

# The SOCIETY

# PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

***You are Cordially Invited to Attend***

*the:*

***Saturday MAY 28<sup>th</sup>***

***'Celebration Of Ownership'***

***'Ceremonial Burning of the Mortgage Note'***

*...and the:*

**2016 Special Exhibit**

***"Freighters, Steamships and Sails"***

## **MELODRAMA JUNE 4:**

***Perky Prudence and Others RETURN ...***

The Gang of Four and the Cattails, will once again stage a Melodrama ***"Perky Prudence's Prohibition Follies"*** that will run ONE NIGHT ONLY at the Lions Lounge. Last year the cast performed to a 'sold-out' crowd.

Purchase tickets early at the usual places. This Fried Chicken Dinner Theatre's proceeds will be split between the Lions (to support the HALL) and The Harsens Island Historical Society.

## **TALL SHIPS PASSAGE ALERT:**

***...Reminder to Members***

Tall Ships are expected to traverse the South Channel this summer passing The Flats and Harsens Island.

Get your camera's ready, gather the youngsters for a sighting, a little history lesson and be on the lookout between the following dates:

**JULY 10 to JULY 15**

**AUGUST 28 to SEPTEMBER 2**

## ***"Celebration of Ownership"***

### ***Memorial Day Weekend Schedule:***

<b>May 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Refreshments at the Museum Live Music – Steel Drum Solo Food, Beverages &amp; Fun</b>
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Museum Celebration / Presentations</b>
	<b>11:25 AM</b>	<b>Ceremonial 'Burning of the Mortgage Note'</b>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Museum Open</b>
<b>May 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12:00 Noon to 4 PM</b>	
<b>May 30<sup>th</sup> –</b>	<b>10:00 AM to 3 PM</b>	

## ***"Freighters, Steamships and Sails"***

***...Museum Special Exhibit – 2016:***

***"Freighters, Steamships and Sails"***, will feature artifacts, models, and items of interest from multiple perspectives.

What were Freighters like 150 years ago? How did they sound then and now? What has changed over the years? The exhibit will detail and answer these questions in a variety of ways.

David Addy, Chief Engineer and long time Islander, has provided photos from his days sailing the Great Lakes. The display features a number of David Addy's photos from his days sailing on the Oglebay Norton Vessels.

***...continued on page 5***

## The Society Pages

Volume 7 / Number 5 / May 2016

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.HISCFS.org

scan the code to go to the HISCFS  
website

**May 2016**

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

### HISCFS Board of Directors

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**Kathy O'Connor** - 810-748-3113  
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Join us on Facebook!

## Message from the President

Hi All,  
Well, the month has come when many of our members migrate back to their summer retreats. Welcome back.

Our first lecture of the season will be on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May at 3 pm at the Schoolhouse Grille. Also, we hope you can join us to celebrate the ownership of our Museum building on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to see the details of the lecture and the celebration elsewhere in this newsletter and mark your calendars now.

Later this month we will be sending out a mailing to members with ballots for the Board of Directors election, an updated calendar of events for the year, and the raffle tickets. We hope you will consider purchasing raffle tickets or selling them. The prizes will be the same as last year, \$1000 grand prize, \$500 second prize, and \$250 third prize.

If purchasing or selling raffle tickets is not your thing but you would like to help the society in other ways, consider volunteering as a museum host to be on duty for a couple of hours any weekend. It's easy and fun, meeting and greeting islanders as they come in to see our collection of memorabilia and this season's special exhibit. If you would like to volunteer, call Nancy Boulton at 810-748-3802 or come to a museum host orientation on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at either 9:30 am or 3 pm at the museum to see what is involved in being a host. You will learn how to open and close the museum and how to handle sales in the gift shop.

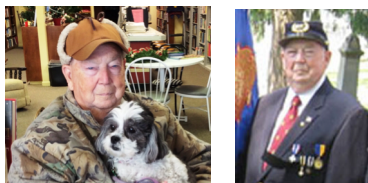
Be sure to see this summer's special exhibit at the museum, "Freighters, Steamships and Sails, 150 years of change in Great Lakes Shipping." If you have any artifacts, you would like to loan the museum to display in this summer's exhibit, please contact Nancy Boulton right away.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2016, the mailing later this month will be your last. It will not contain a ballot for the election but will have a renewal form. Please renew now.

Cheers.  
Bob Williams, President

### Lecture Series

**Saturday June 18**, Gary Grout will present: "**Jacobs Island**" ... *The History of Harsens Island* and its progression from Jacob Harsen through present day. Joins us to learn more of the interesting history of: *Jacob Harsens Island*.



Gary & his companion Annie

Gary is a genealogist and Harsens Island Historian, Gary served from 1981 thru 1989 as a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve. He produced a Video, now a DVD on the Steamer Tashmoo and the Hotels of Harsens Island. Gary is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, General Society for the War of 1812 and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He has served as Chairman of the Board and is a Past President of the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society.

## ***Tashmoo Steamer Artifacts...UPDATE***

### ***Tashmoo Silver Plated Tureen & Ladle...may soon be on exhibit at the Museum***

The Tashmoo Steamer silver-plated serving tureen and ladle reported in last months ***Society Pages*** is getting closer to reality as a Society/Museum purchase.

It was reported at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting that \$400.00 had been pledged thus far toward the \$925.00 purchase/asking price for this artifact.

Gerry Gordinier, Society Lifetime Family Member and Islander who has been a tremendous help to The Society, has offered to ***'match dollars beyond the \$400.00 pledged-to-date'*** to achieve the purchase price.

Doing the math: ***the balance needed is \$525.*** With the Gordinier matching funds the Museum still needs: ***\$262.50 to achieve this goal.***

***Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Gordinier for your generosity.***



*S.S. Tashmoo Silver with Certificate*



*Close-up of Artifact*



*Additional photos of the Tashmoo Steamer and the Artifact.*

If you are interested in supporting this effort, please contact a Board Member at your earliest convenience. Phone numbers of all Board Members are available on page 2. It would be ***'another Society achievement'*** to have this *Tashmoo Artifact* on exhibit on Opening Day Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.



----- print ands post on your bulletin board -----

## Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2016 Calendar *...Revised as of: April 24, 2016*

### notes:

- Blue depicts: 'new events or activities added to the calendar'. Red depicts: **TENTATIVE**
- Orange denotes: 'tentative'
- Red: denotes 'cancelled'.
- Locations may change – See our website at HarsensIslandHistory.org for the latest information.
- *All members welcome to attend any Board Meeting listed as Board/Membership Meeting.*

Museum hours - Jan, Feb, March, April – closed – open by appointment only.

May 7, 14, 21 – Saturday – 10 AM – 3 PM

May 28 – Saturday – 11:30 – 3 PM

June, July, Aug, Sept. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 6 – 8 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 3 PM and Sunday Noon – 4 PM

Oct, Nov, Dec – closed – open by appointment and for Pie and Cookie sales.

- April** - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum
- May** - 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum  
(*Final call: - nominations for board Director Positions. Inspectors shall qualify nominees and the list of qualified nominees given to the President no later than the end of May. Qualified nominees names will be placed on a ballot and shall be made available in hard copy, via USPS, to all members no later than the June 4th Membership Meeting.*)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday - 3:00 PM - Lecture – Bonnie Klem – **“Clark Family Ship Building”** – Schoolhouse Grille
- Memorial Day Weekend:
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 10:30 AM – Refreshments at the Museum  
11:00 AM – Museum Celebration Presentations  
11:30 AM – Museum Open
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – 12:00 Noon to 4 PM – Museum Open
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Monday – 10:00 AM to 3 PM – Museum Open
- June** - 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 9:30 AM – Museum **‘Volunteer Orientation’** at the Museum
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 3:00 PM – Museum **‘Volunteer Orientation’** at the Museum
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Social hour –at the Museum
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 11:00 AM – **‘Postcard Collector’s Meeting’**, open to the public –at the Museum
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM - Chuck Miller: **‘Building a Freightler Model’** –at the Museum
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 3:00 PM – Lecture: - **“Jacobs Island (Harsens History)”**, Gary Grout - Schoolhouse Grille
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 1:00 PM - David Addy, Chief Engineer – Speaks on his **‘Lake Freightler Experiences’** - Museum
- July** - 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday – 6:00 PM - - Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum  
(*Election ballots due at the beginning of the meeting. Election results tabulated and provided to the Board by the end of the meeting.*)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday – **TENTATIVE: 1:00 PM - David Addy, Chief Engineer – speaks on his ‘Lake Freightler Experiences’ - Museum**
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Social hour –at the Museum
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM - Chuck Miller: **‘Building a Freightler Model’** –at the Museum
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – **Tashmoo Days and Nights – CANCELLED**
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – **Society Booth at Antique Automobile Show at Brown Field & Special Event @ Museum**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday – 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM – **‘Historic Photos and Documents Scanning Day’** - at the Museum
- Aug.** - 6th - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Society Booth at HISCFI Field Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Social hour –at the Museum
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – **TENTATIVE: 1:00 PM - David Addy, Chief Engineer – speaks on his ‘Lake Freightler Experiences’ - Museum**
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM - Chuck Miller: **‘Building a Freightler Model’** –at the Museum
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 4:30 PM – **Wine & Appetizers at the Museum**  
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM **‘Annual Membership Meeting’** - at the Museum
- Sept.** - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday – 6:00 PM – Board Meeting at the Museum
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Social hour –at the Museum
- Date TBD – Saturday – 3:00 PM - Lecture series – **“Round Table of Island History and Stories”**, at Schoolhouse Grille
- Oct.** - 1<sup>st</sup> - Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM - Pie Sale at Museum
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday – 3:00 PM - Lecture series – Tony Gramer - at Schoolhouse Grille
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board and Long Range Planning Meeting – Location TBD
- Dec.** - 3rd - Saturday – 10:00 AM– 3:00 PM - Cookie Sale at the Museum



## Tashmoo Days 2016

Harsens Island (April 2, 2016) At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors April 2, 2016 a quorum of five directors in attendance voted unanimously to cancel the Annual Tashmoo Days 2016 event.

Questions regarding the cancellation may be directed to the Board via e-mail at:  
[info@hiscfhs.org](mailto:info@hiscfhs.org)

*...continued from page 1*

### ***“Freighters, Steamships and Sails”***

Included are annotated photos to cover the timespan from the first sailing vessel (Griffon) on the Lakes thru commercial schooners, the transition from sail to steam, technological changes, and modern freighter designs.

You will find images of relevant wrecks and heavy weather photos. The exhibit presentations follow the progression of historical development.

In addition to the pictorial exhibit, also presented are six museum models of freighter types and styles, shipping line pennants, a comprehensive handout on the development of vessels on the Lakes and a live working exhibit of the building of a 60” scale model of the CEDARGLEN - currently in operation on the Lakes.

To supplement the live working model building exhibit of the CEDARGLEN, there will also be ***Hands-on ‘Boat Knots for Kids’***. The Museum Shoppe will feature wood block freighters, kits, books and more. Short Talks, Video Presentations and a special space honoring our own ***“Flower Lady”***, Arlene Earl.

Volunteers will be available to answer questions.

The Museum is also attempting to establish a wi fi connection in the building which will allow the addition of live video depicting the AIS ship location site for folks to see where vessels are located in the Great Lakes.

Be sure to schedule time at the Museum on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> and throughout the season for talks and interesting information on ***“Freighters, Steamships and Sails”*** of the Great Lakes.

## What It Takes to Make a Museum

By: Bob Williams, President

Our historical society has done very well in its first six years of existence. It’s hard to believe that during this time we have gone from being an idea to an active 250-member society with its own museum and over a thousand artifacts. This would not have been possible without the support of so many people in the form of donations of items, funds, and volunteer time. It takes all of these to make the society viable and sustainable.

You may be surprised to hear that our annual budget for the society is over \$16,000. We need that much to pay the utilities, insurance, building and rescue car repairs and maintenance, building equipment, office supplies, advertising, printing, postage, speaker expenses, and bank and professional fees. Our annual income from membership dues is about \$4000. The difference is made up at the cookie and pie sales, the annual raffle, the lecture series, gift shop sales, sponsorships, Buy-a-Brick, and other cash donations by our very generous membership.

Without the items that islanders have donated to display in the museum, there would be no reason to even have a museum. Thank you to all who have done so.

Lastly, the officers, members of the board of directors, committee members, and exhibit, collection, museum and event hosts are all volunteers. As a group they donate hundreds and hundreds of hours of their time each year to keep the society and the museum operating. As you can see, if we relied solely on our membership dues there would be no museum. Thank you to all who make this museum possible through their donations of their items, funds, and volunteer time.

The society is currently looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Hosts at the museum
- Hosts for the lectures and other events
- Collating mailings
- Building and vehicle repairs and maintenance
- Managing collection of photos, news articles, artifacts, etc.
- Model builders including dioramas
- Display preparation
- Written history documentation
- Oral history documentation
- Computer data entry

The society is also looking for donations of the following items:

- A laser printer not more than 4 years old. Wireless not required. Color not required.
- A “Little Giant” ladder. Extension/step ladder combination that folds up for easy storage.
- A laminating machine

If you can help with any of the above, please email me at [xharpspah@aol.com](mailto:xharpspah@aol.com) or call me at 248-388-0465.

## Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society NEWS...

The Algonac Clay Historical Society announces the following events for May. Consider joining them for these fundraising events.



### "All You Can Eat" Perch Dinner

Includes: Cole Slaw, Red Skins, Rolls, & Dessert  
Cash Bar – Gratuities not included – **TICKET \$20 EACH**

**Wednesday May 4, 2016**  
**5:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

Fundraiser For  
**ALGONAC-CLAY TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

AT  
**Johnnie Lega's Restaurant & Tavern**  
9724 Pearl Beach Blvd, Pearl Beach, MI 810-794-5525

Advance tickets by contacting

Paula @ 810-794-9641 or Email [paulaburgess@comcast.net](mailto:paulaburgess@comcast.net)



### Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society Spring Tea - Victorian Hair Fashions

May 14, 2016 - 11:30 a.m.

St. Catherine Activity Center  
1103 Washington Street  
Algonac, MI, 48001



Guest Speaker:

Julie Ballantyne Brown will present interesting and surprising information from her keen interest and extensive research about "Victorian Hair Fashions"

Come join us for a delicious lunch plus prize drawings

Hats and Tea Cups are encouraged

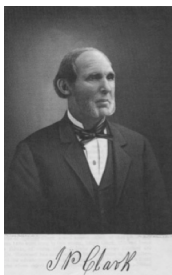
Tickets are \$25.00. All tickets sold in advance

For tickets please call  
Dovis Lloyd 810-765-4610, Joan Bulley 810-326-0754 or the  
Community Museum 810-794-9015

### Lecture Series

#### HARSENS ISLAND ST CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

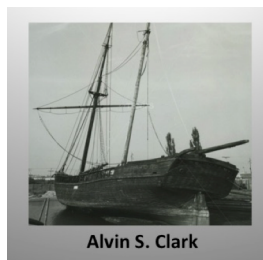
Harsens Island Michigan (May 21, 2016): The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society is pleased to announce the first of its 2016 Lecture Series: *"The Clark Brothers, fisherman, island owners, shipbuilders, entrepreneurs, of the Detroit waterways"*, presented by Bonnie Klems.



John Clark



George Clark



Alvin S. Clark



Bonnie Klems

Little did she realize that her genealogical research on relatives John and George Clark would turn into a *'voyage of discovery'* that encompassed ship building at the Detroit Dry Dock Company, ownership of Lake Erie islands and property on Harsens Island, large commercial fishing enterprises in Detroit and Wisconsin that included fascinating and unexpected people-connections. Joins us to learn more and share her interesting story.

Bonnie is a retired educator by trade. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society and serves as Secretary for the Wyandotte Oakwood Cemetery Association.

**Bonnie joins us Saturday, May 21, 2016, 3 PM at the Historic Harsens Island Schoolhouse Grille, located at: 2669 Columbine Rd, Harsens Island, MI 48028.**

Please make your reservations for this event, as seating is limited, contact Nancy Licata at: 810-748-1825 or via e-mail at: [nlicata@comcast.net](mailto:nlicata@comcast.net). A \$10 donation is suggested to help support the 'Lecture Series'.

# Join us May 28, 2016

Help CELEBRATE another milestone...

The chronology of the building that was once the Harsens Island FIRE and POLICE STATION continues moving forward and opening a new chapter in its existence.

As noted in the Article, "What It Takes to Make a Museum" (reference page 5) Bob Williams notes: "...Our historical society has done very well in its first six years of existence." That would translate to the last six-(6) of the seventy eight- (78) years of he building's existence. The facility is now the 'Permanent Residence' of the Harsens Island St Clair Flats Historical Society, (a.k.a.: The Society and Harsens Historical).

## Following is a pictorial chronology for those unfamiliar with our Museum Building:



Original Dedication c. 1938



c. 1940's



c. 2010



c. 2011



2011 Museum Opening Day Celebration

**c. 2016: Come help us fill these frames with Photos and Memories of our: CELEBRATION OF OWNERSHIP and The Society's quest to continue: Building for the Future**







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](http://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** – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**May**

- 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday - 3:00 PM - Lecture – Bonnie Klem – **“Clark Family Ship Building”** – Schoolhouse Grille
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 10:30 AM – Refreshments & Celebration - at the Museum
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – 12:00 Noon to 4 PM – Museum Open
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Monday – 10:00 AM to 3 PM – Museum Open

**June**

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday - 9:30 AM & 3:00 PM – Museum **‘Volunteer Orientation’** at the Museum
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Social hour –at the Museum
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 11:00 AM – **‘Postcard Collector’s Meeting’**, open to the public –at the Museum
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM - Chuck Miller: **‘Building a Freighter Model’** –at the Museum
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