



Fife Lake Area Historical Society

1967 - 2017

A brief history.....

The Fife Lake Historical Society was formed in 1967. Prior to that, a group of the area's citizens were working together to establish a museum depicting the earliest history, and to collect any materials that may help to illustrate the history of the area.

Among this first group was a native of the Fife Lake area, Fel Brunett, a University of Michigan graduate, who had a vast knowledge of this area. Others included Ken and Helen Hansen, Helene McTaggart, Ken and Agatha Steele, Ray and Vera Diebert, and Elmer and Dorothy Hertweck. Soon many others would join, giving their time and talents.

On November 4, 1966, Fel Brunett had information for the museum group that they could get some display cases from the University of Michigan for about \$50.00. The group agreed that the Fife Lake Woman's Club would purchase them. Those same cases survived the building collapse due to the heavy snows in 1977, along with the many items and artifacts within them.

On February 9, 1967, the museum committee met for the purpose of organizing the Fife Lake Historical Society. Vera Diebert would present this idea to the Fife Lake Woman's Club. They decided by unanimous vote to sponsor the Fife Lake Historical Society.

Thirty-three members were enrolled at the first regular meeting of the Fife Lake Historical Society, which was held April 7, 1967 at the Fife Lake School.

Officers elected that evening were President Fel Brunett: Vice President Elmer Hertweck: Secretary Charlotte Birgy; Treasurer Ray Diebert; Directors Helen Hansen, Nina Brower, and Vera Diebert.

The Historical Society continues to grow, and now includes the Old School House across from the Museum, and in 2008 the Old Fire Hall was leased from the Village of Fife Lake. We are, indeed, fortunate to have a caring community to carry on the appreciation of our American heritage and history of the Fife Lake area.

By, Marie Voice



Museum



Fire Barn



Old School House

Past Presidents

Noel Wilson	Ken Hansen
Helen Hansen	Ken Steele
Dick Frankel	Bill Stanley
Fel Brunett	Craig Bridson
Pat Gibson	Mildred Baker

Current Officers

President: Mildred Baker
Vice President: Linda Forwerck
Treasurer: Linda Bridson
Secretary: Pam Wentzel
Curator: Craig Bridson

Trustees

Noreen Broering	Brandon Deike
Joyce Freiwald	Kenny Kosla
Rodd Larr	Marie Voice

Historic Walk

Step back in time with the Fife Lake Historic Walk. Enjoy 27 display plaques throughout the town depicting businesses, homes, and historic sites as they were during the last quarter of the 19th century and 1st quarter of the 20th century. Each plaque includes a historic photo and brief description of each location explaining the wonderful and authentic nature of Fife Lake. Brochures can be picked up at the Museum, Library, and Fife Lake Hardware.

School Program

Local fourth graders are invited each year to experience an 1800 one room school house. Museum volunteers give a short lesson completing the effect of an 1800 classroom environment. The students are also given a tour of the Museum and the Fire Barn.

Membership Information

One year membership fee:
\$10.00 individual \$12.50 couple \$15.00 family
\$250.00 lifetime

The Historical Society always accepts donations in kind for operation expenses and welcomes volunteers. (All donations are tax deductible)

Buffalo BBQ

To the Bridson Family, 4th of July means Buffalo BBQ. Beginning in 1967, this event has become a long held tradition thanks to Keith and Linda Bridson. The Bridson's son, Craig, was raising buffalo and the idea for a fundraiser was born. The event has become a holiday tradition which has gone from a buffalo BBQ sandwich and a drink, in the early days, to a full meal and music. The only thing that has not changed is the price which remains a \$5.00 donation to the Historical Society. This summer, Keith and Linda have passed the torch over to the next generation of family and friends for the legacy to continue.

Summer Program Series

The Historical Society is partnering with our local library to bring unique programs throughout the summer. Past programs have included: Colorizing Photos, Stories of the Mackinaw Bridge, Stories of the Great Lakes Shipwrecks, The Amelia Earhart Story, Michigan DNR Wildlife and many other interesting presentations. These special events are free to the public and held in the Fife Lake Library Community room.

Community Service Scholarship Program

The Historical Society offers an opportunity for Forest Area High School students to earn scholarships to further their education or training after high school. The students can earn a \$1,000.00 in return for community service with the Historical Society at the three venues; Museum, Fire Barn and School House. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about service, commitment, and the history of their community.

Fife Lake Area Historical Society

PO Box 305
Fife Lake, MI 49633
Museum, Schoolhouse, Fire Barn
Open Fri. and Sat.
1:00pm - 4:00pm
fifelakehistoricalsociety.com