



volume 16 / number 5

July 2025

Message from the President . . .

Happy 4th of July weekend!

I want to start with the Tashmo Murder Mystery Night we had on June 21st. First, a huge thank you to Stacy Williams, Chris Knight, Ellen Probst, and Corinne Trexler for all their hard work writing the story and script, decorating, ordering food and drink, mailings, and generally putting together the event. It was an absolute blast and marvelous success!

I think everyone who attended had a great time, I know I did! Costumes and dress were perfect and matched everyone's characters beautifully. Most participants were very serious and focused on finding out 'who done it'. A big thank you to Bobby and Susan Bryson, who were key to the story, as Susan's character was the murderer and Bobby's character, the Captain of the Tashmo, was the arresting officer. They both played their characters to perfection, and we appreciate their special participation.

The museum was decorated beautifully as a 1925 speak easy with the Tashmo Distillers serving up their wonderful craft cocktails designed specifically for the event. The Schoolhouse Grille provided delicious appetizers based on the Tashmo menu. I couldn't choose which one I liked the best . . . had to try them multiple times! Thank you to both!

Thanks also to everyone who attended, your support of the museum is greatly appreciated.

Now back to July...when I was a kid my grandma, every 4th of July, would say . . . 'Well, summer is half over!' As kids, we were, "Wait, WHAT??" We'd only been out of school a week or two and for us the summer had just started. It was especially disturbing the year we had a teacher strike the fall before; not going back to school until October was cool, but not so great when we had to make up days and didn't get out the following summer until July. The 4th of July was our first summer weekend. As an adult, I still don't see it as the half way point, but I do understand better her perspective.

Time goes by so quickly, so enjoy the events of the summer and stay safe over the holiday weekend.

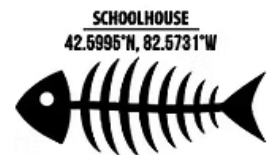
As always, thank you for your support!

Joyce

Joyce Hassen, President



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE
MURDER MYSTERY EVENT!!**



Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society presents

Interactive Murder Mystery

MURDER ON THE TASHMOO

The tranquil waters of the St. Clair River were shattered when a passenger on the Tashmo Steamer was murdered.

Help solve the murder!

JUNE 21, 2025

Doors Open at **4:30 PM**
Event Starts at **5:00 PM**
At 3058 South Channel Drive
1920s period costumes encouraged

Ticket Price \$50

Only 50 tickets are available for this exclusive event.

Tashmo Steamer inspired drinks and food

Cash Bar by the Tashmo Distilling Company

Appetizers by Schoolhouse Grille (Included in Ticket Price)

For Tickets Contact
Corinne Trexler - ctrexler5@gmail.com or Call 313-530-9173
Ellen Probst - elpro8@bellsouth.net or Call 772-766-2912

Murder on the Tashmo

The Harsens Island History Society hosted their very first Murder Mystery Event - *Murder on the Tashmo*

Tickets were limited to 50 guests, and the event was sold out in May within a week and half. The premise of the event was that the *Tashmo Steamer*, in June 1925, was on its daily round trip voyage from Detroit to Port Huron. As usual the passenger list included many professionals, entrepreneurs, entertainers, baseball players, families, and the steamer's crew members.

The passengers were enjoying their leisurely trip when the tranquil waters of the St. Clair River were shattered by the murder of a passenger. The guests of the event were each assigned a character and profession, and they had to solve the mystery by identifying the murderer and the weapon. It was a huge success!



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Preserving Your History

We encourage, and would like to assist, islanders in getting their old photos, slides, negatives, and historical documents into digital format to preserve and/or display them. In addition, the Harsens Island Historical Society would like to collect digital copies of historical photos and documents of the island for the museum's collection.

You can bring photos, slides, negatives, or historical documents to the Museum to have them scanned and the digital copy put on a USB flash drive to take home along with the documents you brought for scanning. Some photos or documents may be of historic interest, and with the owner's permission, a digital copy would be retained by the Harsens Island Historical Society for the museum's collection.

The Harsens Island History Society is also looking for 8 mm or super 8 mm home movies taken on the island prior to 1960 for segments to be digitized and place in the archives. There would be **no fee for members**, but non-members would be asked to make a small donation.

You can make an appointment for scanning with Bob Williams at 248-388-0465 or email him at xharpaspah@aol.com.



Harsens Island Fire Hall Dedication in 1938



Continued on page 4 . . .

Continued from page 3 . . . Murder on the Tashmoo



The Suspects



The Murderer

Miss Beatrice Collins - A famous actress with a flair for drama was involved in illegal activities such as rum running and bootlegging during the Prohibition era. She had connections with the notorious Purple Gang, a criminal organization known for their violent tactics and control over the illegal liquor trade.

Mr. Henry Caldwell (the victim) discovered Miss Collins' involvement in these activities and threatened to expose her, which would have led to her arrest and the end of her career. In a desperate attempt to protect herself and her criminal associates, Miss Collins decided to eliminate Mr. Caldwell.

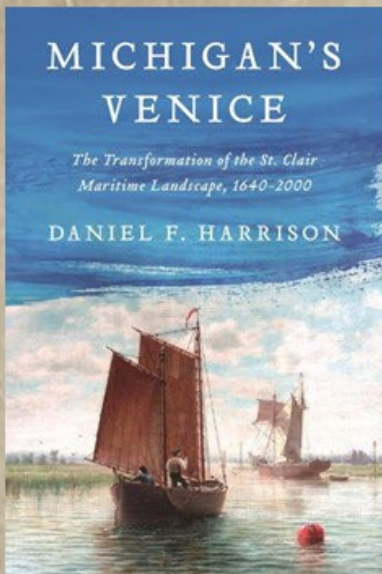
Miss Beatrice Collins = Susan Bryson

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS Historical Society Museum

Invites you to the first of the 2025 Speaker Series events

SATURDAY
JULY 19
11:00 AM

- FEATURING -
Daniel Harrison
“Voices from the Flats”



Mr. Harrison is a historical archaeologist focused on the maritime heritage of the Great Lakes region, particularly its submerged cultural resources. His background as a librarian and historian has proven useful in the identification and interpretation of sites.

*Free Refreshments | Suggested donation: **Ten Dollars***

*Harsens Island Historical Museum
3058 South Channel, Harsens Island, MI*



Algonquin Elementary Class Visits the Harsens Island Museum

In early June, The Harsens Island Museum hosted two separate classes from the Algonquin Elementary School. The students learned about the Harsens Island history and participated in a scavenger hunt and other fun activities. The students also had lunch at the Sans Souci Restaurant across the street.



Harsens Island Historical Society Calendar 2025

Date	Day	Time	Event
July 19	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting at the Museum
July 19	Saturday	11:00 AM	Special Event – Voices from the Flats, presented by Daniel Harrison (author of “Michigan’s Venice”)
August 9	Saturday	11:00 AM	Special Event – History of Three Fires presented by Sue Wrobel
August 16	Saturday	10:00 AM	Annual Membership Meeting at the Museum
August 16	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board Meeting at the Museum
August 30	Saturday	11:00 AM	Labor Day Parade
September 20	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting at the Museum
October 4	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Annual Pie Sale
October 18	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting at the Museum
November 9	Sunday	3:00 PM	Remembrance Edmund Fitzgerald
November 15	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Planning Meeting via Zoom
December 6	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Cookie Walk
December 20	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting via Zoom



Museum Hours

Summer Schedule (June, July, August, September)
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 publication of the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 44
Harsens Island MI 48028

Museum Address:

3058 S. Channel Dr.

www.harsensislandhistory.org

HISCFHS Board of Directors 2025

Chairman of the Board

Bob Williams

President

Joyce Hassen

1st Vice President

Chris Knight

2nd Vice President

Ellen Probst

Treasurer and Secretary

Corinne Trexler

Directors

Terry Wiggins

Sue Wrobel

Nancy Bonacquisti

Robert Bryson



The historical society is looking to add to its collection. We accept donations of artifacts, photos, documents, and stories related to the Island and surrounding area. If you would like to add your family history to the museum archives, we can help you capture your memories for future generations.

Please contact our curator; Chris Knight at chris.knight@comcast.net

Harsens Island Historical Society

The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats History Society has a quilt block on the building and a QR code is mounted next to the side door. Using the camera app on your phone, scan the code and it will show the link to the Historical Museum page in the [Quilt Trail](#) site.

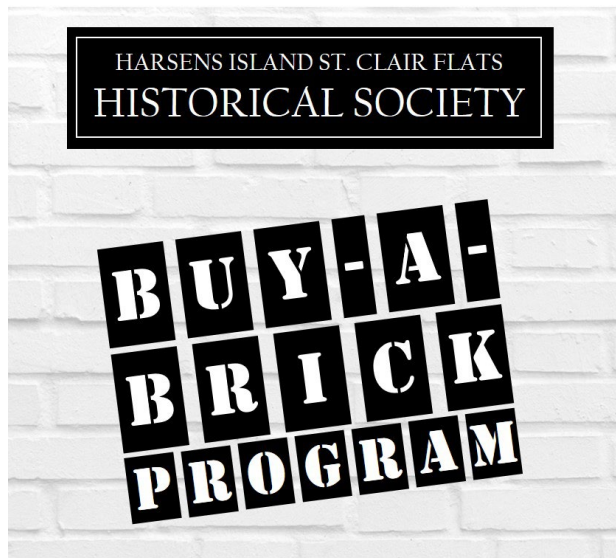
The [Historical Society of Michigan](#) published their 2024 Winter Issue of the Chronicle. The new Harsens Island Historical Society Quilt Block was mentioned in the magazine.



Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Building Renovation BUY-A-BRICK Program

The past three years we celebrated the completion of several renovation projects; in 2020 the Clayton Evans Room Addition, in 2021 the Karen and Drew Peslar Library and in 2022 the large exhibit space at the entrance to the museum named the Nancy Boulton / Gary Grout Room.

To help maintain the museum's infrastructure and a healthy financial position for our Historical Society, we are reactivating our BUY-A-BRICK Program.



Members and friends can support the Historical Society and assure the continuance of the museum by donating \$350 to our BUY-A-BRICK program. Donors will be recognized or may designate a memorial on one of the bricks inside the museum. Of course, they may remain anonymous if they wish. Donations of any amount to support the renovation efforts are welcome and appreciated. To sign up, or if you have questions, contact Bob Williams at 248-388-0465 or xharpspah@aol.com.



BUY-A-BRICK Order Form is included below.



PO Box 44
 Harsens Island
 MI 48028
 www.harsensislandhistory.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Primary Mailing Address: _____ Member No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Spouse Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Spouse E-Mail: _____

Additional Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Phone: _____ Membership Type: _____

Annual Renewal Dues:

- Individual (1 Member Only) \$20.00
- Family (1-2 Adults + Children < 18) \$30.00
- Business \$50.00

Lifetime Dues:

- Lifetime Individual \$300.00
- Lifetime Family \$500.00

Building Donation / Roof: \$ _____ Other Donation: \$ _____

(* The necessary roof replacement in 2024 has left reserve funds low)

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: **Harsens Island Historical Society.**

Mail to: Harsens Island St. Clair Historical Society, P.O. Box 44, Harsens Island, MI 48028

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date received: _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

I would be interested in volunteering as a museum host this summer (greeting visitors, answer questions, if possible, & record museum shop sales).