

The SOCIETY PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

...and the Winner is:

The Raffle for the Beer Cooler (Kegeator) was won by: Rich Hobig, Harsens Island

The Raffle for the CASH Prizes were won by:

\$1,000.00 1st Prize: Mary Ann Smith
Harsens Island MI

\$500.00 2nd Prize: Lillian Jane Pitchford
Rochester MI

\$250.00 3rd Prize: Ed Bell
Chesterfield MI

4th Prize
Print of South Channel Lights c.1900
Gary Grout, St. Clair Flats

and “...A Good Time” was had by all:



One plan that did not coalesce:

Captain Jim Semerad of the Naval Cadet Training ship Grayfox was not able to attend Tashmoo Days 2015 due to an unforeseen circumstance.

The good Captain had to cancel the young men and women cadets who were scheduled to fly-in from around the country to board the Garyfox on Saturday July 18th at the Tashmoo Days event and then conduct a training program in the days following.

Captain Jim has expressed an interest in working with The Society in the future to coordinate and participate in events here on the Island.

The Commissioning of the USS Detroit in the spring of 2016 is a possible collaboration. The USS Detroit will traverse the South Channel to its Commissioning Ceremonies in Detroit. The Society, and we believe our community, would be pleased to participate in a program for this momentous occasion.

The Society will collaborate with *all other Island Organizations and Businesses wishing to participate*. Please contact The Society Board if you wish to be involved.

We will keep you apprised of developments as we learn what might be possible.

Message from the President

Dear Society Members,

The folks who attended Tashmoo Nights and Tashmoo Days 2015 did exactly what Selina and Tillie wrote of their experience, one hundred years ago, in 1915 when they penned the now famous: **“Having a Good Time at Tashmoo”**.

...and so that everyone knows, it is only thru the generosity and enormous assistance of Susan and Robert Bryson that the 100+ year old Park is brought to life to celebrate our history.

Tashmoo Nights was a ‘gala affair’ with an incredible band, attended by approximately 160 folks decked-out in their finest *period dress* for the occasion. It was an evening with lots of fun, lots of laughs, a fashion-show, a full table of great *silent auction items* to select from; and ...**‘a good time’** was had by all. A surprise gift from Islander Dan Persyn of two small kegs that were carried to the Island on the Tashmoo Steamer auctioned at the event and the buyer donated them to the Museum.

Tashmoo Days found the old park brought back to life with a Run, Kids Got Talent contest, Music, Arts & Crafts, Lectures, Horseshoes, First Nation and Civil War interpretive programs, good food, the ‘first-ever’ public tasting of our own Harsens Island Brewery’s **“Tashmoo Steamer Beer”** and more.

If you missed the **“Songs That Tell A Story”** display and presentation by Tom Gordon, you will not ever get to see it again. Tom has decided to retire his collection to storage and it will not be seen again until it is transferred to a museum per his will. The Society sends a special Thank-you to Tom Gordon for bringing this incredible collection to Harsens Island for a special lecture on the 150th Anniversary of Lincoln’s Gettysburg

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The Society Pages

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July 2015

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...continued from Page 1: *Message from the President*

Address and again to Tashmoo Days 2015. I would also like to personally send a very special public Thank-you to Tom for his selfless dedication to this endeavor and for being a friend. *Thank you Thomas Gordon.*

It happened to be the hottest day of the year with high humidity and a brief thunderstorm, but that did not deter guests from **“Having a Good Time at Tashmoo”**. We believe the weather deterred many from attending the event...but who could blame them for keeping cool another way. The folks who were here in the early 1900’s had no air-conditioning and most of them wore heavy woolen clothing and dresses; and the men wore suits and ties. They must have been a hardier group than we are today. Winners of the Raffles are noted in this issue.

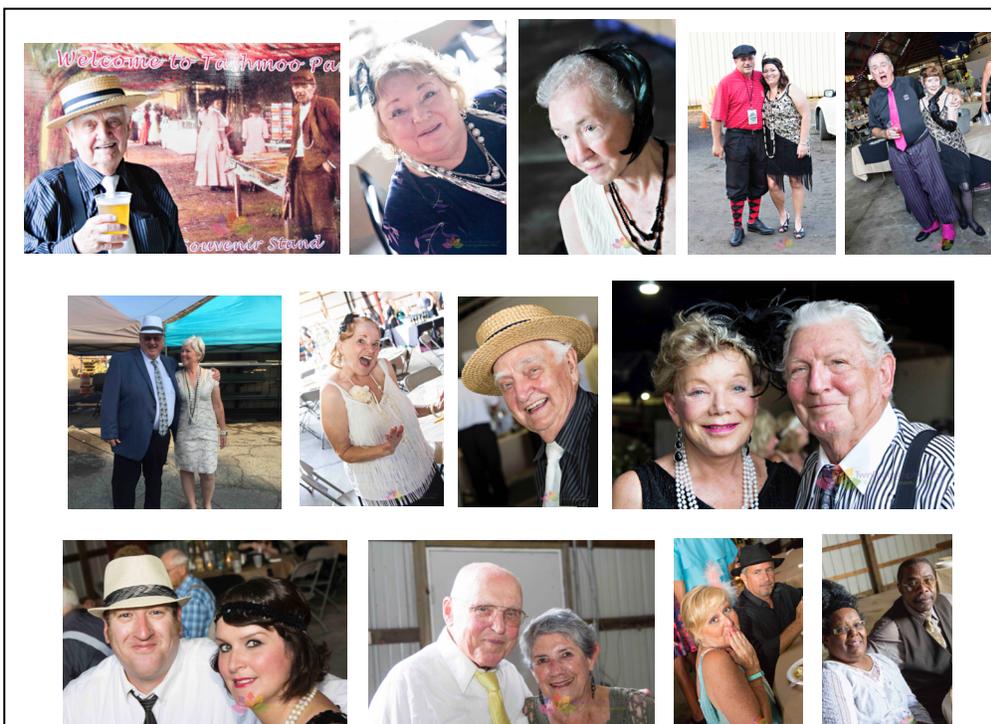
Upcoming events: Founded and formalized in August 2010, The Society will be holding its 5th Annual Meeting and optional dinner August 15, 5PM and 6PM respectively at the Schoolhouse Grille.

We are pleased to report that the ‘Buy a Brick’ program initiated by Bob William continues to be successful with more individuals choosing to have a permanent memorial or recognition brick installed in the Museum. Our Treasurer Joyce Hassen is working on a full accounting and report, on progress toward our goal of paying off the ‘land contract’, at the Annual Membership Meeting August 15.

Please do not forget to make ‘reservations’ if you choose to stay for dinner after The Society Annual Meeting Saturday August 15 at the Schoolhouse Grille. Dinner is \$25 which includes a glass of wine or a beer. (Cocktails and additional beverages will be available from the bar.)

As always, let us know if you have any questions. Phone me anytime.

Warm regards,
Bernardo Licata



Photos by: Stacy Williams, Twin Photography are available on-line at:
<http://twinphotography.shootproof.com/event/1642880> (A portion of the proceeds to HISCFHS)



Join us on Facebook!

A Special Tribute:

Mr. Cletus Karamon, (a.k.a. Butch), and his favorite lady Lisa are to be commended and recognized for their contribution and dedication to Tashmoo Nights and Tashmoo Days.

Butch’s family has a long history on Harsens Island and the Flats. His grandfather once owned the Idle Hour Hotel and his father Cletus Karamon owned the Four Winns, a famous establishment here on the Island for many years. You will find the documented history of their family’s presence on the Island at the Museum.

Butch, whose profession is the ‘lighting of Broadway and London Theatre and Shows came ‘off-the-road’ a little over a year ago to be with his father who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Butch got involved with lighting the Museum last year and helping, last minute with Tashmoo Days 2014. He jumped in to help upgrade the venue and improve the entire Tashmoo Days event for 2015. The welcome signage that depicted the Tashmoo Park as it was 100 years ago, Tashmoo Park Banner at the entrance, the rustic fencing around the beer tent and the Kids-Midway were Butch’s creation.

Butch and Lisa not only got their portion of the program organized and underway, they did it under the most stressful of circumstances. Butch’s father Cletus had been a hospice patient for the two weeks before Tashmoo Nights and Days. Butch’s father passed Thursday evening the 16th of July. This did not deter or distract from their focus. Butch and Lisa were at the Marina setting-up all day Thursday and were on-site Friday morning to help with final set-up. Butch and Lisa and Butch’s Mother Maryann Fraser were at Tashmoo Days all day Saturday managing the Kids Games and the Kids-Midway. Butch’s Mom, Ann and her friend also attended Tashmoo Nights.

My hat is off to Butch, Lisa, Maryann and the group of volunteers from ‘off-Island’, mostly from Canton Michigan, who supported the event; and, an old friend of Butch’s, Danielle Paquette Warner and her son Ray, who with his friends James and Kyle from Clay Township doing school community service work, came to help with the Kids Games. Sheri Gordonier and her children Matt, Nicholas and Elizabeth were also a very big help.

Thank-you is simply insufficient for Butch’s dedication to the Tashmoo Nights/Days event. Butch is a trooper and a professional, living-up, once again, to the old Broadway adage: “The Show Must Go On”.

They made it happen in the most difficult of circumstances, with little sleep for days on-end and significant emotional stress. If you get a minute, send him a ‘thank-you’ and ‘condolence message’, you can do that via phone at: 313-399-7875 or ckaramon@gmail.com. The Society and the Licata’s sent a large tray of Italian Cookies to the family.



Left to right above:
Butch & Lisa with graphics of Original Tashmoo Park
Beer Tent Rustic Fence
Butch’s Mom Maryann Fraser helping w/Kids Games



Left to right below:
Kiddie Striker...a big hit!
Kids Midway Games
Kids Midway Prize Booth and Candy Store



Tashmoo Days...

A picture is worth a thousand words, but there is not sufficient space to add more photos because the size of the document may exceed your computer's capacity to receive them, so we will limit the report on Tashmoo Days to a few photos of each of the activities from that day.



The Run started at St. Marks and the Finish line was in Tashmoo Park.

Many Runners lined-up for a taste of the new **Tashmoo Steamer Beer** immediately after the Race. It was a real-hit throughout the event... evidenced by the fact that it**SOLD-OUT**.



....and included:



The **Historic Lecture Program** included an exhibit of the largest private collection in the world of 'Original Civil War Sheet Music' by Tom Gordon and lectures by Arthur Woodford, David Leander, Joel Stone, Raymond Berels and Tom Gordon.

The Food Venue was excellent with fine fare from the Schoolhouse Grille's '**Corned Beef Sliders**', Browns Bar's '**Pulled Pork Sliders**', and the Historical Society's '**Dogs & Brats**' from Zimmermans and the now famous '**Smokin-Granny**' created and served by *Chef Jean-Paul LePage*, friend to The Society...and washed down with the new Harsens Island Tashmoo Steamer Beer, served to the public for the first time...it was sensational.

Kids Got Talent - Young people from Uganda were a hit.



Civil War Re-enactors Interpretive Program



Arts & Crafts from young people showing their art to old friends from Walpole Island who have a long history here.

Dr. Evelyn White Eye once again wowed the crowd with a mini-pow-wow and an Interpretive Program sharing the culture of the Ojibwa Nation with song, drum and dance in full native regalia.

The Message in a Bottle from Tillie and Selina brought descendants once again to the Island for the bottle's 100th Anniversary. The 100 year old bottle and message were exhibited by the Great Lakes Divecenter. The Great State of Michigan provided a Special Tribute commemorating the 100th Anniversary. The 'Tribute Document' was presented, by State Representative Dan Lauwers, to descendants of Selina and Tillie, the Divecenter and The Society. The Tribute is signed by Governor Snyder, Senator Phil Pavlov, Representatives: Dan Lauwers, Dan Muxlow and Andrea LaFontaine.



PO Box 44
Harsens Island MI 48028

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2015 Calendar of Events

subject to change

Members are welcome to attend any Board / Membership Meeting to keep apprised of Society activities and to bring issues before the Board.

Museum Hours

June through September – Saturdays – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sundays – Noon – 4 PM

Winter Hours– By Appointment: Phone a Board Member

August	8th :	9:00 AM at Museum: Board Meeting
	14th :	6:00 PM Social Hour at Museum
	15th :	5:00 PM HISCFS Annual Meeting - 6:00 PM Optional Dinner – Schoolhouse Grille
September	11th :	6:00 PM Social Hour at Museum
	12th :	9:00 AM at Museum: Board Meeting