: Making New Friends**

This month's book: *The Magic Friend Maker* by Gladys Baker Bond

Come see our annual Cheddar Puppet Show! We will also be decorating paper dolls, working with Play-Doh, doing a giant puzzle, playing with rocks and water, and other fun hands-on activities. Children will take home friendship bracelets.

- Friday October 3: Changing Leaves**

This month's book: *Fall Leaves Fall* by Zoe Hall

We will sort leaves, play a tic tac toe game with fruits or vegetables, practices sewing on fall-themed sewing cards, and decorate fall cookies for our craft. Our snack will be apple slices and decorated cookies. Make sure you wear clothes that have leaves on them or dress in Fall colors of brown, orange, yellow or red or dark purple!

- Wednesday November 5: Squirrels and Nuts**

This month's book: *One More Acorn* by Don Freeman

We will do a lacing acorn craft, play a squirrely spot the difference game, and do some acorn math. Kids will get to crack open different shells and find and compare the nuts inside and do other fun Fall activities inside or outside depending on the weather.

## Scouts and Homeschools

The Village offers great programs for Scouts, Homeschools, and other small groups. Book a program to work on badges, get some hands-on help with curriculum, or just have a fun outing together. Check our website to see the current offerings and to book a program. Programs can be scheduled outside of our typical open hours, including weekends and evenings. Email [YPD@THVmail.org](mailto:YPD@THVmail.org) for more information.

## Adult-Child Blacksmithing: Ice Cream Spade

Choose Between:

- Saturday September 27, 10am-1pm
- OR Saturday November 15, 10am-1pm

THS Member: \$185/pair | Non-member: \$220/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 10-minute break in this 3-hour class. Child partner must be age 10 or older. No prerequisite.



## Scarecrow Row

This October, stroll along Wattles and Livernois to see the creative 'crows made by talented Village volunteers and staff from local businesses. The scarecrows are outside the fence, so you can visit them for free any time – even if the Village is closed!



## 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.

- **September 18: Hands to Work and Hearts to God: The Shaker Movement in the United States**

Who were the Shakers, where did they go, and what's the deal with their furniture? THV Youth Programs Director, Alex, will dive into the history, beliefs, values, and work of the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Coming.

- **October 23: Edmund Fitzgerald Investigations**

The mighty Edmund Fitzgerald is the Great Lakes largest shipwreck, resting in two major pieces on the bottom of Lake Superior just over the Canadian border. It was lost in a killer storm in 1975, and its entire crew simply vanished into the waves. Shipwreck Historian Ric Mixer is one of only a handful of people who have visited the wreck personally.

- **November 20: Buckskins and Broadcloth: Men's fashion in territorial Michigan**

Presented by the National Park Service, join Joseph Dowd from River Raisin National Battlefield Park to learn how territorial Michigan's inhabitants developed a style of fashion seen nowhere else from the toques of French voyagers, the beadwork of the Anishinaabe and Wyandot tribes, and the dandyism of the Regency period.

## 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.

- **September 14: Failed Amendment: A Maximum Limit on Individual Net Worth** Should the existence of Billionaires be Unconstitutional?

- **October 12: Failed Amendment: A Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Marriage** Should the States Ban Divorce?

- **November 9: Failed Amendment: A Balanced Budget Amendment** Should we make budget deficits Unconstitutional?



## 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.

- **September 22: Preserving Michigan's Underwater Sites** State Maritime Archaeologist, Wayne R. Lusardi, will share how the Department of Natural Resources works with the State Historic Preservation Office to preserve Michigan's shipwrecks and other underwater resources.
- **October 27: Troy's Oldest Homes** Take a virtual tour across the City and learn about the hidden gems in your neighborhood. EMU student Jennifer Lipsmeier Guy will share her research on local homes that will be 100 years or older as we look at how we might celebrate Troy's history next summer!
- **November 10: Michigan Barn Preservation Network** Learn how MBPN preserves, promotes, and advocates for the historic barns across Michigan. Lead by Maricia Danner and Tammis Donaldson you'll enjoy this virtual tour across the state.

## Yoga & Wine Night

Tuesday September 9, 6pm

THS Member: \$18 | Non-Member: \$20 | Ages 21 & older

Join us for an outdoor yoga class led by Explore Yoga studio, followed by a glass of wine or sparkling cider, light appetizers, and a chance to mingle while touring the Village. Bring your mat and register in advance as space is limited.



## Members-Only Meetup: Nooks & Crannies of Caswell House

Tuesday October 7

5 pm-6:30 pm | FREE

for THS Members

Go behind the scenes to see how staff

used artifacts and stories to further interpret Caswell House. Learn why we chose to stage the house to look as it might have in the 1860s. Not a member? Join today! Visit [www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/Support/Membership](http://www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/Support/Membership) for details.





## Odd Deaths & Unique Markers Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 11 | 10-11:30 am OR 1-2:30 pm

THS Member: \$7 | Non-member: \$10

Learn some fascinating underground histories at Troy's oldest public cemetery. Come explore a few odd demises, including pals in life and death, a murder on the farm, and other tantalizing tales. We'll also visit some of Troy's unique grave markers. This rain or shine tour lasts about 90 minutes, requires some standing and walking over uneven ground.



## The Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald: A Dramatic Retelling



Saturday November 8, 4pm | \$10 per Person

Recommended for ages 12 & older

On November 10, 1975, the freighter S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald was caught in a terrible storm and sank in Lake Superior. Twenty-nine men perished. Join us as we revisit this tragedy using narration, dramatic reading, and sound effects. This program takes place at Troy Community Center and includes light refreshments.

## Handcrafted: A Traditional Trades and Crafts Fair

Saturday September 27,  
10 am - 5pm

Included with General Admission

Explore Troy Historic Village and experience craftspeople at work. The Village will host people keeping alive traditional trades like blacksmithing, leatherworking, fiber arts, and woodworking, as well as crafts with a more modern twist. Visit with craftspeople as they practice their trades and watch the magic happen! Craftspeople may have items to sell, but the emphasis for Handcrafted is on display, demonstration, and interaction. Know someone who is interested in participating in the show? Email [APD@THVmail.org](mailto:APD@THVmail.org) to learn more (there is no vendor fee).



## Watercolor Classes

Select Days & Times

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 step-by-step. No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided.



- **Wednesday, September 10, 5:30pm – 7:30 pm**

Watercolor Basics for Beginners

- **Tuesday, September 23, 4:30 pm – 6:30pm**

Bird & Bloom

- **Wednesday, October 15, 5:30pm – 7:30 pm**

Historic Home in Autumn

- **Wednesday, November 5, 5:30pm – 7:30 pm**

Vintage Fishing Bobbers

- **Tuesday, November 11, 4:30 pm – 6:30pm**

African Violet Afternoon

- **Tuesday, November 18, 4:30 pm – 6:30pm**

Mackinac Island Cosmos

## Blacksmithing Classes

Learn the art of blacksmithing in our historic Wagon Shop!

### Blacksmithing Sampler

Saturday October 18 | 10-11:30 am

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 12 & older. No prerequisite.

### Basic Blacksmithing Level 1

Choose Between:

- *Thursdays, September 4-October 9, 6:30-9 pm*
- *OR Wednesdays, October 22-November 26, 6:30-9pm*

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](http://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](http://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

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