



Manitou Islands Memorial Society

V16 No 1

Newsletter

Spring 2005

This Season's Premier Project ~ "Déjà vu All Over Again"

Almost ten years ago, in our November 1995 newsletter, we announced the launching of an ambitious project to restore South Manitou's one-room schoolhouse.

The island school, built in 1899, accommodated students of all ages, beginning with the first grade. Eighth grade graduates were typically thirteen or fourteen. An eighth grade education was considered sufficient for any practical person, but some went on to high school on the mainland.

Teachers were usually young men or women who went on, after graduating from high school, to attend a County Normal teacher's school for a year or two. The wages were low; \$50.00 a month during the mid-30's, with \$20.00 of that going for room and board. For that kind of money the teacher also served as Principal, school nurse and custodian. The day began early, hauling out the ashes from the previous day's fire, then starting a new fire in the stove to heat the room. There was then water to pump for drinking and washing, and as time permitted, wood to split. At day's end, after the children left, there was cleaning to do ... sweeping, mopping, dusting and occasionally window washing. The School Board also expected to find the outhouses clean and well supplied with Montgomery-Ward catalogs.

The little schoolhouse also served as a place for meetings and social activities. Spelling bees, recitals, skits and plays were popular diversions for islanders. Today it remains, albeit deserted and lonely.

Progress towards the restoration of this historic asset has been slow, for a variety of reasons. Funding, of course, is one. Location is another, it being rather inconvenient and expensive for volunteers to go to the island to work on such projects.

Finally, as a practical matter, the Lakeshore necessarily focuses its resources where they'll do the most good, and the number of visitors going to the Island is only a small percentage of the Park's annual visitation. It was not until September of 2000 that the job of scraping and repainting the building's exterior was completed. Since then, the Lakeshore and independent volunteer groups have been working inside the building as



time and limited finances have permitted. Much of the necessary demolition work has been completed, structural repairs on the roof trusses and ceiling rafters have been accomplished, and some new drywall has been installed. Much remains to be done, however.



Working independently, "The All Girl, Award Winning Dry Wall Team" spent a weekend last September working in the schoolhouse. L/R: Anna DeCoster, Sarah Wendt, Emilie Karpi, Gwen Glatz, Debbie Dekker

Confident that everyone would like to see this project completed, the Memorial Society, in concert with the Lakeshore, has developed an ambitious project designed to get the job done either this season or next. We have applied for the David Evans Memorial Award, a \$5,000 grant for historic preservation offered annually by Michigan Architectural Foundation and Clannad Foundation. If the application is successful, the schoolhouse project will be completed this season. We will otherwise go with a slightly more relaxed schedule, which will allow us to fund the work completely on our own, the project then being completed by the end of the 2006 visitor season. Once finished, the building will be opened for interpretation purposes as a part of the regular motor tours offered on the Island.

If you are interested in participating in this project, you can learn about the kind of work that will be done, and approximately when, by reviewing the grant application ... which is available on the manitouislands.org web site, or write to request a printed copy. A volunteer Project Coordinator, working closely with Lakeshore maintenance and interpretation specialists, will manage all phases of the project for our organization, including the recruitment and scheduling of other volunteer helpers.

You can also assist by providing information, artifacts and furnishings for display in the restored building. ♣



NMISL Feasibility Study

Board members have initiated an informal study to determine whether or not the restoration of the North Manitou Shoal Lighthouse, more commonly known to locals and old-timers as "the Crib", would realistically be within the interests and capabilities of the Memorial Society. The offshore facility is successor to the North Manitou Island Light. That first lighthouse, built on North Manitou's Dimmick's Point in 1898



proved ineffective in warning ships away from the hazardous shoal that extends far out into the passage from the island's southern tip, so was soon augmented by a lightship stationed at the shoal's end. The Crib was commissioned in 1935 to replace the lightship and the mainland light.

The U.S. Congress instituted an innovative program for lighthouse restoration and preservation with the passage of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. NHLPA recognizes the cultural, recreational, and educational value associated with historic light station properties by allowing these to be transferred at no cost to nonprofit corporations and other eligible entities. These groups must agree to comply with conditions set forth in the act, be financially able to maintain the facility, and must make it available to the general public for education, park, recreation, cultural or historic preservation purposes at reasonable times and under reasonable conditions. Only those light stations that are listed, or determined eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, can be conveyed under this program.

Government agencies involved in the process include the U.S. Coast Guard, the General Services Administration, the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office. Thus far, the Board has been in touch with the Coast Guard's ATON Team in St Ignace, who are currently responsible for the light, and NPS NHLPA Coordinator Susan Vincent. Board members have also met with Dr Steve Belko, Director of Michigan's Lighthouse Preservation Project in Lansing. A dialog has also been initiated with Dick Moehl, President of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, an organization whose mission includes facilitating the process; with Mihm Enterprises of Hamilton, MI, a historic restoration contractor with experience working on facilities of this kind; and with the DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society, a group which has successfully undertaken a project of this kind with a very similar offshore lighthouse near Drummond Island. The next step will be to physically visit the facility with this group during the ATON Team's next regular visit in late July. ♪

Nominating Island Assets to the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Properties eligible for listing in the National Register contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the nation.

The Memorial Society has been invited to undertake the work of nominating several island structures and historic districts.



Theodore Beck Farm ("The Lodge") on South

Authoring such nominations is well within the Memorial Society's purview. Because of the detail required to support such nominations, the projects are rigorous. However, the benefits of achieving such listings are significant: (1) listed buildings and landscapes become eligible for restoration and preservation grants, as well as technical assistance with rehabilitation and maintenance; (2) while listing does not guarantee that the building or landscape will forever be protected and preserved, it does assure that a formal impact study be completed before any proposed changes can be carried out; (3) the honorary designation achieved through placement on the National Register often changes the way we perceive our historic resources, and gives credibility to efforts to preserve these resources as viable, functioning members of the islands' human built landscape.

These projects involve several sites on both islands, and will be done in close cooperation with Lakeshore personnel (e.g.; Kimberly Mann and Bill Herd), with full access to the wealth



The Bourniques Cottage on North Manitou

of Lakeshore archival resources and documents. The work involves extensive research, including photographing the sites, then properly documenting the results on the appropriate forms.

Funding to cover incidental expenses will be provided by the Memorial Society, with possible matching funds from the National Historic Preservation Fund as Federal Survey and Planning Grants. If you would like to participate in this long-term project, check the manitouislands.org web site or write for more information. A wealth of instructional material is available, and previous experience is not required. ♪



Port Oneida Fair ~ "Old-Time Pastimes"

Ever make a whimmy diddle? How about a corn shuck doll, a button hammer or a bull roarer?

In our second year at the fair, we'll be exhibiting old-time homemade toys, games and puzzles, with some hands-on activities for kids of all ages, playing with things they've never seen before, and making something neat to take home as a souvenir. MIMS members will be available to show how it's done, and to answer questions about the islands



Remember your favorite homemade toys? Are you handy at making them? If so, you can participate in this activity even if you can't be in Port Oneida in August. A member who is a

native of Port Oneida is working on the boat whistles. What fun it would be to hear those whistles blowing all over Port Oneida! Contribute your ideas or your own personal creations for this year's exhibit. You'll probably have more fun making some of these unique things than the kids will playing with them at the fair.

A list of "idea books" is provided on the web site. Or write for a printed list, to share your ideas or volunteer to work the fair. Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday, August 5 and 6.

This is a great opportunity for younger members to participate in a fun and meaningful event. ♪

Reminder: Annual Reunion/Meeting and South Manitou Island Excursion

It's not too early to mark your calendar for this year's annual reunion, regular meeting and South Manitou Island Excursion. The reunion and meeting always happen on the last Saturday of July, which is the 30th this year. The excursion to South Manitou always follows the next day; Sunday July 31st. These events were very well attended last year, and everyone had a great time. We're making plans for an even better time this year, so you won't want to miss out. Set these dates aside now. Check the web site for more information, and look for full details in the Summer newsletter. ♪

Nominating Committee Notes

Member Camille Garber has been elected by the Board as Interim Treasurer. The Vice President and Secretary offices are up for election at this summer's meeting. Staff appointments, Communications Director and Hospitality Director, are made by each newly elected Board, to serve during that Board's tenure. You can learn more by reading our booklet *MIMS, Inc.*; available online, or write for a printed copy. Indicate your interest using the online form, by writing, or by speaking to any Committee or Board member. ♪



The "Dues and Don'ts" of Memorial Society Soliciting and Fundraising

The Memorial Society has never had dues, and probably never

Secretary's Report

Our new membership database has been in use on a trial basis for the past several months. We currently list over 450 members and interested third parties. Thus far in this fiscal year (since August 1, 2004) we've welcomed thirty-seven new members, and received cash and in-kind contributions from some seventy-three others:

New Members:

Arnold Alanen	Leon Kelderhouse
Kirsten Anderson	Brad Maguire
William R Angell III	Bill McEachern
Lee Bowen	Karla Olson-Bellfi
Sandi Champion	Bill & Jayn Payne
Belinda J Coker	Shana Kay Puhlman
Karen Sue Crandall	James & Virginia Schultz
Ed & Cynthia Dewes	Barbara Siepker
Robert & Sarah Ek	Jeffery O Smith
Denise Elwell	Christopher M Southwick
Janice E Faulkner	John Sutherland
Judi Harris	Pam Taylor
Ellis H Henniges	William E Thompson
Steven L Hicks	Suzi Wasserman
Fredric F Hollister	Gary Worden
Peter & Katy Jenks	Henry C Zavislak

Contributors

Maureen (Tobin) Albright	John & Suzanne Hughes
Irwin Beck	Sylvia Kruger
Marcella Birghtman	Paula S Leinbach
Lee Bowen	Peter & Betty Mann
Gregory Brockdorf	Beverly Manwell
Mark Carlson	Karen McIntire
Sandy & Steve Champion	Pat Nader
Laury Christie-Vaughan	John & Katrine Oatley
Tom & Kim Cubberly	Robert & Germaine Oberst
Rolf & Ingrid Deininger	Joseph M Orbeck
Johanna DeKok	Bill & Jayne Payne
Denise Elwell	Orvil & Merlene Richardson
Jack & Jeannette Feeheley	Mike Rocheleau
Virginia K Fish	Paul Rocheleau
Judy Fogle	Lynn Roe
Dorothy Fox	R: (Anonymous)
Janet Frascato	R: (Anonymous)
Camille Garber	Don Roy
Gwen Glatz	Sarah Schultz
Alan Green	Stephen E Sheridan
Charlie Gum	Gail Skruch
Margaret Hackenberger	Joanna Smith
Dr Richard Halik	Robin Tilwick
Anna Belle Hansen	John & Dorothy Tobin
Bill Goeman	James Trew
Cynthia & John Heisler	Gene & Patricia Warner
Janet Helmer	Hazel Wiedenhoft
Ellis Henniges	Donna M Winters
Margaret Hodge	Joan & Randy Woods
E Gerald Holmes	

Contributions received with new memberships currently total \$720, while other contributions received amount to \$1,878.08, for a total of \$2,598.08 thus far in the current fiscal year. ♪

Newly Refined Gerald E Crowner Memorial Scholarship Criteria Honors Crowner's Loves and MIMS Mission

will. Wishing to include all those who traditionally participated in the old North and South Manitou Islands Reunion, which began in 1970, the Society's founders provided that anyone with burial rights on either island automatically qualified for membership, and anyone else needed only attach \$10 to their sign-up form to be welcomed as members in good standing, equal in all respects. Either way, memberships were for life; once a member, always a member!

Not having dues makes sense in other ways, one being that in organizations where the membership cannot be accurately determined, a quorum for meetings of the general membership is simply "members present". With our diverse array of widely disbursed members, it would be difficult to assemble even a simple majority, especially on the prime summer weekend when our annual meeting is held. Moreover, most people find it more rewarding to make a voluntary contribution than to pay a bill, which is what the payment of dues often feels like. Our members are very faithful in this respect; we probably receive as much voluntary financial support as dues would generate, and perhaps even more!

We give away Memorial Society "member stuff", instead of selling fundraising items, or offering merchandise as an enticement for donations. A convenience envelope is included with each item, and recipients can remit if, whatever and whenever they want. Since we're not selling anything, there is no sales tax liability. Since any resulting contributions are not directly connected to any purchase or gift, 100% of the donation is deductible.

Although we're conscientious about including convenience envelopes in everything sent out in the mail or distributed at meetings and other events, that isn't meant to suggest that a contribution is always expected. Sometime during each year, members often take a moment to write a check or put a few dollars in one of the envelopes and send it in. Contributions usually range from \$3 to \$100; all are equally appreciated and equally acknowledged.

Our islands advocacy is a priority for many members, old and new, and we all understand that what can be accomplished depends upon willing volunteers and generous donors. But we're not just a "Friends of the Islands" group. We sprung from a reunion of relatives and friends, who met faithfully each summer for many years to keep "the ties that bind." That wasn't, and still isn't, a costly activity. In those days, we just passed the hat and everyone threw in a couple of bucks. For those whose only interest is the annual reunion, that's still entirely sufficient, and equally appreciated. ♪



Begun last year primarily as an incentive to attract a volunteer for our exhibit at the Port Oneida Fair, the "Gerald E. Crouner Memorial Scholarship" offered a \$250 award. The only criterion was a willingness to show up; nonetheless, we were fortunate enough to wind up with an outstanding recipient.

For this and possibly future years, a new program has been developed. The award will take the form of an "essay contest", the subject matter involving the role of settlers, the USLHS, USLSS, and USCG, and the Manitou Passage in general in the development of Great Lakes Maritime history and traditions. Graduating high school seniors headed for a post-secondary educational institution, or students already enrolled, are eligible. Dependant children of Coast Guard personnel can receive a preference. The application process is easy, involving only the writing of an appropriate essay, and submitting that with a simple application form.

The application deadline for this year's award will be Saturday, June 18. A special Scholarship Committee will judge applications, with the winner notified the first week in July. The actual award will be made as part of our annual meeting on July 30th, the winner being our "guest of honor" for that weekend's events if able to attend. This year's \$500 award will be funded courtesy of Lynn Roe's family, Margaret Hodge (the original publisher of Crouner's Book *The South Manitou Story*), and other private donations. Copies of the book, signed by the late author's daughter, are still available upon request. ♪

New! ... MIMS Monogram "License Plates"

Twenty-one states and provinces have opted to save millions by eliminating the requirement for front license plates. Since they're still required elsewhere, most cars come with



provisions for front plates. The car manufacturers nick you \$45 to \$80 or more for a plastic cover (with their name on it) to hide that ugly mounting well they put in your front bumper. This prompts some people to use plates that say tasteless and hurtful things like, *"I'm Spending My Children's Inheritance"* or *"Get Out of My Way ... I'm Headed for Bingo!"* ... or worse.

Good News! If you need something to dress up that bare spot (or replace what's already there), you can show that you have a little class by displaying a MIMS monogram plate. These attractive "onyx on snow" (black on white) plates compliment the color of any car. Receive one of these unique commemorative plates for your very own, complete with stainless steel mounting screws, simply for the asking. ♪



South Manitou's "Last Family"

They came from Ionia County over fifty years ago ... "almost like pioneers", Esther said, "except there were buildings already here." Indeed, they moved onto a farm built by one of the island's pioneers and passed on to his generations ... but now owned by Mr. Boales. They came as hired hands ... Ed,

But as the days grew short and the leaves began to turn, the seasonal loneliness and isolation would return as the few summer residents boarded up their cottages and left, and George's appearances became increasingly less frequent. Nevertheless, there was livestock to care for and winter maintenance chores to do. While the boys were still young, Esther turned her living room into their "schoolhouse". Later,

Esther and the boys ... to take care of his property and his herd of Herefords, settling in among the islands interior "ghost farms" ... places haunted by the memories of better times and people long since departed, one way or another. Nobody left on the island then, but a skeleton crew at the old Coast Guard station and four aging hangers-on in the ghost town that was once a thriving village.

The splendid isolation and tranquility of the Island has a way of enchanting harried visitors with delusions of escapism. Ambitious men came to the Island, and left with development schemes abrewing in their brains. Boales and his "Lee Island Associates" from Detroit were among the last. Like those before them, the Associates found their bubble gradually floating away as possibilities that seemed so easily within reach in their dreams dissolved in the face of demographic and marketing realities. Hoping to salvage their investment, Mr. Boales turned from luxury resort developer to beef production. Mr. Harrold built a "marina" ... a small dock with a store ... and fixed up one of the farmhouses for use as a guest "lodge". The rest of the associates gave up their interest in the project.

And so, the Rikers settled in as salaried overseers of William Boales' cattle operation, moving into the old Conrad Hutzler place with the boys, Russell, Richard and little Ronald ... 7, 5 and 1, respectively. It didn't take Mr. Boales very long to



discover that his beef operation wasn't panning out either, so difficult decisions were once again called for. For Boales, the choices were scant, since the property he held evidently had little economic value. But for the Rikers, it had become "home", and leaving would not have been easy. Thus, they became tenants, leasing the property from Boales and operating it on their own ... doing whatever it took to make ends meet.

"Whatever it took" included raising beef cattle, selling feeder calves, producing fresh eggs for sale on the mainland, maintaining the telephone company's line across the islands, and keeping up the island's roads for the County Road Commission. Ed worked on lake survey boats when he could during the summers, otherwise he and Esther could be found serving as tour guides for day visitors ... driving them to various points of interest around the island, showing them the world's largest white cedar trees, or the wreck of the Francisco Morazan. Summers were good times, especially for the boys, as George Grosvenor's ferry brought back familiar summer resorters and a regular stream of day visitors.

she would spend winters with them on the mainland, where they could finish their education in a "real school", leaving Ed to tend the farm alone. If George could make the crossing, they'd sometimes be able to return on the weekends. But most often, that was risky. More than once she and the boys walked the seven miles across the ice from Glen Haven to spend a weekend at home with husband and father.

The years went by ... the last of the old islanders left, the Coast Guard decommissioned the lighthouse, then closed up the Lifesaving Station and finally they too sailed away for good. Their boys had become young men, eager to discover what life held in store for them on the mainland. As the island's last tragedy, Ronald, then sixteen, drowned while swimming at the Morazan with a summer friend. Six years later, Ed and Esther Riker were obliged to leave when Boales finally sold out. It was not a happy time. "I just have to start looking someplace", said Esther, "and I start remembering." "We're loosing our identity." Standing at her boy's grave, she promised "I plan to be buried here, right beside him." ♣

In Memoriam **Edward & Esther Riker**



We note with regret the passing of long-time Memorial Society members Edward and Esther Riker. Edward, who was 84 and died February 7th, was preceded in death by Esther, his wife of sixty-one years, who passed away December 4th of last year.

The Rikers operated farms on South Manitou Island for some twenty years, and were the island's last permanent residents. They raised polled Herefords, their operation gradually expanding from the Conrad Hutzler farm to encompass also the August Beck and Theodore Beck farms. The Rikers were year-around residents on South Manitou, Ed eventually wintering on the island alone while Esther accompanied their boys to the mainland to attend school. They were the last to leave South Manitou, finally departing in 1973 as title to the farms passed to the Lakeshore.

Surviving Edward and Esther in the immediate family are sons Russell and Richard and five grandchildren. A third son, Ronald, died accidentally on South Manitou the summer of 1967 at age 16, and was laid to rest in the island cemetery. The cemetery will also be the final resting-place for his parents Edward and Esther. A memorial service has been tentatively planned for May at the South Manitou Island cemetery. ♣



Camille L Garber *Interim Treasurer*

Camille Garber comes from a family of entrepreneurs. Having grown up in the family retail business, on her own initiative, she earned a cosmetology license from the State of Michigan when just seventeen. After graduating

News from the Park ... **SLBE Draft "Fire Management Plan"**

Because of the devastating wildfires in the west, and the resulting controversy over government management policies, all NPS units were ordered to come up with new "Fire Management Plans."

In short, the Lakeshore has been operating without a specific plan, under the general guidance of



from high school, she returned to retail, holding management positions in several local stores, ultimately becoming co-owner of *Our Vintage Shop and Antiques* in Mt Pleasant. Wishing to pursue a career with a national company, she earned an Associates of Arts degree at Mid-Michigan Community College as a part-time student, then sold her business and enrolled at Alma College where she earned a BA/MBA degree just eight years later. Recruited by a pharmaceutical firm Merck & Co., Camille managed Michigan territories responsible for sales extending to Minnesota. She is currently responsible for transportation and staff payrolls at Traverse City Area Public Schools.

Camille's involvement with 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations began while in college, where her interest and energy quickly won a Board position. She is extensively involved in volunteer activities, working with such diverse activities as Traverse City's Old Town Playhouse, Rolling Century Farms, and as an Election Inspector for the City of Traverse City.

Camille has developed a passion for historical architecture, mostly from her travels in Central and Eastern Europe, and is keenly interested in renovation project possibilities. She and husband Mike Rocheleau reside in Traverse City where they enjoy (in her words) "a landscape of wonderment."

Making a Difference

By making bequests and other "planned gifts," you can continue your personal advocacy for the islands indefinitely. What better way to honor the people and places that have had an impact on your life, than to contribute from your estate through a bequest. Gifts large and small are important. Such

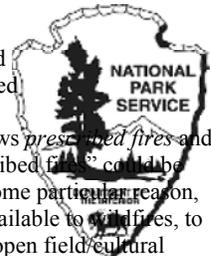


Make a Difference in the Lives that Follow.
Make a gift to charity in your will.



giving is not only for the rich! Depending on the current tax laws, leaving a gift to charity could reduce the estate tax burden on your heirs significantly. To learn more, call the National Committee on Planned Giving at 317-269-6274, or visit www.leavealegacy.org.

"Director's Order #18" which simply calls for the suppression of all fires within parks that have not yet developed a plan. Of the three alternatives suggested in the new draft management plan, the Lakeshore's "preferred alternative" allows *prescribed fires and wildland fire use* on the islands. "Prescribed fires" could be deliberately set by park personnel for some particular reason, such as to reduce the fuel potentially available to wild fires, to selectively control vegetation, or as an open field/cultural landscape management tool. Appropriate reasons could also include practical considerations such as cost, safety, public health, etc. "Wildland Fire Use" (or "WFU") means permitting fires ignited by natural processes or accidentally by humans to burn, ostensibly for the same reasons.



Naturally, these options would not apply to the islands' historic structures, which would continue to be fully protected. While prescribed fires and wildland fire use would not be permitted, mechanical means could be employed as necessary to reduce their vulnerability to wildfires. Prescribed fires could be used in areas designated as cultural landscapes, but not wildland fire use. While sometimes characterized as a "let burn" plan, neither prescribed fires or wildland fires would be permitted to burn indiscriminately and uncontrolled.

The plan developed for the Lakeshore is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/> and printed copies are available from the Lakeshore.

Park Announces Antique Apple Tree Pruning Workshop for 2005

The Park invites you to participate in a pruning workshop on Friday, April 22, from 1:00 – 4:00PM at the Kelderhouse and Lawr Farmsteads in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District.

The workshop will focus on maintenance of neglected apple trees, how to bring them back into production, and maintain their health. You'll learn 1) how to identify and properly remove dead materials from abandoned trees, 2) proper pruning of the canopy for optimum maintenance and apple production, 3) maintaining tree health, 4) how to maintain ground cover under the tree, 5) watering and care of the tree, and 6) equipment safety. With all the "antique" apple trees found on both islands, this workshop could be the genesis of some very rewarding future projects.



Partners for this inaugural workshop include the Leelanau Conservation District, MSU Northwest Michigan Horticultural Station, and the County Extension Master Gardener Program. Participants will receive "hands on" training in all techniques. Experts from these three County offices will provide technical information and instruction, with the Park serving as host. Previous knowledge and experience is not required. The purpose of the

Special skills or previous experience is not required, there is no cost, and the Lakeshore will provide all necessary tools and materials. Wear sturdy shoes and gloves, and bring a sack lunch. Campsites are available upon request

This year's workshop is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19, beginning at 9:00AM each day at the Martin Basch Farm. To get there, take M-22 north from Glen Arbor for about five miles, then turn left on Basch Road, left on Kelderhouse Road, then right on Baker Road.

Advance registration is not required, but would be helpful. If planning to participate, please

workshop is to teach the techniques and train homeowners and the interested public how to restore to health and maintain antique apple trees.

We'll meet for a 1:00 PM orientation session at the Port Oneida Schoolhouse. Follow M-22 north from Glen Arbor about four miles, then turn left on Port Oneida Road. Wear sturdy shoes and gloves. Handouts, tools and materials will be provided, and there is no cost. Rain date: Friday, May 6th at the same time and location.

Registration by April 18th is requested. Advance sign-up is not mandatory, but would be helpful to event planners. If planning to participate, please advise Park Historic Architect, Kimberly Mann at 231-326-5135 x501, send your name, address and telephone number to kimberly_mann@nps.gov or use the reply envelope provided with this newsletter. 📧

2005 Barn Workshop: the Granary at Port Oneida's Martin Basch Farmstead

This marks the 9th consecutive year that the Lakeshore in partnership with the Michigan Barn Preservation Network has provided a public barn workshop, an event that has proven instructive, as well as a lot of fun. This year we'll be working on the granary at the Martin Basch Farmstead in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District.

Martin Basch, a former soldier and war prisoner, emigrated from Germany to North Manitou Island in 1868 with his wife, leaving several children behind in Hanover. Fifteen years later they purchased 110 acres in Port Oneida for about \$5 an acre. Basch was a blacksmith, and a master carpenter who helped build many of the farms and churches in the Port Oneida - Good Harbor - Arcadia area. His handiwork is still evident in the pediments and circular gable windows of the farmhouse.

The Lakeshore and Michigan Barn Preservation Network are providing the skilled labor to put on this workshop, and will be assisted in hosting this year's event by Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear and relatives of Martin Basch. You'll receive "hands on" training in all techniques involved in repairing hewn sills, replacing log floor rafters, repairing wall frames, windows, doors and replacing wood floorboards and siding.



Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear Organizes Another Project on South Manitou

Sometime late this summer, the chicken coop on South Manitou's historic Conrad Hutzler farm, and the fields around the farm, will receive some special attention, courtesy of PHSB. George Conrad Hutzler, was George Johann Hutzler's half-brother, the two being among the island's original homesteaders. Conrad arrived in 1867, some 11-years after



Johann, who is credited as the island's first full-time farmer. Conrad's farm, under the stewardship of his son and grandson, brought the island some prominence as the primary site for Michigan Agricultural College (today's MSU) development projects, which produced the highly successful *Rosen Rye* and *Micellite Bean* varieties. This farm also turned out to be the island's last, being operated by the Riker family until they departed as the last islanders to go.

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear was founded in 1998 for the purpose of saving, maintaining, and interpreting historic structures and cultural landscapes within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. PHSB focuses its efforts on policy, project development, partnerships, public education and private funding. To learn more, call PHSB's Administrative Assistant Susan Pocklington at 231-334-6103, write phsb@leelanau.com or visit www.leelanau.com/phsb/. 📧

advise Park Historic Architect, Kimberly Mann at 231-326-5135 x501, send your name, address and telephone number to kimberly_mann@nps.gov or use the reply envelope provided with this newsletter. 📧

120 Years Ago

Grand Freeway Herald - April, May 1885
by "the South Manitou Correspondent"
(Submitted March 2005 by David F Morris)

Can anyone tell when the ice will leave?
We have given up all hopes of it leaving
this summer, nearly, and are sorry we went
to the trouble of storing it away for summer
use. We hate to throw away the labor. Up
to date it is good crossing between the
island and the mainland, on the ice, not
only on foot and by team, but upon skates
also. And excellent skating in the harbor.

There will be no need of any one coming
here now to evade the law, for we have it
here now as well as they have elsewhere.
The island of South Manitou is organized
into a township of the same name. We held
our first township meeting last Monday,
April 6th, 1885, and the following officers
were installed at their respective offices as
follows: Supervisor, Richard Kidder,
Clerk, Thomas Price; Treasurer, August
Beck; Highway Commissioner, Thomas
Foster; School Inspector, Martin Knudsen,
Justices of the Peace, Martin Knudsen,
Wm. N Burton, Richard Kitchen, Thomas
Foster; Constables, Wm. Kitchen, Joseph
Haas and James Armstrong; Overseer of
Highways, Henry Haas. Now take heed and
come not here to evade the clutches of the
law, for we are waiting for the first criminal
that we may to him or her administer
justice before a justice and incarcerate him
or her in the ... the ... well, the school
house. That seems to be the place where
capital punishment is administered. (Most
leniently)

Martin Knudsen of the lighthouse, is
making preparations for, and will be on
hand with his light as soon as navigation
shall open. James Armstrong has been
appointed assistant light keeper in the place
of Barney Evans, who has received a
commission as principal keeper of the light
house in Petwater, Mich. It is rumored
that several cottages and a hotel for the
purpose, will be put up here this coming
season. A good chance for a carpenter.

Quite a pleasant time was had at the
residence of George Hutzler, Sr. on the
evening of April 8th. A number of young
people of the vicinity of Glen Haven came
over to the island and Mr. Hutzler opened
his house to them and a very enjoyable
time was had. Also a very pleasant time
was had at Nelson Knudsen's home on the
evening of April 3rd. There would
probably be more good times but the roads
are getting so poor that the boys hate to go
and get the girls, and have them on their
hands to see after and take home. It's a
great responsibility.

The schooner John C Bauer, first vessel of
the season, arrived here May 4th for wood.
Cleared May 6th for Milwaukee, with 120
cords of sawed wood, price paid, \$1.20
per cord. Farming has commenced and
every man is minding his own business.

First disaster of the season: A small
schoonerman named Clara, from Manitowish and
bound for Manitowoc, Wis., came to our
harbor, May 7th, dragged anchor and went
ashore, loaded with shingles. The light
keeper and assistant went to help and
finally got her off and when underway, the
vessel being unable to make to windward,
went on the beach again worse than ever.
The seas broke over her badly, washing all
her deck load off. She is now full of water
and somewhat hurt. Shingles for sale
cheap.

School closed here April 27th, after a term
of five months, and we all think we know
as much now as before school began.
There is talk of a summer school. There
should be, for all means, for there is
excellent timber to work in. The scholars
are all very diligent and punctual in their
attendance. Master Alfred Armstrong
attended most regularly, having been there
96 days out of 98. The average attendance
of 20 scholars was 78. We have not a
very handsome school house but through
the efforts of the young ladies in
house in Petwater, Mich. It is rumored
that several cottages and a hotel for the
purpose, will be put up here this coming
season. A good chance for a carpenter.

Manitowish
PO
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