

# Newsletter

April 2017

Issue #2

## *Michigan Railroads Program*

2017 marks the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the railroad in Charlevoix and the construction of the Depot, events that changed the town immediately and forever. Charlevoix was the last of the major northern Michigan communities to receive a railroad, a full nineteen years after Petoskey, only 15.5 miles away as the crow flies, received its rail service. New industries on the scene, a vastly increased number of resorters, the beginnings of the tourism phenomenon, a growing reputation for the town—this will be the Society's principal theme for the coming year.

New Museum Curator of Collections Trevor Dotson will be kicking off **DEPOT 125** with our introductory event, a fully illustrated presentation called "Laying Tracks: Michigan Railroads in the 19th Century." Trevor will discuss the advent of the railroad in what was then the Michigan Territory, and how it was vital to Michigan's growth as a State. Topics will include the construction of the early railroads, how they fostered and shaped settlement, bolstered and created industry, and afforded Michiganders the new and novel ability to move freely and far.

**When: Tuesday, May 2 @ 7:00**

**Where: The Depot**

The remaining events for **DEPOT 125** are listed inside, along with others for the summer season. Call 547-0373 for more information.

### **APRIL-MAY MUSEUM HOURS**

The Historical Society Museum at Harsha House will be open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday through April, noon to 4 p.m. A curator will be on the premises beginning at 11 a.m. Monday through Saturday through the side office door facing the bank for those who need to conduct Society business, do research, or make a store purchase. Hours beginning in May will be Wednesday through Saturday, 11 to 4.

**A WARM WELCOME TO TREVOR DOTSON**

The Society is pleased to announce the arrival of Trevor Dotson as the new Curator of Collections. Trevor is replacing Jacob Thomas, who accepted a position as executive director of an historical society in Montana. We wish Jacob well and extend many heartfelt thanks for his twenty months of invaluable service.

Trevor is a 2005 graduate of Western Michigan University, earning a B. A. in criminal justice with a minor in sociology. He began his post-degree program at Eastern Michigan University in 2011, and graduated in 2016 with an M. S. in Historic Preservation with a concentration in Heritage Interpretation and Tourism. Stop by to meet him soon.

### **The Ralph Hamilton Circle**

Ralph Hamilton (1904–1999) lived most of his life in Charlevoix and devoted time to many civic organizations while maintaining a professional accounting practice. In 1972 he was elected president of the reorganized Charlevoix Historical Society and served in various capacities for more than twenty years.

The Ralph Hamilton Circle was established in 1997 to recognize his extraordinary contributions and has as its members those who wish to support the organization with an annual gift of \$150 or more. We wish to especially acknowledge **Roger and Cynthia Postmus** who were charter members of the Circle and remain members today.

We gratefully thank all of the 2017 members of the Ralph Hamilton Circle:

Ace Hardware, Jim and Patti Aikin, Lawrence and Danielle Allan, James Appel and Kathleen Hogan, Thomas and Maryalice Armstrong, Anna Austin, J. Anne Bandfield, Belvedere Club, Dave and Paula Berry, Alberta Beyers, Walter and Lynn Bleakney, Stephen and Marsha Braun, Bob and Marian Brewer, Deborah Buchanan and Gary Foster, Gene Ann Cansfield, Jennifer and Stan Carroll, Virginia Cash, Charlevoix Convention & Visitors Bureau, Charlevoix State Bank, Vincent and Mary Ann Chew, Roger and Sheila Christensen, Chuck and Nancy Cleland, Rob and Annie Cohen, Mike and Rhea Dow, Ted and Marilyn Dumbauld, Charles and Julia Eisendrath, John and Phyllis Elzinga, Lynn and Janice Evans, Burton and Susan Farbman, Gary and Denise Fate, Mike and Kim Foster, Freshwater Charch, Joanne Friedman, Jon and Lisa Gandelot, Jim and Christel Gibbons, William and Pam Gnodtke, Harry Golski, Steve and Sue Goslee, Ralph and Mary Lynn Heid, Don and Kay Heise, Dale and Diane Herder, Paul and Sally Hoelderle, Elizabeth Hoffmann, Tim Hoffmann, HopkinsBurns Design Studio, Adrienne Ives, Marissa and Robert Kagle, Kelly's Furniture (Don Kelly), Tom and Sue Kirkpatrick, Ken and Nancy Kline, Knights of Columbus, Steve and Kathy Libert, Ole Lyngklip III, Joan and Chuck MacGillivray, John and Carolyn MacKenzie, Craig and Deborah Mann, Terry Merchant, David L. Miles, Richard and Linda Mueller, Paul and Joan Nowak, Nu-Core Inc. (Robert and Rafina

Grove), Ed O'Neill and Susan Kroll, Steve and Kathleen Paterka, Robert Pew, Barry and Karen Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Platt, Ken and Shirley Polakowski, Jeffrey and Nancy Porter, Roger and Cynthia Postmus, Joy Ann and James Price, John and Jean Remillet, Ruth Betty Renton, Jerome and Connie Rogers, Mason and Lynne Rosenthal, Lore Silberman, Stafford's Hospitality, Bill and Betsy Stewart, Steele and Mary Taylor, Gordon and Susan van Wieren, William and Carol Venema, Villager Pub/Terry's Place/Weathervane Terrace Inn and Suites, Paul and Linda Weston, Hans and Gail Wiemer, David Wilson, John S. Wilson, Ronald Zimmerman and Sue Livingston

## **YOUR SOCIETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Society is gaining a greater presence on various forms of social media, with our new Facebook page and blog started by former curator Jacob Thomas. Recently, in honor of the recently observed Pi Day dedicated to the mathematical 3.14...., new curator Trevor Dotson decided to mark the day with a real pie—the Guinness Book of World Records cherry pie baked here in 1976 for the nation's bicentennial. To his astonishment, the posted picture of the event has gathered 22,768 total views to date. In addition, your editor has been working with the *Charlevoix Courier* since 2011 with "Looking Back," an image and large caption/text overview of our history that will mark its 300th entry in the newspaper on May 11. (*That's* how much history this town has!) *Courier* editor Lonnie Allen has been posting these on the paper's Facebook page each week beginning last fall, and two of the most recent, in January and February, garnered over 5000 views each. One of them had over 900 views within three hours of posting, and 2800 by the afternoon of the next day. Who would have believed that Charlevoix's history has such a widespread appeal?

## **PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**Mark your calendars!** This is going to be a very busy summer for your Historical Society. After Trevor Dotson's Michigan railroads program in May, nine more events have been scheduled:

**Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m. at the Depot:** "The Coming of the Railroad and Its Impact on Charlevoix," a fully illustrated program by David L. Miles

**Sunday, June 25, noon to 5 p.m. at the Depot:** "Depot125: An 1892 Experience and Family Gala" celebrating the arrival of the railroad and opening of the Charlevoix Depot, one of the biggest events we've ever hosted. Music, depot guided tours with "historic passenger" skits, games, kids activities, boat rides, Castle Farms model train rides and a whole lot more! And it's all free!

**Monday, June 26, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Depot:** Proclamation Ceremony on the exact minute of the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the first train, with honored guests

**Wednesday, July 5, 5-6:30 p.m. at the Harsha House:** Launch Party for the new Cultural Corridor along Clinton Street, in partnership with Circle of the Arts and the Charlevoix Public Library, ending with Jazz at the Library at 7:00.

**Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. at the Charlevoix Public Library Community Room:**

"An Evening with Frank Mays," one of the two survivors of the 1958 sinking of the *Carl D. Bradley* lake freighter off Beaver Island that made world news. Lecture, Q & A, and book signing, co-sponsored with the Library.

**Friday, July 21, 7:00 p.m. at the Depot:** Annual Venetian Festival Fireworks Potluck

**Friday-Sunday, July 28-30 at the Depot:** Northern Michigan Railroad Club Train Show featuring Steam Era Locomotives

**Tuesday, August 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Library:** Encore presentation of "The Coming of the Railroad" program by David L. Miles

**Friday-Monday, August 11-14 at the Depot:** Charlevoix Photography Club's 9th Annual Fine Art Photography Exhibition

## **GRANTS RECEIVED FOR RENOVATION AND EQUIPMENT**

The Society was able to complete a couple of projects this winter thanks to recent grants we were awarded. With funding received from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), the office space and one of the bathrooms at the Museum were renovated. These improvements were part of the first phase of the project announced last fall. Thanks to the donation of an oak desk which came from Earl Young's real estate office by Don Kelly of Kelly's Antiques and Furniture Barn, we could properly furnish all of our office space. Thank you, Don.

With monies received from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, we were able to retire our old metal folding chairs and heavy tables at the Depot, along with an outdated projector, and purchase white folding event chairs, new tables, a high-definition projector and a new portable PA system.

These acquisitions will improve the work environment for our staff, and enhance the guest experience at the Depot. We are very grateful to both organizations for their support.

## **Message from the President**

We are excited about how plans are coming together for our **DEPOT 125** events in June (see inside). The support from the community has already been terrific—and there will be opportunities for our members to get involved as volunteers also. It is a wonderful way for us to showcase our beloved Train Depot

and Heritage Gardens, and the variety of things we can do to share our history while having fun! Watch for more details in an upcoming eNewsletter and print newsletters.

In case you haven't seen it, the 2016 Historical Society Annual Report is available on our website for you to read. Should you want a printed copy, please contact the Museum.

I hope you can join us in May to meet Trevor Dotson and hear him in his debut presentation. We are sure glad to have him on board!

Denise

The Society welcomes new members: *Ruth Betty Renton (Patron),  
John Remillet (Patron), Suzette Daly, Mark Heydlauff*

The Society deeply regrets the recent passing of member *Roxane Herrick Cramer*. (Mrs. Cramer's father, Don Herrick, served as City Manager here in the late 1930s—early 1940s and was responsible for supervising the construction of our City Hall, 1938-1939. The building is a classic and priceless example of what has been architecturally termed "streamline moderne." An architect recently visited the Museum, and claimed that our City Hall would not be out of place in New York's Rockefeller Center.)

Donation in memory of Jean Ritchie received from: *Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.*

Donation in memory of Gene Steele received from: *Alice Ance*

Donation in memory of Lottie Ager Rathburn received from her grandson: *David Williams*

Donations (unrestricted) received from: *Christine Brey, Richard & Connie Dexter,  
Jonathan & Lynn Friendly, Don Swank*