

Manitou Memories

M a n i t o u I s l a n d s M e m o r i a l S o c i e t y

Special points of interest:

- Re-Light the Light Ceremony-May 30, 2009
- Complete Re-light the Light Donors
- Summer Memories by Judy Fogle
- Annual Meeting- Saturday, July 25, 2009
- Excursion-Sunday, July 26, 2009
- Summer Projects
- Survey from the MIMS Board-Tell us what you think!

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Re-light the Light Ceremony

On the evening of May 30, 2009, a sizable crowd braved the cold north wind of the Manitou Passage outside the Maritime Museum in Glenn Haven to celebrate the Re-lighting of the South Manitou Island Lighthouse! This project was the vision of Mike Grosvenor who inherited his father George's positive thinking and steady courage. He enlisted the aid of many partners besides his own Manitou Island Transit; Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Manitou Islands Memorial Society, Electro-Optics Technology and hundreds of generous donors! Representatives of each organization expressed many thanks to all who were involved. A testimony to the American Spirit of generosity towards a worthy cause!

The highlight of the evening was when Dusty Shultz, Superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore called the SMI Lighthouse and

"temporary light keeper" Jack Sheridan lit the Light! These are Jack's words of dedication: (recorded by Dorothy Cooley) "I would like to dedicate and commemorate this lighting to the Light Keepers who trudged these stairs for over 100 years to light this light." There is a "click" as the Light comes on and then loud cheers and clapping! Dorothy asks, "Jack, what does it feel like to be able to do this on behalf of your ancestor?" Jack responds, "This is a wonderful opportunity to remember our history and to revere our history, for all the brave and wonderful folks that lit this light that enabled all the ships to pass here in safety. I am moved...and very moved by my friends and all the folks who came to witness this historic occasion."



The new lens in the South Manitou Islands Lighthouse.
Photo courtesy of Joe Kruch.

Contributed by Lynn (Crownier) Roe

Things to Remember

****Port Oneida Fair: August 7 and 8, 2009
Volunteers needed. Musicians on both days. Barn dance Saturday afternoon. Make-and-take crafts for the kids. Come share your stories about the island with others. We would love to hear them!

****A lighthouse museum is being created in the Fog-signal building on SMI. We need to collect: photos and stories of SMI light keepers with dates of service, living arrangements, and family information.

****As of July 2007, MIMS has an annual (Jan.—Dec.) dues of \$10. Are you up to date? We need you help to make our newsletter and other projects possible!

****Please consider sharing a memory of the islands for the next newsletter. Please pass along your story no matter how short or long by email at kruchr@sbcglobal.net or to the PO Box. It will be greatly appreciated by all!

****Even though the light is lit, MIMS still has a balance owed to the Will Larson Foundation for the Re-light the Light Project of about \$11,000. Please consider a donation to help pay down this balance.

****Please consider a seat on the board. Vice-President, Secretary, and member-at-large are open positions this year. They are 2-year terms ending in 2011. We need your help.

Haas/Jenks Project Continues

Restoration work began several years ago at the Haas/Jenks cottage on SMI with the fish shanty behind the house. Two summers ago, the foundation of this Montgomery Ward Kit home was leveled and stabilized. Last summer, a grant from the Americana Foundation allowed us to complete extensive restoration both inside and out. The work began with re-

pairing and replacing the shingles on the roof. Exterior wooden shingles and windows were stabilized, repaired, and painted/stained. The inside plaster was removed and replaced with dry wall. Interior walls were then prepared to be primed and painted. The restoration continues this summer with finishing touches to the floors, windows, doors, and trim. The

cottage has been transformed back to the treasure that it once was thanks to all of the many volunteers that made this dream become a reality!

Once completed, the cottage will be opened to the public. MIMS will help with some of the interpretation to be completed inside this home. All donations are greatly appreciated.



Coast Guardsman Harrison Haas

**Coast Guardsman
Harrison Haas-Photo
courtesy of NPS Archives**

President's Message - Rhonda Kruch

***"It is our turn
to decide the
future of the
society."
"Where do we
go from
here?"***

Manitou Islands Memorial Society is at a cross-roads. Many of our founding fathers/mothers are no longer with us. It is our turn to decide the future of the society.

The MIMS Board has created a survey for our membership. We need your help! Please complete the survey and return it by mail or at

the annual meeting. We need some honest answers to some hard questions.

1. Where do we go from here?
2. Should the annual meeting and excursion be our primary focus?
3. Should we be doing preservation work?

4. Are you able to help support our efforts? (website, newsletter, board position, committee position, volunteer, financial support, etc.)

What area of our mission statement are you most interested in? How can you help make it happen? Remember many hands make the impossible a reality!

Cemetery Work Continues

Steve Hicks and Randy and Blake Brodbeck continue to make grave pickets around SMI a priority. Last summer, they repaired the Hutzler/Peth site at the Johnny Hutzler homestead and the Price Girls' grave site in the woods 1/2 mile behind the cemetery. To

date, all of the grave pickets on SMI have been repaired.

In mid May of 2008, Joe Kruch and Neil Hodges made access to the Price graves easier by clearing a trail from behind the NW corner of the cemetery to the woods .

Earlier this summer, Steve, Randy, and Blake repaired and leveled the boardwalk leading from the village to the lighthouse .

Remember everyone can make a difference. Keep up the good work Steve and crew!



**Price Girls graves behind
the cemetery-Photo cour-
tesy of Steve Hicks**

Summer Beach Memories



South Manitou Island
Shoreline
Photo courtesy of Joe Kruch

Once we returned home, folks would ask, “What did we do all those days on the beach?”

Our family vacationed on South Manitou Island from 1981 until 1997, when the NPS said our time was up. A five minute walk through the woods took us from the cabin to the beach. The girls were 3 and 5 that first summer. So, what do you do on a beach for two weeks? Play with rocks! Smooth ones, flat ones, ones with holes, ones with fossils, “petoskies” as the girls would say, and ones to break on other rocks that would be painted later on a rainy day and then put back together like puzzles.

Later, we graduated to Barbie dolls on the beach. Rocks laid out in the sand to diagram a house, with front and back entrances (couldn’t step through the walls - you had to use the doors), twigs for clotheslines to hang the clothes, rock beds, plastics bags filled with water became swimming pools, and rocks with scoops became toilets. Flat rocks became skippers as we would hope for the lake to be flat, so we could skip rocks all day. When the third child came along, we used big branches to hang towels on with big rocks to hold them in place, which created a sun block while we played on the beach.

One day we found a dingy from off one of the big boats, no one claimed it, so we took it as ours. We called it the “Ark.” A milk jug filled with stones became our anchor, which was tied to the boat. Then, we dove into the deep water just like we had a diving board. Using the rocks, we also made great art formations, walls, words, or would leave rock

notes. Of course, the beach would change every year. Water was up or down, sandy or rocky, or “sea weedy”. When the water was down, we would discover big boulders to stand on and create statue formations, which gave the appearance that you were walking on water.

Once a year, we would walk all the way around the island and call it the “death march”, which took all day. The beach would change as you walked around the island. It was sandy on the south side, pea gravel on the east side, driftwood on the north side, and the log jams on the west side. The question always was: “Do we climb over the log jam or precariously walk out over the rocks in the water, holding our backpacks over our heads, with the waves crashing into our legs, and try to remain standing?”

Finding a rock with a hole in it was important. When found, string was strung through the rock and worn around your neck, which we called a “love rock.” The water close to the beach was always rocky, which made it extremely painful to walk out to the deeper water where it was sandy. So, we would crawl in and out of the lake on our bellies. The invention of water shoes was wonderful! I worried about the children growing bored as they grew older, but they continued to entertain themselves on the beach. They were always inventive. Once we returned home, folks would ask, “What did we do all those days on the beach?” We would just smile and say, “played with rocks.”

Contributed by: Judy Fogle

August Beck Farmstead Restoration Work

For the last several years, Joe Kruch, Bob Kruch, Neil Hodges, and Dan Zezulka have been working to preserve the cultural resources on both islands. The pastoral farm landscape around the August Beck Farmstead has been greatly improved. The orchard and trail through the farm equipment has been reopened also revealing the original homestead site with domestic plants gone wild. Vegetation around the barns has been removed. Thanks to their dedication and hard work, the farms are beginning to look like farms again!

This year, the buildings at the August Beck Farmstead will also receive some much needed attention. For the first time in approximately 20 years, the shutters were removed from the windows to provide light for the interior clean up and restoration work on the main floor.



Clean up work on the August Beck Farm House in May 2009. Photo courtesy of Bob Kruch

An August Beck barn workshop is also planned for this summer to repair the foundations on the ice house, field stone and stove-wood barn foundation, and farm house.

Again, most of our projects take several summers to complete due to the short time frame to complete the restoration efforts. Volunteers are always needed. Start thinking about next summer, we are! Contact Rhonda Kruch at kruchr@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

Whether or not you are able to physically volunteer, we need your financial donations to make these projects become a reality. If you love the islands, please consider making a donation to the society!

Contributed by: Joe and Rhonda Kruch

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MANITOUISLANDS.ORG



**M a n i t o u I s l a n d s
M e m o r i a l S o c i e t y**

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*Preserving the history and cultural
resources of Michigan's Manitou Islands!*

L y n n ' s w o r d s a t t h e C e r e m o n y

It is an honor and a privilege to be here tonight as a representative of my Manitou Islands Memorial Society. Thank you, Dusty Shultz for inviting me. Many years ago, families from North and South Manitou Islands met annually in Empire for a Reunion. From that group our Memorial Society was formed. Today we are still a "grassroots" organization with members from all walks of life joined together to carry out our mission of education and preservation of the history of North and South Manitou Islands. In 2007 we were given an opportunity to partner with Manitou Island Transit, Electro-Optics Technology, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in a "leap of faith" to Re-light the Light on South Manitou Island! I would like to thank the many Donors who joined us, from the school children who gave nickels and dimes to the Elders who dug deep into their pockets, to the many who gave memorials for loved ones, and the many who gave time and talent to make this Light a reality! You can feel proud to be a part of this historic preservation. The South Manitou Light has played a significant role in the navigation of the very unpredictable waters of the Manitou Passage. Many of our first members were "Light keeper Families." Others were Coast Guard Families. My own father served in the Coast Guard on South Manitou in the 1920's. One hundred and

fifty years ago the first Light was lit by Aaron Sheridan. Tonight the Light will be switched on by his great-grandson, Jack Sheridan. "Only in America" God Bless America!

Contributed by Lynn (Crownor) Roe



**The new lens lit on South Manitou Island.
Photo courtesy of Paul Rocheleau.**