



THE SOCIETY HISTORIAN

Alleghen County Historical Society

Since 1954

May 2022

Meetings and Important Dates

May 3rd

Board Meeting 6pm

May 14th

Debt Crew at Village

9am to 3pm

May 16th

Village Cleanup

1pm to 3pm

May 19th

General Membership

Meeting 6 pm

From the President

Greetings fellow historians! We had a great first meeting of the year with the trustees providing a soup supper for all that attended. After a great meal we had a short business meeting followed by Scott giving us the lowdown on the early banks and currency of early Alleghen County. Mike Richardson also provided us with some trivia about Benjamin Pritchard. Seems a good time was had by all. The fellowship of our members is very important to us and would like to encourage more members to join us next month for our annual meeting and potluck dinner at the Alleghen Township Hall at 6 PM May 19th. This meeting will involve the election of new board members, year end facts and figures, along with a short program (TBA). Let's set the stage for a more involved membership. **Mark**



POT LUCK!!



Good food and company.

May 19th at Alleghen Township Hall at 6 pm. Bring a dish to pass and your own plate and utensils. This will also be our annual meeting and elections. We will have a Museum Moment and Historical Trivia for you along with good old conversation. All members and guest are welcome. Be there and bring a friend.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Museum: Sorting newspapers by city and date (could be fun looking at old papers) - contact museum

Village: Opening and beautification of Village on 5/14 9am-3pm & 5/16 1pm -3 pm. Come and give what time you can. Even an hour helps.

Raffle: Work with Evie to see about setting up raffle - contact Evie or museum

Historical Day Trips: There has been talk about day trips to places The Felt Mansion, Vicksburg Historical Village, Holland Museum and Other historical places. This is all possible, but we need a volunteer to set these up.- contact Mike or the museum

"We study History so that we can know the Past, engage in the Present, and Impact the Future"

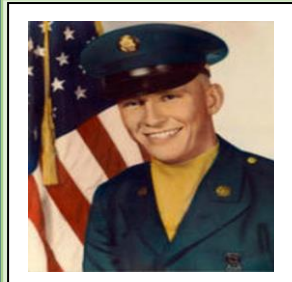
Old Jail Museum
269-673-8292
Open Saturdays
10am – 4pm
oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com
www.alleganoldjail.com

Alleghen County Historical Society Trustees

Mark Lovett – President
Scott Kuykendall – V.P.
Allen Philley – Treasurer
Evie Lyzenga – Secretary

George Babcock
Mike Richardson
Greg Hipps
Craig Phillips

Rodney Wall



Frank Doezema, Jr.

Submitted by Greg Hipps

As Memorial Day approaches, and we honor the men and women in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our always great nation, the historical society is highlighting one of our fallen veterans from Allegan County. He is the second highest decorated military veteran in the county behind First Lieutenant Charles L. Barrell, Leighton Township, who received the Medal of Honor for actions during the U.S. Civil War.

Frank Doezema, Jr. of Shelbyville, MI was born February 12, 1948. Following his early childhood, Frank attended and graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High School. After graduation, the Army soon came calling by way of the Selective Service program. One needs to remember how the late 1960's was a different period in our history for young adults graduating, what with the Vietnam War raging on.

Frank Doezema, Jr. was drafted into the United States Army with his tour in Vietnam beginning on March 9, 1967. He and his fellow soldiers fought in many battles but during the early morning hours of January 31, 1968, his unit's compound in the City of Hue came under a savage enemy attack during the first Tet Offensive. The installation faced rockets, mortar bombardment and automatic weapons fire. Frank raced to his assigned defensive post, a twenty-foot wooden tower and began spraying the on coming enemy with machine gun fire. Even though he was extremely exposed from his vantage point he directed the unit's counter fire. Frank was seriously wounded by shrapnel from a mortar explosion but remained at his post continuing to fire at the insurgents as they advanced. Although he was mortally wounded by another exploding enemy rocket, many of his fellow soldiers escaped death because of the bravery, heroism and leadership exhibited by Frank.

Frank's commendations include the Distinguished Serve Cross, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his actions that day. He is also honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Frank Doezema's final resting place is in East Martin Cemetery, Martin, MI.

Did You Know?

This is going to be a feature for the Newsletter. Each month we will give you a few trivia facts about Allegan County, its people and places and events. I would like for you to return the favor and submit trivia to me (Mike Richardson email: richardson.mike66@gmail.com). Let's try these.

1. The building that the "Sassy Olive" now occupies was at one time a Kroger Grocery Store.
2. Mineral springs were discovered in Otsego around 1850. The town quickly became a spa resort, which by 1870 was attracting visitors from far and wide to "take the waters". Many hotels sprang up to support the industry and mineral water was shipped from here all over the state.
3. True or False? Much of the Allegan State Game Area was once at the bottom of Lake Michigan. TRUE! During the last glacial period, about 13,000 years ago, lake levels were about 80 feet higher than they are today. The sandy soils you'll find here are the result of lake deposits left during this period of higher lake levels.