



Labor Day – September 2

The first Labor Day was held in 1882. Its origins stem from the desire of the Central Labor Union to create a holiday for workers. It became a federal holiday in 1894. It was originally intended that the day would be filled with a street parade to allow the public to appreciate the work of the trade and labor organizations.



National grandparent's Day – September 8

National Grandparents Day has more than one origin. Some people consider it to have been first proposed by Michael Goldgar in the 1970s after he visited his aunt in an Atlanta nursing home. Spending \$11,000 of his own money in lobbying efforts to have the day officially recognized, he made 17 trips to Washington DC over a seven-year span to meet with legislators.



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. The next step will be the installation of the roof insulation and roofing. We hope that roofing will be completed in September or early October.

After installation of the roofing we can then pour the concrete floor. However, one issue which we cannot control regarding staying on schedule to complete the addition is the fact that due to the high-water conditions there is now a restriction on dump trucks and concrete trucks being transported across the North Channel on the auto ferry. We don't know how long this moratorium will be in place, but this will slow our progress on the addition.

Another issue which arose this month was the need for a new septic system for the museum. During the planning process we could find no record of the location of our existing septic system but suspected that it was in the area which we were proposing to use for the addition. During the excavation for the foundations we found it within the area of the proposed addition and are now in the process of planning for a new septic system behind the new addition. The moratorium on large trucks on the ferry might also delay the delivery of the sand and gravel needed for the new septic system. Time will tell. Patience is a virtue.

Bob Williams, President (xharpspah@aol.com)

Pawn Stars Come to Harsens Island

By Gerry Victory

The History Channel show “Pawn Stars” just completed filming an episode for the next season here on the island. This will be the show’s 18th Season.

The show started a format change in Season 17 where they went to locations outside of their famous pawn shop located in Las Vegas, Nevada in their continuing quest to find historic items to feature. A frequent contributor to the show, Spencer Victory has been a lifelong visitor to Harsens Island, and he suggested Harsens Island and its historic relationship to the prohibition era and proximity to Detroit and Canada. Plans were set in motion by the production company for the shooting.

The episode was filmed in 3 locations August 8th and 9th on the island and involved historic material related to the island and the Detroit area along with other items. The pawn shop owner Rick Harrison along with Chumlee and Spencer visited and participated in looking at and buying several items that were located on the island.

The new episode will be featured in the upcoming season, but no date has been established for its airing.



Pawn Stars - Long before banks, ATMS and check-cashing services, there were pawn shops. Pawning was the leading form of consumer credit in the United States until the 1950s, and pawn shops are still helping everyday people make ends meet. Pawn Stars takes you inside the colorful world of the pawn business. At the Gold & Silver Pawn Shop on the outskirts of Las Vegas, three generations of the Harrison family—grandfather Richard, son Rick and grandson Corey—jointly run the family business, and there’s clashing and camaraderie every step of the way.

The three men use their sharp eyes and skills to assess the value of items from the commonplace to the truly historic, including a 16th-century samurai sword, a Super Bowl ring, a Picasso painting and a 17th-century stay of execution. It’s up to them to determine what’s real and what’s fake, as they reveal the often surprising answer to the questions on everyone’s mind, “What’s the story behind it?” and “What’s it worth?”

<https://www.history.com/shows/pawn-stars/about>



People of Harsens Island – Salute to John Cameron and Dick Chute

By Chuck Miller

Islander John Cameron just celebrated his 95th birthday! Congratulations John!

John was a Navy man as was his lifelong friend, Islander Dick Chute. John was stationed shoreside in Wisconsin while Dick Chute was training to be a Naval Aviator, flying off two carriers made from converted passenger steamers in Lake Michigan. Dick passed away a year ago, but his Memorial was held here on the Island this summer and hosted by John and Dick’s family. Beautiful proceeding.

In recognition of these events, we’ve pulled a photograph of the USS Sable, one of the two ‘carriers’ transiting the Flats Canal in 1942 on its way to begin training pilots in Lake Michigan. HISTORY IS ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS . . .



S Sable upbound on her delivery trip to Chicago Photo taken from the onboard the Joseph Wood upbound on Lake St. Clair in 1942.

😊 **USS Sable (IX-81)** was a training ship of the United States Navy during World War II. Originally built as the passenger ship *Greater Buffalo*, a sidewheel excursion steamer, she was purchased by the Navy in 1942 and converted to a training aircraft carrier to be used on the Great Lakes.

Lacking a hangar deck, elevators or armament, she was not a true warship, but provided advanced training of naval aviators in carrier takeoffs and landings.

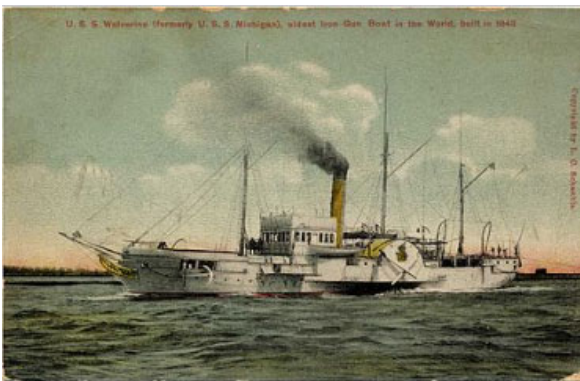
On her first day of service fifty-nine pilots became qualified within nine hours of operations, with each making eight takeoffs and

Photo: USS Sable on Lake St. Clair in 1942

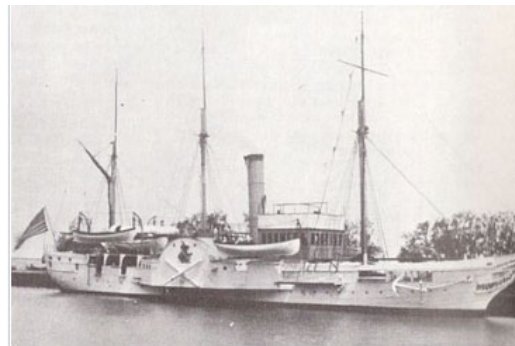
landings. Pilot training was conducted seven days a week in all types of weather conditions. One aviator who trained upon the *Sable* was former president George H. W. Bush.

Following World War II, *Sable* was decommissioned on 7 November 1945. She was sold for scrapping on 7 July 1948 to the H.H. Buncher Company. *Sable* and her sister ship, *USS Wolverine*, hold the distinction of being the only freshwater, coal-fired, side paddle-wheel aircraft carriers used by the United States Navy.

Source: ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Sable_\(IX-81\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Sable_(IX-81)))



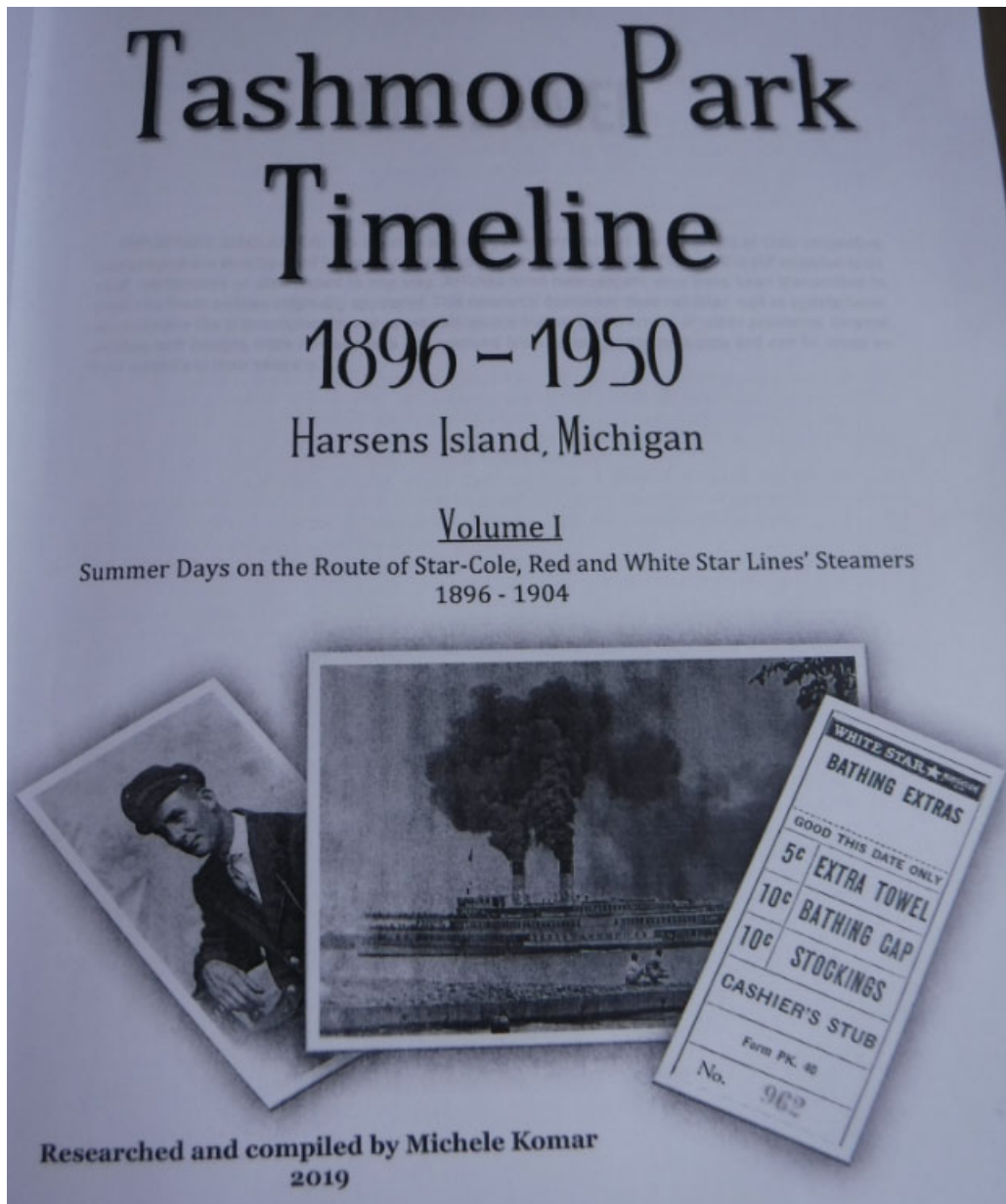
USS Wolverine (IX-31)



USS Wolverine in a Great Lakes port in the early 1900s.

Tashmoo Park Timeline

Introduction by Michele Komar



Tashmoo Park Timeline by Michele Komar is a chronological compilation of articles, booklets and photos that are mainly about Tashmoo Park, the White Star Line and its properties, people and boats. Originally estimated to be 500 pages, it turned into 1,916 pages comprised of 4 volumes with thousands of articles and would take 2 ½ years from start to finish.

While many people have written about Tashmoo Park, Michele wanted to cover the broader scope encompassing the time period that it existed as a park. The park property was purchased in 1896 and was developed into one of the premier destination parks in the nation. Unfortunately, due to many reasons, the property last operated as a park in 1950.

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Tashmoo Timeline . . . continued from page 4 . . .

Why spend countless hours on the research and compilation of this project? Michele likes local history, especially history that has a family connection. Both her great-grandfather, William Christian Harm, and grandfather, William Carl Harm, were Tashmoo Park superintendents. Many relatives worked for Tashmoo Park and Sugar Island over the years. Her great-uncle Louis Harm managed Sugar Island during its tenure with the White Star Line from 1905 to 1925.

The original research started about 10 years ago. There was quite a bit accumulated but Michele's laptop was stolen in a break-in. While it was thought it was backed up, it wasn't. She wasn't planning on starting over but in December 2016, newspapers.com allowed access to the *Detroit Free Press* and *The Times Herald*. This opened up a lot of articles and advertisements that related to Tashmoo Park. That started a daily, year-long process of wading through thousands of articles. Did you know that if you search for "white star" you will also get articles regarding horses for sale with white stars on their foreheads, the *other* White Star Line (the one with the steamer Titanic) and White Star flour? Tashmoo brought up similar hits as there was a Tashmoo Hotel in Detroit, a Tashmoo telephone exchange and a Tashmoo Cleaners.

Most of the articles were poorly scanned or would not conveniently fit on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet. This required endless hours of retyping so it would be legible. The articles have typos and misspellings but that is the way it was written 100 years ago! It drove the transcribers crazy as the tendency was to correct it to modern day language. But they hung in there and after another year had passed, the transcription was done. All that was left to do was lay it out in a reasonable manner and six months later it was finished.

A research project of this size takes a considerable amount of time and dedication. Without the encouragement of the Harsens Island-St. Clair Flats Historical Society, especially Bob Williams and Chuck Miller, this 2 ½ year project would have taken much longer.

A special thank you to fellow historian, Arthur Woodford, for all his support and help.

Special recognition must go to the transcribers who worked with the poorly scanned articles and transformed them into legible copy. Thank you to Debby Addy, Sharon Milewski and Kelley Nader, with a very special thank you to the four that stayed with the project to the end, Diane Innis, Dianne Owen, Pam Wilson and Steve Nichol.

Finally, a big thank you to Judy Harm for her help with the Harm family history.

The 4 Volume Set Each volume covers a different time period.

Vol 1 – 1896 – 1904

Vol 2 – 1905 – 1913

Vol 3 – 1914 – 1923

Vol 4 – 1924 – 1950

Epilogue Biographies

Buildings/Properties

Each volume is prefaced by "Headlines and Highlights" that summarizes interesting articles for quick reference. The HISCFHS has exclusive use and is not intended for sale or distribution.

continued on page 6 . . .

Tashmoo Timeline . . . continued from page 5 . . .

(Commentary by Chris Knight)

The Tashmoo Park Timeline Volumes are a fascinating compilation of Tashmoo events, White Star happenings, and advertisements of the early 1900's. A few of the articles are included in this newsletter for your reading pleasure. We are proud and excited about this new addition to the museum. Please stop by and take a look.

Apr 20, 1897 – *Detroit Free Press* - Page 5**A NEW UP-RIVER RESORT****Messrs. Parker, Millen and Others
Are Fitting it Up.**

Last fall the owners of the steamers Greyhound and City of Toledo—Messrs. Parker, Millen, and others—bought sixty acres of Harsen's island, midway between Maple Leaf and Sans Souci, and they have since fitted it up for a people's pleasure ground. A large pavilion and rustic seats by the score will be featured, and boathouses will also be erected. The plat is finely wooded and has hundreds of feet of river frontage. The dock is large enough to accommodate any steamer, and substantially made. The pretty spot has been named Tashmoo, after an Indian chief, and to this place the two steamers will carry church and other excursions this season.

July 1, 1906 – *Detroit Free Press* - Page 20**Tashmoo Excursionist Slips on Banana Peel
and is Badly Injured**

John Neull, aged 60 years, residing at 253 Russell street and an employe of the Penberthy Injector Co., was badly hurt at Tashmoo Park yesterday, where he was attending the annual excursion of the firm.

Mr. Neull was walking when he slipped on a banana peel and fell in such a way as to dislocate his right hip, fracture his cheek bone and sustain other injuries.

This is the second accident that Mr. Neull has been in, having been injured in the Penberthy explosion several years ago. He was attended by Dr. N. P. Greusel, of 79 Park street, and put in a stateroom on the steamer Tashmoo. When the boat arrived in the city he was removed to St. Mary's hospital in Boyd's ambulance, where he will be laid up for a considerable time.

Aug 11, 1921 – *The Times Herald (Port Huron)* - Page 6**MERCHANTS GIVE 101 PRIZES
FOR PICNIC FRIDAY****Valuable Rewards Await Winners of
Athletic Events at Tashmoo**

Every sort of athletic event, together with a baby show, special games for the kiddies, dancing and two base ball games has been arranged for the International Picnic tomorrow at Tashmoo Park.

Never in the history of the city, the committee states, has there been such an array of prizes, as are assembled in the windows of the Knox Dry Goods company to be given to the winners in the contests.

Donated by the merchants and banks of the city, these favors range from a hat to a pair of shoes, and from half a ton of coal to toilet water. The complete list announced by the committee follows:

Events For Men

Broad jump—1st prize, ½ ton coal—Miller Coal & Dock company; 2nd prize, pair golf hose, Springer & Rose; 3rd prize, slippers, Brophy Bros.

50 yard dash—1st, pair pants, Mitchell the Tailor; 2nd, shoes, Co-Operative Show Co.; 3rd, tie tin, H. E. Runnels & Son.

100 yard dash—1st, basket of groceries, Smith Bros.; 2nd, basket of groceries, Smith Bros.; 3rd basket of groceries, Smith Bros.

Sack race—1st, desk lamp, D. J. Stephenson Elec. Co.; 2nd, hat, Water Street Garment Co.; 3rd, ink stand, K. H. Hubbard.

Jockey race—1st, box stogies, Pelso Bros.; 2nd, belt, L. Higer & son; 3rd tie, L. Higer & son.

Fat men's race 200 lbs. or over—1st, shoes, Wilson Shoe Co.; 2nd bathing suit, L. Higer & Son; 3rd necktie, Frank Henson.

Tug of war—Box of cigars for the winner.

International baseball game—Winner, box of cigars. Loser, box of stogies. In case of tie, cigars go to umpire.

continued on page 7 . . .

Tashmoo Timeline . . . continued from page 6 . . .

The next three images are advertisements that were in the White Star Magazine (Volume 2 of the Tashmoo Park Timeline).

1913 - White Star Magazine



"The Spot for Hearty Appetite and Perfect Sleep"

The Star Island House

MICHIGAN'S FAMOUS SUMMER RESORT

REACHED BY WHITE STAR LINE STEAMERS
Star Island, St. Clair Flats, Mich.
 ESTABLISHED 1878. 35 YEARS UNDER SAME MANAGEMENT
 Star Island Particularly Appeals to Parties or Individuals
 Wishing to Spend Week-Ends Away from the City
Select Dancing Parties Every Evening

STAR ISLAND is in the Heart of the St. Clair Fishing Grounds, The Venice of America. Boats, Skilled Punters, Rods, Bait, and all necessities for fishing. Sail boats, row boats, steam and gasoline launches. Bathing, bowling, lawn tennis, outdoor and aquatic sports. Large roomy verandas with lounging chairs, overlooking an ever-changing panorama of America's great merchant marine. More tonnage annually passes on the St. Clair River than passes any other point in the world, not even excepting the Suez Canal.

PRIVATE DINING ROOMS for SPECIAL PARTIES
 LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CONNECTION
 MRS. JAMES SLOCUM, Proprietor


1913—RATES FOR SEASON—1913
 Breakfast 50c Dinner and Supper 75c
 Special Rates by the Week
 SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN PRIVATE SUPPERS

Send for Illustrated Booklet, Care
 White Star Line Steamers, Detroit, Mich.

Star Island House, Mich.

To Enjoy "THE FLATS" go to Joe's


The 8:45 a. m. Boat from Detroit gives seven hours for fishing and frolic



The 2:30 p. m. Boat from Detroit gives an hour for a bounteous 50-cent supper

\$1.50 per Day, Meals 50 cts.
 Per Week \$9.00

New Bath and Toilet Rooms Up to Date



Joe Bedore's Hotel AT THE FLATS

NEW ROOF GARDEN, SCREENED WITH WIRE NETTING FOR PROTECTION AGAINST MOSQUITOES

JOE keeps a complete line of sporting paraphernalia for those who love to row, hunt and fish. There is not a nook or spot in all the Flats where the finny tribe abound but what Joe Bedore is familiar with. A handsome dancing pavilion surrounded by shady willows, where picnic parties are welcome. Good music; grounds for sports and games. His hotel is a favorite resort for everybody who likes to go in for a good time. You find yourself surrounded by plenty of everything simple and homelike. The tables are heaped with appetizing victuals. The rooms are airy and cheerful and the beds inviting. It is not necessary to fatten your purse with bills to enjoy the hospitality of Joe Bedore.

"Give me a call and I'll give you a good time"

JOE BEDORE, Prop.

Take White Star Line Steamers to the

Muscamoot Hotel

Formerly The Mervue Club
 St. Clair Flats, Michigan



First Public Landing from Detroit—Thus giving our patrons more time for fishing, dancing, swimming and other sports

Curator's Report

By Chuck Miller

The construction on our addition marks a milestone for the Museum. The result of the effort will constitute a giant leap for us in more ways than one. The new space will not only facilitate larger and more numerous exhibits, but it will also provide us with much needed 'working space' for research and archiving, map studies, and exhibit preparation.

We are committed to developing and/or expanding our effort to computerize our records. This includes numerous binders on historical subjects and the Delta News. We also are expanding our collection(s) by including digital photos of the artifacts in our database. Our effort to digitize and catalog our massive collection of photographs continues. The end result will be the capability to search and retrieve the digital images and/or the hard copy originals (stored for safe keeping) real time in the Museum. The numerous photo albums we have received presents a real challenge. This effort will be an ongoing process for all of us over the next year or so.

On a related note, we have also begun to convert historically relevant 8 mm movies and VHS tapes from members and donors into a format for viewing in our new "mini-viewing area".

Here are some examples of the video that we have transcribed to date:

Sally Jankowski passed on a 1948 home movie showing a picnic on the Island hosted by William Finzel and his wife Lilly May Weiss Finzel. Finszel's had a place down near the existing Idle Hour. William Finzel was a well-known band leader who was often seen at Tashmoo Park and on the Tashmoo Steamer. Sally is trying to run down her distant cousins to fill in our story.

John Cameron allowed us to digitize a number of family 8 mm movies that contain notable historical events. Among them: The passage of Queen Elizabeth and her Yacht Britannia in July 1959 to commemorate the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway; and the front-yard footage of the freighter A.M. BYERS, sunk in collision with Str. E.M. FORD, April 9, 1956, with 9,800 tons of limestone; no lives lost. Took a month to raise her.

In addition to these wonderful contributions, we have also compiled a digital library of older VHS videos on historical subjects that we hope would be of interest to the young folks who stop in. They will be available for viewing the Museum on request. Titles include: The sinking of the Carl D. Bradley, Cedarville, and the Edmund Fitzgerald as well as a documentary on the Building of the "Mighty Mackinaw" Bridge. More to follow!

Please, if you have old film, VHS or slides don't hesitate to bring it into the Museum to show us!!

Keep in mind, we also have a large selection of DVD's created in association with Channel 6 that cover topics such as Tashmoo Steamer, Tashmoo Park, the Edmund Fitzgerald Sinking, our Island Hotels and their history and many more. All were created by our Islanders or highly respected special speakers.

We continue to entertain group visits by senior citizens and, in an effort to take our story to a broader audience. In August we presented a 2-hour lecture program to 50 Senior Citizens at Macomb Community College on the History of Harsens Island.

Harsens Island Historical Society Calendar 2019

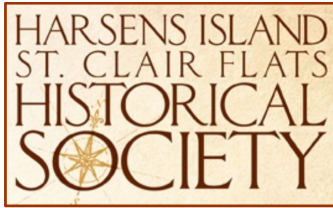
Date	Day	Time	Event
September 13	Friday	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Social Hour
October 5	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Pie Sale at Museum
October 12	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board / Membership Meeting at Museum
December 7	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Cookie Walk at Museum
December 14	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board Meeting at Museum

Museum Hours

Schedule (May, June, July, August, September)
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



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/>

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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).



Election Results

Bob Williams and Nancy Bonacquisti were reelected for three-year terms. During our August special board meeting the following officers were elected for 2020; Nancy Bonacquisti as Secretary, Joyce Hassen as Treasurer, Corinne Trexler as 2nd Vice President, Sue Wrobel as 1st Vice President and Bob Williams as President.

**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 9:30 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 \$ _____