



Manchester Area Historical Society

PO Box 56
Manchester, Michigan 48158

Meetings: 7:30 pm
Second Thursday each Month,
September through June
Village Room, 912 City Rd.



2007-2008 Officers

Carl Curtis, President
Jim Wilson,
First Vice-President
Jerry Swartout
Second Vice-President

Betty Cummings, Secretary
Sharon Curtis, Treasurer
Don Limpert, Imm.Past Pres.
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Doug Howell, Trustee
Howard Parr, Trustee

February, 2008

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February, 2008

M A N C H E S T E R

DECEMBER, 2007 MEETING, COOKIES AND CAROLS

Was it the proverbial "Good time that was had by all"? I think so, and from the smiles on faces I'm sure the other attendees thought so too. Twenty-eight MAHS members and friends gathered at the host home of Reno and Nancy Feldkamp to sing traditional Christmas Carols accompanied by Luther Schaible and his accordion.



Some of the smiling faces are shown above and our musical maestro, Luther Schaible, is at the right.



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December, 2007 meeting continued



Above and at right, more smiling faces and conversation before we start singing carols.



A high point of the evening was the four hands duet at the piano by Nancy Feldkamp and Doug Howell. Nancy and Doug's splendid rendition of "Jingle Bells" brought much applause and requests for an encore, which Nancy and Doug provided by playing Leroy Anderson's always popular song, "Sleigh Ride".

After singing the carols we all enjoyed some of the many varieties of Christmas cookies and a cup of the holiday punch or some coffee. There was lots of good conversation and, in the tradition of the event, MAHS members and guests put a contribution into a basket and selected a sampling of the cookies to take home. The contributions totaled \$105.00 and, as always, the proceeds were donated to Manchester Family Services.



Difficult choices, so many good cookies



Cookies and conversation

President's Message

When I heard the term "Barn Quilt" I was puzzled. I know what a quilt is, having slept under a few of them in my life, and I know there are many different patterns but I didn't think barns were standard patterns for quilts and I was positive no one was going to stitch something big enough to keep a barn warm nor was it likely that special quilts were made for those inclined to sleep in barns. Hmmmmm, barn quilts.

Barb Fuller, a Sharon township resident, explained it. Barn quilts are paintings of quilt blocks that are hung on barns as decorative pieces. The barn quilts also serve an educational purpose because passers by can see the quilt patterns. The idea started in Pennsylvania as a 4H project which presented 8 foot square quilt blocks and the idea is spreading out of Pennsylvania. The painted blocks need not be 8 foot square, but they should be large enough so they are easily seen and recognized as quilt blocks. Barb wants Washtenaw County to be a leader with barn quilts and she wants to get things moving in the Manchester area so the idea will hopefully spread throughout the entire county. In fact, there are four barn quilts near Manchester as of this writing.

a 5x5 block at 16500 Sharon Valley Road, west of Sharon Hollow

a 4x4 block at 19220 Sharon Valley Road, west of M-52

two 4x4 blocks at 19732 Pleasant Lake Road, west of M-52

Materials to build a barn quilt run upwards of \$300 so if you want to build, or sponsor, a barn quilt you will spend some money and probably some time. For more information about the project, please phone Barb Fuller at (734)428-9143 or contact her via email at barb@provide.net

Meetings At A Glance

March 13, 2008: 7:30 PM in the Village Room at the Village Hall. Local resident, Zofia Sibinski, will present *Survival of the Holocaust: A non-Jewish Experience*, her story of survival and life.

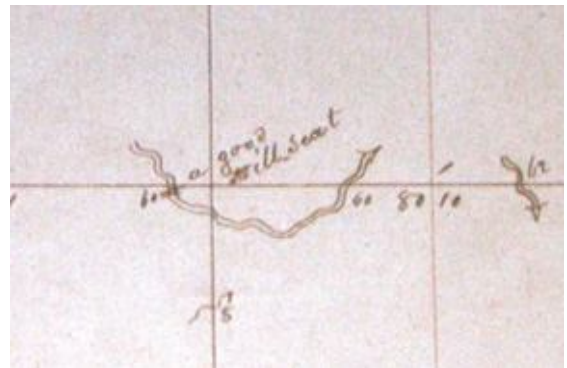
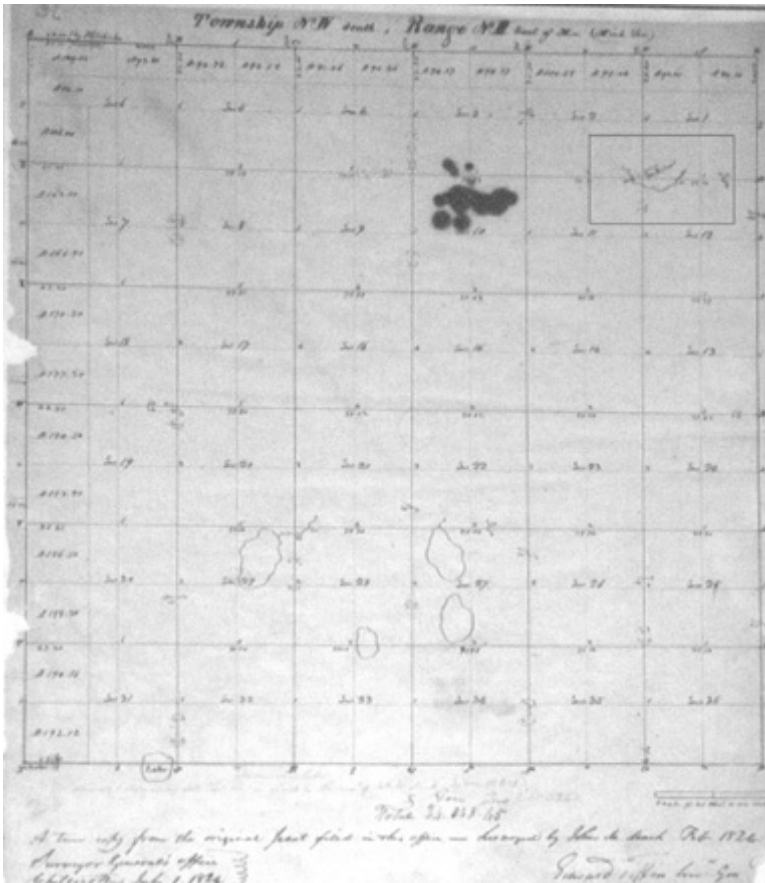
April 10, 2008: 7:30 PM in the Village Room at the Village Hall. The always popular *Show and Tell* meeting. Bring something old and maybe stump the meeting attendees as to its identity and/or use. Alternatively, bring something old that you want to know more about and maybe someone in attendance can provide some information.

May 8, 2008: Topic and location undetermined at this time. Check the MAHS web site for information which will be posted on the web site when the topic and the location are determined. Go to manchesterareahistoricalsociety.org

June 12, 2008: The annual picnic. The May, 2008 newsletter will have specific information about the picnic and, as the date approaches, information will be provided on the web site.

January, 2008 meeting

MAHS member, Ray Berg, has researched Major John Gilbert, the founder of Manchester, Michigan, and Ray presented some of his findings at the January meeting. John Gilbert was in the US Army during the war of 1812 and had attained the rank of major, hence the title with his name. He came to Michigan from upstate New York with experience, and success, as a surveyor, a civil engineer, a land speculator, and a principal in several different businesses. He was not the first person to come to this area, the survey being completed in 1824 by John Mack out of the Chilicothe, Ohio General Land office, but he was the first person to buy land here. He bought large tracts of land in the early 1830s, which was six to seven years before most people came to settle in what would become Manchester, Michigan. The largest tract was 320 acres in section 1 of Manchester Township, which he purchased in 1835. John Gilbert had also purchased 160 acres in section 2, 80 acres in section 11, and 80 acres in section 27. The 80 acres in section 11 contained a segment of the River Raisin which had been marked and noted by John Mack on his survey map as “a good mill seat” and Gilbert apparently acted on the strength of Mack’s comment. The land in sections one and two became a major part of the original plat of Manchester village.



John Mack's survey map of Manchester township with the enlarged part of section 11 noting the "good mill seat" on the River Raisin.

John Gilbert never lived in Manchester, instead, he lived and had various business enterprises in Ypsilanti, Michigan and was active in politics, being elected the first Ypsilanti village president in 1832. It appears that the land purchases in the Manchester area were strictly business activities because

Gilbert sold these land interests to Stephen Fargo, of Lenawee County, in 1835 for \$18 an acre. Compared to the original purchase price of \$1.25 an acre, John Gilbert made a handsome profit on his investment.

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Whatzit and Wherzit

Here are the clue pictures from the November, 2007 Whatzit and Wherzit game, along with the full building view.



The picture to the right is not an anaglyph; the anaglyph process did not work well on this view.



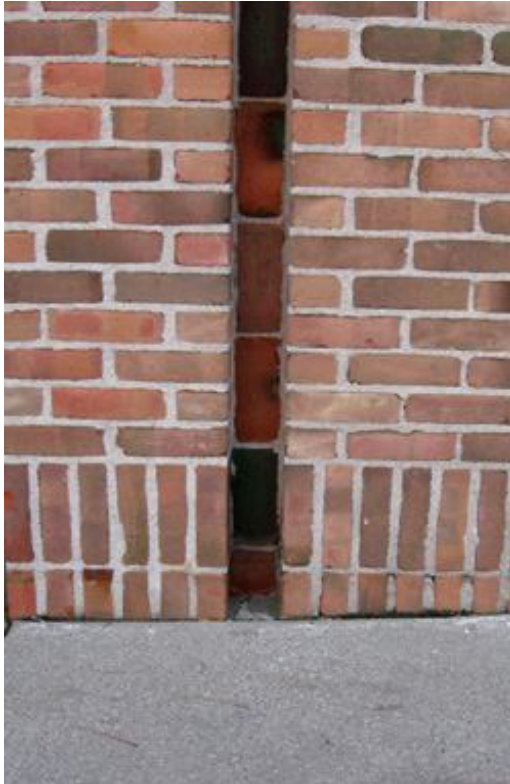
The picture above is an anaglyph as is the picture directly to the right.



At left is an anaglyph of the entire storefront from which the clue pictures were taken. At the time of this newsletter Sew Write no longer occupied the premises but the building still had the same architecture and colors.

Whatzit and Wherzit continued

Here are four clue pictures for this issue's Whatzit and Wherzit game. The bottom picture is shown at left as a standard 2 dimensional view then at right, the same window, as an anaglyph.



January, 2008 meeting continued

Whether John Gilbert planned to live in Manchester is not known, evidence was not found indicating such residency. John Gilbert did establish the village as shown by the 1833 plat map which was registered with Washtenaw county March 25, 1835. Essentially, John Gilbert sold a village to Stephen Fargo. The village was not fully populated but the initial streets were laid out and some businesses and residences, along with a mill, were in place. Some of the street names were different than we now know them and there was a public square, but Manchester, Michigan was born.



1833 plat map of the Village of Manchester. Survey by H. Burnham for John Gilbert

Ray Berg's presentation at the January, 2008 meeting came from research for two articles previously published in "M Manchester's Magazine". The articles can be accessed and read on the internet at stelegrafix.net in the archives of the magazines. Part one appeared in the November 1, 2007 issue and part two appeared in the February 1, 2008 issue. It is hoped that the two articles will soon be placed on the MAHS web site.

February 14, 2008 Meeting

Freedom Township resident, Bill Ames, looks very much like Abraham Lincoln. He has researched Abraham Lincoln's life and he impersonates Abraham Lincoln in a very dynamic and effective way, so much so, that those in attendance at the February meeting saw and heard, not Bill Ames for a little more than one hour, but Abraham Lincoln. During that time the audience heard "Mr. Lincoln" tell various anecdotes from his early life, his early adult years, and several from the American Civil War period.

I was born in Kentucky on February 12, 1809 of Separatist Baptist parents. Separatist Baptists believe in predestination and so I believed that I was born to the life I led and that I was predestined to save the Union.

Kentucky was primarily a slave state but my parents were against slavery and it was drilled into my mind, heart and soul that slavery was wrong.

I spent the first five years of my life in the farm home where I was born.



One day I heard chains clinking and clanking as a group of slaves, chained together, came down the Cumberland Road.

I saw slave auctions in New Orleans, Louisiana, where families were separated and the individuals sold to the highest bidder.

I spoke against slavery since the time I was twenty-seven years old.

Although I was against slavery, I believed that the Black man and the White man were not equal and could not live as equals, until I met Stephen Douglas, who was educated and articulate. I changed my mind after I met Mr. Douglas.



February, 2008 Meeting continued

My paramount goal was to preserve the Union.

With all of the difficulties of the war and the task of trying to hold the Union together, God, why did you have to take my son from me now?



I made the solemn vow that I would free the slaves if General Robert E. Lee was driven back from Pennsylvania.

I wrote and re-wrote the Emancipation proclamation because it had to be a properly worded legal document. I asked for comments from my cabinet but did not allow them to make any changes.

The Union was starving the Confederate States of America. They did not have the resources to sustain the war but England, France and Russia were watching and poised to recognize the Confederacy and lend financial aid to it's cause.

General Lee was winning battle after battle and I needed a decisive Union victory, then I could free the slaves and keep the European countries from backing the Confederacy.

The battle at Antietam went to the Union. I signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 and it took effect on January 1, 1863.



Manchester Area Historical Society Financial Report

Year End, 2007 Summary
for the period January 1 to December 31, 2007

INCOME/EXPENSES		ACCOUNT BALANCES	
Income for the period		Checking Account Balance	
Calendar Ads	4475.00	at beginning of period	9668.52
Calendar Sales	2155.00	Income added to checking account	8729.50
Donations	545.50	Expenses deducted	7694.52
Fifty/Fifty Proceeds	77.50	Withdrawal to purchase CD (mat.3/08)	8312.00
Luminaria Sales	1206.50	Checking Account Balance	
Membership Dues	<u>270.00</u>	at end of period	2391.50
TOTAL Income added to checking account	8729.50	Interest Bearing Account	
Memorials added to		SubAccount Beginning Balances:	
Interest Bearing Account	1060.00	Emily Cummings Memorial Account	228.00
Interest Earned (Interest Acct & CD)	<u>1781.68</u>	Wilma Gillam Memorial Account	500.00
TOTAL INCOME	11571.18	Mary Walton Memorial Account	835.00
Expenses for the period		Helen M. Ziegler Memorial Account	500.00
Advertising	25.00	New Site Account	25.00
Bank Charges	45.00	Life Membership Account	2900.00
Calendar Expense	2158.50	General Funds Account	<u>5342.17</u>
Dues	115.00	Interest Bearing Account balance (total of SubAccounts)	
Gifts & Honorariums	242.60	beginning of period	10330.17
House Expense	21.08	Unrecorded Interest Earned 2006	77.26
Insurance (2 years)	947.00	2007 Addition (Mary Walton Account)	50.00
Luminaria Expense	573.06	2007 New SubAccount (Tom Walton)	1010.00
Maintenance	1809.60	Interest Earned, 2007	276.75
Newsletter Expense	476.53	Withdrawal to purchase CD (matures 3/08)	1688.00
Office Supplies	25.58	Interest Bearing Account balance, end of period	10056.18
Postage & Postal Fees	57.00	CD, matured 11/07	25000.00
Taxes and Permits	20.00	Interest Earned	1427.67
Utilities	1011.77	CD, 4.52%, matures 12/17/08	26427.67
Website Expense	166.80	From checking & Flex Funds	
TOTAL EXPENSES	7694.52	CD, 4.69%, matures 3/17/08	10000.00
NET INCOME for the period	3876.66	TOTAL FUNDS	48875.35

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Curtis, Treasurer