



Newsletter

February 2014

Issue #1

Journeying to Charlevoix Exhibit!

One of the biggest exhibits we've ever mounted opened on Friday, February 7 at the Depot when about 100 Charlevoix High School students came through to see it. This exhibit was created in partnership with the Charlevoix Public Library, which is hosting the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit called "Journey Stories" through March 21 in the Community Room.

The library exhibit focuses on immigration to and travel within America. The Society's exhibit narrows the focus down to Charlevoix—who were our first inhabitants, why did they choose the Charlevoix region, how did they travel here, what did they do once they arrived? This is followed by the establishment of the resorts and the still important tourist industry, and how a huge variety of boats brought us here until the arrival of the railroad in 1892, changing the travel pattern and bringing in more people by the hundreds of thousands.

The library has scheduled tours of its exhibit by a large number of school classes in the region, most of whom will come down to the Depot also. If the weather holds on each day, we have the potential of welcoming around one thousand students in six weeks.

In the meantime, our exhibit will be open to the public on Saturdays from 10 to 4, and late Wednesdays from 4 to 7 through Saturday, March 22. Special arrangements for private tours can be made also by calling (231) 547-0373.

A unique exhibit feature is a model train setting of the depot and railroad bridge, plus the lighthouse, specially designed and adapted by the crew at Castle Farms from the Castle's working model train layout.

"Journeying to Charlevoix" will not be limited to the Depot. Much of it will be transferred to the museum at the Harsha House as our main exhibit for the rest of the year. But to see the entire display, fully illustrated with classic images from our own archives and a large array of stunningly reproduced glass plate negative images provided by Patron Dr. Frank Korotney, be sure to get to the Depot on or before March 22.

MUSEUM HOURS THROUGH APRIL

The Harsha House will be closed for the duration of the Journeys exhibit, and reopen for the season on Thursday, March 27. Hours from then through April 26 will be Thursday through Saturday from 1-4 p.m. The side office door facing the bank will be open as usual 11-4 for those who need to conduct Society business, do research or purchase a store item before opening hours. A director will be on the premises on Tuesdays and Wednesdays also. Until March 27, if anyone needs to contact us, please call and leave a message.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are in full swing with the "Journeying to Charlevoix" exhibit, and what a rewarding experience it is. Our museum co-directors Dave and Sally did a splendid job putting this together and I am proud of the result. It will reach a wide audience at the Depot, but will also serve us well when moved to the museum at Harsha House. It is a comprehensive look at the 19th-century settlement and development of Charlevoix, replete with high-quality images and fascinating journey stories. The setting at the Depot suits it perfectly.

There are a number of people to thank for supporting us, including Library Director Val Meyerson for reaching out to partner with the Charlevoix Public Library. Linda Mueller and her team at Castle Farms, especially the train experts Chris and Walter, provided a beautiful scene from their Garden Railroad depicting a train coming over the trestle bridge to the Depot. Several members contributed valuable guidance and hands-on support for the exhibit and our Ralph Hamilton Circle reception: Mary Ann and Vince Chew, Kay Heise, Diane Hess and Chuck Cleland. We are also grateful to the Michigan Humanities Council for their support with a grant to cover much of our costs.

Last but not least—we have a sizable team of docents giving their time and talent to be guides for the 40+ school tours we have booked. We're sure going to have a broader base of Charlevoix experts in town!

Looking beyond March, we have lined up some interesting programs on a variety of topics, which you will learn more about soon. They are posted in the events calendar on our website: www/chxhistory.com.

Denise Fate

Donation (unrestricted) received in December from: *Roxanne Cramer*

Donation received in December in memory of Bill Staffel from:

Rose Niswander

Donation received in January in memory of Richard Marra from:

Ellen Goldstick