

Alexander Macomb Historical Award
Organization



Year Award Given: 2016

Awarded to: Macomb County Historical Society /
Crocker House Museum – Mount Clemens, MI

Nominated by: Lori Nye

Presented Where: MCHA Annual Meeting – Sterling Heights Library –
April 30, 2016

Presented By: Macomb County Heritage Alliance

The Macomb County Historical Society (MCHS) and the Crocker House Museum was the first organization in Macomb County to start the process of preserving our county's history. Founded in 1964 has been the heart of historic-related activity in Macomb County ever since.

The MCHA's Mission Statement defines their purpose:

“The Macomb County Historical Society and its Crocker House Museum provide educational experiences of the Mount Clemens and Macomb County history through the use of artifacts, rotating exhibits, publications, stories and special educational programs. Our purpose is to collect and preserve our local heritage to instill an appreciation of our community's unique history.”(Parr, Unknown)

MCHA collects, preserves, conserves and manages a very large collection of artifacts that have been so generously donated to the society. These include photographs, ephemera, three-dimensional items, and a host of other wonderful memories relating to Macomb County. Under the well-guided leadership of Macomb County Historical Society and Crocker House Museum Director, Kim Parr, these artifacts are managed and displayed for all to enjoy in the historic Crocker House Museum located in Downtown Mount Clemens, MI. In 2009 Kim was instrumental in overseeing the MCHA's purchase of a second building – known as the Byron House – which is used as very much needed extra archival space.

Kim and her assistant, Marcia Swiderski oversee a host of volunteers who generously donate their time to help with managing the museum archives, displays, gift shop, gardens, and events which include tours, field trips, teas, classes and weddings to name a few. A monumental job!

Kim has spent her entire career in historic preservation environments. She has worked as a living history coordinator at Greenfield Village and also as the marketing manager for the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn, Michigan before taking on her current role in Macomb County. She is well-known and well-respected within historic communities all over the country. Kim is a graduate of the University of Michigan – Dearborn. Her knowledge of period history is vast and she often uses her extensive wisdom to provide exciting and very informative presentations and workshops across Michigan as well as in other parts of the United States. There are so many, but some of her most popular presentations include:

- Bath City USA
- American Mourning and Funeral Customs
- Mentioning the Unmentionables: “The History of Undergarments”
- Irish Wake Customs
- Etiquette Workshops
- The History of the Crocker Family
- Fanny Farmer; a Life Well Measured

Marcia retired after spending her first career working in procurement for TACOM in Warren, MI. Shortly after retiring, she decided she wanted to get involved in something new and since 2002 has been a fantastic source of support and assistance to Kim, the Crocker House Board of Directors and its operation. Marcia’s always pleasant and easy-going persona, along with her “always willing to help” outlook are admired by everyone that has come in contact with her.

In addition to Kim’s and Marcia’s oversight, the Macomb County Historical Society and Crocker House Museum is governed by 12 Board of Directors that include leaders from Macomb County’s business and civic community. The board is actively engaged helping Kim, Marcia and the host of MCHA and Crocker House Museum volunteers continue with their success of sharing Macomb County history.

The Crocker House Museum, which is located in the home of the first mayor of Mount Clemens, Joshua Dickinson, was built in 1869. Dickinson’s daughter, Katherine, who was the great-granddaughter of the city’s founder, Christian Clemens, along with her husband, moved into the home in 1870. Over the years, the home has been physically moved a couple of times, and has been in its current location since 1976. The Crocker House Museum offers a look back in time to how people lived in the late 1800’s into the early 20th Century. The rooms on the 1st floor and a couple of rooms on the 2nd floor are decorated and maintained in the Victorian-era. Upper rooms feature displays pertaining to the mineral era of Mount Clemens.

It is with great pleasure that the Macomb County Heritage Alliance award these very deserving individuals and organization with the 2016 Alexander Macomb Historical Award.

Information Resources: Lori Nye / March 2016, Kim Parr / May 2016
<http://www.crockerhousemuseum.com/about.html>