



Newsletter

May 2014

Issue #3

Historic Preservation Program

The Society will be presenting a program on the importance of historic preservation by Dr. Ted Ligibel, director of the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University, the largest graduate program of its kind in the United States. A nationally renowned speaker, Prof. Ligibel will be "Exploring the Architectural and Cultural Landscapes of Charlevoix," a fully illustrated talk that will illuminate the importance of our architectural heritage—the Earl Young homes and buildings, the Belvedere and Chicago Club, the Victorian houses, Bridge Street, plus other structures, and how they can become useful resources while we preserve and respect their historic integrity.

**When: Tuesday, June 3
@ 7:00 p.m.**

Where: The Depot

Prof. Ligibel's most recent book, *Historic Preservation: an Introduction to its History, Principles and Practice*, co-authored with Norman and Irene Tyler, is the best-selling historic preservation textbook in the country.

Prior to this, on the same day, Prof. Ligibel will be presenting another program, "Dissecting Charlevoix the Beautiful: the Role of Architecture and Landscape in Defining Community Character," co-sponsored by the Charlevoix Historical Commission and the Charlevoix Public Library. This talk will be held in the library's Community Room at 4:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend both talks, free of charge. They will provide an insight on Charlevoix that may not be readily apparent, and lead to a new perspective on what we are so fortunate to have and would not want to lose.

For more information, call (231) 547-0373.

MUSEUM MAY-JUNE HOURS

The museum will be reopening in time for Memorial Day weekend. From then until June 28 the hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 12-4 p.m.

Beginning Tuesday, July 1, summer hours will be Monday through Saturday from 12-4 p.m. through August 30.

VESSELS PROGRAM TO BE REPEATED

Your editor's recent illustrated program on the "Historic Vessels of Charlevoix" will be repeated at the Charlevoix Public Library's Community Room on Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m.

*Thomas Jefferson to
John Adams, 1817*

NEW MUSEUM LAYOUT

The museum at the Harsha House is in the midst of a major overhaul and will be open in time for Memorial Day weekend. We have switched the ends of each of the two wings to allow for smoother flow of the exhibit area. The north wing will now have the museum store at its east (State Street) end by the entry ramp, in line with current thinking of placing the sales area where it and individual store items are most visible upon both entry and exit, and separate from exhibit space. This move will allow exhibit space to be placed in the old store area and make a logical connection to the west wing. The digitization cubicle, which was at the rear of the building by the double doors, is now at the west wing's north end, the old Bob Miles Photo Collection area, that now switched to the digitization area. The cubicle is less noticeable in its new space and does not extend into the exhibit area. All of this is being done in conjunction with the recent transfer from the Depot of our . . .

"JOURNEYING TO CHARLEVOIX" EXHIBIT AT HARSHA HOUSE

Mounting a major exhibit in the depths of winter in Charlevoix is an unheard of proposition, but this one was jumpstarted by the arrival of the Smithsonian Institution's "Journey Stories" touring exhibit at the Charlevoix Public Library in February and March, with which we were asked to enter into partnership and agreed to do so with one of our own. After we learned that hundreds of regional school kids would be coming to see it, the kernel of the idea began to develop and grow. By the first of the year we figured out how it might be done and dove in head first non-stop to relate the story of who came here first, why and how, what they experienced and did once they arrived, how Charlevoix then evolved from almost nothing into one of the most important commercial and resort venues in Michigan and the Midwest, and the various modes of travel up to the arrival of the railroad in 1892, four decades of astonishing growth

and nationwide exposure with many tales along the way. The exhibit was augmented by logging artifacts from the private collection of Society Patrons Paul and Sally Hoelderle. Along the walls were placed over thirty of the enlarged and enhanced glass plate negative images donated by Society Patron Frank Korotney, many of the images from the Society's own glass plate collection. The logging artifacts and the most relevant of the images are now at the Harsha House.

We encourage all of our local and returning members who have not already seen it to visit this important exhibit. This is the first time that such a comprehensive overview of Charlevoix's formative years has ever been mounted. We might be able to say that it could even be called our version of "Roots," how we came to be who we are today.

COMMENTS ON THE EXHIBIT

A few reactions to "Journeying to Charlevoix"---

"This is an outstanding exhibit. Exceedingly well done. Thank you for your effort." Henry (an adult from Petoskey. The rest are from school kids.)

"I learned a whole bunch, but a few of them were, there was such things as swamp shoes!" Alysha (Alysha is referring to logging artifacts.)

"I also enjoyed the presentation thingy. . . Charlevoix thought they did not need a railrode because they had so much water." Katie (Traverse City)

"I loved, loved, loved our field trip. Sincerely yours and ever your devoted, Samantha"

"I thought that lumber jacks made chains out of wood. That was awesome." Zenia (Again a reference to one of the logging artifacts.)

"I couldn't believe that Charlevoix had a hotel as long as the Washington Monument!!" Tess

"The train station was really awesome!" Caleb

And best of all: "I also liked when you shoed me where the bathroom was (thanks) it was also vary clean bathroom but it was missing a butler. Thank you for the recap on history but I already know it. But thanks anyway." You're welcome, Miles L., wherever you are.

NEW E-MAIL CONTACTS FOR SOCIETY

Not only has the museum been reconfigured, but so has our entire computer system. With Microsoft no longer supporting the XP operating system, and our e-mail service mysteriously slowing down almost to the point of stasis, it was time to upgrade. We now have a new provider, Charter, so disregard any address with sbcglobal.net in your contact files. From now on please contact the Society in three ways: general contact at info@chxhistory.com; messages for co-director Sally Weaver should go to Sally@chxhistory.com; messages for co-director David Miles should go to David@chxhistory.com. A reminder will be on new upgraded newsletter stationery letterhead.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There are a lot of positive changes going on at our Museum at the Harsha House which I am sure you will recognize as improvements to the traffic flow, exhibit and office area. The Co-directors also now have their new computer systems, so the operation should get much more efficient overall. Hopefully those of you who were not able to see the "Journeying to Charlevoix" exhibit will get to the museum to see it along with the new layout. Our final tally is in from the exhibit while it was at the depot: From early February through May 3rd we received around 2,000 visitors! This is the largest number of guests we have ever seen for one of our exhibits. We appreciate everyone's patience while we have been 'under construction' at the Society and hope to see you soon.

Denise Fate

DOCENTS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The museum will be needing docents this summer on Tuesdays through Fridays. This involves greeting visitors, giving them a short history of the Harsha House and a basic rundown of what the museum contains. No docents will be expected to provide answers to historical questions other than commonly known ones on their own, or work the sales desk at the store unless they wish to. A co-director will be on hand at all times. Volunteers for work behind the scenes are also needed. If anyone can provide a few hours a day at least one day a week, please contact Sally Weaver at 547-0373.

The Society welcomes new members: *Dave & Nancy Fowler (Patrons), Ken Kranz & Carol Whynott (Patrons), Rick & Cindy Malamed, Roxanne Cramer, Linda & Kip Linklater, John Ferguson, Tom Vranich*
Donation (in kind) received in April from: *Dave Robinson*