

The SOCIETY

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAGES

Society Receives Donation of Steam Whistle

Your Society is privileged and honored to report that we have received the donation of the fully functional Steam Whistle from the freighter J.B. Ford. The piece was donated by Museum member John Cameron, Jr. of Grand Haven, Michigan. John is the son of John Cameron, a life-long native of the Island and a museum member..

Matching Grant Meets It's Goal

In May member Clayton Evans of DesMoines, Washington issued a matching fund challenge to the membership whereby Clayton would match up to \$2,000 of donations received by June 1 of this year. The challenge was extended to July 1 to give us more time to get the word out. We are happy to announce that we have received \$2,019.50 in donations for the challenge, and with Clayton's donation we have raised a total of \$4,019.50. Thank you Clayton, and thank you to all who stepped up to make this a successful fundraiser. Here are the names of those who took up the challenge: The Koss Family, Kevin Decker, Denice Anderson, William & Karen Smith, The Island Grille – Kristen and Tony Bane, R.J. Toth, K.A. Toth, Creative Visioning of New Baltimore, Joan Emerick, Peter Saldana, Michael and Barb Feldman, William Demunick, Deborah Ruboyianes-Demunick, John Merritt, The Crown Studio, Woman's Life Chapter #5071, J. Lewis Cooper, Jr., and Kathy O'Connor. Thank you all for your support of the Historical Society and its activities.



The J.B. Ford was a steamship that saw service for over 100 years. She left active service in 1985, but continued as a cement storage and transfer vessel until 2006. The owner, LaFarge, deferred scrapping her while efforts to preserve her continued until 2014. She was sent to scrap in October 2015.

The solid brass whistle stands over 6 feet high and weighs in the neighborhood of 300 pounds!

Special thanks go out to Bobby Bryson for his considerable help in working with museum staff to bring the whistle and its special air compressor from Grand Haven. Planning for the installation of the whistle on the

outside of the museum is in progress. Updates to follow in future newsletters.





**A Publication of the Harsens Island St.Clair Flats
Historical Society**

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President's Message for July 2017

Hi All,

Algonac-Clay Historical Society Activities:

The Algonac-Clay Historical Society will continue to celebrate their 25th anniversary Saturday and Sunday, July 15 & 16 by having 'Miss America X' on display at the Maritime Museum in Algonac followed by the 'Grey Fox' and 'Pride of America' boats docked in Algonac on Saturday & Sunday, August 19 & 20. If you haven't been to their Maritime Museum yet, be sure to check it out.

Additional photos needed for a Book on the History of Harsens Island and The St. Clair Flats:

As you may know already, the Society has made arrangements with author Gary Mitchell and Arcadia Publishing to create a book on the history of Harsens Island and St. Clair Flats. Gary's last book, "Images of America, Algonac and Clay Township," has been a great success and a good fundraiser for The Algonac-Clay Historical Society. We have agreed to assist Gary in collecting photos and materials for the new book, but, we need your help. We need you to go through those old boxes of photos of the island and islanders which your family has collected and share them with the Society to help with this project. We aren't asking you to give them up; just bring them to the museum so we can scan them while you wait. If you have any materials that you would like to share, please call me at 248-388-0465 or email me at xharpspah@aol.com before the end of July, to set up an appointment.

Two new family collections have come to the Society:

We are happy to say that two members have recently donated their family's whole collection of photos and documents to the Society for use in the new book project. Each of those collections is being reviewed, organized and catalogued by our volunteers and in the near future each special collection will be available to visitors and researchers.

Bob Williams, President

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

- July - 1st - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum
- 10th- Monday- Special Visit and Presentation by Pat Hart, Captain of the Tug Victory, **12 noon** at the museum- Open to members and guests . Donations accepted 😊 Call Chuck 748-7209.
- 14th Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum
- August- 5 - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum
- “**NEW:** Kids Day at the Historical Museum”. The date is Monday, August 7th from 10 am until Noon. It's open to children of all ages. Puppet making and storytelling around our theme of Muscrat Sally, our museum mascot. Refreshments will be served too.
- 11th – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum
- 19th Saturday – 4:30 PM Wine and Appetizers at the museum.5 to 6 PM- *Annual Membership Meeting* at the museum.
- Sept. – 8th – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum
- 16– Saturday – 3:00 PM - Lecture series – Tony Gramer: Lost in 17 Minutes-The Tug O Wilcox Reservations required- Call Chuck- 748-7209
- Oct.- 7– Saturday – 10 – 3 PM - **Pie Sale at Museum**
- 14th - Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting.
- Dec.- 2nd – Saturday – 10 AM– 3 PM - **Cookie Walk at the Museum**
- 9th– Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board Meeting at Museum

2017 Summer Hours

May 25th (Memorial Day Weekend) Through September.

Thursday, Friday - 12-3 PM; Saturday – 10 AM–3 PM, Sunday- Noon to 4 PM.

Special Happy Hour- 2nd Friday 6-8 PM.

Special Program for July

The Society is pleased to welcome fellow member Pat Hart for a very special program. Pat is a full time captain of the tug Victory with the barge James Kuber. He is seen regularly here during his passages between Toledo to Marquette with iron ore. Pat and David Addy (American Century) are the Society's two active Lakes Sailors.



Pat graduated from Algonac H.S. and immediately went to the Maritime Academy in Traverse City to become a Great Lakes Seaman. He's been at it for over 30 years and has sailed on numerous vessels. His mother, Joan Hart, is a full-time resident of the Island and Pat is taking time out from his visit with his Mom to talk to us about his Lakes experiences.

The program will be at Noon on Monday, July 10th at the Museum. Space is limited, so please call Chuck Miller if you plan to come. We need to keep a count. The event is free

to members and guests but, as usual, we are always pleased to receive donations....🤪 Mark your calendars! For the freighter geeks, make sure you wave when Pat sails by!





P.O. Dos 44

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