

CHARLEVOIX NEWSLETTER

103 State Street / P.O. Box 525 / Charlevoix, MI 49720 / 231.547.0373 / info@chxhistory.com / chxhistory.com Issue #1, March 2023 | Editors: David L. Miles & Trevor Dotson

CELEBRATING OUR LIGHTHOUSE'S 75th YEAR

On September 30, 2023 the current steel South Pier Lighthouse will turn 75 years old, thanks to efforts almost twenty years ago to save and restore it. Built in 1948, the structure replaced the wooden one which was constructed in 1885. Restoration was led by the Historical Society, in partnership with the City, and was done in several phases starting in 2006, with funding from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program and the generosity of many donors.

To celebrate this significant milestone, the Society is planning events for the public to enjoy and learn about its history. There will also be activities to raise funds for its on-going maintenance and preservation.

To commemorate the anniversary, a new special-edition lighthouse decal is now available through the museum store. They retail for \$10 each. Any donor making a gift of \$75 or more will also receive a decal and other lighthouse merchandise as a gift.



Watch for more details on the celebration as they are announced during the summer season.

Lighthouse Maintenance Contract with the City Recently Modified

At its meeting on February 20, 2023, Charlevoix City Council approved an addendum to the 2011 contract with the Charlevoix Historical Society for the restoration and maintenance of the South Pier Lighthouse, as requested by the Historical Society. The key changes are that the City will assign a least one representative to serve on the Society's Lighthouse Committee going forward, and the City will seek grants and other funding methods available to it as a municipality. While the City owns the Lighthouse, the Charlevoix Historical Society partnered with them and took on the work of fundraising, restoration and maintenance starting in 2006. This addendum memorializes a renewed understanding between the City and the Historical Society for the continued maintenance and oversight of the lighthouse.

If you are interested in participating on the Lighthouse Committee, contact Denise Fate, denise@chxhistory.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Society wrapped up another successful year in 2022 as we celebrated our Golden Jubilee. The details of our accomplishments and financial results can be found in the 2022 Annual Report, accessible through our website chxhistory.com. We were awarded several grants last Fall as noted in the E.P.C. report, and now is the time to begin implementing the planned projects. First up is the I/T upgrade, which will commence this Spring. This investment will greatly secure our digital assets and allow the museum team to work more efficiently throughout the building. Excitement is building for our new maritime exhibit, which is going to be spectacular! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming programs and events.

- Denise

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

I am very pleased to be able to announce the newest members to join the Society's board:

Janet Kohler - Secretary. Janet is uniquely qualified to assume the office of secretary and steer our membership development. As you may know, she is a fourth-generation member of the Society and is carrying on the tradition as a board member started by her great-grandmother and continued by her grandmother. We are so lucky she and her husband, Dan, decided to retire in Charlevoix and make it their home.

Geoffrey Reynolds and Ken Kranz have been appointed to the Advisory board. Geoff also has a long history with the Society and has recently retired back to Charlevoix. Ken has been coming to Charlevoix all of his life, and is spending more time at his Charlevoix home since he retired last year. Our board will be going through more transitions this year, and we are well-positioned to do so. More news to follow on this in the coming months.

SOCIETY MENTIONED IN SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE ONLINE

The January, 2023 edition of *Smithsonian* magazine online contains an article titled "Once a Floating Speakeasy, This Shipwreck Tells a Tale of Bullets and Booze" written by British marine archeologist Sean Kingsley. Kingsley came across a small item in a maritime publication about the infamous party boat and "blind pig" Keuka, a converted lumber carrier, that plied the waters of Lake Charlevoix during Prohibition until it sank offshore of Ferry Beach in 1932, and his interest was piqued. After a lengthy transatlantic phone conversation between him and museum curator David Miles, three of the Society's photos were emailed to England for use with credit, and David was quoted in the article.



Keuka lumber carrier, circa late 1920s.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS — MARITIME THEMES STARTING IN MAY

- Tues., March 21 @ 7pm: Zoom Program "A Few Facts I Never Knew about Charlevoix Until..." by Charlevoix Historical Society curator, David L. Miles. Visit chxhistory.com/events to register.
- Tues., May 2 @ 7pm, Depot: "Ordeal in the Ice" The death of Coastguardsman Earl Cunningham during a rescue. By Geoffrey Reynolds.
- Tues., June 20 @ 7pm, Depot: "Documenting Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes with Chris Roxburgh"







Funding Goal

EMBRACE. PRESERVE. CHERISH.

Last Fall, a capital campaign initiative was launched to raise \$300,000 for projects in need of completion over the next two years:

I/T upgrades, including online photo storage and search capability	\$50,000
Depot roof, chimney restoration and pergola repair	100,000
South Pier Lighthouse repairs	60,000
Fire-resistant Archival Vault (addition to the museum)	75,000
	\$285,000

Thank you very much to the donors who have made gifts (received 9/1/22-3/1/23):

Lillian Arnold Paul & Sally Hoelderle

Jennifer & Stan Carroll Larry & Gayle Levengood

John & Jeri Duerr Jeff & Alene Lipshaw

Phyllis Elzinga Linda & Richard Mueller

Laura Everett Keith Podob

Gary & Denise Fate Joan & David Robinson

Jon & Lisa Mower Gandelot Julia Taylor

Bill & Pam Gnodtke Jerry Willis

Grants were generously awarded by the following for the I/T Upgrade Project:

Rotary Club of Charlevoix - \$1,000, Great Lakes Energy People Fund - \$5,000

Charlevoix County Community Foundation - \$10,000

So far, just over \$23,500 has been raised in total. Thank you. A Certified Local Government grant, which the City applied for on our behalf to raise a portion of funding needed for the Depot roof and chimney restoration, is pending with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Help us reach our goal! Gifts can be made to the Charlevoix Historical Society Preservation Fund - Grantmaking at the Charlevoix County Community Foundation online at c3f.org, or by check mailed to P.O. Box 718, East Jordan, MI 49727. Call 231-536-2440 for assistance.

Denise Fate, President

Craig Mann, Finance Chair

Diamond Patron (\$3,000+)

Dave & Paula Berry Ole Lyngklip III Lynne & Mason Rosenthal

Platinum Platron (\$2000 - \$2999)

Robert & Marissa Kagle Craig & Deborah Mann Paul & Linda Weston

Gold Patron (\$1000 - \$1999)

Mike & Rhea Dow Paul & Sally Hoelderle Jonathan & Katherine Weber

Silver Patron (\$500 - \$999)

Ace Hardware
Belvedere Club
Deborah Buchanan
Patrick & Beth Camilleri
Charlevoix Commercial
Center
Charlevoix State Bank
Vincent & Mary Ann Chew
Richard Donaldson Jr.
Gary & Denise Fate
Randy & Rochelle Forester
Grey Gables Inn
Ralph & Mary Lynn Heid
Kay & Don Heise

Dale & Diane Herder

Rich & Perry Irish Hodgson

Tina Heugh

Tom & Sue Kirkpatrick Kohler Family Nu-Core, Inc. Edward O'Neill & Susan Kroll Richard & Diane Platt Bill & Sandra Powel Susan van Wieren David & Judith Wilson

<u>Bronze Patron (\$350 — \$499)</u>

Lawrence & Danielle Allan Tom & Maryalice Armstrong Cindi Ann Baird Jennifer Belanger Stephen & Marsha Braun William & Erika Brewer Beth & Christopher Cowie Connie Cunningham John & Jeri Duerr Phyllis Elzinga Stefany Freeman Harry Golski Bob & Jan Grupp Jennifer Haf David & Darlene Heine Ken & Nancy Kline Denise Leduc Michael Lindley Joseph R. & Nancy Malloure Daniel Mann & Jennifer Armstrong Amanda Stolcenbura Susan Tukel & Michael Balloch Don & Vicki Voisin

The Society welcomes new members:

Tod Dickey Jennifer Haf

John Fratrick Daniel Mann & Jennifer

Carole & Dwayne Griffin Armstrong

Donations (unrestricted) received from...

Bob & Wally Klein, Petoskey Area Antiques

Donations Given in Honor of...

David Miles

Ellen Goldstick

Kathleen Haucke Schmidke

Donations Given in Memory of...

Jack & June Cross Laurie Crandall

Ray & Victoria Wallick

The Society deeply regrets the recent passing of members:

Elizabeth Hoffman, Carol Stephan, Hans Wiemer



Bridging our past with our future

103 State Street / PO Box 525 Charlevoix, MI 49720 BULK RATE U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Charlevoix, MI 49720 PERMIT NO. 28 Non Profit