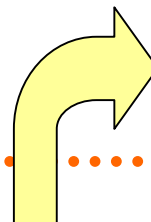


# SUMMERTIME

- ☀ E-Mail
- ☀ Trenton Mid-Summer Festival
- ☀ Trenton Historical Board of Directors
- ☀ Arcadia Publishing
- ☀ Trenton Historical Tidbits
- ☀ Genealogy
- ☀ Somewhere In Time
- ☀ Thank You



**MORE..... INSIDE**



## E-MAIL vs SNAIL MAIL

Now you can receive your Window to the Past Newsletter faster! In the past, the Historical Society has copied the newsletter, folded it, stuffed it into an envelope, labeled it, stamped it and trudged to the post office to mail it to all of our members.



**Don't go snail-mail  
Go E-Mail!**



While we have no problem with this, costs are mounting regarding printing and stamps. Therefore, if you do use E-Mail, you can now have your newsletter the same day it is finalized and have it in color. Just let Carol Hendricks know at [carol.ann.hendricks@gmail.com](mailto:carol.ann.hendricks@gmail.com).

Your E-mail address is for the Trenton Historical Society only and will not be given out to anyone.

## 35<sup>th</sup> TRENTON MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL

It's that time of year again - SUMMER - and time for the 2011 Trenton Mid-Summer Festival. This year the festival

will be held on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.

The Trenton Historical Society will have a tent (not exactly sure where yet) filled with goodies and information on the history of Trenton and help in finding your ancestors. Our hours will be Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Some items for sale include:

☞ Snug Harbor	\$15.00
☞ Truaxton, Truago, Trenton	\$65.00
☞ 2011 Calendars	\$ 5.00
☞ Buttons	FREE
☞ Bookmarks	FREE
☞ Chip Clips	FREE

**BE SURE TO LOOK FOR US  
AND STOP BY!**

**THIS BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

Due to the untimely passing of Trenton Historical Society Board Member, Mary Ellen Wiber, there is a vacant seat to be filled on the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please forward a letter of intent to:

Trenton Historical Society  
PO Box 596  
Trenton, MI 48183

A new Board Member will be selected at our July meeting, so all applications must be in no later than July 10, 2011.

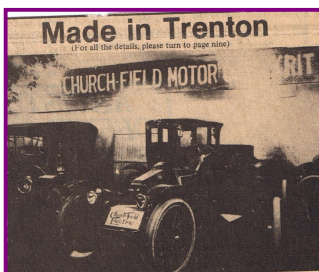
## TRENTON HISTORICAL TIDBITS

### The Church Field Electric Automobile

So you're going on vacation and if the price of gas isn't too high, you will be driving and hearing those sweet children's words: **ARE WE THERE YET???**

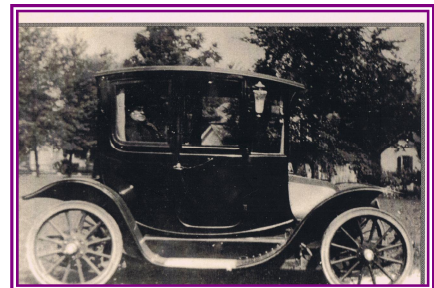
Actually, if you were going on vacation in 1912, you could have driven the first electric motor vehicle, designed and manufactured in Sibley, (which merged in 1929 with the Village of Trenton) and later became the City of Trenton in 1957.

In 1912 the Church-Field Motor Company was established on land just south of King Road on the east side of the street.



The building was formerly known as the Church soda and ash factory. Fifty men were employed in building this innovative electric automobile

The claim was made that it was the only electric car ever built with a two-speed transmission gear-set. The automobile had an under-slung chassis, and used a two-speed transmission. With a choice of ten electrical selector positions, it gave the vehicle a total choice of twenty speed ranges. It also had a Philco battery, on a 100" chassis. The line had two body types: a 4-door passenger coupe and a 2-passenger roadster. Two models were offered a 2 passenger Torpedo for \$2,300, and a 5 passenger Coupe for \$2,800.



The plans for the Church-Field Electric were short lived. In August 1913 the company "temporarily" closed its plant never to re-open.

## GENEALOGY BUMPER STICKERS

If you're anything like my family, while on a long drive we like to read bumper stickers.

Here are a few genealogy ones...

Families are like fudge -  
mostly sweet, with a few  
nuts.

Add to your genealogy  
the fun, easy way - have  
grand children!

Always remember you're  
unique, just like  
everyone else.

## CLIMBING YOUR FAMILY TREE



The Trenton Historical Society offers assistance at the Trenton Veterans Memorial Library for anyone who wants to learn more about their ancestry.

The Library serves five Downriver communities, contains a vast number of historical resources and offers room for the THS to help twice a month. The times are: the First Tuesday of the month from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm; and the fourth Saturday of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. We offer tutoring sessions for the amateur genealogist and help on the Library Edition of [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), which is available at the Trenton Library. For

more information visit

<http://www.trentonhistoricalsociety.org>

## Thank You

To **Jeff Wagar** for obtaining for us the class picture of the graduating class of 1940 as well as a copy of the yearbook for that year and a copy of the commencement program.

To **Dr. John Savel** and the Trenton Public Schools Board of Education for their continuing support of the Trenton Historical Society and our efforts in education and preservation of Trenton history.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**What:** Genealogy 201

**When:** September 25, 2011 from 2-4 pm

**Where:** Programming Room of the Trenton Veterans Memorial Library

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## IMAGES OF AMERICA - TRENTON



The contract has been signed and the Trenton Historical Society is beginning work on the Images of America - Trenton, a series of

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

A Publication of the Trenton Historical Society

June 2011

books published by Arcadia Publishing. You may have seen some of these books at local bookstores. There are books published by Detroit, Wyandotte, Grosse Ile, Birmingham, Alma, Crystal Lake, Flat Rock and St. Ignace to name a few.

The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each book presents distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today.

## SPECIAL REQUEST.....

If you or anyone you know may have archival photographs that may be used in this book, please let us know. The photographs will be scanned and returned. We would also like the history or story behind the photo and a date, if possible. Please call Carol Hendricks at (734) 676-4375 or email her at [carol.ann.hendricks@gmail.com](mailto:carol.ann.hendricks@gmail.com)



## IN MEMORIAM

MARY ELLEN WIBER

1930--2011

The Members of the Trenton Historical Society extend their condolences to the family of long time board member,

Mary Ellen Wiber. She was born February 26, 1930 and died on April 27, 2011 after a brief illness. Mary Ellen was a life long resident of Trenton. She was the daughter of Charles and Violet Wiber and is survived by her brother Alan and his children Stephen, Polly and Laura. The First Methodist Church of Trenton was her church where she played in the Bell Choir and sang in the choir for years. She sang for many years with the Sweet Adelines and was a member of Shoreline Sound.

Mary Ellen spent her entire teaching career at the Meridian Elementary School on Grosse Ile where she taught 2nd grade for approximately 30 years. For many years Mary Ellen was the editor of the Trenton Historical Society's Newsletter which had her clever sketches interspersed between the articles.

We will miss Mary Ellen.



## IN MEMORIAM

CHARLOTTE SCHEFFLER

1929--2011

Charlotte Scheffler, born in Brownstown on July 8, 1929, passed away on April 14, 2011, in Trenton. Preceded in death by her husband, Norman Scheffler, she is survived by her son, Kurt and grandchildren

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Anna and Ryan. She is also survived by a sister and brother, Joan McCulla and Corbett Smith.

Except for a short time in California, she was a lifelong resident of Trenton. Always interested in Trenton and its history she served for several years on the Trenton Historical Commission, the Trenton Cultural Commission and was the chairman of the Bicentennial Book Committee and author of the book, *Truaxton, Truago, Trenton*, published in 1976. She and Phyllis Lory spent years working on the refurbishing of the Trenton Cultural Center.

Other groups she played a part in are the Trenton Farm and Garden Club, the Questers, quilting clubs and active years as a valued member of the Trenton Historical Society. We, in Trenton, have been so fortunate to have in our midst someone as interested and devoted to the City as Charlotte was. We offer our condolences to her family.

## SOMEWHERE IN TIME



Back in the early 1900s, families dressed in their weekend finery, complete with top

hats and parasols, for a lazy stroll through Elizabeth Park, stopping for a spell along the shores of the Detroit River to feel the gentle breeze. Now you can turn back the hands of time on **Sunday, September 18, 2011 from 11 am-5 p.m.** The Trenton Historical Society will have a tent and be there, **STOP BY AND VISIT WITH US!**

### TRENTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Hendricks	Evelyn Chekan
Bill Olson	John Holmes
Sharleen Stack	Pauline Arthurs
Peter Poulos	
Randi Lynn Owen Olson	

