



Manitou Islands Memorial Society

V15 No 3

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2004

When We Were 34, It Was a Very Good Year!

It was the 34th time for the annual North and South Manitou Islands reunion, the incorporated Society's 16th annual meeting, and the 12th annual excursion to the islands. Sixty-seven attended the Saturday events in Empire, and forty-two spent Sunday on South Manitou. That's an all-time record for the island excursion, and the best reunion attendance in several years. Many observed that this year's events were "best ever", and were already looking forward to 2005.

But there's even more to be proud of. It was a year of several "firsts". Rita Hadra Rusco was elected our first Honorary Member, Glen Lake High School student Jake Rumbaugh earned the first annual "Gerald Crowner Memorial Scholarship", and the Society participated as an exhibitor in the Lakeshore's annual Port Oneida Fair.

Meanwhile, the Memorial Society became a 501(c)(3) "Public Charity", the official *letter of determination* issued August 12, 2004. We assured a richer experience for this season's visitors on South Manitou by helping the Lakeshore provide a special Interpretive Ranger and distributing over 4,000 visitors guide booklets. The Society sponsored a work project on South in late August, replacing the fence at the main cemetery, recovering burial sites near the Bay Campground, sprucing up the lighthouse and doing a variety of other small maintenance tasks. Members, in independent initiatives, replaced the deteriorating roof on the Harrison Haas (Jenks) house, and worked on the drywall inside the schoolhouse.

Perhaps the best news of all ... the Society is growing. Contributions are up over those of the past several years, thanks to your interest and generosity, and thus far, we've welcomed some 21 new individuals and families as new members.

It's no secret that we're in an era increasingly noted for declining interest in "civic engagement". That the Memorial Society is experiencing this resurgence nonetheless is truly an exemplary achievement. Your feelings of satisfaction and pride are fully justified.



Come Where the Action Is

The Memorial Society is chartered as a membership organization with an Executive Board. That means the Board of Directors has the responsibility of carrying out the business and mission of the organization between annual meetings. If you would enjoy an opportunity to participate more actively, the Board is the place to be.

At the next annual meeting, we'll be electing a new Vice President and Secretary, as provided under the bylaws. Director appointments (Communications and Hospitality) are also revisited when each new board is installed. The Treasurer position is also currently available, with the Board seeking an interim to serve out the remainder of the present term.

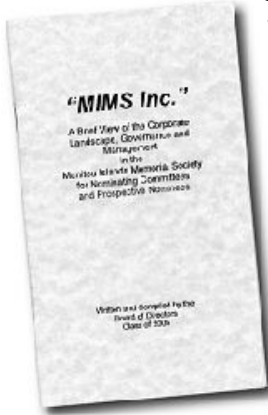
Here's a great opportunity to jump in and become part of a success. Can you bring interest, imagination, ideas and exuberance to one of these positions? If you are retired and feeling unneeded and irrelevant, here's a cure for that. For younger members still building a career, a position as an officer and/or director of a successful nonprofit corporation will look great on your resume!

Make your interest known using the form provided on the web site, or by writing a note to the Nominating Committee at the Empire address (see the mailing label.) To learn more about serving on the Board, turn the page.



News from the Nominating Committee – New Booklet Now Available

MIMS, Inc. is a pocket-size booklet designed as a recruitment tool for corporate officers and volunteer staff positions. As subtitled, it provides “a brief view of the corporate landscape, governance and management in the Manitou Island Memorial Society for Nominating Committees and Prospective Nominees.”



This booklet explains the corporate aspects of the Society as a nonprofit entity, how governance in a nonprofit corporation works, what the duties and responsibilities of officers, directors and appointed staff are, and what the management culture is like. Brief job descriptions for each position are also provided.

The information has been compiled from MIMS records and a variety of Internet resources, including IRS and Michigan government web sites, nonprofit advocacy foundations and support organizations. The booklet is available online in eBook format in the “members/ebooks” section of www.mantiouislands.org. Printed copies may also be requested from the Secretary; phone 877-842-7658 (toll free), email gwarner@manitouislands.org or write to Box 177.

Two New Policies ~ on Gift Acceptance and Volunteer Projects

Over the years the Memorial Society accumulated a significant amount of money in various loosely, and unofficially, restricted funds. With the passage of time, the purposes associated with these funds proved to be impractical, irrelevant or impossible. The money therefore lay idle in bank accounts, rather than being put to any good purpose. Feeling that the failure to use such gifts and bequests in a meaningful way discouraged others from designating the Society for memorial gifts and thinking about the organization when engaged in estate planning, the Board recognized the need to remedy this situation. The “restricted funds” were therefore examined on a case by case basis, finding that some fit the definition of “donor advised funds”, but none had been formally or legally designated for any particular purpose. After requesting comments from the nearest kin of the families involved, the Board voted to move this money to the general fund, therefore making it available to the Society’s mission, with a small set-aside held in a reserve fund.

To preclude the possibility of such situations arising in the future, and to assure prospective benefactors that the Memorial Society will be a diligent steward of gifts and

bequests, the Board has adopted a *Gift Acceptance Policy*. In general, this discusses the kinds of gifts and bequests that can be accepted, by whom, under what circumstances, and how such assets will be managed.

While in the policy making mode, the Board also addressed the issue of assuring that MIMS-sponsored volunteer projects are properly announced and promoted, in order to assure fairness and inclusiveness. The resulting *Volunteer Policy* addresses such issues as notice, member-nonmember preferences, and so on.

Copies of these policies are available online, and printed copies are available from the Secretary upon request.

Point of Historical Interest – the Demise of Schooner Eagle and Capt. Jacob Lawson

For many years member Fred Hollister (Alameda, California & North Manitou Island, Michigan) has been researching the shipwrecks of the Manitou passage. He’s up to approximately 150 vessels totally lost, and recently came across the following items that he thought you might find of interest:

EAGLE Schooner, capsized near the Manitou Island, Lake Mich. April 18, 1848, lost with all hands, seven. Loss \$2,000. - *Casualty List for 1848, Toronto Globe, Sept. 13, 1848.*

We are informed by Capt. Pratt, of the propeller PRINCETON, that when about 20 miles off Sheboygan, on Lake Michigan, he found the schooner EAGLE, dismasted, and otherwise injured. The body of a man named Jacob Lawrence, supposed to be her captain, was found on board, and was buried on one of the Manitou Islands. - *Buffalo Republic, Wednesday, April 26, 1848.*

SCHOONER EAGLE - We alluded to the wreck of this vessel on Lake Michigan some days since. We now understand that in addition to her captain, there were three other persons who perished on board of her, viz: a German sailor, an Irishman and a lumberman. - *Buffalo Republic, Wednesday, May 3, 1848.*

Fred suggests ... “So, based on this rather limited information, the name of Capt. Jacob Lawrence, master of the Sch. Eagle, should be added to the roster of those buried on the Manitous.”

Fred is searching for an article about Manitou Passage shipwrecks titled “Gravesites of the Manitou Passage” by Greg Risig published in the Elk Rapids GAZETTE September 2, 1994, pgs. 1-19. Email Fred at frederichollister@hotmail.com or send mail c/o Box 177 in Empire.





After several years of dedicated service, Treasurer Joe Orbeck has asked to be relieved. Joe was elected to the post as Treasurer four times, and served in that capacity over seven consecutive years.

In addition to doing an outstanding job in his role as Treasurer, Joe has also been a most dedicated Director, giving willingly of his time and personal resources for the good of the Society

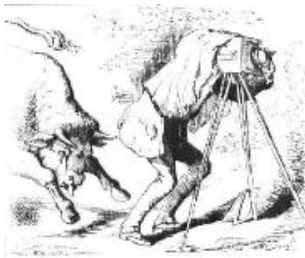
whenever the opportunities arose. Combined with an easy-going manner and ready sense of humor, his serious businessman's perspective won the respect and admiration of fellow directors, from one Board to the next. As a member, Director, and descendant of some of South Manitou's original settlers and homesteaders (George Conrad Hutzler), he has always been an energetic advocate for the Islands. The Board of Directors has accepted his resignation with regrets, offering the Memorial Society's most sincere appreciation for a job well done.

Island Music?

MIMS member Gary Worden, this year's official "Island Excursion Musician", wonders ...

"whether parlor organs (pump organs) were popular on the islands. I would think that pianos might have been hard to ship and maintain. Did many homes have pianos? Parlor organs, on the other hand are light weight and were prevalent throughout the Midwest at the turn of the century ... I have a pump organ. If it were meaningful to island descendants, I'd be interested in recording some music of the time and presenting it to (the Society) as a gift. What do you know about music and it's role on the islands? How can I find out more?"

Gary receives email at glworden@centurytel.net, or mail c/o Box 177 in Empire will be promptly forwarded.



Help for Family Photographers

Taking pictures is a great way to preserve memories. Not happy with your camera? Check out the helpful photo tips provided by professionals at Kodak, a NPS "Proud Partner"...

<http://www.nationalparks.org/PlanYourParkTrip/PlanYourParkTrip-phototips.shtml>.

The Grosvenor operation goes back to at least 1918, when George "Tracy" Grosvenor married Della Firestone of North Manitou Island and began making regular trips back and forth between Leland and the Island, carrying mail, supplies and passengers. He took over the mail contract for South Manitou in the 1930's, the family thus serving both of the islands ever since.

Tracy and Della begot George Firestone Grosvenor (known as "George"), who with his wife begot George Michael (known as "Mike"), who with his wife begot George Michael Jr (usually called "Michael"), who with his wife Sarah have begot another George Tracy. In "Old World" style, the business has remained in the family for almost ninety years! It recently passed to the next generation for the fourth time, with Mike's children Michael and Megan and their spouses taking over. Megan, and Michael's wife Sarah, now manage the land-based operations, while Michael, and Megan's husband Jimmy Munoz, are responsible for the boats and the island-based activities. Mike continues to participate in an advisory capacity.

SMI Burial Site Recovery and Marking Projects ~ African-American Unknowns

NPS Architectural Historian Kimberly Mann suggests doing some research on, and marking, the graves of certain African-Americans, which evidently lie just outside the main cemetery's gate on South Manitou. She has some sketchy research indicating that two men were buried there, although it contains nothing indicating names, dates or circumstances. There are depressions at the location in question, indicating probable burials.

The presence of such burials has been rumored over the years, but physical records have never been discovered. Anyone having any information, anecdotal or otherwise, is invited to communicate it. Else

the two burial sites currently identified will be appropriately marked and identified as "John Doe" graves. Our traditional Rocheleau crosses might not be

appropriate in this case since African-Americans were not necessarily Christians. Opinions on this are also solicited. Check out the online book about African-American burial traditions at <http://scholarship.chicora/gravematters.html>.



Since these graves are outside the fence and often driven over by tour and maintenance vehicles, Kim will arrange to have the area marked off as a "Potter's Field" of sorts, using large indigenous rocks. Placing the markers and dedicating the "Potter's Field" will be an activity everyone can be involved in at next summer's island excursion.



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NMI Burial Site Recovery and Marking Projects ~ Andrew and John Paepschow

Rita Hadra Rusco, historian for North Manitou, has recommended markers be placed on two more graves in

Youth Group Sponsorships

Serving our mandate to pass on our knowledge and love of the islands to the younger generations, the Memorial Society invites you to sponsor an island experience for the group of your choice. Kids love

North's main cemetery. An existing stone on a third grave is also in need of repair.

The existing stone, with inscriptions in Danish, marks Anna Paepschow's grave. The top part of this marker, containing the familiar oval design with lambs, was broken off years ago. Rita and Ray Kimple found it lying in the grass, and Ray picked it up for safekeeping. It's in storage somewhere in the Lakeshore. David Hooper, former seasonal ranger on North suggests this piece probably wound up in the Lakeshore's "Black Hole" ... a storage building at the Empire radar station. Rita hopes that piece can be located and restored to the slab remaining on the grave.



Adjacent to Anna's grave are the graves of Andrew and John. These once had wooden markers. Those were also removed by Ray Kimple and put into storage but might be a good resource for information, if they can be located. Otherwise the information currently available is:

- Andrew Paepschow
Died 11/15/1896
(next in line to the north of Anna)
- John Paepschow
Died 12/22/1922
(third in line)

This is based on the work of a visiting clergyman, is several years old and is open to question since Rita is not sure where he got the information. Anyone able to verify, correct or expand upon these details is encouraged to email the Secretary (gwarner@manitouislands.org) or mail the information to Box 177 in Empire. Ideas regarding the repair and restoration of Anna's stone are also solicited.

Crosses with brass plaques will be created by Paul Rocheleau for the graves of Andrew and John. Placement of these markers is tentatively planned as a project for next Memorial Day weekend.



adventure and a journey to a real island easily beats Six-Flags or Cedar Point. Besides the fun and adventure, the unique experience is also educational, and is sure to create a memory that will last a lifetime. You can help make

this happen as your own, private initiative, by supporting part of the cost of a day trip or camping adventure for a local school class, kids club, scout pack, kids choir, church youth group ... or what have you.

The costs break down as follows:

- **Transportation:** Mantiou Island Transit rates are \$25 round trip, \$14 for kids 12 and under.
- **Parking:** MIT provides a secure parking area for customer vehicles for \$3 per day.
- **Park Pass:** Options include paying \$10 per vehicle or \$5 per person. This fee is waived for youth 17 and under.
- **Camping Permits:** \$5 per night per person for up to seven, or ...
 - \$20 for groups of seven to twenty on South
 - \$10 per night for groups of up to ten on North.

For example, six teens with two adults can enjoy a three-night wilderness camping experience on North Manitou for \$249. Eight to ten kids with two adults can have a birthday party (day trip) on South for \$188.



Let us know what you have in mind. We'll do the math and let you know what donation would be needed to cover the above costs. Then, if you decide to go ahead, we will make all the necessary arrangements with the Lakeshore and Manitou Island Transit. Write Box 177, email youthsponsorships@manitouislands.org or call 877-842-7658 (toll free)

Notice ~ MIMS "RDBMS"

Over the years, membership records have been kept by hand in various sorts of formats. They've now been transferred to a computer resident Relational DataBase Management System. This will make future record-keeping much easier, and the procedures and records format will remain consistent, even as those serving on the Board changes over the years. In the new system, everyone has their own membership record, but each household has only one member tagged as "receives mail", to prevent duplicate mailings. Address labels for this newsletter were generated from the new system. Please advise the Secretary of any corrections needed or changes desired.

Best Seller Proves Top Fund Raiser

Gerald Crowner really didn't mean to write a book ... he just thought he'd jot down a few memoirs for future family members to enjoy. At the urging of Marie Smith, he agreed to let her granddaughter Dorothy Belanger of The Print Shop in Mio publish his writings as an illustrated book, which was then offered for sale at various points around the



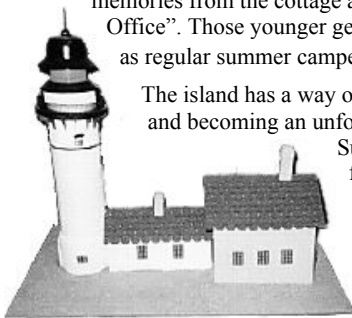
Rita Rusco, First Honorary Member, Finally Receives Her Plaque

Shown above is Rita Rusco accepting her MIMS "Honorary Lifetime Membership" plaque from Paul Maleski. Paul accepted on her behalf at our annual meeting in July. Seated with Rita and Paul is former North islander Marcus Oien (left). Onlookers included family members who were visiting from Texas, and William R Angell III, son of the island's former steward.

The occasion was the Leelanau Historical Society's annual North Manitou Island Excursion, held this year on Saturday, September 11. The group made the crossing on MIT's Manitou Isle with sixty people taking advantage of this once-a-year opportunity to spend a day on North Manitou Island. (Photo courtesy of Laura Quackenbush, Leelanau Historical Society & Museum)

Labor of Love

Jack and Suzanne Hughes summered on South Manitou for over forty years, from 1959 to 2002. Their children and grandchildren came every year, taking home many happy memories from the cottage across from the old "Post Office". Those younger generations continue even now as regular summer campers.



The island has a way of getting into one's heart, and becoming an unforgettable part of one's spirit.

Such was evidently the case for the Hughes' 11-year old grandson Christopher Ek, who built this replica of the South Manitou Lighthouse complex. What began as a school project obviously turned into a "labor of

love", with this outstanding result! Look for Chris and his model at next July's reunion in Empire, after which we'll move it to the Visitor Center museum on the island.

Exhibiting at the Port Oneida Fair

On Friday and Saturday, August 6th and 7th, the Lakeshore's Port Oneida Rural Historic District came to life with the advent of the third annual Port Oneida Fair. The Fair, free to everyone, showcased the crafts, skills and activities that made rural life productive and enjoyable in the 1850 to 1950 era. Exhibits featured blacksmiths, potters, barn builders, quilters,

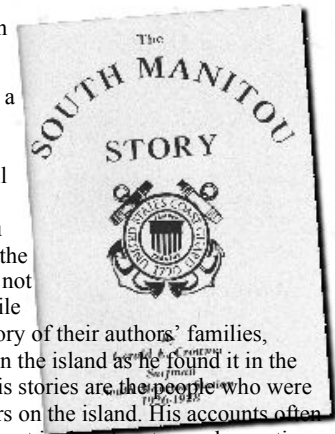


spinners, story tellers, artists and musicians, all working in traditional crafts or taking inspiration from the turn-of-the-century Port Oneida culture.

The Memorial Society was there, as a first-time exhibitor, our pavilion billed as "A Maritime History:

Lakeshore. The resulting sales validated Marie's faith in the project.

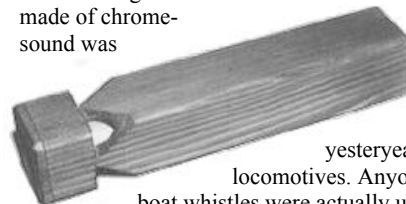
The South Manitou Story is a collection of the former South Manitou Coast Guardsman's anecdotes, tall tales and poetry. As far as books about South Manitou are concerned, it's become the definitive "best seller". It's not hard to figure out why. While most other books are the story of their authors' families, Crowner writes about life on the island as he found it in the 1920's. The characters in his stories are the people who were his colleagues and neighbors on the island. His accounts often leave readers with a warm spot in their heart ... and sometimes with a lump in their throat. Besides his obvious interest in and affection for the islanders, he clearly had a soft spot in his heart for the island itself, and often waxes poetic about its mystery and beauty.



Now, Crowner's book is proving to be a top fundraiser. Early this year Marie's daughter Margaret Hodge and the author's daughter Lynn (Crowner) Roe decided to do yet another printing, and donate the proceeds from the sale of the books to the Memorial Society. Copies autographed by the author's daughter proved a popular item at this summer's Port Oneida Fair. To date, the project has raised over \$400 for the Society's general fund.

Can You Make These?

It's a simple quad-tone "boat whistle", made of scrap wood and 1/2" dowels. South Manitou's August Warner gave one of these to his grandson Gene. Although his was made of chrome-plated metal, the same ... sound was similar to that made by the whistles of yesteryear's steam locomotives.



Anyone know what these boat whistles were actually used for? The Port Oneida Fair is a family event, and these would go over great with kids. So it's an authentic item with great fundraising potential! Plans, if needed, are available from the Secretary.

"The South Manitou Story". A young, authentically uniformed "Gerald Crowner" (Glen Lake High School senior Jake Rumbaugh) exuberantly retold his stories, his "stage" being an authentic Mackinaw boat provided by the Maritime Heritage Alliance.

The connection between the Manitous and Port Oneida? Many young men who grew up on Port Oneida farms served in the Coast Guard, and were often assigned to North or South Manitou Lifesaving Stations. Names that come to mind are Kelderhouse, Thorsten, Burfiend. In fact, Jack Barratt, one of Port Oneida's very few remaining residents, was an island Coast Guardsman.

Exhibiting proved fun and profitable for the Society. Set up is easy,

Moments with Gerald Crowner". Crowner was only fifteen years old when he signed on as a "temporary surfman" at the Pentwater Coast Guard Station. At twenty-one, he enlisted as a full time Coast Guardsman to grab a vacancy on South Manitou Island. That began his life-long love affair with the island, which he ultimately chronicled in his book



and duties after that involve meeting people, answering questions and engaging visitors in conversation. MIMS Members are residents or others already living in the islands, so they're very easily met. There's also time to ride an old farm wagon or stroll leisurely around the area to visit other exhibits and demonstrations. Motor trams are available for those unable to walk long distances.

So, what are you doing next August? As a volunteer or visitor, you're sure to have a good time, so come to the Fair!



www.manitouslands.org

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