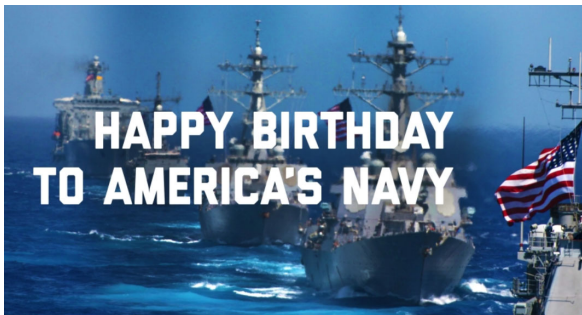




Navy Birthday – October 13

On October 13, 1775, the United States Navy was established. The United States Navy originated as the Continental Navy when the Continental Congress authorized two armed vessels to search for ships supplying the British army with weapons and ammunition during the American Revolutionary War.



Columbus Day – October 14

Columbus Day, which is on the second Monday of October, remembers Christopher Columbus' arrival to the Americas on October 12, 1492. This holiday is controversial because the European settlement in the Americas led to the demise of the history and culture of the indigenous peoples.



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

Message from the President . . .

Hi All,

Building Addition Status

In July we were able to begin construction on our museum addition project. The wood storage room on the back of the museum was demolished, foundations were poured, and the block walls were begun. During August our contractors were able to complete the masonry walls and install the steel roof joists and metal deck. In September we were unable to get the concrete to the island which we need to pour the floor in the addition due to the high-water levels in the river and the resulting moratorium on heavy vehicles on the ferry. However, we didn't let that stop us from getting a little more done on the project. With the help of Rod Jessup, we were able to get the new septic tank installed and Paul Miller has almost completed all of the interior plumbing. D&S Heating and Cooling has begun installation of the furnace and with the help of the good weather our painters, J&D Smeel have been able to get a good coat of paint on the exterior of the building.

October should bring the installation of the doors, windows, roof insulation and roofing. We would love to get the concrete floor poured to complete the enclosure to begin work on the interior before the snow flies, but only time will tell when the concrete trucks can get to the island.

The museum is closed for the season, but it can be opened for visitors. To schedule a visit call Chuck Miller at (810) 748-7209 or Corinne Trexler at (313) 530-9173.

Bob Williams, President (xharpspah@aol.com)

This is a portion of an article from the Detroit News. Bernie Hellstrom, Tom Hellstrom's brother found two shipwrecks in Lake Michigan. Tom is an islander and a member of the whistle crew who helped install museum's steam whistle.

History buff finds ships that sank in 1878 in Lake Michigan

By Corey Williams, Associated Press Published Sept. 21, 2019

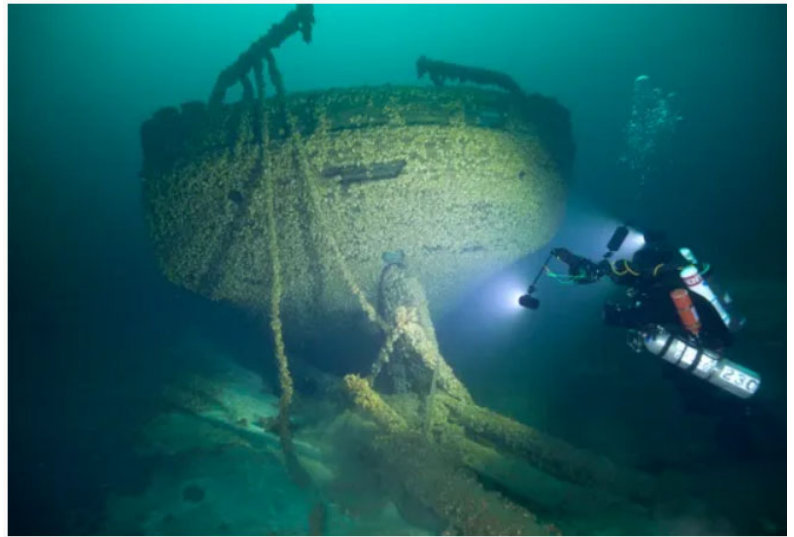
Detroit – A diver and maritime history buff has found two schooners that collided and sank into the cold depths of northern Lake Michigan more than 140 years ago.

Bernie Hellstrom, of Boyne City, Michigan, said he was looking for shipwrecks about 10 years ago when a depth sounder on his boat noted a large obstruction about 200 feet down on the lake bottom near Beaver Island.

"I've made hundreds of trips to Beaver Island and every trip I go out the sounder is on," he told The Associated Press on Friday. "But if you happen to see something that's not normal, you go back. A lot are nothing but fish schools. This was 400 feet of boat. There's nothing out there that big that's missing."

He returned to the area in June with a custom-made camera system and discovered the *Peshtigo* and *St. Andrews* about 10 feet apart with their masts atop one another. The hull of one of the ships has a huge gash.

It had been believed the ships sank in 1878 farther to the east in the Straits of Mackinac in Lake Huron. But only one ship could be found and that was thought to be the *St. Andrews*.



*Diver John Scoles maneuvers around the wreckage of the schooners *Peshtigo* and *St. Andrews* lost in 1878 near Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan on Aug. 24, 2019. (Photo: John Janzen)*

"They never found the second boat," said Hellstrom, 63.

Hellstrom brought technical divers in to record video of the wrecks. Madison, Wisconsin-based marine historian Brendon Baillod was recruited to help solve the mystery. Baillod said he searched through old news reports and learned that the *Peshtigo* and *St. Andrews* did hit each other and sink between Beaver and Fox islands, northwest of Charlevoix, Michigan.

The *Peshtigo* was 161 feet long and carrying coal. The *St. Andrews* was 143 feet long and carrying corn. The collision was blamed on confusion in signal torches, he said. Two of the *Peshtigo*'s crewmen were lost. Survivors from both ships were rescued by another passing schooner, according to Baillod.

You can read the rest of the article at <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2019/09/21/lake-michigan-beaver-island-shipwreck-peshtigo-st-andrews/40182049/>

Harsens Island Schools

By Chris Knight

The kids have been back in school for about four weeks, which got me thinking. When and where was the first school on Harsens Island? If there were no roads, how did the kids get to school? I did a little bit of research in the museum library and I thought I would share some of this information with you. Some of the material comes from local newspapers or newsletters and some from interviews from islanders.

The First School

“The history of schools in this vicinity dates back to 1788 when Jacob Harsen a silversmith built a school on Harsens Island. The first hired teacher in the county was Jacob Streit, who was of German descent, the son of a Lutheran clergyman. (Born in Virginia in 1758). He was induced to come to Harsens Island to teach the children of Jacob Harsen and Harvey Stewart, plus the children from the Basney, Mine, Chartier and Gulette families.”

“Jacob Streit was a soldier in the war of 1812. When discharged in 1816 he was induced to come to Harsens Island to teach school. In 1818 Harvey Stewart hired John K. Smith to teach here on the island. In Aura P. Stewart’s recollections reported to the Pioneer & Historical Society of the State of Michigan, he says John K. Smith and David Laughton rented a house on the Island from Jacob Harsen. This two-room structure contained a school in one room and an “Indian Department” in the other. The later was where Smith and Laughton traded with the Indians. The school included students from the settlement on Point aux Trembles as well as Harsens Island.”

“Peter F. Brakemand, a Lt.-Col. in the Michigan Militia came to Algonac in 1824 and taught school on Harsens Island that year.”

Little School

The school on Little Rd. was called, Little School, was established in 1853. There are separate accounts about which year the Little School burned down, but an article in the Port Huron Time Herald states the school burned down in February 1933. After the school burned down, 55 pupils attended classes in the Community Hall. For a great many years, the school on the island was the only grade school in the state that had permission to teach the ninth and tenth grade.

“We have been told by Jane Wright, long time Harsens Islander, that she attended for a short time, a school on the Island that was located on Little Rd. just south of North Channel Drive. It was a little, white, rural type, two-room schoolhouse. First and second graders were taught in this school. On a cold winter’s day, in the late 1930’s, with the temperature around zero, the caretaker built a fire in the heating stove, which was close to the closet. The stove overheated causing a fire that completely destroyed the building. This was around the time that the new brick school, on Columbine Rd. was being built.”

Excerpts from “The Evans Family History by Clayton Evans

“The schoolhouse was painted white and had cement steps which was the entrance to what was called the cloak room. The cloak room was where the children hung their coats and put the galoshes on the floor. This also was where the water crock and glasses were kept. Each glass had a child’s name on it. The room where Mother taught was through the cloak room. Above the steps on the roof was the belfry in which hung the school bell. The bell was rung at 8:30 in the morning and then again at 9:00 AM. Classes started at Nine and

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Harsens Island Schools ... continued from page 3 ...

continued to Noon then the lunch boxes came out. Mother had packed a willow basket with our lunch, and we ate around the kindergarten table. As soon as we finished eating, we could go outside to play. Classes resumed at One and continued until Four when school was dismissed. There were two recesses, one at 10:30 and again at 2:30. There were no school buses in that day, either the parents came for their children or else everyone walked to and from school. This school burned to the ground about 1932."

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS
News from the Detroit Metro

**Killer Perjury
 Verdict Voided**

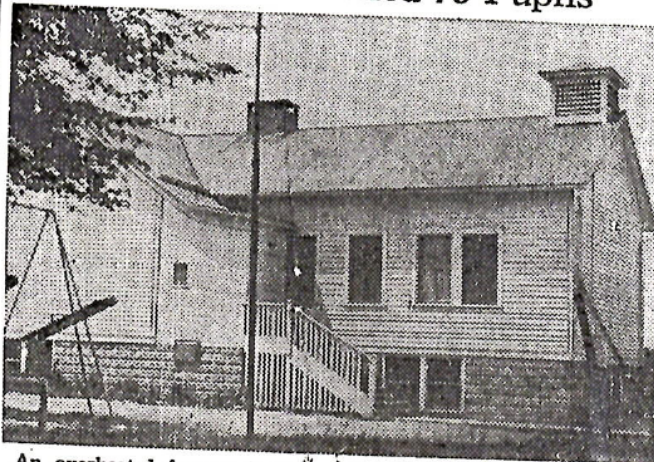
**Lawyer Trial Is Granted
 to Detroit**

DETROIT, Feb. 10—The Supreme Court Friday granted a new trial for Walter A. Miller, Detroit real estate dealer, who was sentenced to one to 15 years after being convicted of perjury in connection with testimony during the Grand investigation of the Federal Bond & Mortgage Co. of Detroit. Miller has been at liberty under bond receiving the sentence almost a year ago.

A Grand Jury inquiry into the affairs of the Federal Bond & Mortgage Co. was conducted here by Judge Leland W. Carr.

Miller told the Grand Jury...

Where Fire Periled 75 Pupils



An overheated furnace is blamed for the fire which did \$6,000 damage to the public school on Harsens Island Thursday. Volunteer firemen got the 75 children out of the burning building safely.

**Tired Fireman
 Killed by**

**Falls in Snow
 Battling**

PONTIAC, Feb. 10—In his efforts fighting a blizzard, Joseph Scott, 33, 2329 Pine Lake Ave., died in a snowdrift at 6:30 o'clock Friday.

Scott has been ill but left home at 4 o'clock to help fight a blizzard at Keego Harbor fire department to a blaze at Mrs. Lottie M. Wright's home on Lake Ave.

St. Clair Flats School

The records of the St. Clair Flats School are partially available for the years 1904-1918. During those years the school was located off the South Channel between Stokey's Boat Works and the Stokey home. In 1919, The Harsens Island-St. Clair Flats schools were consolidated.

Memories of Saint Clair Flats School – 1908 by Max J. Morash (The Delta News 1960 -Volume 13 No. 1)

"The school building was a cottage with a sizable yard protected from erosion by a wooden sheet-piling with oak stakes about ten feet apart so that pupils might moor their various family boats. Rarely did any parent bring his children to school and they came from distances as far as two miles, in rowboats with as many as seven in one boat. Attendance was very good, and I must say that the water become very rough in windy weather. In the two years I taught there, not one pupil was lost on his or her way to or from school."

"The school cottage had not been remodeled in any way, so the front room was filled with 23 very small desks. There were no blackboards, so I painted a wall in the rear room to that purpose. Our course of study was outlined by State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the 23 pupils ranged in age from five to fifteen

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Harsens Island Schools . . . continued from page 4 . . .

with grades from beginners to eighth grade. I did the janitor work and taught the school for fifty dollars per month. Board and room cost me \$5.00 per week. The heat was furnished by a coal stove. The fire went out every night and that obligated the janitor (me) to be there every morning at 8:00 A.M. to kindle the fire so that the cottage was warm by 9:00 A.M. when school classes started.”



ST. CLAIR FLATS SCHOOL

District No. 5

Clay Township,

St. Clair County, Michigan

MAX J. MORASH, Teacher

PUPILS

Lottie Pelkey	Viola Gulett
Lily Yax	Peter Pelkey
Alphone Dandron	Joseph Soulliere
Russel Gulett	Joseph Yax
Scott Yax	Marceline Soulliere
Freda Soulliere	Avery Dandron
David Pelkey	Carton Yax
Madeline La Parl	Florence La Parl
Rosa Pelkey	Edith La Ponsa
Edna La Ponsa	Dorothy Soulliere
Arthur La Ponsa	Albert Soulliere

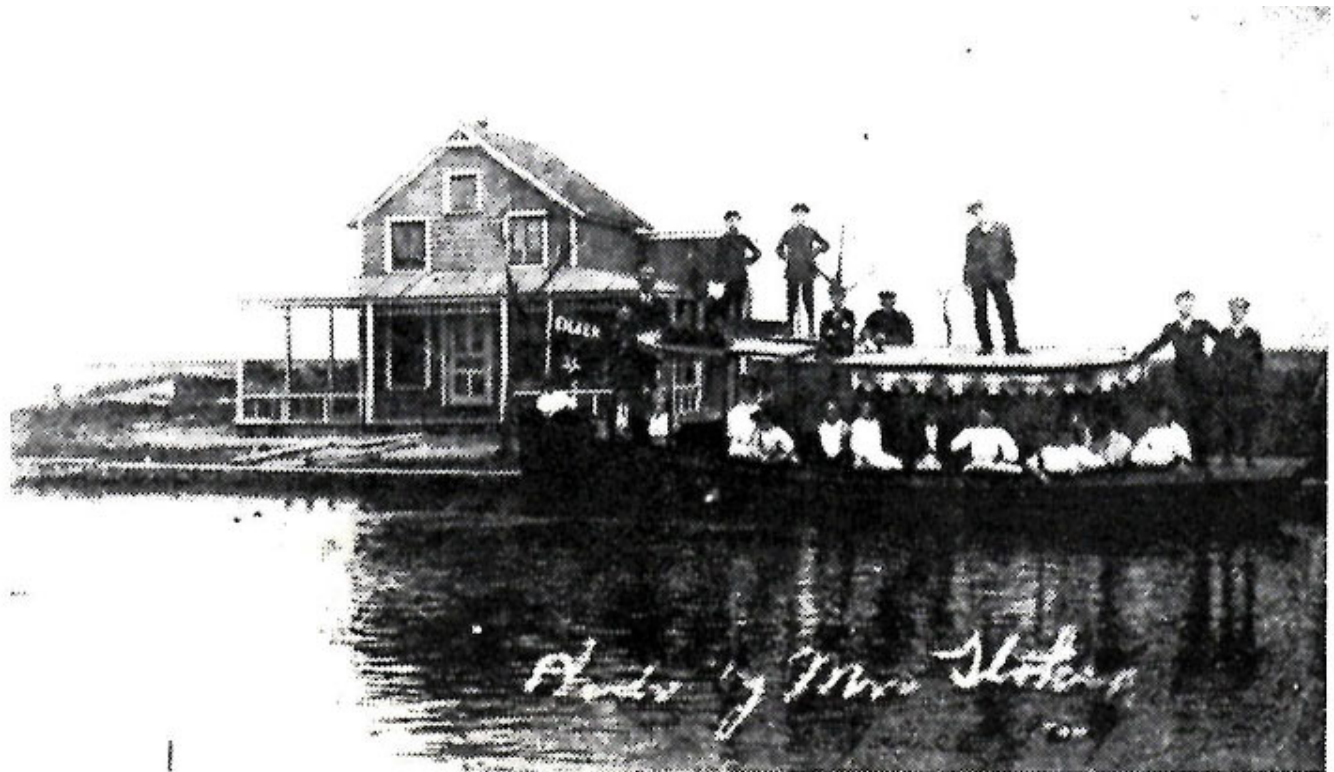
Albert E. Stokey, Director

Edwin E. Henn, Treasurer

Reproduced Christmas Greeting Program of December 1908

continued on page 6 . . .

Harsens Island Schools . . . continued from page 5 . . .



Moored in front of the school is one of Albert Stokey's launches, the "Eillen."

Harsens Island School

Here are some major milestones of the Harsens Island School, which is now the Harsens Island Schoolhouse Grille (established as a restaurant in 2009).

October 1934 - The cornerstone for the new Harsens Island School was laid. The school was built on land owned by the Yax family and donated for the school. The building was intended to replace the school on Little Road that burned to the ground.

February 1935 – The new school was dedicated, and the island system was established with 53 students.

1971 – The K-4 school enrollment reached 74 students.

1981 – The school was officially closed, then reopened due to efforts of parents and the community.

1989 – Again, it was announced that the school would be closed partway through the year. Through efforts of the community, funds were raised to finance the remainder of the year.

continued on page 7 . . .

Harsens Island Schools . . . continued from page 6 . . .

Harsens Island School

June 2005 - The 70th Anniversary Celebration held on the school grounds

2005-2006 School Year – No budget was allocated to the Harsens Island School. To the dismay of many island residents the school closed permanently.

December 2005 – A waterline break caused extensive damage to the Harsens Island Elementary School. There was damage to ceiling tiles, carpeting, flooring and cabinets. The damage was found when maintenance workers went to do a routine inspection.



Harsens Island Public School

Harsens Island Historical Society Calendar 2019

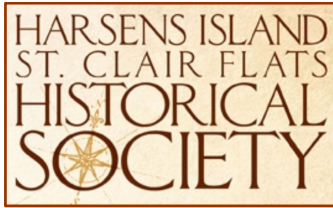
Date	Day	Time	Event
October 5	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Pie Sale at Museum
October 12	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board / Membership Meeting at Museum
December 7	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Cookie Walk at Museum
December 14	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board Meeting at Museum

Museum Hours

Winter Schedule (October through April)
Closed but Open by appointment



Stop by and check out the progress on the building expansion.



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

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Bob Williams

1st Vice President
Sue Wrobel

2nd Vice President
Corinne Trexler

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Joyce Hassen

Secretary
Nancy Bonacquisti

Directors
Terry Wiggins
Donna Krispin
Christine Knight



The historical society is still collecting photos and stories about the high water of 2019. Please contact our curator, Chuck Miller (cmiller5179@gmail.com).

**Mark Your Calendars
Annual Pie Sale at the
Harsens Island Museum**



October 5 10:00 to 1:00 PM
**Drop off your pie donation
between 9:00 and 9:45 AM**

Membership Application 2019 / 2020

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 \$ _____