



CHARLEVOIX

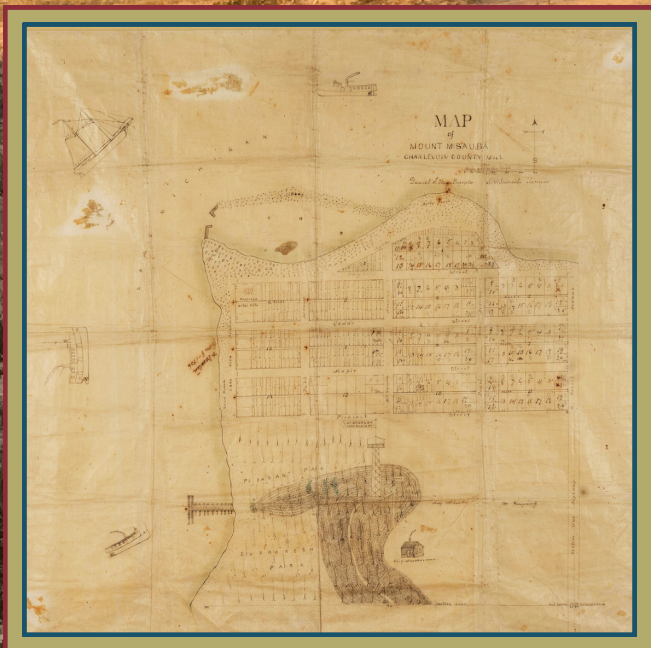
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bridging our past with our future

NEWSLETTER

103 State Street / P.O. Box 525 / Charlevoix, MI 49720
231.547.0373 / info@chxhistory.com / chxhistory.com

Spring 2025



New Treasure Comes to the Museum!



Update on the South Pier Lighthouse Project

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a significant project to repair and repaint localized areas of the interior and exterior of the South Pier Lighthouse, along with sealing the lantern gallery, is planned for later this year. Significant sections of the interior walls and ceiling have severely peeled since the last phase of restoration work was done in 2013. Our preservation architect determined that this is caused by mill scale not being removed from all of the steel originally, going back to 1948, which causes condensation to build up.

In summer of 2024, specifications and drawings were requested to have this completely repaired and repainted, including removing the mill scale, along with repairing and repainting areas of the exterior around the lantern base. They were provided by our preservation architect Michelle Smay, who is now with Quinn Evans architectural firm.

The project is estimated to cost much more than we had been planning for in the fundraising endeavors of Lighthouse 75 in 2023, due to escalating costs, scaffolding required for the exterior repairs, proper processes to remove the mill scale and lead abatement on the interior to protect workers and the environment. The total project cost estimate is \$140,000. A \$60,000 grant application was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for a Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program Grant (MLAP) to support the project in November.

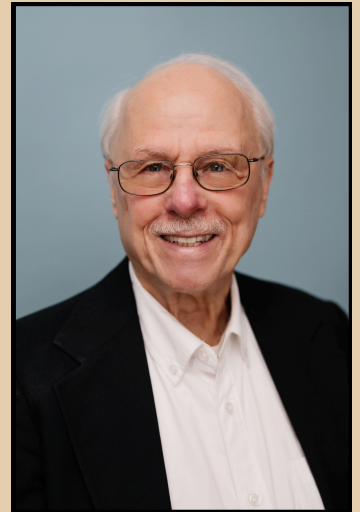
If the grant is awarded, and costs are as planned, sufficient funds are available for our required match, thanks to LH 75 fundraising and another major gift in 2024. However, we will be seeking additional grants and gifts to support the project and replenish reserves for future lighthouse preservation needs.

Looking Back...

Early last August, the Gannett media company cancelled the Historical Society's column, *Looking Back*, that had been running weekly in the *Charlevoix Courier* since June of 2011. Over 650 columns, written by Museum at Harsha House Curator David L. Miles, had been published, using reportage from the *Charlevoix Sentinel* (est. 1869) and the *Courier* (est. 1908), each one generally illustrated by an archival photo from the museum's collection, or from the Internet. What happened in Charlevoix and environs 150, 100, and fifty years ago were the topics. August 9, 2024 was the final appearance. Later in the year, the Society decided to revive the column, focusing this time on one topic rather than the several that might be found in the newspapers, and without the 150/100/50 years format. This new format has allowed Miles to use more photos from the Society's robust collection to help tell these stories.

Eighteen topics have been uploaded to the website so far. Simply go to chxhistory.com and click on the "Looking Back" banner image of men on a railroad sidecar, or find "Looking Back Digital Edition" under the "About Us" tab.

Let us know how you like them. Happy reading!



David L. Miles



Looking Forward...

Upcoming Programs and Events:

June 3: History of Fogg Towing Tugboats presented by Jon Fogg, 7 pm @ Train Depot

July 8th: Charlevoix Historical Society Annual Meeting, 4 pm @ Train Depot

July 10th: History of Ironton by Ole Lyngklip, 6 pm @ Charlevoix Public Library

July 25th: Venetian Potluck & Fireworks, 7 pm @ Train Depot

August 28th: Annual Ralph Hamilton Circle reception @ Train Depot

October 18: Oktoberfest @ Shanahan's Barn

Charlevoix Historical Society and Charlevoix Circle of Arts are teaming up for this fundraiser - join us to raise a stein and have some Oompah Fun!



Stay tuned for more announcements about these and other great activities.

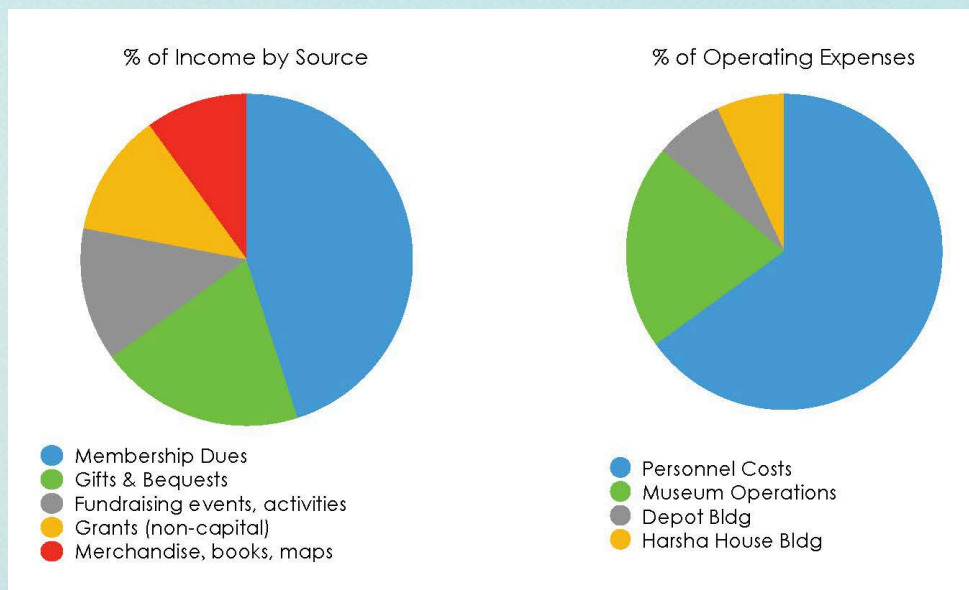
Charlevoix Historical Society Financial Situation and Ways to Give

The Charlevoix Historical Society has been able to remain financially strong over many years thanks to the generosity of our donors, members and grant providers. We have witnessed our core operating budget increase from \$90,000 per year to over \$115,000 in the span of a few years, and we anticipate continued growth. The Historical Society is a complex organization, with three historic properties to maintain and a growing collection of historic photographs and objects to preserve. For the benefit of our community, we feel an obligation to mount high quality exhibits.

Your donations help us to:

- **Buildings:** Operate and maintain the historic Train Depot & Museum at Harsha House.
- **Personnel:** As the society grows, the need to acquire and compensate staff takes on more importance.
- **Collections:** Preserve our expanding collection with updated technology, archival materials and storage capacity.

Keeping income growth up with cost increases is a perennial challenge. So, just where does our income come from? The Society is fortunate to have a variety of revenue streams. Here are the sources and average share of our annual income and expenses:



How can you help?

- *Become a member, and renew annually.*
- *Attend and support Society events and fundraisers.*
- *Spread the word – The Historical Society mounts excellent exhibits, and maintains the historic Museum at Harsha House, the iconic Lighthouse and the beautiful Train Depot!*
- *Make a gift in whatever way works best for you – online, check, or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCDs are a good tax strategy for those who are over 70½ and have retirement accounts)*

Would you like to leave a Lasting Legacy?

The **1892 Legacy Society** and the **Embrace.Preserve.Cherish.** Preservation Funds are ways you can help ensure that the Historical Society will continue to thrive for future generations:

- Include a future gift to benefit the Charlevoix Historical Society in your will, trust or IRA.
- Contribute to an endowment fund at Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F). You can direct the proceeds to support the Society's mission.
- Embrace.Preserve.Cherish. Preservation Funds (non-endowed and endowed) at C3F benefit capital projects for near- and long-term preservation of our historic properties and collections. Visit chxhistory.com for a direct link to these funds.

If you have already included the Historical Society in your will, let us know so we can include you in the **1892 Legacy Society** (learn more at chxhistory.com).

Andrew Lonyo was a visionary whose legacy benefits the Society with proceeds from his endowment at C3F year after year. He was a member of the Harsha family, who established the fund in 1997 and made annual contributions to grow the fund until his death in 2013. What a difference these annual gifts to the Society have made!

Thank you for your on-going support. We want to ensure the Charlevoix Historical Society is around for another fifty years and more!

Geoff Reynolds

President

Jamie McLane

Finance Chair

Denise Fate

President Emerita and Fundraising Chair

We are very grateful to all donors to the Embrace.Preserve.Cherish. campaign since our last newsletter:

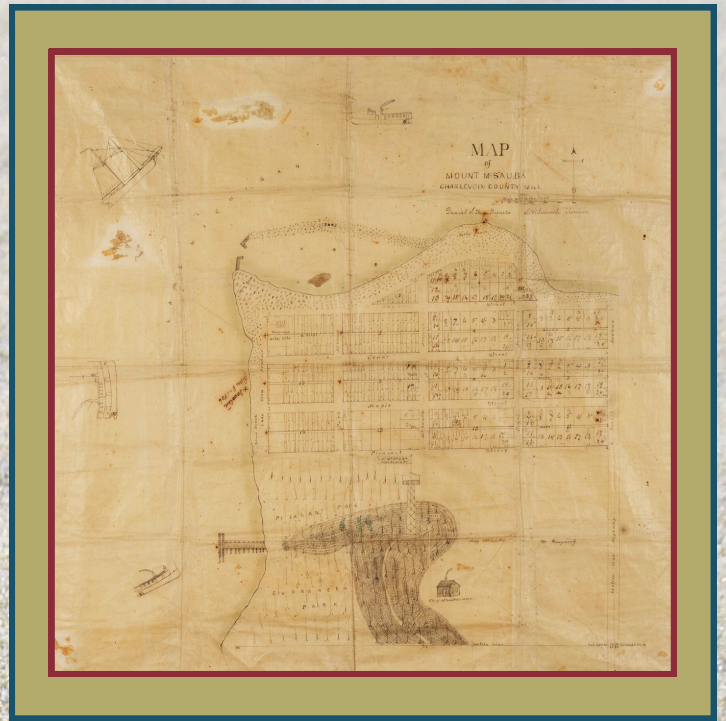
Anonymous . Roger & Sheila Christensen . Mike & Rhea Dow
Jon & Lisa Mowers Gandelot . Joseph Osypczuk
Chris & Ginger Payne . Dave & Joan Robinson . Debbie Tirico
Tom Toomey . David Traitel

**Charlevoix County Community Foundation grant award for
\$6,000 for two workstations**

**To learn more: The Charlevoix Historical Society 2024 Annual Report is
now available on our website: chxhistory.com under the "About Us" tab.**

New Treasure Comes to the Museum

The Society recently received an invaluable treasure from local residents Larry and Faye Feindt, former owners of the Advanced Geomatics surveying business. It is a framed, 22" x 22" hand-drawn plat map commissioned by former Charlevoix photographer Daniel S. Way in the early 1890s for his intended development of North Point/Mt. McSauba. Pleasant, Maple, Cedar, and Bay Streets are already named. Two small docks appear off the tip of the point. The house of Chief Louis McSauba, after whom the west part of the area is named, is included, the first time we have known exactly where it was located, the site of today's ice skating and hockey rink on Mt. McSauba Road. To its west, on the Lake Michigan shore, appears a dock with ten boat slips. Above the house, atop the dune, is Way's 1891 "Observatory," a tall wooden tower that people could climb for 25¢ for a spectacular panoramic view of approximately 3000 square miles. Way actually planned to extend Cedar Street all the way west to Lake Michigan where a block-wide "intended hotel" would offer a spectacular sunset view. Stop in to see this priceless addition to our collections.





The Argonne House Celebrates 100 Years

The Argonne House in partnership with the Charlevoix Historical Society will be celebrating the establishment's 100th anniversary with a special event this summer. ***The Society is asking you, our readers, for stories, special memories and any photos from the Argonne House Supper Club that you would like to share.*** They can be submitted to info@chxhistory.com or info@argonnehouse.com. Please include your name and phone number, and dates for photos and stories if known.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all who have supported us this past year and have made significant contributions, along with renewing your own and purchasing a membership for someone else. All of you make the Society the strong and vital organization that it is today. This past month Gail DeMeyere was appointed to the Advisory Board. We look forward to benefitting from Gail's years of experience with non-profit arts groups and her energy on future projects. I hope to see all of you this coming year at our many scheduled events covering the history of Iron-ton, Fogg Towing Tugboats, and our fall fundraiser in October.

Geoffrey Reynolds, President



New Merchandise in our Gift Shop and Online Store

- Earl Young Mushroom House coffee mugs featuring The Half House and Boulder Manor
- Mushroom House decals of Boulder Manor and the Boulder Manor playhouse
- Decals featuring Irene Harsha Young's artwork

Mug and sticker artwork by local artist Sharon Smithem



103 State Street / P.O. Box 525
Charlevoix, MI 49720

Board of Directors

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Manager of Operations

David Miles

Curator/Archivist

Jessica Dominic

Museum Assistant

Jeff Mason

Controller

Donations (unrestricted) received from:

Sherle Abramson-Bluhm . Dave & Paula Berry . Richard Brandi .
Gordon & Sharon Hassing . Joe & Kendall Hayes . Dawne Jordan .
Petoskey Area Antiques Club . Bill & Sandra Powel . Gary Samuels .
William & Karen Schuiling

Donations Given in Memory of:

Virginia Finney-Lahde from Jan Hisey

Welcome New Members with sincere thanks for their support!

Richard Brewer . Joe & Kendall Hayes . Ronna Katzman
Thomas C. Kohler . Judy Krzeszewski . Betty Martin
Elise Nanos . Grace Ochs & Mason Buck . Kim Simpson
Richard & Karen Spring

**Have you renewed your membership for 2025? Please consider
taking a moment to renew or re-join. You can do so by
visiting our website, chxhistory.com
and clicking the "Become a Member/Donate".**