

- EST. 1958 -

# WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

VOLUME 4



## DOWNTOWN WYANDOTTE

Biddle Avenue - Early 1900's

Commercial Hub of Downriver

Looking south down the double streetcar tracks with the Wyandotte Savings Bank on the left center.

Note: Same building today without the third floor.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Dear Members of the Wyandotte Historical Society;

As a worldwide pandemic comes upon us it has seriously affected us here in Wyandotte. Our historical campus has been temporarily shut down. Everyday there are changes of what we can do to prevent the spread of the Corona virus. It is important that we follow our government direction to isolate this virus. We will follow those directions to keep everyone safe.

To brighten your day, let me share with you a story I read in Proudly We Record, written by Edwina DeWindt. Edwina shares with us one of the great recreations we had in the early day in Wyandotte. It is so different from today. The layout of the land was so different. The days before industry lined the Detroit River.

“A trolley ride along the Detroit River from Detroit-Trenton on the Detroit River Railways Trolley parties became a popular diversion on warm summer evenings. The route along the river road between Detroit and Trenton was a lovely one—the view of Gods handiwork was almost entirely unobstructed; the cars were colorfully decorated with flags and bunting with electric lights; gay music furnished by the Wyandotte City Band. At the end of the trip, refreshments of ice cream and cake or sometimes an entire meal at the Commercial Hotel in Trenton or the Arlington in Wyandotte added all that was lacking to complete a perfect evening.”



Detroit-Trenton Line#7002

What a great time for all in that era! I guess we can only dream of that today because of our river front is industry. Our society enjoys taking you back in time. How wonderful our forefathers lived. An example of one of our great American freedoms. We enjoy bringing you good stories of our past on our program nights.

Come and enjoy our programs, our events,  
Bring a friend. Become a member of our society.  
And be proud of our community.

Christopher T. Stieler  
President

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**\*\*\* Hear Ye, Hear Ye – Attention! Program Speakers desired & needed! \*\*\***

Do you have a special knowledge or interest in a particular part of our past history, and would you like to share it with a group of like-minded historians? Are you known for an unusual or intriguing collection of artifacts or collectibles that would be of interest to the general public?? Do you have an idea for an engaging speaker who may wish to visit the Wyandotte Historical Society and present a program???

If you can answer “Yes” to any of these questions, then we invite you to let us know how we may be able to arrange a visit to the WHS ~ we appreciate your help and look forward to meeting you!

Please contact any WHS Programs Committee member, or contact Keith M. Steffke at (313) 3820-3029 or email: [Oldshipbuilder@yahoo.com](mailto:Oldshipbuilder@yahoo.com) , and we will arrange a visit...

## Temporary Museum Exhibit – The Birth of the Pharmacy in Wyandotte



Stop into the Ford-MacNichol Home before the end of May to view the new temporary exhibit on display. This exhibit details C.W. Thomas, Wyandotte's first established druggist. View photographs and artifacts that help tell the story of the early days of the pharmacy in Wyandotte, and see Thomas' impact on the local industry, which would be popular for the next 100 years. Highlights of the exhibit include several photographs, two of Thomas' actual formula books, and several medicinal bottles – many from Thomas' drug store as well as several from pharmacies that would come afterward and are still fondly remembered today.

The exhibit is on display in the Attic Gallery of the third floor of the Museum. Hours are Thursday through Sunday, 1pm to 5pm, or by appointment.

### Facts From The Past

#### 1912-1914

In 1912, Wyandotte had 2 gas stations, Pardo's and Buhls.

The shipyards were destroyed by fire.

A grant of \$17,000 from the Carnegie Foundation was received for the construction of the Carnegie Library on Biddle Ave.



In 1913, the shipyards began rebuilding after the extensive fire the previous year.

\$2,500 was paid to the Eureka Land Company for the library site. Contract was let for construction of the library for \$16,481.

Two lots on Elm between Second and Third Streets were deeded to the city by Mrs. Mary Ginzle to be used as a site for a memorial hospital, in memory of her deceased son, John F. Gilbert.

In 1914, Van Alstyne Blvd. paved from Elm to Eureka. Poplar and Chestnut paved and Oak St. paved from railroad to thirteenth.

### MONTHLY PROGRAMS REFRESHMENTS

We are in need of someone or two who would take on the small task of arranging for coffee and refreshments at our monthly membership meetings. We will provide funds for the refreshments and guarantee that it is not a life threatening or strenuous occupation. For more information call 1-734-934-6693.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the meeting and presentation scheduled for April 10 has been **cancelled**. The Program Committee will do their best to reschedule the two programs we've had to cancel.

The Ford-MacNichol Home Museum will be closed to visitors and volunteers until April 2. As restrictions change, you can contact the museum office at 734-324-7284 for updates.

Stay healthy and positive.

Hope to see you soon.