

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Northville Historical Society's mission to preserve historic architecture and artifacts common to the Northville area prior to 1900 is evident in the 11-acre Mill Race Village. Less visible, though equally important, is the Society's mission to collect, preserve and disseminate printed materials and photographs relevant to the history of Northville. Your support of the Faces & Places effort helps preserve Northville's historic legacy.



NORTHVILLE BASEBALL, 1907

CONTRIBUTIONS

Please accept my contribution to Faces & Places at the following level:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other

I would like to become a member of the **Faces & Places Donor's Circle** at the following level:

Mary Lapham Society \$250 - \$499

Mary Lapham was chairperson of Northville's library organizing committee in 1889. She donated the first 250 books to the library, became president of the Ladies' Library Association, and deeded what is now the New School Church for the library.

John Miller Society \$500 +

John Miller was one of Northville's earliest pioneers. In 1826-27 he built Northville's first gristmill, which proved the catalyst for much of the community's growth in its early years.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Make checks payable to: Northville Historical Society (Please write Faces & Places in the memo on your check). Mail to: Northville Historical Society, 215 Griswold Ave., Northville, MI 48167-1664

The Northville Historical Society is a 501-C (3) not-for-profit organization.

FACES & PLACES

PRESERVING NORTHVILLE'S
HISTORICAL IMAGES & DOCUMENTS



SOUTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, 1880S

AN INITIATIVE FOR THE
NORTHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES

WHAT IS THE ARCHIVES?

The Northville Historical Society Archives is a repository of photographs, letters, diaries, maps and other pertinent materials relating to the history of the Northville community. The preservation of the archival materials is under the direction of Archivist and Curator Heidi Nielsen. She is assisted by a small, but dedicated, corps of volunteers. Since the Northville Historical Society's inception in 1964, the organization has amassed thousands of archival documents. The preservation and accessibility of these materials is a primary objective in maintaining the historical record of the Northville community.



NORTHVILLE TRAIN DEPOT

WHAT IS IN THE COLLECTION?

Materials in the Archives can be traced to the settlement of the Northville community in the 1820s with some documents pre-dating that period. Among the materials housed in the Northville Historical Society Archives are the following:

- Bound printed copies of *The Northville Record* dating to the newspaper's inception in 1869. These bound volumes are the only surviving printed copies of *The Record*, the oldest continuously published newspaper in Wayne County.
- Cemetery records for the Knapp, Oakwood, Rural Hill, Thayer, Waterford and Yerkes cemeteries.
- Census records from 1820-1920 on microfilm.
- Donor boxes containing photographs, journals, correspondence and more from Northville's pioneer families and others.

WHAT IS THE FACES & PLACES INITIATIVE?

Faces & Places is a capital campaign to raise funds specifically for the preservation of documents and images in the Society's Archives. The initiative is focusing on three key areas:

PRESERVATION: The Archives' goal is to purchase archival-quality storage materials to protect images and documents from elements that cause deterioration, and to begin the digitization of its images. Digitizing the Archives' materials not only will provide a permanent record of its archival holdings, but also will allow for greater public accessibility to the collection.



HOLMES, DANCER & CO., 1890S

RESTORATION: Documents and images that are compromised need to be restored before they become obsolete. For example, the Society has in its collection several boxes of glass plate negatives. The deterioration on several of these

plates has erased the images. Among the glass plates with the images intact is a photograph of the 1876 Fourth of July Centennial Parade in downtown Northville. Proper restoration of the plates, and scanning of the surviving photographs will help preserve these images. Likewise, many of the paper documents need to be treated and stabilized.

ACQUISITION: Though the Archives contains thousands of documents related to the community's history, there are critical gaps in the collection. For instance, the Archives does not have a photograph of Northville pioneers William Dunlap or J.A. Dubuar, nor civic leader Mary Lapham. Images of places such as the Princess Rink and the Northville Opera House in its heyday also are not in the collection. The ability to purchase images, documents or reproduction rights to these materials would provide a more complete historical record of the community.