



Father's Day is the celebration of the contribution that fathers and father figures make to their children's lives. Its origins may lie in a memorial service held for a large group of men, many of them fathers, who were killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia in 1907.



Another notable date in June is Flag Day. People across the United States celebrate Flag Day on June 14 each year to honor the United States flag and to commemorate the flag's adoption. On the same day, the United States Army celebrates its birthday.



Source: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us>

Message from the President . . .

Hi All,

Building Addition Groundbreaking

Thanks to a generous bequest by Clayton Evans, the Historical Museum had a groundbreaking celebration for our new addition on Saturday, May 25th. The addition will be used for an exhibit space and much needed storage. Island resident Judy Jessup was on hand to talk about her friend Clayton, who attended the 1938 dedication of the Harsens Island Fire Hall building that is now home to our Historical Museum. During that ceremony 81 years ago, the fire truck was somehow backed into the river, and Clayton came to the rescue by pulling it out of the river with his tractor! Others in attendance at Saturday's groundbreaking included present and past board members, contractor for the addition, Michael Moore, Township Supervisor Artie Bryson, and museum members, friends, and supporters. Museum members were treated to a free lunch of pulled pork sliders donated by Corinne and John Trexler. A big thank you to all of the board members and volunteers who pitched in to make this a great day. Thanks also to San Souci Market for their support of the festivities.

Steam Whistle Project

On Memorial Day weekend we had the chance to test our steam whistle. All went well with John Cameron, Sr. giving us the first blast on our wonderful whistle. This whistle from the freighter the J.B. Ford was donated to our historical society by John's son, John Cameron, Jr. Please plan on joining us on Saturday, June 29th at Noon for the official dedication at the museum. Hope to see you there.

High Water Project

continued on page 2 . . .

Message from the President . . . continued from page 1 . . .

We are all hoping that the high-water levels which the Island has been experiencing will soon be a part of our history rather than a part of our present. Keeping in mind that the island conditions we have been experiencing due to the high water will be of interest to islanders in the future, the Historical Society would like to add a record of the current conditions to our files about past high-water events. We are interested in stories, photos, maps or documents about the recent high water. If you have some digital photos or would like to write up your story of this year's high water in your area, please send them to me at xharpspah@aol.com. I will see that they become part of our permanent record. If you would be interested in heading up this project for the Society, we would welcome your help.

I can also be reached by calling 248-388-0465. Thank you.

Bob Williams, President
(xharpspah@aol.com)

People of Harsens Island

By Chris Knight

It has been mentioned in many past newsletters . . . the people of Harsens Island are what truly makes this island so wonderfully unique. Be it tornadoes, high water, ice jams, or struggling with health problems, it is inspiring and heartfelt to see how neighbors help neighbors. And let's not forget that being surrounded by water this community also has an unbounded entrepreneurial spirit. It is what keeps the island afloat (no pun intended).

The Harsens Island Historical Museum has over 50 books and binders of history about the island, events, and its people. Each month I will share some excerpts from documents, newspaper articles, or interviews about an islander or an island family. The following are a couple excerpts from a write up about one of our islanders, Milton Osgood (1916 – 2014).



“The property for the Osgood’s present house was purchased in 1960. The fourteen acres was the sight of the Grand Pointe Hotel that was razed by fire years before. The hotel ran 200 feet across the front of the lot and covered three present lots. A corner rested on the property now owned by the Pessler family. When Milt Decided to build a barn and corral for his horses in 1963, he discovered the location was the dump for the hotel. They dug up many bottles of all shapes and pitchers, dishes, flasks, hotel room keys, etc. from this disturbing of the soil. These things were all carefully saved and are now great remembrances.”

“When Milt was five years old, his father gave him a pony named “Foxy”. He spent long hours on it and traveled miles on the island. He traded his pony for rides on a real bike with his friend and also took the pony to Tashmoo Park and sold rides to the people from the boat. An enterprising young man, that boy! He even managed to spend a month or so going to the island school.”

Ground Breaking for the Museum Expansion



Judy Jessup sharing stories about Clayton Evans



Ground Breaking – Judy Jessup, Artie Bryson, Michael Moore and Bob Williams

**Perky Prudence
is getting married**



**to her childhood
sweetheart
Lovelorn Louie!**

**If you think everything
will go smoothly, you
could not be more
wrong.**

Saturday, June 8 at 6:30 PM

Harsens Island Lions Hall
Tickets \$20 (includes dinner)
Beer and Wine available for purchase

Tickets available at San Souci Market, Waterfront Shop
and Readers Cove

Fundraiser for
~ The H.I. Lions ~
~ The Historical Society ~

**Organized by a
Group of Fun-Loving Islanders**

Special Notice from the Curator

by Chuck Miller

Special upcoming Museum events are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, but I want to mention a very special event that will take place at St. Paul's Church on July 29th. On that day we will honor the passing (last July) of Dick Chute, another of our distinguished Island natives. Museum member John Cameron, our resident 'Islander Emeritus' at 94 years old, and a close friend of Dick, will present the eulogy. Dick's history is both honorable and noteworthy. We have every reason to be extremely proud of this Islander.

Dick Chute was a Naval Aviator who received his carrier flight training on the Sable and Wolverine training carriers in Lake Michigan. Both ships were converted passenger steamers. Dick went on to serve on the USS Bennington in 1944-1945 in the South Pacific. He flew the F6FN Hellcat night fighter equipped with some of the first radar equipment and was credited with two kills. (A replica of his plane is on display in the Museum). On returning from service, he attended Purdue University and obtained a Mechanical Engineering Degree. While working for TRW, he designed and *patented the first automotive Air Bag*.

Save the Date
July 29
St. Paul's Church



Dick Chute with Barb Crown at Browne's Field 2014



Contact our curator, Chuck Miller, to arrange for a visit.

(cmiller5179@gmail.com)

Curator's Corner

By Chuck Miller

I am asking all our members to consider contributing to our newsletter by contributing a story relating to interesting island events that may have occurred in their family. Submit them in word (.doc) format or just write them down and send them to me with pictures. If you want help crafting the story, contact me and we'll work it up together.

There are great stories out there! Help me capture them!

Harsens Island Historical Society Calendar 2019

Note: The Annual Membership Meeting has been moved to August 10 (same time – 4:30 PM)

| Date | Day | Time | Event |
|--------------|----------|---|--|
| June 14 | Friday | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Social Hour |
| July 6 | Saturday | 10:30 AM | Board / Membership Meeting at Museum |
| July 12 | Friday | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Social Hour |
| August 3 | Saturday | 5:30 PM | Board Meeting/Dinner at Board member's home |
| August 9 | Friday | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Social Hour |
| August 10 | Saturday | 4:30 PM 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM 6:00 PM | Wine and Appetizers at Museum Annual Membership Meeting at Museum Board Meeting to Elect 2019 Officers |
| September 13 | Friday | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Social Hour |
| October 5 | Saturday | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Pie Sale at Museum |
| October 12 | Saturday | 10:30 AM | Board / Membership Meeting at Museum |
| December 7 | Saturday | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Cookie Walk at Museum |
| December 14 | Saturday | 10:30 AM | Board Meeting at Museum |

Museum Hours

| Summer Schedule (June, July, August) |
|---|
| Second Fridays 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM |
| Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM |
| Sundays 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM |
| Winter Schedule (October through April) |
| Closed but Open by appointment |



A huge thank you to Artie Bryson for helping expedite the repair to the road by the museum!



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

Mailing Address:

PO Box 44
Harsens Island MI 48028

Museum Address:

3058 S. Channel Dr.

<https://harsensislandhistory.org/>

HISCFHS Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

Open Position

President

Bob Williams

1st Vice President

Sue Wrobel

2nd Vice President

Corinne Trexler

Treasurer

Joyce Hassen

Secretary

Nancy Bonacquisti

Directors

Terry Wiggins

Donna Krispin

Christine Knight

**Join Us on Saturday, June 29th
12 PM at the
Harsens Island Museum**

**J.B Ford Steam Whistle
Dedication**

Honored Guests and Dignitaries

Historical Society Board

Artie Bryson – Clay Township Supervisor

John Cameron Jr. and Ann Cameron - Whistle Donors

Drew and Karen Peslar – Whistle Supporters

Dan Persyn - Contractor

Amy Strutz - Electrician

John Eidt, Bobby Bryson, Tom Hellstrom – Whistle Crew

Chuck Miller – Museum Curator



Membership Application 2019

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Primary Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____ Spouse Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____ Spouse E-Mail: _____

Additional Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Phone: _____

| <u>Annual Dues:</u> | | <u>Life-time Dues</u> | |
|---|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| { } Individual (1 Member Only) | \$20.00 | _____ Life Individual | \$300.00 |
| { } Family (1-2 Adults plus children under 18 years) | \$30.00 | _____ Life Family | \$500.00 |
| { } Business | \$50.00 | | |

BUILDING ADDITION DONATION: \$ _____ **OTHER DONATION: \$** _____

If desired, please specify use: _____

Newsletters are emailed to members. If you require newsletters via postal mail, please write a note on your returned application.

Please complete and send with a check made payable to: **The Society**. Mail to: The Society, PO Box 44, Harsens Island, MI 48028

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date received: _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____