
NEWS ON A NEW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTING LOCAL NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY
By Emily Modrall

Over the past year, I have been preparing a new project focused on Traverse City's indigenous history. Existing historical markers and signs with photos and text in Traverse City almost exclusively refer to European settlement and the beginnings or highlights of industry here. Meanwhile, the much longer history of the First Nations people gets hardly a mention. It goes without saying that Traverse City's public presentation of our history deserves better balance -- residents and visitors alike could benefit from a more complete picture of the history of this land and the people who have lived here.

This project will begin with the three "Old Indian Trail" markers in Traverse City. Perhaps you've noticed one of these white concrete markers in town, either on Cass Street or at West End Beach. Installed in the 1980s, the markers trace the route traveled by the Odawa/Ojibwa people from Lake Mitchell (in Cadillac) to West Grand Traverse Bay. While the route itself is no longer navigable, all of the markers between Cadillac and Traverse City are accessible. The first goal of this project is to install explanatory signage and maps next to the three trail markers in Traverse City. (The new signs will tell both the history of the trail and the more recent story of the concrete markers!) The signs -- like all written products of this project -- will be bilingual.

I'm very grateful to the Historical Society board for agreeing to 'house' this project. Grant applications are in the works, and I am already benefiting from the experience and knowledge of Historical Society members as well as many community contacts. I welcome input and will solicit collaboration from people whose personal histories or backgrounds are tied to the long Native American history of northern Michigan. Please get in touch directly if you would like to chime in: emily.modrall@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY
By Michelle Howard, TADL Director

TADL continues to look for ways to improve access to the Local History materials. We recently added returning staff member Robin Stanley for 10 hours a week to help with processing and organizing materials in the collection and add any new additions we've received. We continue to have Katheryn Carrier who provides excellent reference services to people stopping in, emailing, and calling with Local History Collection questions. We have also trained our Computer Center staff at tagging our already digitized content to make it more "findable".

A team of TADL staff is finalizing requirements for the new shelving and are looking forward to getting a revised quote from the company they would provide the compact shelving. Thank you to the Tribal for providing us with grant funds to help accomplish this! Finally, we are hoping to have the digital content of the scanned microfilm of the Historical Records of the Immaculate Conception Church in Peshawbestown from 1850-1948, in the library soon. We are grateful to the TAHS for funding the internship this summer because the bulk of the work will be making those records accessible. We are excited about all these projects!

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE TO RECORD THE STORY OF TRAVERSE AREA LIBRARIES
By Ann Swaney & Anne Magoun, Co-Chairs

The history book about Traverse area libraries is coming along nicely, although slower than expected. Woodmere being closed for so long really hampered our research. TADL staff and community members have been very helpful as we try to track down bits of arcane information. All the chapters have been proofed by several volunteer readers, who were assigned to look for both historical and grammatical inaccuracies. Included in the list of readers were current and former TADL librarians, as well as local historians.

We are currently wrapping up review of the third draft of the manuscript and by the time you read this, the manuscript will be in the hands of author Heather Shumaker for a final rewrite. Designer Angela Saxon (Saxon Design) has received sample chapters with accompanying illustrations, so design work is beginning as well.

We exceeded our initial fundraising goal, thanks to the Traverse Area Historical Society and others who gave generously. Unfortunately, printing costs have skyrocketed over the past year and the scope of the book has grown, so we continue to seek funds to ensure we can afford an excellent, yet affordable book. We have chosen to print a good quality softcover book, rather than hardcover. This was decided after consultation with a local bookseller who advised us that with a tight budget, we'd be better off choosing to have color inside a book in place of a hardcover binding.

Heather has written a fascinating story of the development of libraries in Traverse City, neatly woven into the history of the Traverse area. With an eye to future historians looking back at this time, the book includes a description of the impact of COVID-19 on library services.

We look forward to sharing this book full of local stories with all of you soon, and we hope you will help spread the word about the book as it gets closer to publication.

I REMEMBER WHEN....

By Julius Petertyl

Our newsletter for the next year will bring you four columns written by our wonderful late benefactor and community historian Julius Petertyl. Enjoy his columns again. This column shares his thoughts of spring in Traverse City in the early 1900s.

There was very little ready-made clothing in Traverse City so in the spring young girls and their mothers would purchase fabric from Milliken's or some other mercantile. They could choose from bolts and bolts of colors and patterns. Then they would call one of the 26 dressmakers listed in the city directory or who advertised in the newspaper. The dressmaker would then come out to the house and using the household sewing machine or one that was brought along stitch clothing for the ladies measuring individuals as she went along. In rural areas the dressmaker would sometimes stay the night until her work was completed.

Spring also meant the closing of lumber camps for the season. The men would then come into town with rakes and shovels to spade gardens and clean up yards. They would split wood for the household stove and as vacuum cleaners were not popular beat the carpets to clean them.

Back in the teens years of the 1900s there were 38 neighborhood grocery stores. Some were downtown, three or four were very close to each other on Union Street, and the rest were scattered throughout the neighborhoods. Most stores carried the same basic merchandise and most families lived above their businesses. Many households would telephone in their grocery orders in the morning and deliveries by horse and wagon were made in the afternoon.

There were 22 saloons plus the Eagles and Elks Lodge which served liquor beer and wine. Some saloons were a "free lunch" where, for a 5 cent beer, you could make your own sandwich at a counter laid out with baloney, salami, cheese, pickles, onions and other condiments. The men never abused this special complimentary service.

Twenty blacksmiths and horseshoeing shops lined the streets of State, Front and N. Union, while eight livery barns provided horse and buggy service. Many families did not own their own horse and buggy. If the family decided to go visiting or on a Sunday picnic out in the country, they would telephone the livery barn and give their name and address and the time of their departure. The horse and buggy would then be delivered to their door at the appointed time period when the family returned, they had the option of returning their rental to the livery barn or having it picked up. Farmers who came to town during inclement weather would often leave their horses at the livery barn. They would pay a small fee for the hay and feed depending on their length of stay.

The 18 physicians and 11 dentists almost always occupied the second or third floor of the downtown buildings. In those early years the dentist drill was operated by a foot pump.

There were also 11 cigar manufacturers in Traverse City . It is surprising for such a small town that one manufacturer had eight employees and many people made cigars in their homes. Four ice dealers handled the refrigeration for the town. Residents had a cardboard sign that was placed in the window. On each sign was a number indicating the amount of ice needed by household. Most home ice boxes required 25 to 30 pounds of ice. Nine hotels started Traverse City on its road to resort status they included the Campbell House Hotel Leelanau and the Hotel Whiting.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS



Would you like to...

Be a docent on a history walking tour?

Help out at the archives under the supervision of Katheryn Carrier, special collections librarian

· **Explore ways of getting local history into the schools?**

Serve as all-around helper with regard to tasks that must be carried out regularly—newsletters, mailings, or maintaining the website?

Attend TAHS board meetings to find out more about board activities and what you might do to participate?

Attending TADL board meetings to let that board know we have a keen interest in maintaining the archives at the library.

· **Or...do whatever job you think would be useful to the Society?**

Leave an email at traversehistory@gmail.com if you are interested in doing any of these things. We can always use more help to preserve, protect, and present history!

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