

WHALEY HISTORICAL HOUSE MUSEUM

624 E. KEARSLEY ST.
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The Whaley Gazette

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2007 Historic Home & Building Tour

The slate for our 2007 Historic Home and Building Tour is set. Stops include the Durant-Dort Office Building, Flint Masonic Temple, Nash House, Paterson-Sutherland House, and Whaley Historical House. This year's tour is being held on August 18 in conjunction with the Back to the Bricks Car Show and Cruise. Each stop on the tour will focus on various aspects of the automobile industry in Flint. Hours for the event are 11 am to 5 pm.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Monday, August 6. Pricing for tickets is as follows: Members (Advance and Day-of-Event): \$10, Non-Members: Advance – \$12, Day-of-Event – \$15.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please see our "Volunteer Notes" column in the Gazette.

Exhibits

A new photographic exhibit, *A Family, A Home: The Whaleys at 624 East Kearsley Street*, is on display in Whaley Historical House's Summer Kitchen through December 23, 2007.

Drawn entirely from the museum's collection, *A Family, A Home* features nearly thirty images rarely or never before seen by the public. *A Family, A Home* provides a glimpse of the Whaley family, their staff, family pets, outbuildings, and gardens spanning more than one hundred years.

Additionally, the Flint Public Library is hosting a mini-exhibit of Whaley items drawn from its collection and Whaley Historical House. The exhibit is available for viewing through the end of May.

From Our Collection: Mary McFarlan Whaley's Notebook

"Came home ... found the plant room windows down ... and all my coleus's and narsturtims frozen," Mary Whaley wrote in October 1876. Mary's slim notebook spans the years 1876 to 1880 and provides an insightful glimpse into the lives of the Whaleys.

Though most of Mary's brief entries chronicled her ongoing struggles in the plant room, she also wrote about family events such as trips, illnesses, and recent purchases. The notebook also listed medicinal recipes (including a cure for epilepsy), family birth and death dates, knitting instructions, and a memorial poem for her son, Donald. The back inside cover is plastered with a collection of used postage stamps.

Other family members were allowed to write in Mary's notebook. Along the margin of the first page it appears Donald attempted to print his name

in large block letters. Florence, Robert and Mary Whaley's daughter, recorded her father's death date and his funeral expenses on the inside of the front cover.

Mary's longest entry is devoted to the death of her sister, Jennie Andrews, in 1878. She wrote: "[Jennie] talked constantly all the night before she died. after they sent for me at six o'clock. I heard her say several times 'it will soon be over' 'the end is near' when Donald went up and kissed her. she opened her eyes and spoke up as bright as could be 'Donald aint you sorry I am going to leave you You must be a good boy – I know you will be for you have always been good'. she wanted me to send him to Sunday School it had always been such a trouble to her that he did not go regular ... her last words were God be merciful to me. Then she whispered the gates are open Hurry Hurry Hurry."

Help Preserve Flint's Past!

If you would like to become a member of Whaley Historical House, it's as easy as filling in this form and mailing it along with a check to:

Whaley Historical House
624 E. Kearsley Street
Flint, MI 48503

Members receive our quarterly newsletter, discounts on classes and workshops, free admission to Open Houses, invitations to Members' Receptions, and a discount on house rentals.

New Member Please renew my membership

Benefactor\$500.00 Contributing.....\$50.00
 Corporate\$200.00 Family \$30.00
 Century\$100.00 Individual\$20.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Whaley Historical House Museum – 624 East Kearsley Street – Flint, Michigan 48503
www.whaleyhouse.com – whaley@whaleyhouse.com
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President's Letter

Happy Spring!

I'd like to thank all of you who have volunteered at the House during the past year. If you haven't availed yourself of the opportunity, we've inaugurated some new programs that might tempt you to do so.

The House is now open every Sunday which will require at least two volunteers per week. This is not a physically demanding job and offers an opportunity to become acquainted with the House and learn the relationship of the House and its owners to the history of Flint. Would you like to help serve a Victorian Tea to one of the groups who hold a meeting at the House? The Historic Home Tour also has a need for hosts and hostesses in August.

For gardeners, we have opportunities to help with the maintenance of our lovely Victorian gardens, planned lovingly each year by Whaley volunteer Ruth Pullen. We'd really like to have the greenhouse completed this year so scrapers, painters, and bolters are also needed.

To fill any of these needs or others that might interest you, contact Andy Clark at 810.235.6841. We'd love to see you throughout the summer. Enjoy and save some energy for our programs in the fall and especially the Victorian Christmas.

Sally

New Guided Tour Hours

Whaley Historical House Museum now offers additional opportunities for guided tours. From May through November, the museum will be open every Sunday (except holidays) from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Tours by appointment during the week are also available.

Ask Alice Wrightway

Have a question about life or etiquette during the 19th Century? Miss Alice Wrightway, our resident expert on all things Victorian, may be able to assist you. Send queries by letter to the museum or by email to misswrightway@whaleyhouse.com.

Answers will appear in the Fall newsletter.

Volunteer Notes

There are a lot of happenings this Spring and Summer and we need your help. If you are able to volunteer for any of the listed events or projects, please contact Whaley Historical House at 810.235.6841 or whaley@whaleyhouse.com.

Garden Workday – 5/26 – 9 am to 2 pm

Volunteers are needed to help in the preparation and planting of the flower gardens and hanging baskets. Please bring work gloves and basic gardening tools. Make sure to wear your hat and sunscreen!

Fence Workday – 6/16 – 9 am to 5 pm

Bring scrapers, wire brushes, and paintbrushes as we paint Whaley Historical House's perimeter fence.

Summer Celebration – 7/20 – 10 am to 5 pm

Whaley Historical House will once again be participating in the Flint Cultural Center's annual Summer Celebration. Five volunteers are needed each shift to oversee activities and distribute handbills. Shift times are: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, 12 pm to 3:30 pm, and 3 pm to 5:30 pm.

Historic Home Tour Volunteer Orientation – 8/16 – 7 pm

Training session for the 2007 Historic Home and Building Tour.

Historic Home and Building Tour – 8/18 – 11 am to 5 pm

We will need volunteers stationed at five sites throughout the city. Shift schedules for the event are 10:30 am to 2:30 pm and 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Attendance at 8/16 orientation session is required.

Volunteer Reception – 8/26 – 2 pm to 4 pm

In recognition of the hard work our volunteers perform, all of Whaley Historical House's volunteers are invited to join us at the pavilion in Kearsley Park for an ice cream social. Please contact the office no later than 8/23 to reserve your spot.

19th Century Odds and Ends

Bananas received a widespread introduction to the American populace in 1876 during the Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The bananas were individually wrapped in tin foil and cost ten cents.

In today's dollars, that single banana would cost about \$1.80.

Source: *Victorian America* by Thomas J. Schlereth

Calendar of Events

May

Sunday Guided Tours – 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, and 5/27 – 1 pm to 4 pm

Enjoy a guided tour of Whaley Historical House Museum, a Victorian era home preserving the memory of the Whaley family and life in 19th century Flint. After the tour, visit the photographic exhibit, *A Family, A Home*. Admission: Adults (16 and Up) – \$5.00; Youths (6 to 15) – \$3.00; Children (5 and Under) – Free.

Senior Discount Day – 5/18 – 10 am to 12 pm

Seniors are invited to tour Whaley Historical House at the reduced rate of \$3.00 per person. Following their tour, visitors are welcomed to enjoy complimentary tea and coffee in Whaley Historical House's Summer Kitchen.

Garden Workday – 5/26 – 9 am

See Volunteer Notes for additional details.

Sweet Reads Book and Dessert Club – 5/31 – 6 pm

Discuss the literature and sample the desserts of the Victorian era. May's reading selection: Thomas Hardy's *Two on a Tower*. Reservations are not required. \$5.00 per person; \$3.00 for Friends of Whaley Historical House.

June

Sunday Guided Tours – 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, and 6/24 – 1 pm to 4 pm

See May's events for details.

Senior Discount Day – 6/15 – 10 am to 12 pm

See May's events for details.

Fence Workday – 6/16 – 9 am

See Volunteer Notes for additional details.

Sweet Reads Book and Dessert Club – 6/28 – 6 pm

June's reading selection: A. E. W. Mason's *The Four Feathers*. See May's events for additional details.

July

Sunday Guided Tours – 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, and 7/29 – 1 pm to 4 pm

See May's events for details.

Summer Celebration – 7/20 – 10 am to 5 pm

See Volunteer Notes for additional details.

Sweet Reads Book and Dessert Club – 7/26 – 6 pm

July's reading selection: Thomas Hughes's *Tom Brown's Schooldays*. See May's events for additional details.

August

Sunday Guided Tours – 8/5, 8/12, 8/19 – 1 pm to 4 pm

See May's events for details.

Historic Home and Building Tour Volunteer Orientation – 8/16 – 7 pm

2007 Historic Home and Building Tour – 8/18 – 11 am to 5 pm

Sweet Reads Book and Dessert Club – 8/23 – 6 pm

August's reading selection: H. Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*. See May's events for additional details.

Volunteer Reception for Whaley Historical House Volunteers – 8/26 – 2 pm to 4 pm

See Volunteer Notes for additional details.