



Newsletter of the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society

Vol. 10, No. 2, Fall, 2013



Bob Dean, Tim Carroll, & Carol Lewis during an early Log Cabin Days

Log Cabin Landscaping Update *by Amy Lyman*

Your ad-hoc log cabin landscape committee surveyed the site, took soil samples, made recommendations and conducted a couple of work afternoons in anticipation of next spring's opening of our Hessler Log Cabin.

Committee members Laura Johnson, Anita Klein, and Amy Lyman found the soil pH needed adjusting to correct a very alkaline condition which probably arose when the logs were sandblasted with baking soda! We noted that the memorial service-berry near the cabin was defoliated too early, and hope that actions this fall and next spring will improve conditions for the native tree.

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Nancy Jaroh ... **From the President's Desk**

The Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society is now two decades old, and it is strong and vital. The original purpose of the Society, which is to maintain the Hessler Log Cabin, is being fulfilled. We have people performing well on all of our committees.

The Society is increasingly centered on the histories of the settler families on Old Mission Peninsula. Re-planting trees along public roads is still going well, and in a few years the young trees will contribute more and more to the beauty of the Peninsula.

We use volunteers rather than paid staff to keep expenses below revenues. We continue to need to find more volunteers and people to serve as officers of the Society, as no one wants to serve in any position forever. Younger people need to be sought out and encouraged to attend meetings, to serve as successors for those who have served before and those who are serving now.

The Society maintains open communications with other public historical organizations on the Peninsula, which is not difficult since we have many people who serve in more than one of them.

The Society is planning to place donation boxes at the Replica Church and the Dougherty House, as well as the Hessler Log Cabin. The donations will be allocated by the Society for the preservation and maintenance of public historical structures on the Peninsula. The Park Board unanimously approved the plan, and sent it to the Town Board.

We all thank the many people who have served the

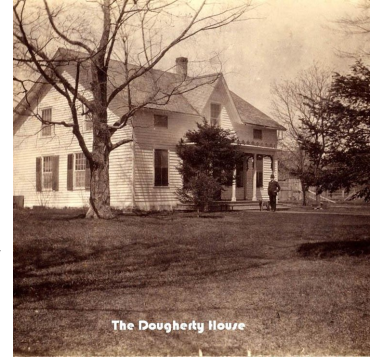
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Dougherty "Mission House" News

By Bill Cole

Jeffris Foundation Challenge Grant Awarded



The Peter Dougherty Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was very pleased that on June 18, 2013 it was notified by the Jeffris Family Foundation of Janesville, Wisconsin that it was giving them a 1 for 2 Challenge Grant in the amount of \$156,942. When the challenge grant is met, the Dougherty "Mission House" will be able to be fully restored as an historical as well as an educational and cultural center. It is necessary that the funds are available by the January, 2016, deadline imposed by the Jeffris Foundation. We have a great opportunity to open to the public the very first home in the Greater Grand Traverse Area.

Dougherty "Mission House" Summer Kitchen/Carriage Shed Restoration

Summer and fall of 2013 found the Peter Dougherty Society (PDS) volunteers working to restore the summer kitchen/carriage shed (SK/CS). The foundation had been completely rebuilt and stabilized in 2012. This summer we repaired all the exterior walls by replacing needed cedar siding, repairing doors and their antique locks. Once these items were completed, the SK/CS was re-roofed with cedar shingles. Now, all of the buildings on the Dougherty property have historically correct cedar shingles.

Attention was then turned to restoring the interior. The carriage shed needed some interior siding replaced on the south and east walls. This was completed with 18" to 24" old wide boards which had been donated to the PDS.

The summer kitchen interior is requiring significant restoration. The first step was the leveling of the floor. Since the floor joists were set on the ground and over a cistern in the southeast corner — the floor had a significant slope. The

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Dougherty Society Receives Award From History Center of Traverse City

On October 21, the Peter Dougherty Society received a 2013 Historic Preservation Award from the History Center in Traverse City. We are extremely pleased to have received the recognition. It is a tribute to everyone who has ever worked at the Dougherty "Mission House." The award was for the category of Restoration.

*Appreciation for Rob Manigold
The Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society
thanks retiring Township Supervisor Rob Manigold for all his help over the years with the Hessler Log Cabin, Lighthouse, Peter Dougherty Society, and other OMPHS sponsored projects..
Thanks Rob!!*



From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

Society this past year, including Vice President, News Letter Editor, and Archives Chair Ann Swaney; Treasurer Warren Berthelsen; Co-Secretaries, Chris and Karen Rieser; Log Cabin Committee Chairs: Laura Johnson & Heather Reamer; Website, Steve Lewis; Trees and Log Cabin Maintenance, Cal Jamieson; Historian, Nancy Warne; Nominating Chairs, Judy Weaver and Nancy Warne; Membership Chair, Anne Griffiths; and Program Chairs, Judy Weaver and Tim Carroll. We welcome Ellen Kerr as our new Hospitality Chair.

We appreciate all of those who presented such fine programs this year. We hope all of these people, and others we have not mentioned by name, will continue providing service to the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society and the community.

OMPHS Officers for 2013/14 Elected at June Annual Meeting

President: Nancy Jaroh
njaroh@charter.net

Vice-President: Ann Swaney
aswaney@acegroup.cc

Treasurer: Warren Berthelson
wbrthlsn@charter.net

Co-Secretaries: Chris & Karen Rieser
crieser99@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Ann Swaney.
Writers & Photographers: Laura Johnson, Nancy Jaroh, Amy Lyman, and Bill Cole.
Proofreaders: Steve & Carol Lewis
Masthead drawing by Terri Lynn Johnson



Tree Report

Generous contributions given in honor of long time Peninsula resident and telephone man **Jack Solomonsen** enabled our OMPHS Tree Committee to plant and dedicate eight maple memorial trees. The trees were planted on the former Peninsula Telephone Co. property at 14250 Center Road (now Ace Communications). Each tree has a plaque dedicated to Jack's memory.

In other tree news ... The fall tree planting with volunteers and the Boy Scouts was on October 26th this year. We planted 28 new trees and replaced 4 trees that had died. The majority of the new trees were planted on Smokey Hollow Road, north of Ladd Road. The total number of trees planted by volunteers for the OMPHS is now 548. Of these, 167 have been dedicated as memorial trees.

Submitted by Jim Hall

New Lockable OMPHS Bookcase In the Town Hall Basement





Hessler Log Cabin Landscaping Update

(Continued from page 1)

Although we recognize that our Hessler pioneers would probably have used any available cleared space near the cabin to grow food crops, the sandy soils and shade at the current site and lack of full-time garden tenders helped us to consider other alternatives to add interest, historical elements and welcoming aspects :

- In the lawn area, we planted Narcissus, Grape Hyacinth and Crocus varieties which were in cultivation by the Hesslers' time. They will provide a succession of color in spring, will not be bothered by the deciduous shade trees which will leaf out after they bloom, are critter resistant and will naturalize – increase with age. We thank the Old Mission Women's Club for their donations which made this work possible.
- To replace log cabin benches in disrepair, we've enlisted the Dougherty House workers to construct new comfortable and sturdy benches like those at the Dougherty House. Remaining Walter Johnson memorial funds will purchase the materials for this project and memorial plaques will be transferred.
- We hope to grow some shade tolerant herbs (medicinal, culinary) near the log cabin and serviceberry tree. Brides often brought slips, cuttings and seeds of plants to their new homes as well as the knowledge of how to use them. We will be asking our members to donate plants for this experiment to see what we can grow and interpret to our visitors.
- We hope to make the entrance and paths to the log cabin more inviting by installing planters to beckon our guests with color.

Please contact any committee member if you would like to help with planters, plant materials, watering and fertilizing as we prepare to showcase our log home with Old Mission hospitality.

Lighthouse Friends News



Boy Scouts from Knights of Columbus Troop 31, St. Francis High School, led by Eagle Scout candidate Nick Meddaugh November 9th cleaning, clearing and mulching the portion of Lighthouse Park Trails (between The Lighthouse and the parking area) known as The Sarah Lane Nature Trail. Four benches were installed and trail markers spiffed up. See photo below

Volunteer Keeper Robert Spurling spent a week doing external repairs and painting in October. He also helped upgrade the interior with floor cleaning and a new runner to the second floor. Many thanks to Robert & friends from Big Sable Light!

Mission Point Lighthouse has begun upgrading the "concession stand" building to allow for more displays and children's activities. A new display case and new door are in place — cupboards are in progress.

The "Lighthouse Friends" group continues work on the 2nd floor "Sarah Lane" room. We have acquired an authentic Sarah Lane rocking chair & hymnal courtesy of OMPHS. Many other new artifacts have been donated as well. New Lighthouse Friends members are welcome! Contact Anne Griffiths at 231-313-8217.

Patti Rudolph and Rob Manigold have made donations to another exhibit in progress: "The Metropolis." We continue to look for additions to this maritime-themed display.

A Winter Celebration Sleigh Ride event is being planned. The Lighthouse will be open during this event. Sadly, current **Mission Point Lighthouse Manager Elizabeth Smith** has resigned her job as of March 1st. Job descriptions and job postings will be available in December. Elizabeth's departure will be a big loss to the Lighthouse.

Submitted by Anne Griffiths, Park Commission





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floor boards were removed and the floor joints over the sloping area were raised to level the floor. The cement walls of the cistern had partially collapsed and work is currently being done to replace the walls. When the cistern is restored (it will not be active), the floor will be replaced with a Plexiglas viewing area in the floor to observe the cistern. Also, the original pump will be located above the cistern.

There is a possibility of painting the building this fall if weather permits. Electrical needs in the SK/CS need addressing. Currently, there is electricity but overhead reflector lights need to be installed in the carriage shed. Discussion is still underway for the summer kitchen lighting. Next summer will see the ceiling and walls restored. The SK/CS should then be ready to contain artifacts that reflect kitchen and farming activities.

Current volunteers are: Jim Hall, Butch Morning, Marty Klein, Chris Reiser, Brad Lyman, John Scarborough, & Bill Cole.

Anyone wanting to volunteer, contact Marty Klein at (231) 631-2256. We generally work on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Cedar Shingles on Summer Kitchen/Carriage Shed



“Mission House” Window Work



***Jim Hall painting (above)
and
Butch Morning scraping (below)***



Hark! Memories of a Word

A local Old Mission resident, Betsy Emdin, recently penned an article for the online magazine, *Defunct*. That magazine title seems appropriate for a mention in a historical society’s newsletter. The essay shares Betsy’s poignant remembrance of the past and of the word “Hark.” It brought back my memories of aunts’ & grandmother’s use of this word.

The essay is a little too long to print in this space but if you’re interested in reading more, here’s the link to the journal article http://www.defunctmag.com/Essays/Issue7/Emdin_Hark.html

Hope this may bring good memories for you also.



Calendar Of Upcoming Events/Programs Join us if you can



Holiday Potluck at the Legion Hall.

Dec. 5th , 6 pm. Free Raffle for Prizes

After dinner caroling with Al Bonney & Glen Chown.

Please bring a dish to pass and table service. Coffee and fruit punch will be provided. Each attendee will receive a free ticket for the raffle which will be part of the entertainment during dinner.

**Jan. 9: Five Generations on Old Mission.
Jack & Georgia Holman**

**Feb. 6: Five Generation Agricultural Story.
Bill & Monica Hoffman**

**March 6: Working Boats of Mackinac.
Bruce Trudgen**

April 3: Leffingwell Association Film.

**May 1: St. Joseph Church History, at the new
locale, by Mary Lyons**

June 5: Potluck & Annual Meeting

Do you have ideas for a program? Please let the Program Committee know, as it's never too early to plan for next year.

Recent OMPHS Programs

September: Heard a presentation on the historic Hoxsie House in Acme.

Photo:
Leonard S. Hoxsie's house, built on the East Bay shore in Acme in 1875



October: For a Halloween treat, Tim Carroll led a tour through Oakwood Cemetery, pointing out the headstones of both the famous & infamous of Traverse City and Peninsula Township.

November: Ken Lardie and John Emory spoke about early Bowers Harbor history, and the contributions of the Emory family — especially with the logging & fishing industry. John Emory founded local business Big Jon Corp. in 1971.

Pictured below are several generations of Emorys Hiram, Bill, & John, with John Jr.,





More Hessler Log Cabin History — From 1996



Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society
Mrs. John Austin, President

Nov. 11, 1996

Mr. Dan Nickels,
Black Rock Forge
5530 Supply Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686

It was brought to the attention of the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society at its regular meeting that you had custom forged the hinges for the log house. They were pleased that they turned out so well and the doors open and swing so easily.

The rustic appearance of the hinges and handles matches perfectly with the character of the log house. We certainly thank you for your contribution to this project. It should be ready for public viewing by next spring.

Sincerely,

Mary Johnson, Secy

Photo from the Past

Lester Johnson (on right) and the Dock at Bowers Harbor





Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society
www.omphistoricalsociety.org
info@omphistoricalsociety.org

Join Us!

Membership Dues: Student, \$5; Individual \$10; Family \$15; Business, \$25

**Please make checks payable to Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society and fill out this form and mail to us at
POB 115, Old Mission, MI 49673.**

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