

The SOCIETY

PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Algonac Clay Historical Society

"Story & Photos of North and South American Steamliners"

Algonac Clay Historical Society will host a presentation Thursday September 15, 2016 at the Maritime Museum in Algonac:

The presentation will be made by Freighter Frank.

Doors open at 6 PM, the Program starts at 7 PM.

The Maritime Museum is located at: 1117 St. Clair Drive Algonac.

You are cordially invited to attend our museum and presentation. A donation would be appreciated.

Questions regarding the event should be directed to Paula Burgess at: paulaburgess@comcast.net

Listening to Freighter Frank is always an enjoyable event. We hope to see you there.

Thank You
Paula Burgess
Algonac Clay Historical Society

Genealogy Workshop

The Society will sponsor a Genealogy Workshop at 1:00 PM, Sunday September 11 at the Readers Cove Library.

The event is free to members. A \$10 fee is required for non-members. Pre-registration is required for all to insure admittance.

Those interested should contact Bob Williams at: 248-388-0465 or xharpspah@aol.com.

Great Lake Freighter Models Donated to The Society

Harsens Island Michigan (August 23, 2016): The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society is pleased to announce the addition of two scale models donated to the Museum. The models, donated by Mary Reed-Lewis, daughter of Harry Reed-Lewis, are of the "Atlantic Huron" a Canada Steamship Lines vessel and the Inland Steel Company's vessel the "Wilfred Sykes". These beautifully built scale models are now on-display at the Museum in Sans Souci, Harsens Island.



Mary delivering the "Atlantic Huron"



Mary and Husband Brock delivering the "Wilfred Sykes"



The "Atlantic Huron"



The "Wilfred Sykes"

"It is truly strange how things happen", said Robert Williams President of The Society. "William (Bill) McIntyre Jr., of Grosse Pointe, a friend of Mary Reed-Lewis and husband Brock from Niagara-on-the-Lake Ontario Canada, learned that Mary was looking for a home for some of her father's many scale models. Bill mentioned this to his long-time friend and Society Member Denne Osgood. Denne called me and in short order arrangements were made for delivery of the two models", he continued. "What a confluence of random communication", said Bob, "that a few words connected these models to The Society Museum". "We are grateful for the donation of these beautifully built models", he concluded.

The scale models, built by Harry Reed-Lewis, were but two of the many he constructed throughout his life. Born in Toronto and raised in Windsor Ontario, Harry's interest in model building started at age ten when his father, a civil engineer, built him a model of a tugboat complete with a little clockwork engine, and models of sailboats that he and his brother sailed. Harry started his model building hobby with model-hydroplanes, in the 1950's, he lived in Windsor during the time that Detroit was the 'world-headquarters' for powerboat-racing. His family moved to Oakville, then to Kitchener Ontario where he worked as purchasing manager for Budd Canada.

Harry has built models of the ocean-liner **SS United States**, French vessels and **warships of WWII**. He has built models of the **ESSO Parentis** and Jacques Cousteau's oceanographic-vessel, **Calypso**. Vessels of the Cleveland-Cliffs Steamship Company's fleet, the **SS Cadillac** and the **SS Cliffs Victory**; as well as, vessels of the Canada Steamship Lines' ...

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The Society Pages

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A publication of the Harsens Island St.
Clair Flats Historical Society

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September 2016

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Message from the President

Hi All,

A few weeks ago we had our annual membership meeting. We had a nice turn out and those that came were treated to appetizers and drinks provided by our board members.

The results of the election were announced. Nancy Bonaquisti and I were re-elected to the board for three more years. Thank you to all who voted. It is important to have our membership involved in these decisions.

Since the bulk of our museum season is almost over I had the pleasure of summarizing some of our Society's accomplishments this year. Of course the big one was paying off the land contract on the building. We are happy to have the museum 100% in our possession.

We are very proud of this year's special exhibit, "Freighters, Steamships and Sails, 150 years of changes in Great Lakes shipping." We have had many fine compliments on this exhibit that was put together by Nancy Boulton, Marie and John Eidt and Chuck Miller. The two ship models donated in early August by Mary Reed-Lewis has added to the special exhibit. Make sure you stop in and see them if you haven't already.

So far this season we have had special visits arranged for senior citizen groups, Algonac Schools and The Salvation Army. We have more to come in September.

Earlier in the year groups formed within our membership to purchase the Tashmoo tureen, a cup from Tashmoo Park and one group purchased and donated a new color laser printer. The Licata's donated two computers so that our database of the more than one thousand items in our collection is now available and electronically searchable at the museum. The collection database is also available online on our website at: www.harsensislandhistory.org

Recently member John Kopchak completed his work of creating an index of titles of all of the articles that have appeared in the Delta News since its inception. His work on the document was supplemented by the efforts of Donna Krispin and an early index began by Arlene Ann Grout many years ago. Additional credits were given to Jean Osgood Nelson and Jane Marion Wright for their work. John's completed document is available on the museum computer and online at our website.

At the Annual Meeting thanks were given to the many members who served as hosts in the museum this year. We have been open nine hours every weekend plus many hours on weekdays to open for visiting groups. Without the dedication of our hosts we could not keep the museum open.

We have plenty of events still coming up this year. Be sure to check the calendar and stop in to see the new LED lighting in the museum has reduced the lighting power consumption to about half of what it was and at the same time more than doubled the lighting level.

One last item: See the Article in this months issue regarding the *Island/Flats Map* being created that is planned to be available at the Museum in January of 2017.

Cheers,

Bob Williams, President



Join us on Facebook!

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...the *M/V Tadoussac*, the *Wilfred Sykes*, the *Quebecois*, the *M/V Richelieu*, the ill-fated *Edmund Fitzgerald*, the *Edward L. Ryerson* and more including the model donated, the *Atlantic Huron*.



from left to right: Mary Reed-Lewis, Husband Brock, Mary-Ellen and William (Bill) McIntyre Jr.

“We are extremely pleased to have these two freighters donated to exhibit in our Museum”, said Chuck Miller, Director, model builder/retired geologist and co-curator of this years Museum-special-exhibit: ‘Freighters, Steamships and Sails’. “These quality built models fit nicely into this years exhibit that depicts: *150 years of changes in Great Lakes shipping*, what a great addition to our collection”, said Miller.

On hand to accept and thank Mary and Brock for the donation, and Mary Ellen and Bill for making the connection were Members of the Board who gathered the group for lunch at the Schoolhouse Grille before delivery to the Museum.



from left to right: Bernardo Licata, Bill McIntyre Jr, Nancy Bonacquisti, Mary Reed-Lewis, Husband Brock, Mary Ellen McIntyre, Nancy Licata, Nancy Boulton, Bob Williams. (Sue Williams was also present, but missed being in the photo.)

You are cordially invited to visit The Society Museum to view the: “*Freighters, Steamships and Sails*”, and the two new scale models of the *Atlantic Huron* and the *Wilfred Sykes*.

Explorers find 2nd oldest confirmed shipwreck in Great Lakes

...The Washington sank during a storm in 1803, exploration team said

The Associated Press Posted: Aug 17, 2016 8:02 AM ET Last Updated: Aug 19, 2016 11:10 AM ET

The second oldest confirmed shipwreck in the Great Lakes, an American-built, Canadian-owned sloop that sank in Lake Ontario more than 200 years ago, has been found, a team of underwater explorers said Wednesday.

The three-member western New York-based team said it discovered the shipwreck earlier this summer in deep water off Oswego, in central New York. Images captured by a remotely operated vehicle confirmed it is the Washington, which sank during a storm in 1803, team member Jim Kennard said.

"This one is very special. We don't get too many like this," said Kennard, who along with Roger Pawlowski and Roland "Chip" Stevens has found numerous wrecks in Lake Ontario and other waterways.

The sloop Washington was built on Lake Erie in Pennsylvania in 1798 and was used to transport people and goods between western New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario. It was placed on skids and hauled by oxen teams across the Niagara Isthmus to Lake Ontario in 1802 after being sold to Canadian merchants.

The 53-foot-long ship was carrying at least five people and a cargo of merchandise, including goods from India, when it set sail from Kingston, Ontario, for its home port of Niagara, Ontario, on Nov. 6, 1803. The vessel was caught in a fierce storm and sank. At least three crewmembers and two merchants were on the sloop. All aboard died. According to Kennard, contemporary records said portions of the cargo and pieces of the ship were found the following day on shore near Oswego.

The Washington is the oldest commercial sailing vessel found in the Great Lakes and the only sloop known to have sailed on lakes Erie and Ontario, Kennard said. Single-masted sloops were replaced in the early 19th century by two- and three-masted schooners, which were much easier to sail, according to Carrie Sowden, archaeological director at the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo, Ohio, which sponsors the New York team's explorations.

Since there are no known drawings of the Washington, the sloop's discovery will help maritime historians learn more about the design and construction of that type of sailing vessel used on the Great Lakes between the American Revolution and the War of 1812, she said.

"Every shipwreck offers something different that adds to our knowledge base," Sowden said.

The oldest vessel found in the Great Lakes is HMS Ontario, a British warship that sank in Lake Ontario in 1780. Kennard and another explorer found that wreck in 2008.



This July 16, 2016, photo taken from underwater video shows the Washington, which sank in Lake Ontario during a storm in 1803. A team of underwater explorers says it is the second-oldest confirmed shipwreck in the Great Lakes, an American-built, Canadian owned-sloop discovered earlier this summer in deep water off Oswego, N.Y. (Roger L. Pawlowski/The Associated Press)

(This Article identified by Chuck Miller. Reprinted from the Canadian Broadcasting Company, Hamilton Ontario CANADA website. cbc.ca/shortdocs)

A Little Diversion

...and a Little Humor

As noted last month: Each year, officers of the marine division of Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company would gather in Cleveland, Ohio for an annual banquet. The highlight of the evening was a performance of sorts often roasting particular captains and members of the marine division of the company. To encourage participation, booklets of verse were distributed to the crowd. The limericks, poems, and satire provide a special glimpse into the informal life of what was a corporate giant of that era.

A common thread in these limericks was the occupational skill of fleet captains. If a captain had a particular tendency in his work habits that had become common knowledge, it became fodder for the annual banquet. All were treated to a barrage of satire delivered in rhyme and syncopation. *This month's Limerick:*

Dedicated to Captain Amsbury

***Mr. Schneider – have you heard
Why some boats' costs are high?
Well, just a little story and
You'll know the reason why.***

***There were four girls on the Marquette
Whom Amsbury liked quite well
And when the trip was over
He supplied them so they tell.***

***One girl took home ten loaves of bread
Another had two cakes
The third one a case of jam
The last one all she could take.***

*Poking fun at a captain for actual or perceived error in judgment was to be expected. However, the presence and nature of the commentary on various captains' **preoccupation with women** was surprising, considering the era, and more importantly, the age of some of the captains in attendance. Perhaps, attendees at the banquet assumed the limericks would never find their way into the collections of historical organizations. But they did. Look for the next limerick in October.*

2017 Harsens Island Visitor's Map

The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society has received many requests for a map of the Island. In response one will be published in 2017.

The map will include a list of community services and businesses available on the island that are providing services to visitors. All public roads and major waterways on and around Harsens Island and the St. Clair Flats will be shown and labeled, and lighthouses, cell towers, church spires, channel markers and some other navigation aids will be shown for general guidance to boaters. Additional information on the map will include: "*Things to do on Harsens Island*", "*Things you should know about the island*", "*Phone Numbers*" and "*Annual Events*". Business members of the Historical Society will have their business address, phone number, email and website referenced and will be eligible to purchase a display AD to provide more information to visitors. The map will be 22" x 17" folded twice down to a finished size of 11" x 8.5" and will be available for \$3 each. Copies of the rough draft of the map and advertising information are available now at the Historical Museum in Sans Souci. Each Historical Society Member can pick one up at no cost. We would appreciate receiving comments and corrections for the map up until November 6.

Any business wishing to become member of the Historical Society to have the details of their business included on the map, or wishing to place a display AD, should contact the Historical Society by that date. If you would like to provide corrections in person or discuss a 'business membership' or AD, a representative will be available at the museum from Noon to 1pm on September 17, October 8 and November 6. The finished map is planned to be available January 1, 2017. This map is intended to inform visitors of all that is available on the Island; and, will provide a record or "snapshot" of the Island as it is now to keep in the archives of the Historical Society.

If you have questions about the 2017 Visitor's Map please contact Bob Williams at 248-388-0465 or xharpspah@aol.com



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

- September**
- 9th – Friday – 6:00 to 8:00 PM – Social hour at the Museum
 - 11th – Sunday – 1:00 PM– Historical Society Genealogy Workshop - at Readers Cove Library
(Free to members, \$10 fee for non-members, Pre-registration required to insure admittance.)
 - 17th – Saturday – 3:00 PM – Lecture Series – “Island Stories” - at Schoolhouse Grille
- October**
- 1st – Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/**Membership meeting** at the Museum
 - 8th – Saturday – 10 – 3 PM - Pie Sale at Museum
 - 29th – Saturday – 3:00 PM - Lecture series – Joel Stone, Detroit Historical Society – Topic TBD