



# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945

WINTER 2004  
Vol.21, No.3

## Fall Fun for All Ages at GPHS



More than 200 people celebrated autumn at the second annual Legends of the Fall. Old and young alike listened wide-eyed to ghost stories of early Grosse Pointe. The guests also enjoyed traditional October delights like bobbing for apples, donuts-on-a-string, roasted corn, and decorating pumpkins.

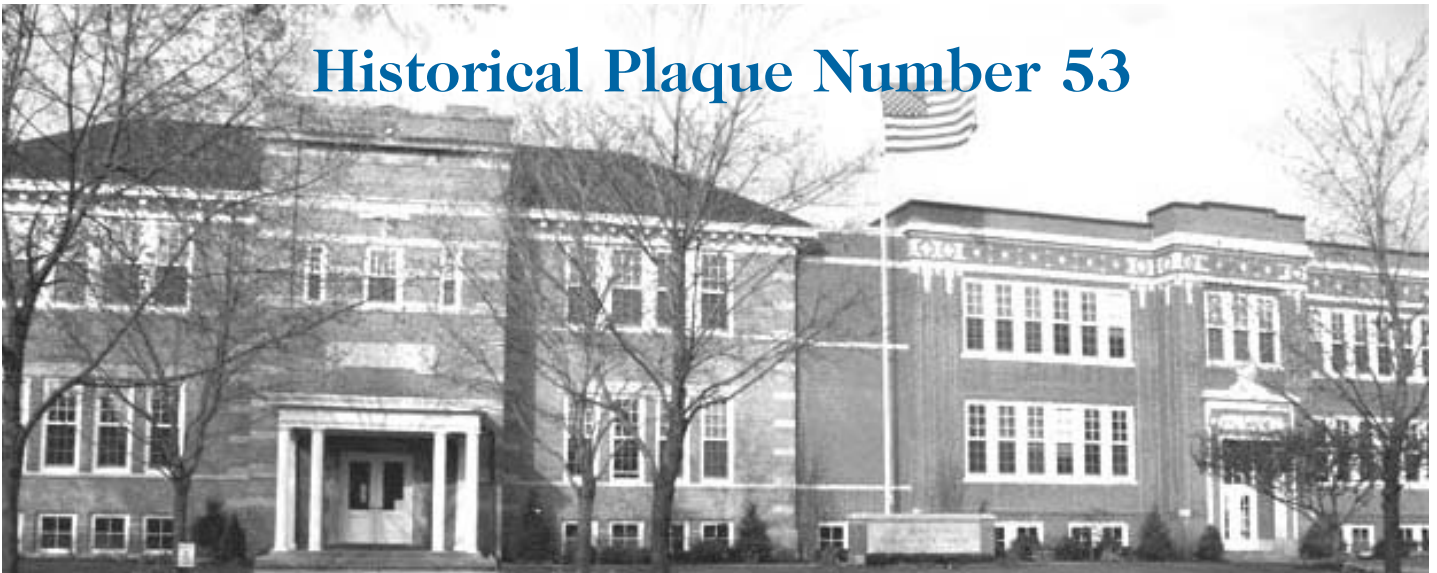


*Local school children and their parents enjoyed a visit from "French-Metis voyageur" Genot Picor at the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, in September, co-sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Public Library.*



*Grosse Pointe Farms residents Peter and Colleen Demczuk, dressed as early French settlers of old Grosse Pointe, won first prize in the historical spirits costume contest at the Historic Halloween Happenin' held at the Provencal-Weir House in October.*

# Historical Plaque Number 53



## Grosse Pointe Public Schools Administrative Buildings, 389-399 St. Clair

In 1905-06, Grosse Pointe School District No. 1 built its second school building, a two-story brick structure at 389 St. Clair Avenue in the Village of Grosse Pointe. There were eight classrooms serving 240 pupils. It was named the Cadieux School after the Cadieux family who resided in the Village. Francis Cadieux served as the District No. 1 School Inspector for 33 years. In 1916-18, a north building, 399 St. Clair, was added due to the increased classroom demand.

By 1924, the school housed all area students from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Cadieux School was so overcrowded that double sessions had to be scheduled. Thirty-four

different classes were being taught there. Groundbreaking for a new, secondary school at the corner of Fisher and Grosse Pointe Boulevard took place in January 1927. The high school opened the following February. After two years at the new school, the offices of the Grosse Pointe Public School System moved back to the Cadieux school, where they have been located ever since.

The School Board announced plans to vacate the two buildings on St. Clair in 1992, but the decision was met with public outcry and a bid to purchase the property was rejected. In 2002-03 the buildings underwent a major renovation, including a full connection between the two buildings and many other significant improvements.

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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters is located in the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval Avenue, and the Resource Center is located at 381 Kercheval Avenue, both in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, 48236. The Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, is open the second Saturday of each month, 1:00-4:00 p.m., during special events, and by appointment. **Phone: (313) 884-7010 Fax: (313) 884-7699**  
E-mail: [GPHistorical@aol.com](mailto:GPHistorical@aol.com)

# Meet the New Board Members

**Susan Boynton** recently retired from 25-plus years as a docket analyst with the Michigan Supreme Court and later the Wayne County Circuit Court. Before that, she taught English at Parcels. She has worked as a political consultant in Wayne county elections and is active in many community organizations.

**Stuart Grigg** is the owner and president of Grigg Graphic Services, a marketing communications company specializing in health care and non-profit clients. He has also been a managing partner in W.J. Bell Properties, which owned, restored and rented historic homes in Detroit's West Village neighborhood.

**Kiki Herfert** became involved in the Grosse Pointe Historical Society after using the Resource Center to research her senior thesis, "A History of Grosse Pointe Park," for Wayne State University a few years ago. Her work experience includes management and training of office staff and software support professionals.

**Claudia Fabiano Shannon** has had marketing and finance positions on the staffs of former Senator Spencer Abraham and former Governor John Engler as well as with the Michigan Republican Party. She is currently a chairperson of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's fundraising drive.

**John Stevens** founded and successfully ran his own architectural practice for 25 years in Detroit and he remains a member of the American Institute of Architects. Sailing has been his passion for many years and he has won

numerous races. He was recently elected to the Grosse Pointe City Council.

**Robert Wood, Jr.**, runs the Robert Wood & Associates residential design firm. He worked for Pulte Home Corp. designing homes and communities in the United States, Mexico, and Argentina. His work has been featured in *Traditional Homes* and *Better Homes & Gardens*.



## From the President

2004 was a busy time at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. Hundreds of people from school children to seniors attended events, did research at the Resource Center, came to lectures, and participated in workshops. They learned about our history, met friends with common interests, and just plain had fun. It was a great year!

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you these activities are funded mainly through private contributions from individuals and foundations. We are a local organization supported mostly by local people who value the enrichment of this community. Your support of the Annual Appeal is essential to our operation.

Please help us preserve the history of our remarkable community. A successful Annual Appeal will ensure that we can continue creating programs and events that celebrate and commemorate our treasured past. To contribute, please call 884-7010.

*Lisa Mower Gandelot, President*

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## Thank You, Donors

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beadle

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Thomas R. Brown, Grosse Pointe  
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Thanks also to Thomas R. Singelyn for arranging  
for these two in-kind donations

# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 for further information

## *The Chapeau Show*

April 16, 2005, 12:00 noon

Grosse Pointe War Memorial Reception Room, \$20

Celebrate spring the old-fashioned way in a new or vintage hat. Bea Reid of Excentricity will present a fashion show of historically accurate ladies caps and hats from the 1700s-1950s.

*Co-sponsored by the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.*

## *The Dodge Brothers: The Men, the Motorcars, and the Legacy*

Dr. Charles Hyde, author and Professor of History at Wayne State University

May 18, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Complimentary

Hyde will discuss the pioneering siblings and their impact on the early days of the automotive industry in Detroit. He will emphasize their work as suppliers to Henry Ford, but also their success in producing the Dodge Brothers automobile. He will also talk about houses they built, the boats they operated, and their various charitable/community activities.

***The purpose of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is to preserve and promote the history of the Grosse Pointe community.***

## NEW PROGRAM

### *History Sampler for Scouts*

Saturday, January 22, 2005

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Provencal-Weir House

\$8 per scout (no charge for parents and troop leaders)

Brownies, Girls Scouts, and Boy Scouts age seven and up are invited to experience history and learn about the past during this new, one-day program. Children will get a tour of the Provencal-Weir House and Log Cabin and learn about how families lived in this area in the 1800s. They

will also learn about and perform chores like churning butter and dipping candles that were part of daily life.

Each participant can apply through their troop for a badge.

Reserve your space today by calling 884-7010.



*Brownie Troop 2173 of Kerby School visited the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in October as part of their work on a try-it badge "Listening to the Past."*



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