

Newsletter

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June 2021 Issue #2 Editors: David L. Miles & Trevor Dotson

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Cultural Corridor Event July 31

"HOW PINE RIVER BECAME CHARLEVOIX, 1721-1869"

The Historical Society is pleased to announce a return to live, in person events, the second of which (see inside for the first one) will take place on the exact 300th anniversary date that Jesuit priest, historian, and explorer Father Pierre Francois Xavier de Charlevoix was known to be near this locale. Sent by the French regency government of the boy king Louis XV to try to find out how far the British had penetrated into North America, Father Charlevoix stayed in Quebec over the winter of 1720-21, then set out in canoes with fellow voyageurs in late spring for the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. They arrived in Mackinac by late July, stopped to take on fresh provisions, then set off to the south on July 29. According to his journal, the group followed the coast until they were stopped by a windstorm on a "nameless island." Only one offshore island appears between Mackinac and Grand Traverse Bay, and that is Fisherman's Island south of Charlevoix. There they waited for two days until the storm subsided, and resumed their journey on August 1.

The Charlevoix Cultural Corridor (Charlevoix Public Library, Charlevoix Circle of Arts, and your Historical Society) is planning an event recognizing our namesake that will also be an opportunity to learn more about the area and the Indigenous people who have been inhabiting it for centuries. Father Charlevoix probably saw the smoke from their village campfires along the West Dixon Avenue bluff as he traversed the waters between North and South Points.

CuCo welcomes everyone for an afternoon of special events sharing the remarkble history of our area that stretches over twelve millennia up to the time in 1843 when a beautiful new county named Charlevoix came into being, followed later by an equally beautiful village also officially named so.

Over the course of the afternoon, guests will learn more about the region's environment and the people whose physical and spiritual home this area has been for centuries. They are the Anishnabek, The Real People. Their predecessors began to come to what they call *Zhiingwaak Ziibiing*, Pine River, about 3500 years ago. There will be activities for the kids, an exhibit in the library, plus live performances and talks about the Indigenous people and the voyageurs.

Schedule of events: **Saturday**, **July 31** from 12-3:30 pm, Charlevoix Public Library and Children's Garden:

12 pm - Introduction by Jessica Dominic and David Miles

12:15 pm—Fort Michilimackinac Program from Mackinaw City

1:00 pm - Bear River Pow Wow Singing and Dancing Group featuring Raymond and Leroy Shenoskey

1:45 pm - Odawa/Ojibwe storytelling by Larry Denemy

2:15 pm - (Repeat) Introduction by Jessica Dominic and David Miles

2:30 pm - Bear River Pow Wow Singing and Dancing Group

At the Circle of Arts, 11-3 pm, a blacksmith demonstration and children's crafts

Library Main Entrance: 12-3:30 pm, Quill Art Demonstration by Yvonne Walker Keshick, NEA National Heritage Fellow

Library Community Room Gallery: Charlevoix Historical Society Exhibit: "How Pine River Became Charlevoix 1721-1869" (runs from early July through early August)

INDIGENOUS CULTURE PROGRAM BY PROF. CHUCK CLELAND JUNE 29

The Society is pleased to announce resumption of live events with a book talk. Local author Chuck Cleland, a renowned expert on Indigenous history, Great Lakes fishing and fur trading in the eighteenth century, will be speaking about his most recent books, historical fiction based on the real-life travels of adventurer Alexander Henry. Henry was a noted fur trader in the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior regions during the eighteenth century with intimate knowledge of life and cultures of native people.

Cleland's presentation, titled: "Further into the Wilderness: the Culture of the Great Lakes Indigenous People in the 18th-19th Centuries" will take place at **7 pm Tuesday**, **June 29 at our Train Depot**, **305 Chicago Avenue**. The public is welcome to attend. Admission is free of

charge for Historical Society members and a donation is suggested for non-members.

Henry was admired for his bravery and grit when facing the hardships of frontier life. He was a canoe traveler on the rivers and lakes of the region and also walked hundreds of miles through the immense forests and featureless prairies in all seasons. He charted the geography of much of central North America for generations of Americans and Canadians who today figuratively follow his snowshoe tracks and the wake of his canoes.

Henry provided one of the very few firsthand descriptions of Ojibwe, Odawa, Cree and Assiniboine culture at a time when native people were still living from the land, speaking their own languages, and practicing their age-old cultural traditions. As an adopted member of an Ojibwe family, Henry knew and described their lives in the mid-18th century from a personal perspective which is rarely available to native people and modern ethnographers.

Cleland is a retired Michigan State University Professor of Anthropology. He was MSU's Museum Curator and the author of numerous works on the native people of the upper Great Lakes region. He provided expert testimony in many federal court cases on behalf of Great Lakes In-

dian tribes as they argued successfully for fishing, hunting and gathering rights.

His new book is a sequel to Beyond the Far Horizon, the true life story of Henry. The first book covers 1760-1765, when Henry was based at Fort Michilimackinac. The new book, Further Into the Wilderness: The Continuing Adventures of Fur Trader Alexander Henry Among the Native Peoples and Northern Waterways, covers 1765-1820 and is based mostly in Lake Superior, Canada and Montreal. The book can be purchased at Round Lake Bookstore, 216 Bridge Street in Charlevoix, and will also be available at the Depot the evening of the program.

SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum at Harsha House will be open Monday through Saturday from noon to 4 beginning July 6 through September 4. Museum staff can be reached on closed weekdays (holidays excluded) by telephone, 231-547-0373, between 10 am and 5 pm.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE SIGNAGE TO APPEAR ON CHANNEL

The important addition of an eighth historic signage in Charlevoix will take place later this summer. Our latest one, assembled with the assistance of members of the Grand and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, will be placed on the lower channel's north public walkway near Lake Michigan. This is a long overdue recognition of the history and culture of the area's Indigenous people whose presence here dates to approximately 10,000 BCE. Featured will be Chief Louis McSauba, Greensky Hill Mission Church, Big Rock Point, and more.

ENTER A RAFFLE TO WIN UNIQUE CHARLEVOIX-ONLY PRIZES AND EXPERIENCES!

Help support your Society by way of a special fundraiser that will allow the lucky few to win some unique Charlevoix-related experiences, all related to our town's iconic structures. Tickets are 1 for \$25 or 3 for \$50, available at the Museum at Harsha House, 103 State Street (231-547-0373), or My Grandmother's Table coffee shop, bakery and restaurant at 115 Bridge Street on the Park Avenue corner (231-437-3132). Visit chxhistory.com for more information.

'Panama' House in Boulder Park, in its 1936 detached garage apartment that noted Hollywood producer, director and writer Norman Panama converted into his work studio during his summers in Charlevoix. It is rumored that in this classy stone structure, on commission from Bing Crosby, Panama wrote the script for the Crosby classic movie "White Christmas." And! A personal guided tour of the exteriors of Earl Young's Mushroom Houses on Park Avenue and Grant Street, followed by a panoramic look at and description of the Weathervane Inn, by your editor, Earl Young expert David L. Miles. And! A \$100 gift certificate to My Grandmother's Table, plus gift basket. Total package value up to \$750.

2ND PLACE PRIZE: Your very own private event at our historic train depot (use of facility only) for up to 80 people. Plan a wedding, anniversary party, birthday celebration, graduation party, reception, anything to which you would like to invite almost everyone you know. Overlooking the glorious panorama of what readers of USA Today, in an online poll a decade ago, voted the second best lake in the United States (Lake Tahoe was #1). Total value up to \$700.

3RD & 4TH PLACE PRIZES: A guided tour for two of the South Pier Lighthouse, inside and out, and the Society's lighthouse merchandise from the museum store. Total value up to \$250.

The drawing will be held on Thursday, July 15 from 4:30 to 5:00 at the train depot, Depot Beach, 305 Chicago Avenue. You need not be present to win. License to raffle: No. R60201

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual business meeting and election of officers will take place on Tuesday, July 13 at 4:00 pm at the Depot prior to the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. Those who wish to inquire about our financial status and outlook, long and short term plans and goals, or inquire in general about the state of the Society are welcome to attend.

Nominations: For a 3rd three-year term as Director ending 2024: Edward O'Neill and Amanda Wilkin.

To fill the vacancy of a Director, with term ending 2023: Robert Molter.



Win a Two-Night Stay for Four in This Historic Boulder Park Treasurel

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Though we weren't able to meet in person since last year, the virtual programs we did on Zoom this Spring were definitely a silver lining of the pandemic. This allowed us to reach large audiences far and wide, either during the live presentation or watching on YouTube, which is all good for the Society and for Charlevoix. We are pleased to be going live in person again this summer, thanks to the effectiveness of the vaccines. Our work with representatives from the local tribes on the history of the region's Indigenous people has been most interesting and informative, and turns out to be a terrific tie—in to the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Fr. Charlevoix to the area. I want to thank those that helped us with the historical sign, which is on track to be installed on the channel in August: Jessica Dominic, Sandra Witherspoon, Sammie Dyal and Eric Hemenway. We look forward to seeing many of our members again on June 29 at the Depot and on July 31 at the Library.

Denise

The Society welcomes new members: Phillip Wampler, Wade & Danna Segrest (Ralph Hamilton Circle),
Brian Dooner (Patron), JoAnne Beemon, Dave & Julie Christensen
Donation in honor of June Cross' birthday received from: Dick & Sheila Bogart
Donations in memory of Robert A. Brewer received from: Lynn & Janice Evans, Carolyn Benoit, Jo Ann Cline,
William & Erika Brewer, James & Lori Dane, Kirsten Lewis, Sheila & Ron Jacobson Family, Carrie Brewer,
Patrick & Rebecca Mulrooney, Thomas & Margaret Wiegand, the Hartmans, Karl & Deborah Lewis,
John & Mary Ellen Leonard

Donation in memory of Marion Brewer received from: Kirsten Lewis

Donations in memory of Mary Toomey received from: Elizabeth Gardner, Klonie Kunzel

Donations (unrestricted) received from: Lee Begrow, William & Pamela Gnodtke, Pat O'Brien & Associates,

Mark & Valerie Snyder

The Society deeply regrets the recent passing of Society members: John McKown, Gene Ann Cansfield, Marion Brewer, Mary Toomey (life member)



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