

# The SOCIETY

# PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ***I LOVE A PARADE.....(wasn't that a song?) So be a part of one this year***

We all love a parade, so why not be a part of one. Society Members are encouraged to walk or ride in the Annual Lions Labor Day Parade on Saturday September 5. If you plan to join in the fun, please muster at St. Marks parking lot no later than 10:30 AM, find The Historical Society contingent and become part of the parade.

If you have an 'antique vehicle' you would like to be in the parade, please get in-line behind the Bonicquisti's blue Ford Pick-up Truck that will be sporting the Historical Society LOGO Banners. Candy and goodies will be distributed along the parade route from the lead vehicle with The Society Banners.

If you participate in a vehicle and wish to also pass-out treats, please provide them and toss them from your vehicle.

We hope The Society will be well represented in this 2015 Annual Lions Parade.

## ***The Museum on PARADE DAY: Will be OPEN at 9:00 AM***

As in past years, the Museum will park cars along the back of the property and block-off the front parking area to accommodate a tent and chairs to provide shade for elders who wish to view the parade from the shade and not sit in the hot sun. The Museum will be offering Kneudsen Donuts and hot coffee on Parade Morning.

Come to the Museum early for a 'Photo Opportunity' with the Prop and Anchor now installed in front of the Museum.

If you have not had an opportunity to see the Prohibition Exhibit, "***Behind the Barrel***", please take this opportunity to visit the Museum and learn how the Island and Flats were the 'Las Vegas' of Michigan before Las Vegas was a pipe dream. The Flats were famed for their fun times and the social gathering place to be in the first third of the last century.

We look forward to seeing you on Labor Day Weekend, ***AT THE MUSEUM...***

## ***New Addition to Museum Grounds....***

***Learn the History of the Steamer "John N. Glidden" ...and don't miss this new - 'Photo-Opportunity'***



### **Call for VOLUNTEERS:**

Members who have not had an opportunity to spend a few hours in the Museum greeting visitors have missed a great experience. If you can dedicate one Museum Day, either Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM or Sunday Noon to 4:00 PM you will be making a great contribution to The Society and you will reap a rewarding experience. Call Nancy Boulton to get your name on the schedule at: 810-748-3802.

## The Society Pages

Volume 6 / Number 9 / August 2015

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.  
Email@hiscfhs.org



www.HISCFHS.org

scan the code to go to the HISCFHS  
website

July 2015

Editor: **Bernardo Licata**  
586-530-7100

### HISCFHS Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

**OPEN**

President

**Bernardo Licata** – 586-530-7100

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Bob Williams** – 248-388-0465

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**Nancy Boulton** - 810-748-3802

Treasurer

**Joyce Hassen** – 313-336-1735

Secretary

**Nancy Licata** - 810-748-1825

Directors

**Susan Wrobel** – 810-748-3601

**Kathy O'Connor** - 810-748-3113

**Nancy Bonacquisti** – 248-840-3042

### 2015 Election of Directors

**Results Announced at Annual Meeting:**

Director positions expiring in 2015:

- Nancy Boulton
- Joyce Hassen
- Bernardo Licata
- Kathy O'Connor

Nominated to fill the four positions:

- Nancy Boulton
- Joyce Hassen
- Bernardo Licata
- Kathy O'Connor
- Linda Schoonover

The individuals with the highest number  
of votes were:

- Nancy Boulton
- Joyce Hassen
- Bernardo Licata
- Kathy O'Connor

Officer positions will be nominated and  
elected at the September Board Meeting

### Anchor & Prop Donation

The Anchor & Propeller now permanently installed on the lawn in front of the Museum were donated to The Society by Kitt Wicke Kimbal, a long time Island resident. Kitt moved to Florida, selling her family home here on the Island. Kitt expressed her desire to have these artifacts donated to the Museum to be enjoyed by the entire community.

Kitt's parents Dr. and Mrs. Wicke commissioned the recovery of the Anchor and Propeller in the 1960's; and, they have resided in their yard on the South Channel for many years. Kitt was pleased to donate these artifacts for display on the front-lawn of the Museum. First discussions of this donation began at Tashmoo Days 2013. The Anchor & Propeller were moved by barge from Kitt's property on Greene Drive to Tashmoo Marina in the summer of 2014 by Bret Kauh of Rons Marine. A suitable base was installed and Bob Bryson and his team moved them into their permanent location at the Museum on August 20 2015. The Society 'thanks' Rons Marine and Tashmoo Marina.

**Algonac / Clay Township Historical Society...presents:**

***"The Button Tea"***

*with:*

***Sheri DeCew***

***"The Button Lady"***

*You are Invited*

***Saturday***

***September 19, 2015***

***Twelve Noon***

***Bring your own Tea Cup***

***...and: \$25***

***St. Catherine's Activity Center***

***1103 Washington Street***

***Algonac, MI 48001***

810-671-7968

[www.algonac-clay-history.com](http://www.algonac-clay-history.com)

810-794-9015



Join us on Facebook!

## *Message from the President*

Dear Society Members,

Your Historical Society and Museum have made excellent forward progress since our founding in 2009 and becoming a Michigan Non-profit Corporation and 501 (c) (3) in 2010; and, launching The Society Pages Newsletter that same year. There are many significant moments in our short history.

The Society opened the Museum in 2011 in the old fire hall, created a successful Lecture Series, then purchased the Museum building on Land Contract in 2013. It has also produced the First Nations Festival and Tashmoo Days and Nights Festivals in 2012/ 13/ 14 and 15. These are the highlights of the short five years in our history.

Thanks to you and all those who have supported The Society in this journey, I am pleased to report that your Harsens Island St Clair Flats Historical Society is within striking distance of achieving the momentous goal of owning the Museum building. Our Treasurer Joyce Hassen reports that we stand approximately \$22,000 from that goal. The Board will develop a plan, starting at the September board meeting to get us over the goal line by spring of 2016. As a Member, you can help us develop that plan with suggestions and by helping The Society increase its 'member population' which presently stands at ~ 220 members. You can also help by considering The Society as one of your annual 'charitable donations' before December 31, 2015. The 'Brick Program' is also a way to help. This program provides you or your family recognition or a memorial to a loved one can have a permanent place in The Society Museum.

Another moment in history is: This is the 47<sup>th</sup> 'Presidents Message' I've written for The Society Pages Newsletter. When asked to assume the position of President, I was reluctant. Serving in this position has been challenging and rewarding and as promised at the onset, I would work to 'find a building suitable to being our permanent Museum...and help get the organization to a financially stable condition'. I believe that goal has been accomplished therefore, as President Johnson once so aptly stated: "I shall not seek nomination to or the Presidency" at the upcoming selection of officers meeting in September. As 'past president', I will serve in the position of Chairman and continue to offer advice and council to the Board.

Life is a strange journey. My decision to move in this direction was made earlier this year as I envisioned a clear path to achieving The Society's objective of retiring our Land Contract and owning the building. The decision was timely. My energies will now be directed to our family who will need Nancy's and my full time attention. We learned that my daughter Stephanie has a lymphoma mass located anterior of her sternum. We await a biopsy report as I write this message. Stephanie lives in Austin Texas with husband Christian, and children Stella and Joshua. We will be fully focused, doing whatever in the world is necessary to bring Stephanie back to health so she may continue her incredible journey and be a 'great mother', to two of our wonderful grandchildren, and wife to Christian.

On a lighter note, the 'anchor and propeller', from the freighter John N. Glidden, donated by Kitt Wicke Kimbal in 2013 has finally found its way to its permanent place in front of the Museum. The Society is very pleased to have this addition to its collection.

The Lecture on September 26 will provide us a unique perspective on the Civil War presented by Mr. Thomas Berlucchi, Chairman of the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition. You can also look forward to a late October presentation by diver Larry McElroy on this the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of the Ceaderville in Lake Michigan. We hope you will join us for both of these historical presentations.

Please don't miss the Square Dance this year on October 10. It doesn't matter if you dance or not, you can join us for the entertainment value alone and have a fun time, a really great fried chicken dinner and an evening of socializing. "**Perky Prudence's Adventures**" was a fun evening with lots of laughs...the Square Dance is side-splitting laughter and fun. The Lions will be on hand to make sure there is plenty of liquid refreshment; and, a portion of the proceeds from the Square Dance will go to support the Lions Hall.

Our friends at the Algonac Clay Historical Society requested we post an AD for the upcoming "**Button Tea**" with Sheri DeCew, the Button Lady on September 19. We hope you will consider attending. The Algonac/Clay Museum has been a extremely helpful to The Society and generous in sharing knowledge with our team and Curator Nancy Boulton on 'how-to' organize a Museum.

We will look for you at the Annual Lions Labor Day Parade this year. As in years past we will be setting up space in front of the Museum with a tent and chairs for our elders. Please feel free to bring your own chair and set up there as well...there's plenty of room and there will be fresh donuts and hot coffee.

We are grateful for your continued support and generosity of time and resources that many of you have contributed to make The Society and Museum a great success and asset to our Island and Flats community.

Bernardo Licata



### Roots Music Festival...

It was a beautiful day on Harsens Island. The weather was 'picture-perfect'. The music was great, the food outstanding and the crowd was mellow. You could 'chill-out' in front of the bandstand, dance to the music, sing-along, wander about and visit the artists & crafters, stop at the Historical Society booth to see the new unique lamps they were offering or sign-up to be a member, have a Luvs Fresh Squeezed Lemonade or visit the beer tent where you could find the new Harsens Island Brewery's craft beers. If you missed you lost a truly wonderful afternoon...maybe next year..!



### Museum Shoppe News:

**Unique opportunity...functional and historic or contemporary art for your home or cottage...**

The Society's Museum Shoppe is now offering unique lampshades to exhibit history or contemporary graphic art in your home or cottage. The tri-paneled shades are available in a number of colors, sizes and include a variety of historic or contemporary presentations to suit your décor. You may choose from standard shades or configure 'your own preference' of photos to be displayed on a shade. The shades are interchangeable, so you can decorate to the season or to your unique taste and change as your mood or season's change. These items will make 'perfect holiday gifts'. Choose from a selection of historic photos, more contemporary photos of freighters or our First Nation/Native American neighbors in full regalia of their tribes that are available in the catalog. Alternately, you may supply your own photos on a memory stick in .jpg format to have 'your own unique presentation'. Place your Holiday/Christmas orders at the Museum now, standard shade and hardware: \$60.00, lamps sold separately. Examples follow:



History, beauty and your personal creations for your home or cottage.

*Selection of Native American or First Nations photos will provide a contribution of a portion of the proceeds to the Heritage Center at Walpole Island.*



**THE HARSENS ISLAND ST. CLAIR FLATS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Presents

A NEW Exhibit

**Artifacts from the Steamer (a.k.a. Propeller) John N. Glidden  
Sunk October 9, 1903 in the Government Canal, St. Clair Flats, Michigan**



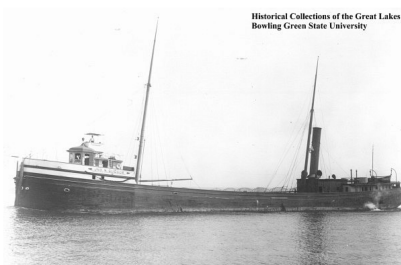
**The Colorful History of the Steamer (a.k.a. Propeller) John N. Glidden**

Charles Miller

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society

The St. Clair River has been an essential passageway for commercial shipping over 200 years, and stories of collisions and sinking's abound. Over 120 documented shipwrecks/foundering's occurred prior to 1900 alone! The sinking of the John N. Glidden in October, 1903 is an event lost in the pages of history until now. The story surrounding this sinking has a special meaning to Harsens Islanders and the St. Clair Flats.

Built in 1879 in Cleveland, Ohio by William R. Radcliffe, the John N. Glidden was a wooden steamer 220 feet in length with a gross tonnage of slightly over 1300 tons. She ran the lakes carrying cargoes of iron ore and coal for 17 years before being refitted with a second mast in 1896. Available photos show her in that post-1896 rig.



An interesting feature for Boatnerds is the hexagonal pilot house.

The Glidden's career ended abruptly of October 9, 1903 when she collided with the loaded barge MAGNA in the old Government Canal in the St. Clair Flats. She sunk immediately. Documents of the day provide a detailed and interesting story of the event.

"The wooden steamer John N. Glidden, of the Nicholas Transportation Co., was sunk by a collision in the St. Clair Flats Canal, causing serious obstruction to navigation, and great delays and losses to vessel owners. The official report given out by Major Bixby, of the United States Engineers Department states that the Glidden, down-bound with 1900 tons of iron ore, when at the lower end of the Canal, came in collision with the up-bound (steel) barge Magna, in tow of the Empire City, of the Pittsburg Steamship Company. While passing, the suction of the Empire City pulled the Glidden into the towline of the Magna. The Magna struck the Glidden in the bow cutting her open to the pilothouse. There were no injuries. The Glidden sank sideways in the canal immediately leaving only about 75 feet of passageway in the channel. The Magna, being intact, passed up-bound. The position of the wreck caused a serious disruption to vessel traffic, and Major Bixby began to divert traffic around the hulk one at a time. Soon there were 200 vessels at anchor waiting their turn to pass. In a hasty effort to re-open the canal to traffic, the Glidden was dynamited."

See these Artifacts and learn more, at the Museum Exhibit, of their recovery (...and why they called them "Propellers") from the full text and research prepared by Charles Miller.



PO Box 44  
Harsens Island MI 48028

## Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2015 Calendar of Events

*subject to change*

Members are welcome to attend any Board / Membership Meeting to keep apprised of Society activities and to bring issues before the Board.

### Museum Hours

**June through September** – Saturdays – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sundays – Noon – 4 PM

**Winter Hours**– By Appointment: Phone a Board Member

<b>September</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	9:30 AM Museum Open House and Labor Day Parade
	<b>11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	6:00 PM Social Hour at Museum
	<b>12<sup>th</sup>:</b>	9:00 AM at Museum: Board Meeting
	<b>26<sup>th</sup>:</b>	3:00 PM Lecture – Schoolhouse Grille
<b>October</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>:</b>	10:00 AM Pie Sale at Museum
	<b>10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	11:30 AM at Museum: Board Meeting
	<b>10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	6:00 PM at Lions Hall: Square Dance
	<b>31<sup>st</sup>:</b>	10 AM to 3:00 PM at Museum: Halloween Treats for Children during Open Hours