



**Charlevoix Historical Society  
Annual Report  
2014**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Charlevoix Historical Society is dedicated to the acquisition, preservation, and protection of objects and places of historical value, to the dissemination of information regarding these objects and places, and to the bringing together of all peoples interested in the history of the Charlevoix area.*

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Denise Fate

**Vice-President:** Lore Silberman

**Secretary:** Kay Heise

**Treasurer:** Steve Paterka

**Finance Committee Chair:** Craig Mann

**Directors:** Julia Anne Bandfield, Marsha Braun, Virginia Cash, Chuck Cleland, Phyllis Elzinga, Don Voisin

**Advisory Board:** Paul Hoelderle, Dr. Jack MacKenzie

**Museum Co-Director and Editor:** David L. Miles

**Museum Co-Director:** Sally Weaver

## Message from the President

The year 2014 got off to a robust start for the Society as we launched a major exhibit in partnership with the Charlevoix Public Library for a seven-week period in February and March. The Library hosted the traveling Smithsonian exhibition called "Journey Stories," while the Society staged a sister exhibit at the Railroad Depot called "Journeying to Charlevoix." It drew 2,000 visitors, including over 1,800 students from all over northwestern Michigan. It took many volunteer docents to accomplish this. Their time, energy and devotion was much appreciated. Following the depot exhibit, the display was moved to the Museum at the Harsha House so it could continue to be viewed by members and the public who were not able to see it during the winter months. Portions of it will likely become part of our permanent exhibit.

To prepare to receive the exhibit, the museum, store and co-director's office space was reorganized to serve us and our guests better. I would like to thank the staff and volunteers who made this happen.

In the process of electing the Board this year, we were delighted to recruit several new members and officers. I am grateful for the many years Paul Hoelderle served as either director or officer, and he is still contributing as an advisor. We also approved a part-time controller on staff, which has been very beneficial. On the equipment side, our computers were upgraded to accommodate the needs of our operation.

In the fall, we started to see the fruits of our efforts on a two-year project to convert pieces from our beloved 161-year old oak tree outside the Harsha House which had to be taken down in 2012. Beautiful picture frames and other products are now being made for us by Jim Tank of Kitchens North and are for sale through our gift store.

This fall the Society also submitted grant applications to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to secure Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) funding to repaint the exterior of the south pier lighthouse due to significant fading of the pigment. Notice of awarding of the grants will be received in early 2015.

In December our website ([www.chxhistory.com](http://www.chxhistory.com)) underwent a facelift, giving us a more up to date look and improved content management system.

Lastly, we were awarded two additional grants in 2014 for the "Wizard of Boulder Park" - a feature length, high-definition documentary on the life and art of Earl Young, which is now in post-production and slated for completion in spring of 2015. We partnered as 'fiscal-sponsor' with three-time Emmy award winning documentary filmmakers Brian and Anne Belanger of Bon Ami Filmworks, LLC on this project. One grant in the amount of \$5,500 was from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the other from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for \$1,600. Many thanks go to these organizations for their support of this important film.

We are very fortunate to have a membership which remains strong and generous. It is with this continued support that we are able to live up to our mission of preserving and protecting the historic treasures of Charlevoix - the railroad depot, Harsha House and Museum and south pier lighthouse! We strive continually to find interesting and creative ways to share the history of the area through programs and events as well as other media.

Denise Fate, President

## Harsha House Museum Director's Report

With the economy continuing to improve, the number of people who came to Charlevoix in 2014 was considerable, with many hundreds coming through the museum at the Harsha House. The exact number is impossible to determine considering the fact that they enter through all three ground floor entry doors, and not all sign the guest register in the front entry parlor. Visitors arrived from all over the United States plus several foreign countries including Slovakia, the Netherlands, London, Australia, Dubai, New Zealand, and Stratford upon Avon, England. The continuing success of the State of Michigan's "Pure Michigan" nationwide advertising campaign was reflected in the large proportion of out-of-state visitors who did sign the guest register.

The major exhibit this year was originally mounted at the Depot in February and March as a companion exhibit to the Charlevoix Public Library's traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution called "Journey Stories," with emphasis on emigration to and travel within the United States. The Historical Society complementary exhibit's emphasis was on "Journeying to Charlevoix"—who came here, why they came, when, and what they did once they arrived. It focused on the original settlers of the 1850s, fishing, lumbering, farming, the opening of the channels to world commerce, the coming of the resorts and tourist industry, and the various vessels and trains that serviced Charlevoix.

At the conclusion of the exhibit, it was brought back almost in its entirety to the Museum at the Harsha House, which was reconfigured to accommodate it with a switching of exhibit and museum store area for a smoother and more logical exhibit flow. "Journeying to Charlevoix" will be left up through 2015.

The new store area was improved with more shelving and floor display areas added. Different merchandise was also ordered, and a sales table for outdated or slow-moving stock was added. A new cash register counter was constructed for us by Kitchens North.

The project to digitize as many of our photographic images as possible was put on hold for most of the year due to both budgetary and time restrictions, yet we managed to cross the 13,000 mark, with over 10,000 images now on the Past Perfect search and description program. Over 9000 of the latter are on their own discrete laptop for anyone to do research, select for photo reproduction, or simply satisfy their curiosity about Charlevoix's history. It is estimated that at least 5000 more photos remain to be scanned and described, including much of the Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant photo archives and the photo and negative donation from the *Charlevoix Courier*.

The monthly newsletter that I compose and edit is mailed, like last year, to around 370 addresses. About half go out of state in the summer, a proportion which increases during the winter months.

I continue to host bus tours of Charlevoix, fewer in 2014 than the year before because of the addition of a third guide to help with the demand, through the Harsha House, the Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce, and Castle Farms with whom we have a cooperative, reciprocal relationship. These tours always take in the Earl Young houses and usually the north side of town. If time permits, the south side is also included, for a total range from Mount McSauba on the north to Ferry Beach on the south. The tours sometimes include walking tours of Boulder Park and the Depot's Heritage Gardens, time and weather permitting. Word has gotten out about the availability of these tours, with repeat business coming from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Canada.

An additional tour activity was requested by the cruise ship *Keweenaw Star* after our second narrated Sunset Cruise in late August. The historical narration around our three lakes which I did on that cruise proved to be so effective that the ship company asked that I do it twice again for them, once in September, and for Apple Fest weekend in October. Tickets sold out immediately for that afternoon cruise down Lake Charlevoix, so a morning cruise was added, and the feedback on both was very positive. This should now become a regular activity on designated weekends in 2015 and a good fundraiser for the Society as a portion of the ticket price comes to us.

Highlights of the year included my annual illustrated historic program on "The Vessels of Charlevoix" at the Depot in May and again the Charlevoix Public Library in July, both extremely well attended. I also did shorter programs for various organizations on the Ironton Ferry and Holy Island, the history of the Beach Hotel, a history of Charlevoix's Bridge Street and valley area, and the impact of business and industry on Lake Charlevoix.

Work concluded on our sixth historic monograph, an illustrated history of the vessels which have called in Charlevoix or called Charlevoix their home since the mid 1800s. The project was begun in late 2012, but so much information was discovered during the research portion that organizing and writing took up much more time than anticipated, resulting in an expansion of the original book plan. The new monograph was finished by myself, museum volunteer Karen Lewis, and former museum directors Betsy Reynolds and Steve Goslee in 2014, and will be printed by the end of the spring, 2015.

Also, at the request of Board member Marsha Braun, a pocket-sized fully illustrated walking and driving guide book with maps was designed at the end of 2014 for visitors who are interested in the Earl Young houses and commercial structures in Charlevoix. It will be printed also in spring, 2015.

I also helped Bon Ami Filmworks with their new documentary on local builder Earl Young coming out in 2015, with research, archival photos, and as a "talking head" during the interview portion of the program. A major donation of pertinent artifacts and photographs pertaining to Young's life, over 100 items, was given to the Society by his descendants in 2014.

I thank our loyal volunteers for the many hours they contribute designing and mounting exhibits, planning and executing events, working on the collections, doing research, maintaining the Harsha House and Depot buildings and grounds, and providing docent services in the summer, among other activities. And a special thanks to our Board of Directors, Patrons, Ralph Hamilton Circle members, Lifetime, and Annual Members for their continuing encouragement and support, without which we couldn't accomplish the preservation of Charlevoix's priceless history.

David L. Miles, Co-Director, Museum at the Harsha House

## **Museum Committee**

The Museum Committee is made up of six subcommittees: Acquisition, Preservation, Restoration, Exhibit, Special Depot Exhibits, and Adopt-a-Painting. Its goal is to organize and preserve our artifacts and plan for their future. It also advises the Board of restoration needs and creates exhibits for the public.

Information pertaining to our ongoing art adoption and restoration program can be obtained from the Harsha House.

This committee was temporarily inactive during 2014 once the "Journeying to Charlevoix" exhibit was completed. It will be reactivated in 2015 with emphasis on an attempt to locate, identify, and properly catalog every artifact which the Society possesses, plus finding adequate and proper storage for all of them. It will also rearrange the second story former apartment rooms and basement into discrete purposed areas for artifact storage.

## **Finance Committee**

The Charlevoix Historical Society was financially successful in 2014. Gross income was nearly \$120,000, which included the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program grant of \$35,222. Net of this lighthouse grant our income for 2014 is on par with the 2013 income. The Society has carried the South Pier Lighthouse on its Balance Sheet for several years (representing the value of the restoration). In 2014 the lighthouse was transferred to the City of Charlevoix, its rightful owner, resulting in an extraordinary (but cashless) expense on the Income Statement of \$128,916.38. This correction allows the Society to more accurately show its assets and expenses in the future.

Thanks to our loyal members, and a significant number of new members, our revenue from membership dues and assessments exceeded 2013 by over \$8000. Other noteworthy contributions to revenue included: the successful "Journey Stories" program at the Depot, Depot usage for private events, *Keweenaw Star* cruise boat tours, the step-on bus tours of the Mushroom Houses and Charlevoix, and the spaghetti dinner at the Villager Pub restaurant.

Expenses were in line with last year, with the exception of \$5733 in costs for the "Wizard of Boulder Park" film project. These costs were funded by grants received in 2013. We look for that project to provide a very positive benefit to our community and the Society for 2015 and beyond.

Craig Mann, Finance Committee Chair

## Membership Report

The membership secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate lists of current members by membership category, and for issuing notices of dues payable. This year further effort was made to bring the electronic membership files up to date.

Membership dues are a source of income for the Society which help to cover the many day-to-day expenses. All except life memberships are paid on an annual basis for the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Several categories of membership are available: Annual Individual ((\$25), Annual Family (\$50, counted as one member), Life Individual (\$300), Life Couple (\$500).

Within our membership are those who wish to support the organization with additional donations and become either Ralph Hamilton Circle members (\$125 annually, which includes annual membership dues), or Patrons at the Diamond level (\$3000 or more), Platinum (\$2000 to \$2999), Gold (\$1000 to \$1999), Silver (\$500 to \$999), and Bronze (\$350 to \$499) levels to help underwrite large projects and events. Patronage includes membership in the Ralph Hamilton Circle as well.

For 2014	Life Members:	115
	Annual Members:	<u>222</u>
	Total Membership:	337

Ralph Hamilton Circle Members:	68
Patrons:	44

The total membership figure is difficult to determine accurately. The couple and family categories do not include the actual number of people in each family. Ralph Hamilton Circle and Patron membership likewise can be either individuals, couples, or families. Businesses are also members at annual, life, and patronage levels. It is estimated that the total membership number is well over 500.

Often families, individuals, and organizations choose to honor loved ones with honorary gifts or memorials. These donations are greatly appreciated and help us to continue our work in preservation and restoration. These donors might or might not be members of the Charlevoix Historical Society.

Kay Heise, Membership Chair

## **Volunteer of the Year**

Our Volunteer of the Year recognition went to Kay Heise. Kay has served on our Board for a number of years both as corresponding secretary and membership chair. She is always an eager participant on various projects and assignments which arise. Kay has often volunteered to represent the Society to various organizations for fundraising purposes and is well known throughout the community as a Historical Society representative. We are so fortunate to have folks like Kay who unhesitatingly contribute so much to their community.

Denise Fate, President

## **Publicity**

The Publicity chairperson has the responsibility of collecting information about all the programs and events the Society presents plus the projects it is involved in. This information is then given to the area newspapers: the *Charlevoix Courier*, the *Petoskey News-Review* (including the Weekender edition, the Entertainment supplement, and the Graphic supplement), and occasionally the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*. Sometimes other newspapers are notified as well as area television and radio stations that carry public service announcements. E-mailing is also a good source of publicity information and dissemination. Our website lists upcoming events via the newsletter online and sometimes in separate postings. Society general information brochures are also distributed to local hotels, motels, and other venues. Events and program posters are often distributed throughout the downtown area and to outlying hotels, motels, and restaurants. Scrapbooks are kept of all news articles, event announcements, and paid advertising.

Marsha Braun and Phyllis Elzinga, Co-Publicity Chairs

## **ANNUAL FUNDRAISING SPAGHETTI DINNER**

This year's seventeenth annual all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner at the Villager Pub grossed \$2330 in tip money plus contributions for the Society's coffers. This was just under last year's mark but still one of the best years we've ever had. Pub owner Terry Left again generously donated the spaghetti and soft drink portion of the menu from his receipts. Board and Society members working as volunteer waiters and greeters served well over 250 meals within a very busy three hours. This always popular event will be repeated in November of 2015.

Mick Smith, Event Co-ordinator

## Program and Events Committee

During the months of February through the beginning of May the Society mounted a major exhibition called "Journeying to Charlevoix" a program event done in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution and the Charlevoix Public Library. The exhibit was staged at the Depot and attracted over 2000 visitors including many schoolchildren. The exhibit was staffed by volunteer docents.

The program for May 6 was given by David Miles on "The History of Vessels in Charlevoix." This excellent presentation was illustrated by many photographs of a wide variety of boats which visited the Charlevoix harbor in Round Lake and beyond.

On June 3, Dr. Ted Ligibel of Eastern Michigan University presented an illustrated program called "Exploring the Architectural and Cultural Landscapes of Charlevoix." Dr. Ligibel's presentation highlighted the superb architecture and public parks that constitute the city's built environment. Dr. Ligibel emphasized the importance of long-term preservation of the historic assets of the Charlevoix community.

July 25 was the date of the Venetian Potluck and fireworks weekend. The potluck was well attended and the excellent weather added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

On August 5, Tom Teske, general manager of the East Jordan Ironworks (EJ) presented an interesting illustrated talk on the long history of the ironworks which manufactures cast iron sewer covers and iron articles which are distributed worldwide.

August 27 was the date of the annual Sunset Cruise aboard the *Keweenaw Star*. This cruise was so popular with fall tourists that it was repeated three times with David Miles providing historic and informational commentary along the way.

The final Society events were the annual Harvest Potluck dinner at the Depot on October 7, the annual fundraising All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti dinner at the Villager Pub on November 5, and the annual Christmas dinner on December 2 at the Grey Gables. As with previous Society Christmas dinners the atmosphere was warm, the dinner delicious, and the company very cordial.

Chuck Cleland, Program Committee Chair

## **Near Term Society Goals (2014-2015)**

The goals were established as a result of workshops with the Board of Directors.

### **Membership:**

- Engage DDA, civic leaders and Chamber of Commerce in our activities and encourage to join and support the Society
- Increase the share of Ralph Hamilton members and patrons
- Develop e-mail and electronic communication capability (ongoing)

### **Public Relations/Marketing:**

- Communicate how the Society benefits the membership and community
- Produce Earl Young walking/driving tour booklet
- Explore utilization of social media
- Expand advertising and PR where appropriate
- Leverage retail store, improve merchandise and promote
- Install Gift Store sign on exterior of museum
- Publish and promote Historic Vessels of Charlevoix book

### **Programs and Events:**

- Keep digital records of events, programs, and exhibits
- Get programs into schools and get youth involved with the Society
- Develop extended calendar of versatile programs
- Implement \$5.00 charge for non-members to lecture programs at depot

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

#### **Depot**

- Semi-annual inspections and cleaning
- Further promote usage of facility by patrons for private functions according to policy; review fee rates
- Install awnings per historical records when funding available
- Research original color, survey preferences, and repaint when needed
- Acquire caboose when available and funding procured

#### **Harsha House**

- Semi-annual inspections for repair/maintenance
- Develop renovation plan to optimize interior space for storage, office and exhibits, improve lighting and replace roof
- Seek grant monies for restoration

#### **Lighthouse**

- Repaint exterior according to timetable when grant funding approved

**Museum Operations:**

- Publish remaining few monographs from chapters of the *Bob Miles' Charlevoix II* book (ongoing)
- Develop an updated photo file of the Charlevoix area historic buildings
- Review inventory of artifacts and ensure everything is properly cataloged
- Develop a succession plan for co-directors (ongoing)
- Make Charlevoix a leading historical research center for the area
- Install necessary storage facilities and location system for artifacts

**Financial:**

- Develop and implement a planned giving program
- Increase operating capital to meet expanding needs of operation

# Sponsors of the Charlevoix Historical Society, 2014

## Patrons:

### Diamond Level (\$2000 or more)

Mrs. Adrienne Ives, Melissa & Robert Kagle,  
Dr. Frank Korotney, John S. Wilson

### Platinum Level (\$1000 - \$1999)

Charlevoix Commercial Center Self-Service Storage,  
Mike & Rhea Dow, Paul & Sally Hoelderle,  
Ole Lyngklip/Time Warner, Murdick Partnership,  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Platt, Villager Pub & Terry's Place,  
Paul & Linda Weston

### Gold Level (\$750 - \$999)

Central Drug Store, Village Graphics Inc.

### Silver Level (\$500 - \$749)

Ace Hardware, Belvedere Club, Charlevoix State Bank, Don Kelly's Furniture Barn,  
John & Phyllis Elzinga, Mr. Harry Golski, Esq.,  
George Haggard, Tom & Diane Hess, Kitchen's North Inc.,  
Dr. John W. & Carolyn MacKenzie, Linda & Richard Mueller,  
Nu-Core, Inc., Barry & Karen Pierce, Lore Silberman, Wilmot Electric Inc.

### Bronze Level (\$350 - \$499)

Jim & Patti Aikin, Lawrence & Danielle Allan, Virginia Cash,  
Charlevoix Screen Masters Inc., Denise & Gary Fate, David & Nancy Fowler,  
Ali Heusman, Ken & Carol Kranz, Susan Kroll & Ed O'Neill, Stafford's Hospitality  
Don and Vicki Voisin

### Ralph Hamilton Circle Members, 2014:

#### (Patron Sponsorship includes Circle Membership)

Thomas & Maryalice Armstrong, Dave & Paula Berry, Walter & Lynn Bleakney,  
Steve & Marsha Braun, Robert & Marion Brewer, Eugene Bridge, Deborah Buchanan,  
Frank & Sally Campi, Gene Ann Cansfield, Stanley & Jennifer Harsha Carroll,  
Eugene & Nan Ruth Chardoul, Vincent & Mary Ann Chew,  
Tim & Barbara Claggett, Chuck & Nancy Cleland, Chris & Brenda Coseo,  
Marjorie Dinwiddie, Joyce Duke, Thomas & Gail Duke, Ted & Marilyn Dumbauld,  
Bill & Dianne DuPont, Charles & Julia Eisendrath, Lynn & Janice Evans,  
Mike & Kim Foster, Dr. Reed & Janet Freidinger, Joanne Friedman,  
F. Christine Gengle, James & Christel Gibbons, William & Pamela Gnodtke,  
David Hamilton, Bob & Margaret Heath, Ralph & Mary Lynn Heid, Don & Kay Heise,  
Dale & Diane Herder, Don Jesmore, Kilwin's Quality Confections, Ken & Nancy Kline,  
Chuck & Joan MacGillivray, Tad Malpass, Craig & Deborah Mann,  
David L. Miles, Robert & Mary Ellen Morgridge, Paul & Joan Nowak, Donald Nowland,  
James Ochs, Marita & Angelo Parrish, Steve & Kathy Paterka, Joyce Pharriss,  
Ken & Shirley Polakowski, Jeff & Nancy Porter, Roger & Cynthia Postmus,  
Joy Ann Price, Alvin & Patricia Ranger, Dave & Joan Robinson, Jerry & Connie Rogers,  
Mason & Lynne Rosenthal, Rudy & Virginia Scharschmidt, Audrey Shapero,  
Bill & Betsy Stewart, John & Anne Teesdale, Daniel Tukul, Chris & Chuck Unbehaun,  
Gordon & Susan Van Wieren, Dr. William & Carol Venema, R. J. Waddell,  
Robert & Teri Walilko, Jeannine Wallace, Sally Weaver, Charlie Wilmot,  
David & Judith Wilson, Todd Wyatt, Ron Zimmerman & Sue Livingston

**Charlevoix Historical Society**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through December 2014

	<b>Jan - Dec 14</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
· Grants Income	48,381.75
· Contributions	3,077.00
· Investment Income	67.41
· Membership Dues & Assessments	38,265.00
· Shop Sales	14,082.07
· Program Income	710.52
· Museum Admissions	1,241.99
· Depot Useage	1,620.00
· Special Events Income	12,395.39
<b>Total Income</b>	119,841.13
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
· Cost of Goods Sold H.S.	3,941.30
· Cost of Goods Sold - Lighthouse	1,067.78
· Quantity and value Adjustment	5,177.99
<b>Total COGS</b>	10,187.07
<b>Gross Profit</b>	109,654.06
<b>Expense</b>	
Bon Ami Film	5,733.29
· Awards and grants distributed	128,916.38 *
· Museum Expenses	2,761.18
· Membership expenses	2,200.28
· Facilities and Equipment	15,375.59
· Fundraiser & Special Event Exp.	2,660.00
· Operations	17,600.57
· Historical Society Payroll Acct	29,763.00
· Depreciation Expense	17,635.42
<b>Total Expense</b>	222,645.71
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-112,991.65
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-112,991.65</b>

\*Note: Ownership of the South Pier Lighthouse transferred to the City of Charlevoix. Lighthouse eliminated from the Historical Society balance sheet, resulting in an extraordinary expense on the Income Statement of \$-128,916.38.