

# The SOCIETY

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents the second in the 2012 Lecture Series:

## TASHMOO

### THE PARK AND THE STEAMER

featuring Author and Historian **Arthur M. Woodford**

MAY 12 2012  
SATURDAY

3:00 - 5:00pm

Harsens Island Lions Hall  
262 Lacroix Road / Harsens Island, MI 48028

Seating for this event is extremely limited.

Please make your reservations  
by contacting **Nancy Licata** at:  
**810-748-1825**  
or via e-mail at:  
**nlicata@comcast.net.**

Suggested Donation  
**Ten Dollars**  
Giving to your Historical  
Society, is a gift to Yourself!



Mr. Woodford will conduct a book signing for his newest release: *Tashmoo Park and the Steamer Tashmoo*

HARSENS ISLAND ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BUILDING for THE Future PRESERVING Our PAST

2012

## LECTURE SERIES

**Arthur M. Woodford**



**Arthur M. Woodford** is an accomplished author and historian. Along with wife, Mary Rose, they make their home on South Channel. They are also charter members of the Harsens Island/ St. Clair Flats Historical Society.

Art is active in a number of associations including the Great Lakes Maritime Institute and both the Michigan and Detroit Historical Societies.

While he has had many books published, his first book through Arcadia Publishing was *St. Clair Shores: Village on the Lake*. It was published in 2001 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of St. Clair Shores. At the time he was city librarian and director of the city's historical museum and archives.

His latest project through Arcadia Publishing is *Tashmoo Park and the Steamer Tashmoo*. ■

See page 4 for related items

## The Society Pages

Volume 3 / Number 5 / May 2012

a publication of the Harsens Island/  
St. Clair Flats Historical Society

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Join us on Facebook!

See us on



We have posted a short video presentation on YouTube called *The Night the Fitz Went Down*.

Highlights of the conversation between the late Captain Donald Erickson of the SS William Clay Ford and Mac McAdam of the Dossin Museum are featured.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny6yQdH2aR0>

## From the President

Each month we are confronted with good news and bad news. This month is not different, we have a little of each to report. Whether the news is good or bad...it does not mean that *WE* cannot *make a difference*. We do that by taking an active role in what happens in our community; and, thanks to you *WE* are making a difference.

First the bad/sad news: **Captain Donald Erickson**, former Master of the *SS William Clay Ford* died March 26, 2012 just as last month's newsletter was being published. The good Captain graciously gifted the Museum his time for a fireside chat presentation with his friend **Mac McAdam** last October; and, gifted his permission to create *The Night the Fitz Went Down* DVD for the Museum to offer as a fundraiser. Our condolences and thoughts go to his family as do our thanks for his generosity.

The good news is that our Lecture Series and other events for the upcoming summer are receiving many advance bookings. Our next event scheduled for Saturday, May 12 at 3:00PM, is: **TASHMOO: THE PARK AND THE STEAMER**, being presented by **Art Woodford**, with a book signing afterward for his new book by Arcadia Publishing. This is expected to be a popular event based on the advance bookings, so put this one on your calendar and reserve a space.

Secretary, Nancy L. is reporting that most of our members have renewed their memberships for 2012 and that those reporting-in are also contributing to the building fund. For those of you who have overlooked sending in your renewal, we hope you will continue to support the *difference* that the Historical Society endeavors to bring to the Island with educational, cultural and fun events.

I am pleased to report that The Society's general fund and building fund have in sum topped the \$50K mark. We have a long way to go, but with your support of scheduled events and your generous contributions *WE* will make a '*difference*'.

bernard

## 2012 Lecture Series

**Robert McGreevy**  
July 14, 2012

Bob is a Great Lakes Historian and Maritime Artist whose family history is steeped in the ship-building industry. Bob will present the history of: **The Steamer Key Stone State (circa-1861)** Bob will also conduct a book signing at the conclusion of his presentation.

Suggested Donation: \$10.00 per person

**Joel Stone**  
October 13, 2012

Joel is Senior Curator for the Detroit Historical Society and will present: **Committed to the Deep: Exploring Underwater Treasures**. Several thousand vessels, along with their crews, have disappeared beneath the waters of the Great Lakes. This presentation offers great photographs and underwater video that explore this world.

Suggested Donation: \$10.00 per person



## Financial Report by Joyce Hassen

During 2011, The HISCF Historical Society held a number of community, historical education, and fundraising events. The Society is establishing itself in the community as a new and viable organization and is managing to raise the funds to support it.

We have an exceptionally hard working Board and membership. Their diligence, support, and generosity made 2011 a successful year, and 2012 is promising to be even better. We are in a good position financially for a new organization, and have set an ambitious goal of raising enough funds to purchase the Old Fire Hall and maintain our museum by March 2013, when the lease once again expires.

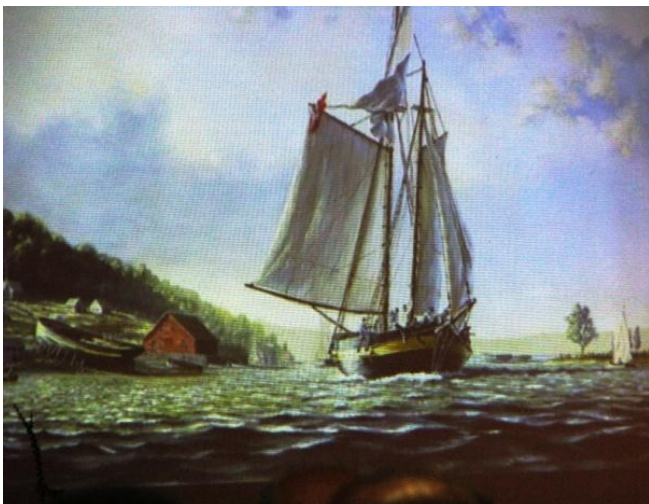
As of March 31, 2012 we have assets of over \$47,000 with \$26,700 specifically dedicated to the building fund.

Maintaining accurate financial records is critical to any organization, especially to the HISCF Historical Society. In January we made an investment in financial software and a cash register for the museum. The software will help with maintaining the books, creating reports and financial statements, tracking inventory, automate our banking, etc. etc. etc. Complete financial reports are presented at every Board meeting and are available to any member upon request.

The cash register is small, but will enhance the record keeping and security of cash handling at our museum. We have a number of items for sale, including new historical books of the area....so come in and make a purchase and hear that new register ring!

## Peter Rindlisbacher

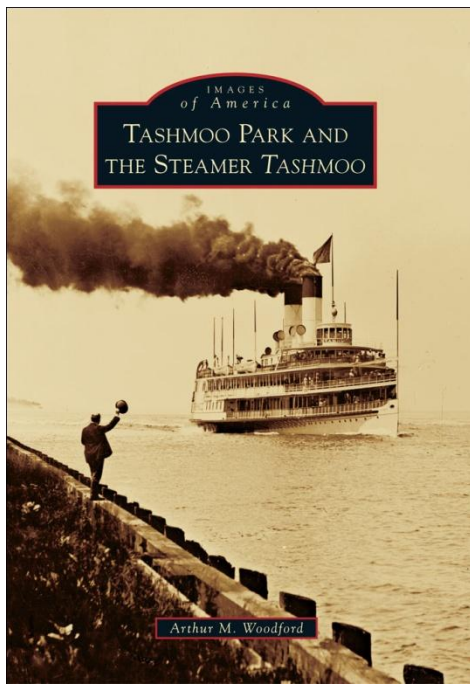
Our first speaker in the Series, Peter Rindlisbacher attracted a crowd of nearly 100 to the Lions Hall on April 14 with his presentation of: **Warships on the St. Clair River; the 1812 War and its Aftermath.** Peter did an outstanding presentation, standing in full dress Commanders Uniform of the British Navy, giving us all a better perspective of the issues and the battles that took place mostly in Lake Erie.



*Victoria and Peter Rindlisbacher and Denne Osgood.*

His daughter, Victoria, accompanied him in typical dress of the period. Peter related the events of the day, commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812, with an exciting and accurate depiction of the ships and battles that took place; and, the ships that traversed the St. Clair River to Fort Mackinac via a slide presentation that incorporated his paintings.

↩ (Peter's paintings were spectacular.)



*Tashmoo Park and the Steamer Tashmoo* by **Arthur M. Woodward** will be available for purchase at the May 12<sup>th</sup> event for \$22.00. If you cannot attend, copies will be available through the museum. Please send per book, \$22 plus \$5 for a signed copy (optional) plus \$5 shipping to: HISCFHS, PO Box 44, Harsens Island, MI 48028

**JOIN US**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**  
**OPEN HOUSE &**  
**Antique Sale**

**MAY 26**  
 from 11am to 4pm  
 at the Old Fire Hall

**Hot Dogs • Chips • Popcorn**  
**Cupcakes • Lemonade**

50/50 Raffle  
 Entertainment • Picnic

**For further info call Nancy Boulton**  
 at (810) 748-3802

**TASHMOO**

THE PARK & THE STEAMER      HARSENS ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY      BUILDING THE FUTURE PRESERVING THE PAST      MAY 12 2012

©2012 Harsens Island Historical Society. Artwork and Design: Arthur M. Woodford. 2012. Photo: Lynn Hill. Photo: Kristin

We have ordered 100 copies of a Tashmoo Commemorative Poster (11" x 17") created by Larry Zelensky of Human Touch Graphics as a limited-edition piece. ALL will be signed by Art Woodford as a commemorative of the event. One will be framed and given as a door prize the other 99 will be offered unframed for \$10.00 each. Art has also been generous in allowing the Historical Society to video-record the event and include it in our DVD Series.



*Michigan History Magazine* May/June 2012 has a nice article by **Art Woodford** called **The Tale of Tashmoo**. Copies are available at most Meijer and Barnes and Noble stores. Also available online at [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org) for \$4.95 + \$2.50 for shipping.

## Pictures From The Attic

by Michele Komar

### The Garden

My grandparents, **Bill and Minnie Harm**, bought 28 acres at the back of the Tashmoo Park property in 1942. It was located at the northwest corner of Bar Harbor and M-154. Grandpa and Grandma and their daughter (my mom), Dolly, lived in the superintendent's house at the back of the park as my grandfather had held that position since 1921. In 1946, the same year my mom graduated from Algonac High, they were told they had to move off of the park property and bought the Raether house on S Channel between LaCroix and Sans Souci.

The Garden was so named because of the many fruit trees, grapevines and seasonal vegetables planted there. Grandma preserved much of the produce for the family but a lot of it was sold at a stand in front of their home on S Channel during the 1950-60s. I helped wash and sort the smaller produce into 1-quart or 1-pint wooden produce baskets and then took it out to the table near the road under the shade of the tree. There were small wooden signs for each type of vegetable that could be hung up on a display board depending on the produce picked fresh that morning. In season, there were green beans, yellow beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, melons, green peppers, radishes, onions, potatoes and corn. For a while they had quite a trade selling strawberries.

There were several outbuildings on the property. Most were used for storage but the most interesting building was called the bunkhouse. In an earlier time it housed the crew that worked at Tashmoo Park but in my time it housed the best junk ever! The building was in two parts with a connecting door between them. There were windows along the sides but many of them were boarded up. That allowed little light to penetrate the gloom and a flashlight was a necessity if you wanted to explore the "treasures" within and avoid the spiders lurking in every corner. Along the side walls in both sections were built-in cupboards full of dishes, small teapots, paper goods like straws, cups and napkins. Park furniture was piled floor to

ceiling with a small pathway from the main door on the left side to an access door at the opposite end. There were arcade games like pinball machines and skeeball. All of them broke and in various stages of disrepair.

Inside the first section of the bunkhouse was a fortune teller arcade machine that scared both my younger brother and I when we were quite young. It contained a life-size mannequin of "Grandma". When working, she waved her hands over some cards and dispensed a "fortune"; she may have even moved her head! She wasn't plugged in as there was no power in the building but we lived in fear that she would come alive and start moving all on her own. When we were in the building I would run past her and my younger brother would never go past her at all. If my brother was being a pest I told him "Grandma" would get him! Grandpa sold "Grandma" in the late 60s to a Detroit bar called the Dirty Helen Saloon in the Leland Hotel in downtown Detroit. Her current location is unknown.



*Bill Harm*

By one of the sheds was what my mom called "the chopping block". Back in the day my grandparents raised chickens to feed the hungry crowds at the park. She related many stories of when she was young and Grandma chopped off the chicken's head and the chickens would flap wildly around the yard. Believe me, I gave that chopping block a wide berth! I didn't want to see the blood stains I was sure were there from all those poor chickens.

A nightly ritual was to take any table scraps and put them in an old pan. Grandpa would drive us over around dusk and it was my job to put the pan with the treats under an old table next to one of the sheds and take the empty one. Grandpa said we were feeding stray cats but I wonder. Grandpa was known to shoot the raccoons as they raided the vegetables.

Some of my fondest memories are about the Garden and all its hidden treasures. I sure was a lucky kid! ■



## 2012 Activities & Events Calendar

*Dates and locations subject to change*

### Museum Hours

May: Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM

June, July, Aug, Sept: Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM and Sunday Noon – 4 PM

For museum information, contact Nancy Boulton at 810-748-3802

Contact us at [email@hiscfhs.org](mailto:email@hiscfhs.org)

All events and meetings held at the Old Fire Hall Museum unless noted  
3058 S. Channel in downtown Sans Souci.

Members are welcome to attend any Board meetings on the calendar to keep apprised of  
Society activities and to bring issues before the Board.

- |      |       |   |
|------|-------|---|
| May  | 12    | Board Meeting Saturday – 11:30 AM   |
|      | 12    | Art Woodford presents “Tashmoo: The Park and Steamer” Saturday – 3 to 5 PM at the Lion’s Hall |
|      | 26    | Memorial Day Open House & First Year Anniversary Saturday 11am to 4pm                         |
|      | 27-28 | Museum Open 11am to 3pm   |
| June | 9     | Board Meeting Saturday – 11:30 AM   |
|      | 13    | Social Hour Wednesday – 5 to 7 PM   |
|      | 23    | Rum Runners Party date to be confirmed.   |
|      | 27    | Social Hour Wednesday – 5 to 7 PM   |