

THE OTHER ASHLAND 150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

In addition to the several events sponsored by the Town's official 150th Anniversary Committee during the July 20-29 celebration, the Ashland Historical Society and the Ashland Garden Club will also be sponsoring events and displays for Ashland's sesquicentennial, including a flower show in the Glidden Toy Museum, an historic photo display, historic walks, and a program on the history of a prominent local manufacturer.

As a prequel to the official celebration, the Historical Society will sponsor an illustrated presentation by Louise Samaha McCormack on the history of the Draper & Maynard Company of Ashland and Plymouth. Starting as a glove factory, the firm was located in Ashland on what is still called Glove Street in the last two decades of the 19th century, before moving to Plymouth. While in Ashland, the firm started making baseball gloves, and began its transformation into a major sporting goods company. The talk will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, in the Ashland Railroad Station Museum at 69 Depot Street (Route 132). The program is free and refreshments will be served by the Society.

The Society will also host a large display of historic Ashland photos in St. Agnes Parish Hall next to St. Agnes Church at 19 Hill Avenue. Over 250 enlarged photos of various scenes and aspects of life in Ashland, mostly from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, will be on view in this free exhibit. It will be open on five days during the 150th celebration, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 21; from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 22; from 2 to 5 p.m. on Friday, July 27; from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 28, and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 29. This will be one of the largest displays of historic Ashland photos ever mounted.

The Society will also sponsor two free guided historic walks (weather permitting) beginning at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 22 and at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 28, in the vicinity of the Ashland Community Center and St. Mark's Church at the foot of Highland Street. The walks will both include parts of Highland Street, School Street, Main Street, Pleasant Street and Hill Avenue. The route, if walked non-stop, would take about a half hour, and will include some uphill walking, so participants should be prepared for some moderate exercise. The walk will take longer, of course, with short stops at various places along the way.

The Ashland Garden Club will present a free "Toys In Bloom" flower show in the Pauline E. Glidden Toy Museum at 49 Main Street, next to the Whipple House Museum. Members of the Garden Club have each chosen an antique toy in the museum collection and will create a floral arrangement based on the toy. The arrangements, at least fifteen but probably more, will be on display from 2 to 5 p.m. on Friday, July 27 and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 28. Day lilies from Shirley Splaine's garden will be on sale during the show.

The Society's three museums will also be open additional or altered hours during the celebration. The Whipple House Museum and the Glidden Toy Museum will be open their usual hours from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, July 19 and 26. The Whipple House will also be open from 2 to 5 p.m. on Friday, the 27th, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 28th. So, it will be possible on those two days to visit the flower show at the Glidden Toy Museum, the Whipple House Museum, and the photo display at St. Agnes Parish Hall, all within a short walk and open during the same hours. A special summer exhibit at the Whipple House is based on an 1899 signature quilt, with many signatures of Ashland residents and summer people, made by the Earnest Workers as a fundraiser for St. Mark's Church. The Ashland Railroad Station Museum will be open its usual hours from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 19, but will change its hours to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 26, providing another option for visitors that morning and avoiding a conflict with the 150th celebration parade at 2 p.m.

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