



# Newaygo County History

Newsletter of the Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center

Officially 150 years old, Hesperia will mark its sesquicentennial with a summer celebration from July 1 through August 20.

Each week the community will highlight a theme beginning with, *Family Fun Fest*, *Hearth and Home*, *Hesperia Outdoors*, *Sports and Recreation*, *Faith*, *Family/Military*,

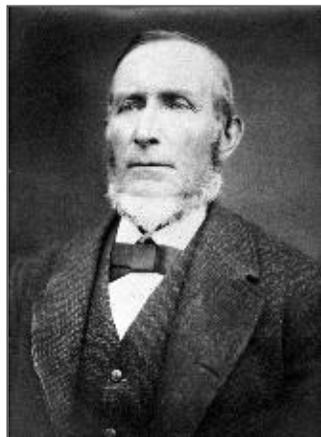
*School/Library*, and wrapping up the last week with *Down on the Farm*. Numerous historical related activities, events, dedications, and demonstrations planned. Of course, food and music will be available as well!

Much reminiscing is sure to take place as families, friends, and guests enjoy one of the most unique summer celebrations ever held in Newaygo County.

Check out the entire schedule of events at [Hesperia150.org](http://Hesperia150.org) and enjoy some of Hesperia's fine hospitality this summer.

## Founding of Hesperia

Daniel Weaver, of Hillsdale Co., MI, journeyed with family and friends to Newaygo County. In 1855, they established Weaverville, later becoming "Fremont Center" and, finally "Fremont" as we know it today.



Daniel Weaver

Weaver continued to explore the area to the north. Accompanied by his son, Thaddeus, they found a beautiful spot on a river. It was here that Weaver envisioned a lovely community and set forth to establish it.

Convincing his friend, John Cook, to invest in his vision Weaver purchased the land in 1866. He proceeded to build a store and fill it with supplies. He laid out streets, donated land for a public park, and made plans for a mill powered

# HESPERIA

2016: A SUMMER TO REMEMBER



# 150

by the river.

Weaver served as the first village president and, for several years, his store held the local post office and served as a meeting room for council business.

Eventually, Hesperia became the third village in Newaygo County to be incorporated after Newaygo

and Fremont.

The village sits in a valley with the White River flowing west over a small dam on the north end of town. There are three public parks within the village limits with the original, Weaver Park, on the northeast end of town.

## Memories from Early Hesperia Council Minutes

- 1885: Water works pump purchased for the town
- 1889: Four safes in the village blown open and robbed; \$75 reward offered
- 1880s: Fireworks during July 4 celebrations begin
- 1894: All stores and saloons must be closed on Sun days... "that means back doors as well as front doors closed."
- 1898: Bell Telephone Co. granted permission to set telephone poles through Division Street
- 1901: Cement sidewalks poured. Resolution passed to deal with both loose fowl in the street; and cattle and horses tied to graze in the alley, streets, and parks.
- 1910: Marshal to be paid \$20 monthly to act as marshal, street commissioner, fire warden, pound master, caretaker of waterworks, and overseer of that portion of the dam belonging to the Villagers.
- 1911: Saloons abolished in the village
- 1914: Speed limit signs posted throughout the town
- 1916: Electrical boulevard lights installed

## NEWAYGO COUNTY MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER

12 Quarterline Rd  
Newaygo, MI 49337

**HOURS**  
APRIL - OCTOBER  
Wednesday - Saturday  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone  
231-652-5003

Website  
[newaygocountyhistory.org](http://newaygocountyhistory.org)

Email  
[museum@newaygocountyhistory.org](mailto:museum@newaygocountyhistory.org)

*The Newaygo County History newsletter is part of our mission to collect, preserve, and share Newaygo County history.*



The Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center is made possible by the gifts of individual donors, business sponsorships, in-kind gifts, and by the generous support of the *Fremont Area Community Foundation*.

Field Trip transportation for Newaygo County elementary students is funded by the *Gerber Foundation*.

Select equipment provided by the *People Fund at Great Lakes Energy*. (Support the People Fund by rounding up your bill!)

Ancestry.com is provided by the *Arthur Christian Nelsen & Virginia Faith Nelsen Fund of InFaith Community Foundation*.



## Local News

### PATRONIZE LOCAL BUSINESSES

The way to build up industries in your town is to patronize them. All things being equal the local business man is entitled to your patronage.

It is your duty as a good citizen to patronize your neighbor, who will have many an opportunity to do you a good turn.

- *Newaygo Republican, Jan. 1894*

### RESIDENTS FOR NEWAYGO COUNTY

In a few days there will be a general exodus of Hollander families from Grand Rapids. Dr. Veenboer has bought a large tract of land in Newaygo county, and is selling and renting it to Hollanders who are out of work. They can go to the new land and make good livings, and already over fifty families have arranged to go.

- *Corunna Journal, Jan. 11, 1894*

### OLD BROOMSTICK USE

After a broomstick has outlived its usefulness as part of a carpet-cleanser, it may be made to minister to one's health by cutting off the broom and using it as a gymnasium wand.

Spend five minutes each night and morning in lifting the wand high over the head in both hands, palms front, and then drawing the elbows sharply down, letting the stick fall behind the shoulders.

The most obstinate case of crookedness will yield to this remedy, unless the deformity has existed from birth.

- *Fremont Indicator, Sept 25, 1878*

### 1938 PLATES GOOD UNTIL MARCH 1, 1939

The present black and green license plates may be legally used on motor vehicles until March 1, 1939.



### NICHOLS LAKE CAMPING

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Stitt and family, Merritt Brandt, Miss Mary Cavanaugh, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith and family went camping to Nichols Lake Friday afternoon and returned home Sunday afternoon.

They all report a fine time. *If you ever lose your appetite and cannot sleep, go to the lake and stay a week.*

- *Fremont Times Indicator, Sept. 7, 1916*

### BITELY FURNISHING CLUB MEETS WITH MRS. GRIFFIN

The Bitely Home Furnishings Group met January 27 and after enjoying a social hour all did justice to a delicious pot luck dinner. The new lesson on window treatment was given by Mrs. Mitchell. Some interesting points were brought out about window curtains and drapes for rooms with differences exposures and discussions about different materials. The members were told about the house their grandchildren will live in, which will be made of aluminum and balloon silk. When this happens they will just press a button to get the exposure they want in any given room.

- *The White Cloud Eagle, Feb. 4, 1932*

### Notice

Esteemed residents of Newaygo County, let it be known that all history is local. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to share memos to the future regarding our daily routines, chores, and celebrations that the old ways may be remembered as markers from whence we came. Let us take up the mantle to prepare a stockpile of history and the means to preserve it for future generations. Load your quill with ink and pen your memories today.

- A. Nonie Moss

*Please consider the Museum and Heritage Center archives when you are interested preserving your family history and documents for future generations to learn from and enjoy. We accept original material, or you may make an appointment to have your items copied allowing you to retain the originals. Call 231.652.5003 for an appointment with our Research Room archivists.*

## Vida Weaver Served as Pioneer Hesperia Doctor



Women doctors were a rarity in the 1800's but Hesperia had one of them, and she was the namesake for one of Hesperia's nicest parks, Vida Weaver Park.

Mrs. Helen Turple of Turple and Husband Hardware, who is related to the early Weavers of Hesperia, has letters, documents and artifacts which tell the story of Dr. Weaver and her husband, Lee Weaver.

Vida, whose maiden name was Saunders, received her medical degree from a Chicago medical school in 1884, an unusual accomplishment for a woman of that era. But even more unusual was

the fact that Vida's mother, Katherine Wells, was also a doctor.

Vida and her mother and her stepfather, Dr. W.G. Wells, left their homes and practices in Chicago in the early 1900's and came north to the rugged lumbering community of Whitehall to set up practice. Mrs. Wells found the area a bit too rugged for her taste and soon returned to the tamer world of Chicago.

Her husband and daughter remained behind, however, and soon moved to Hesperia where they built and operated a clinic. Vida's medical practice flourished and so did her personal life. In about 1910, she married Lee Weaver.

He was the grandson of Daniel Weaver, who was the founder of Fremont in 1855, and the founder of Hesperia in 1866. Lee had gone to business college in Grand Rapids and later had worked at Marshall Fields of Chicago as a clerk. By 1910, he had returned to Hesperia where he was a clerk for McCallum Brothers General Store (now the Variety Store).

Mrs. Turple isn't sure if their romance began in Chicago before Vida moved north or if they first met after Vida arrived in Hesperia.

Either way, their affection proved strong because when Vida died in the 1930's, Lee Weaver donated the land for a park to the Village of Hesperia with the stipulation that it be named for his wife. It seems a fitting memorial for an outstanding woman and citizen of the community.

- Times Indicator, June 15, 1972



### TO EXPLAIN FARM ELECTRIFICATION MEETING WILL BE AT BIG PRAIRIE TOWN HALL

The limitations and uses of electricity on the farm will be explained to both men and women in a school sponsored by the Michigan State College extension service at the Big Prairie Town hall on the afternoon and evening of March 22.

The afternoon session will be devoted to a study of uses to which electricity can be profitably made on the farm. This meeting will also include special problems on motors, wiring, loads, costs of operation of equipment, and inspection of, special farm electrical equipment. A cooking school will be arranged for the

ladies in the afternoon at which use of electrical equipment will be demonstrated. The evening will be devoted to educational moving pictures on uses of electricity and talks on lighting equipment. The hall will be filled with displays of electrical equipment ranging from home-made burglar alarms and brooding equipment, to home electrical equipment, feed grinders and milking machines. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

- White Cloud Eagle , March 16, 1939

## Bark Wigwam Construction

### Ron Paquin, Award Winning Native Artist September 23 & 24



Ron Paquin, member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and self-taught artist.

A self-taught artisan, Ron Paquin has made a specialty of crafting traditional full-sized birch bark canoes and has constructed more than 50. He also makes model canoes, black ash baskets, birch bark containers, antler carvings, knives, porcupine quill boxes, dream catchers, and jewelry.

He gathers and prepares birch and cedar bark, willow, sweetgrass, spruce roots and other natural materials for his work which has been displayed

throughout Michigan.

On September 23 & 24, Mr. Paquin will be constructing a bark lodge inside the Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center from materials he has gathered. He will also hold a class to instruct

15 people in creating a birch bark basket.

He was commissioned to create more than 70 pieces for the Ziiibwing Cultural Center, operated by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe in Mt. Pleasant, and has made cedar and birch bark lodges for the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven, the Allegan County Children's Museum, and for the Soo Locks Festival 150th Celebration. He has frequently demonstrated canoe making.

Mr. Paquin says he especially enjoys teaching a variety of traditional art forms to students at the JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School and the Sault Tribe Culture Camp, and with students from the alternative education school in Sault Ste. Marie.

Among other awards, Mr. Paquin has received 11 Michigan State University Master Artist grants and the 2003 Michigan Heritage Award. In 2012, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ziiibwing Cultural Society and one of 12 national fellowships from the Native Arts and Culture Foundation. Most recently, he was one of 17 Native American artists chosen by a national selection committee to receive a 2016 Artists in Business Leadership fellowship from the First Peoples Fund.

A St. Ignace resident for 55 years, Mr. Paquin now lives with his wife, Molly, in Brevort, MI.

*This activity is supported in part by the Michigan Council of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Minigrant Program, administered by the LowellArts!*



## We Are Still Here

[No, We Don't Live in Teepees]

### Discover Your Native Heritage

We, the local Native Community of Newaygo County, are planning a gathering for September 23 & 24, in conjunction with the building of the bark wigwam in the Museum and Heritage Center.

Descendants of the Original Peoples have lost ties to their traditions through forced assimilation and the shame that was wrongfully connected with being an Indigenous person.

Is "blood memory" calling you? Make the connection and start to regain your their Native heritage. Miigwetch!

**Wednesday, Sept. 21 - 6:30 pm**  
Museum and Heritage Center

**"Ancient Native Use of Copper"**  
Don Spohn, PhD.

(bring any copper you would like examined)

**Thursday, Sept. 22 - 6:30 pm**  
Museum and Heritage Center  
Speaker - TBA

**Friday, Sept. 23 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
Museum and Heritage Center

**Demonstrations - Workshops**  
**1:30 pm - Scott Herron, PhD, Ethnobotanist**  
(Evening events to be held off-site)

**Saturday, Sept. 24 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
Brooks Park & Museum and Heritage Center

**Demonstrations - Workshops**  
**Dancing - Drumming - Flutes**  
**Storytellers - Food - and more**  
**1:30 pm - Jay Sam, LRBOI Historian**

Check website for updates - [newaygocountyhistory.org](http://newaygocountyhistory.org)  
231-652-2892

## 29 PLACES MENTIONED IN WHITE CLOUD BOOM STORY

**BESIDES MANY IMPROVEMENTS, TWO NEW BUSINESSES HAVE COME IN,  
SIX TRANSFERS MADE AND FOUR NEW HOMES BUILT**

Although previous mention has been made of local improvements, The Eagle will attempt to summarize the building boom, improvements and business transfers which White Cloud has enjoyed during the first half of 1938. Mention will be made of business places from north to south on Charles Street and from east to west on Wilcox Avenue.

The Sunoco Service station has new cement driveways and Bill Martin's pretty flower garden adjoins the station on the south.

Smith's Tavern has recently been remodeled and redecorated, and the outside glistens gaily with aluminum paint, set off with new awnings.

The Idlewild Resort Company building is embellished with green asbestos cement siding.

Charles Moore's new \$10,000 Dodge and Plymouth garage is now doing business.

The Bungalow restaurant has received an addition, which has been covered with asbestos cement siding.

Garf Gust's Sinclair Service station has received quite a bit of attention in the form of landscaping and painting.

The Cottage Inn has been painted white, trimmed in green, and now awnings have been put up.

The R. C. Sanders grocery store still retains the freshness of a new building, it having been built only two years ago.

William Flaherty's Standard gasoline station has been painted and redecorated.

J. J. Nelson's Sinclair Service station has received a north side addition, plus other improvements as related in another story in this issue. At the side shrubs and flowers relieve the monotony.

The Big Chief hotel has been painted, plate glass windows installed and large green letters placed across the front of the building.

The Matt Gust building, in which is located the store of E. H. Freiberg and the store of Dave Watts, is freshly painted, and bricks receiving a red covering and the store front being painted grey, trimmed in green.

The IOOF building has been remodeled so that it now contains the attractive new White Cloud theatre.

The Sanitary Grocery, managed by Carl Anderson, has been painted, and the interior has been altered.

R. W. Purtee's White Cloud Mercantile Company store

front has been painted, and the interior has been remodeled and redecorated and the interior stuffed with new goods.

Ted Branch's barber shop is a new building which was completed last fall.

Bird Brothers' grocery has received a fresh painting, new awning and a new roof and coping.

The front of E. H. LeMire's drug store has been painted.

G. L. Roseberg's building which contains the post office and the G. L. Rosenberg hardware, has been freshly painted. A new plate glass front to the store is now being installed.

New sidewalk has been placed in front of the Abstract Office and the interior has been redecorated.

The Beach Motor Sales building has been painted.

The interior of the Bigler and Son Market has been altered.

The interior of Burnham's Inn had been remodeled and redecorated.

Cook's Variety Store has been painted.

Fred's Auto Parts has new gasoline pumps.

R. R. Rivait has replaced broken plate glass in the front of the Ford garage.

### New Businesses and Transfers

Two new business places have come into White Cloud, Cook's Variety Store and Burnham's Inn.

Six business place transfers having been made, transfers in ownership or location. Ted Branch built a new barber shop and purchased the building on the east from C. E. Wilson of Grand Rapids.

The White Cloud Mercantile Company moved from the IOOF Building into the building which Ted Branch purchased. Garf Gust bought out the interests of Thomas Kelly in the Sinclair Service Station. Arthur Bigler and son Kenneth purchased the J. N. Patterson meat market.

H. L. Tompsett's Red and White store was purchased by partners H. Ensing and N. Smalligan of Hesperia changed to

the Sanitary Grocery and placed under the management of Carl Anderson. The White Cloud Theatre was transferred from its former location on Newall Avenue to its new quarters on Wilcox Avenue.

### New Homes

New homes of 1938, which were built in the order named, are those of Orlie Briggs, J. N. Patterson, Jake Puff and Alvon LeMire.



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**Kit Powell, CFE, MSA**  
Oosting, Burt, & Associate, LLP

**Gene Reid**  
Artist/Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran

**Rick Sharp**  
Retired, Machinist/White Cloud Fire Chief

Greetings,

How we love summer!

A huge **"THANK YOU"** to our Volunteers and Staff who make it happen! To our **Greeters** for their enthusiasm and the gracious hospitality they extend to our guests. To our **Wednesday Crew** for doing the heavy lifting, maintenance, and cleaning. To our **Research Room Archivists** for making local history available, for assisting guests, and for providing newsletter content. To our **Education Team** for creating and hosting memorable field trips. To our **Collection Department** for the care and preservation of the artifacts.

Thank you to our **Trustees**, the 15 Volunteers responsible for the oversight and future of the NCMHC. Welcome to new Trustees, **Ned Hughes, Ed Fedell, Todd DeKryger, and Kit Powell**. All completed an orientation which provided an overview of the organization and to the intricacies involved in caring for the 13,000 artifacts.

**Matching Grant:** \$7,500 is available to us from the Fremont Area Community Foundation if we raise \$15,000. Your help in the following areas will count toward the match.

**Stacking Chairs:** You can assist us in expanding our educational programming by purchasing stacking chairs. The current pew-like seating does not allow the floor to be cleared, nor does it allow individual seating at tables. Our Education Team has activities ready when for implementation when individual seating is available. Chairs may be purchased for a donation of \$75 each. A wall plaque will commemorate your gift or memorial. Thank you for helping us expand our educational programming!

**2016 Artifact Preservation Honor Roll:** Add your name or business name to this list and show your support for the care and preservation of our artifacts. This is a critical area that requires archival quality supplies, technology, and the meticulous labor of our **Artifact Collection Department**. The immediate need is to upgrade the cataloging software.

Other areas you may choose to support include; newsletter, exhibits, marketing, building repair/maintenance, etc. (A form to accompany your donation is on the next page.)

**Your gift will be increased 50% by a match from the Fremont Area Community Foundation.** If there is an area you would like to know more about, please call or email me. The necessity to preserve history has never been more important than it is right now.

Thank you for your support!

Roxanne

P.S. Mark your calendar for the Labor Day Logging Fest Bake Sale which we will be hosting in Brooks Park. Always a bustling weekend, this will be a great fundraising opportunity!

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SYLVAN  
CLARK  
FREMONT  
HOUSEMAN  
ISLAND  
BLANCH  
LILLEY  
BUSH  
BAPTIST

# 2016 Heritage Speaker Series

July 20, 6:30 pm

*"Abbie Titus - Liar's Corner"*

Dave Dougan

August 17, 6:30 pm

*"Michigan's Great Time Confusion"*

David Lee Smith

September 21, 6:30 pm

*"Ancient Native Use of Copper"*

Don Spohn, PhD

*Are you curious about a certain piece of copper? Bring it!*

**Special Event!**

**September 23 & 24**

**Bark Wigwam Construction**

Details on Page 4

*This activity is supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Minigrant Program, administered by the LowellArts!"*

**Friday, December 2**

**Christmas Walk**

# 2016 Artifact Preservation Honor Roll

- Bayleaf Used and Rare Books - Gabe Konrad
- Countryview Auction and Resale - Terry Harrison
- Osborne Gunsmithing - Rob Osborne
- Ryan's Card & Coin - Tim Steele
- The Toy Guy - Norm Strickler
- This Old House Antiques & Resale - Donna Friar
- David Huisjen
- Gerber Federal Credit Union
- Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital
- Oosting, Burt & Associates, LLP
- Norm & Alicia Pedelty
- E & M Design Solutions
- Baars Pharmacy
- The Rudert Agency, LTD, Insurance
- Mike Saum State Farm Insurance
- Newaygo Insurance Agency, Inc.
- River Valley Storage Co., LLC

Thank you for supporting the care and preservation of the 13,000 artifacts held in trust for the people of Newaygo County.

Please direct my/our gift as follows:

- Stacking Chairs:** I/We will purchase \_\_\_ chair(s) at \$75 each = Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help expand educational programs.  
*\*On a separate piece of paper, please list names and/or memorials as you would like them to appear on the plaque.*
- Artifact Preservation Honor Roll:** Please add my/our business or name \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Here is a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support **other needs**, including *Newsletters, Exhibits, Marketing, Building Repairs*, etc.

Enclosed please find my/our check # \_\_\_\_\_ for my/our total gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Thank you for your support!**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

NCMHC reserves the right to edit names and font size to fit name plates. Attempts to contact Donor will be made in advance of final engraving.

**Please mail by August 12, 2016 to:** NCMHC P.O. Box 361, Newaygo, MI - Donate online at: [newaygocountyhistory.org](http://newaygocountyhistory.org)



P.O. Box 361  
Newaygo, MI 49337

## Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center

*Float back in time...view exhibits depicting the early history of Newaygo County.*

Generations of Native Americans once thrived along the lakes and streams of this area. In 1836, a treaty was signed which ushered in the logging era. See the tools of both the Odawa and the lumberjacks and imagine living during their time. The loggers were followed by the early settlers who struggled to farm the newly cleared land. Visit a time before computers, cars, and shopping malls with a peek into the period rooms of the early 1900's.

In the **Military Room**, contemplate the sacrifices of Newaygo County veterans from the Civil War through today.

Dig deeper in the **Research Room** where a variety of local history resources are available free-of-charge, including Ancestry.com, digitized local newspapers from the 1800s and 1900s.

**Free Admission - Donations Appreciated - [newaygocountyhistory.org](http://newaygocountyhistory.org) - 231-652-5003**



12 Quarterline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337

