

The SOCIETY

PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Two New Items ADDED to The Society's 2016 Calendar of Events:

Photo and Historic Document Scanning Day

A new event, "**Photo and Historic Document Scanning Day**", has been added to the schedule for 2016. This event has been added to encourage and assist islanders in getting their old photos, slides, negatives and historic documents into digital format to preserve them and to provide copies to display and archive at the Museum if they wish.

Photos of Island Families, Homes and Buildings, new or old along with their history are encouraged. Homes built in the early history of the Island and Flats, c. 1700 thru c. 1900's are encouraged. Also, photos of people, events and other information with historic value may be included. With Permission some of these photos and histories may be added to the walking / driving tour of Historic Homes and Buildings that The Society has published and makes available at the Museum.

The Society's thinking is that this will provide a service to our members. Non-members may participate as well.

On **Saturday July 23**, you may bring photos, slides, negatives or historical documents to the Museum to have them scanned. With permission selected digital copies will be retained by the Museum for its collection and a digital copy can be put on your USB flash drive to take home along with the original photos. Flash drives will also be available at the Museum for a donation of \$5.00

There will be a small fee for non-members and no fee for members. Donations will be accepted. There will be a 15-minute limit per member and an appointment for a time slot will make scheduling every-ones time more convenient for all.

Appointments may be made in advance by calling or e-mailing Bob Williams at: (248) 388-0465 or president@hiscfhs.org . Please note Bob will be out of town April 3 to 15.

We hope members and non-members will participate in preserving the History of Harsens Island and the St Clair Flats.

Post Card History

...Collectors Scheduled to Meet

John Kopchak, post card collector of the 'History of Harsens Island and the Flats', along with Donna Krispin, who recently donated to the Museum the collection assembled by Mary Robertson, are scheduled to attend a meeting of: **Collectors of Historic Post Cards**.

The meeting is scheduled for **Saturday June 11, 11:00 AM at the Museum**. If you are a collector, interested, want to see the collections, or are just curious please attend and while there, visit the new 2016 Freighter Exhibit.

Tashmo Steamer Artifacts:

Silver Plated Tureen & Ladle

Bob Williams recently attended an Historical Society of Michigan Conference where he saw on display a Tashmo Steamer silver plated serving tureen and ladle. The set was for sale.



Excerpt, from an online article about the history of the serving set:

" In Memory of Frederic Eugene Weber - December 2, 1924 - October 19, 2014"

Fred's parents met aboard the S.S. TASHMOO, where his father Thomas was Chief Steward. Fred's mother, a recent widow, had come aboard the TASHMOO for an excursion and met Thomas. ...continued on page 5

The Society Pages

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scan the code to go to the HISCFHS
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April 2016

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Message from the President

Hi All,

The weather is warming, the ice seems to be gone and the annual migration has begun, Islanders returning from the south. Our special exhibit committee has been working at the museum to prepare this year's offering, **"Freighters, Steamships and Sails"**. The new exhibit will highlight the history of Great Lakes shipping with a portion dedicated to our local island treasure, **"The Flower Lady"**, Arlene Earl. The exhibit will include photos, videos, models, speakers, books, postcards, artifacts, and items for sale, most of which comes from items donated or loaned by members and other Islanders. If you have any special items on these topics that you would like to loan to the Society for the summer, please call Nancy Boulton at 810-748-3802.

More committees are being formed and events being planned as Islanders come forward with ideas about topics that interest them. An oral history committee has been initiated and a genealogy committee is under discussion. To help preserve our history a **'Photo and Historic Document Scanning Day'** has been added to our schedule for Saturday, July 23rd at the museum. We all have old photos which are deteriorating year after year. Many of us have scanners we use to digitize those photos and put them on photo frames or in our computers to preserve them or email them to friends. For those who do not have a scanner or those who have a scanner but don't know how to use it, we invite you to bring some of your photos to this event for us to scan and give back to you on the spot, along with a digital copy on a USB flash drive. We will even have film negative and photo slide scanners available. If you have photos of the Island or historic documents which you would like to share with the Historical Society but don't want to give up your original this would be a perfect opportunity. You will leave with all of your originals. There will be no charge for members. At this event you can also learn how to use a scanner and a digital photo frame to display your family memories. (see Article, page 1 for additional details about the event.)

Please consider joining us at the museum on April 2nd or May 7th at 10:30 AM for one of our board and membership meetings. Bring your ideas for make our historical society even better. If you miss the meetings feel free to submit your thoughts by calling me at 248-388-0465 (I will be away April 3 – 18) or writing to me at xharpsah@aol.com. Also, you can always drop a note in our new letter slot at the museum.

Please note that our first lecture tentatively scheduled for April has been postponed. Our first lecture is now scheduled for May 21st.

We hope you will **join-us** on Memorial Day weekend for the **'Celebration of Ownership'** of our Museum. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bob Williams,
President



Join us on Facebook!

CELEBRATION !

JOIN US:

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

The Historic Fire Hall c. 1938
Is now:

The Harsens Island St Clair Flats
Historical Society MUSEUM
(And fully owned by The Society and its Members)

The Board of Directors and Members
of The Society:

Cordially Invite You
To Attend the:

'Celebration Of Ownership'

and

Ceremonial Burning of the Mortgage Note

Mark your calendars for entertainment, food,
drink and the

2016 Special Exhibit

"Freighters, Steamships and Sails"

Stay tuned for further details...!

Harsens Historical Society Museum

...Recognized in Bluewater Convention Bureau's Annual:
DISCOVER the Blue

A photo of our Museum appears on Page 9. Free copies of the publication will be available at the Museum Memorial Day Weekend. In the interim, the periodical may be viewed at: <http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?eid=0bb16c99-d171-4c56-aa94-1f1c5291d9e6>

[WHAT TO DO IN]

CLAY/ ALGONAC

Sharing a border and a history of nautical lore, Clay Township and the City of Algonac unite to welcome visitors to their boating community. The area encompasses hundreds of out-islands, inland canals and marshes perfect for pleasure-boating and wildlife sports.

Algonac is the birthplace of Chris Craft Boats and the former home of Gar Wood, the boat builder and record-breaking racer. The Algonac-Clay Maritime and Historical Museums share the area's rich nautical past and display intricate boat models. Downtown Algonac features a boardwalk ideal for freighter watching. Algonac's harbor is home to one of the largest deep-water marinas accessible from the Great Lakes, and

offers a free boat launch and full marina services. Additional water access points are available for boats or kayaks. Paddlers can weave their way through St. John's Marsh, a watery maze of swaying grasses and aquatic plants.

Harsens Island is a popular destination for visitors, and is reachable by ferry. Its quaint community offers a slice of laid-back island life, while its restaurants and summer events make for lively evenings and weekends. Waterfront watering holes are a hot spot for boaters with dock-your-boat parking and entertainment.

➤ For more information, visit bluewater.org



Passion for the Island

The Harsens Island Historical Society Museum (below) is located in the island's old fire hall.



"Freighters, Steamships and Sails" ...Museum Special Exhibit – 2016

The Museum Team, Marie & John Eidt, Chuck Miller, Bob Williams and Nancy Boulton, with support from David Addy, Frank Schoonover, John Kopchak, the Crowns and Paul Wargo, are working diligently to present an outstanding history of "Freighters, Steamships and Sails".



Marie & John Eidt, Chuck Miller, Bob Williams and Nancy Boulton at work on reconfiguring the Museum and installing the new Special Exhibit - 2016

Artifacts, models, and other interesting items will be exhibited. What were Freighters like 150 years ago? How did they sound then and now; and, what has changed over the years? Come and learn. There will also be **Hands-on 'Boat Knots for Kids'**, and observe model building. The Museum Shoppe will feature wood block freighters, kits, books and more. Short Talks, Video Presentations and a special corner honoring our own "The Flower Lady", Arlene Earl to round out the Exhibit...be sure to schedule time at the Museum this season.

----- print and post on your bulletin board -----

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society

2016 Calendar

Revised: 02/26/2016

- TBD = to be determined
- Locations may change – See our website at HarsensIslandHistory.org for the latest information.
- ***All members welcome to attend any Board meeting listed as Board/Membership meeting.***

Museum hours - Jan, Feb, March, April – closed – open by appointment

May – Saturday – 10 AM – 3 PM

June, July, Aug, Sept. – 2nd Friday 6 – 8 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 3 PM and Sunday Noon – 4 PM

Oct, Nov, Dec – closed – open by appointment and for Pie and Cookie sales.

April - 2nd - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/**Membership meeting** at the Museum

May - 7th - Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/**Membership meeting** at the Museum

21st – Saturday – 3:00 PM - [Lecture series – Freighter New Technology – Bill Shultz – Schoolhouse Grille](#)

28th – 30th - Saturday, Sunday, Monday - Memorial Day Museum Open House and Celebration of Museum
(Special open hours - Saturday 11am – 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon – 4pm, Monday 10am – 3pm)

June - 4th – Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/**Membership meeting** at the Museum

4th – Saturday – David Addy speaks on his experiences as a Chief Engineer – 1 PM at the Museum

10th – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum

11th – Saturday – [Postcard collector's meeting, open to the public – 11 AM at the Museum](#)

11th – Saturday – Chuck Miller building a freighter model – 1 to 3 PM at the Museum

18th – Saturday – 3:00 PM – Lecture: Jacobs Island (Harsens History) Gary Grout. Schoolhouse Grille

July - 1st - Friday – 6 PM – Board/**Membership meeting** at the Museum

8th – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum

10th – Saturday – Chuck Miller building a freighter model – 1 to 3 PM at the Museum

16th – Saturday – Tashmoo Days and Nights – at Tashmoo Marina.

23rd – Saturday - [Photo and Historic Document Scanning Day at the Museum](#)

Aug. - 6th - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/**Membership meeting** at the Museum

12th – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum

14th – Sunday – Chuck Miller building a freighter model – 1 to 3 PM at the Museum

20th – Saturday – 4:30 PM to 6 PM **Annual Membership meeting** at the museum.

Sept. - 9th – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum

Date TBD – Saturday – 3:00 PM - Lecture series – at Schoolhouse Grille

Oct. - 1st - Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/**Membership meeting** at the Museum

8th – Saturday – 10 – 3 PM - Pie Sale at Museum

Date TBD – Saturday – 3:00 PM - Lecture series – at Schoolhouse Grille

Dec. - 3rd – Saturday – 10 AM– 3 PM - Cookie Sale at the Museum

NEW – Letter Slot, added to the Museum

A penny saved is a penny earned. Our members and others wishing to communicate with The Society and Museum may now drop an envelope into the newly installed slot at the Museum. This new convenience will save time for those who wish to take advantage.



...continued from page 1:

Love and marriage followed and their only son Frederic was born on December 2, 1924.

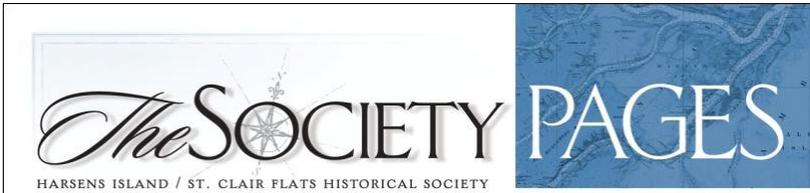
Being the chief steward on the S.S. TASHMOO had perks and one of them allowed Mrs. Weber and young Fred the use of the area beneath the pilothouse. Previously the area had been the Captain's cabin and when a new cabin was constructed behind the wheel house for the Captain the area beneath the pilothouse became a lounge. Fred would go aboard with his mother for weekends on the TASHMOO to Port Huron. He remembered being in the private lounge on a number of trips.



Fred often went with his father to inspect the vessel during the off season when it was in the Detroit Shipyard. His father snapped a photo of young Fred at the railing of the TASHMOO prior to the 1936 sailing season. It was during the 1936 season that the TASHMOO struck a rock while leaving Sugar Island in the lower Detroit River, then mooring at a dock in Amherstburg. Fred's father recalled it was an orderly sinking. As the boat settled to the bottom, the band and dancers simply moved one deck higher to continue the evening's festivities.

After the S.S. TASHMOO was salvaged Fred's father requested permission to retrieve a few items from the vessel that were in a White Star Line warehouse in Detroit. He was allowed to take some china and a number of silver serving pieces engraved TASHMOO. These were used in the Weber household until Fred decided to disperse his collection."

The current owner has the two pieces priced for sale at \$925. Upon his return from the conference Bob mentioned to a few members that he had seen them for sale and within a couple of days he received unsolicited emails for pledges totaling over \$350 towards the purchase of the set for the Society's collection. If you would like to be a member of the group hoping to acquire this set for the museum please contact Bob Williams at: xharpspah@aol.com. Or by phone at: 248-388-0465, after April 19...or simply mail your pledge or check to: PO Box 44 noting Tashmoo Silver Bowl.



PO Box 44
Harsens Island MI 48028

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2016 Calendar of Events

subject to change

Members are welcome to attend any Board Meeting listed as Board/Membership Meeting
(Location may change – See our website at: HarsensIslandHistory.org for latest information)

Museum Hours

January, February, March, April- CLOSED - Open by Appointment only

May - Saturdays - 10 AM - 3 PM and Sunday's - Noon - 4 PM

June, July, August, September - 2nd Friday's - 6 PM - 8 PM

Saturday's - 10 AM - 3 PM and Sunday's - Noon - 4 PM

Winter Hours- By Appointment: Phone a Board Member

April 2nd : Saturday - 10:30 AM Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum

May 7th : Saturday - 10:30 AM Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum – Final: Nominations
28th: Saturday – Memorial Day Museum Open House – 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
29th: Sunday – Memorial Day Museum Open House – 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM
30th: Monday – Memorial Day Museum Open House – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM