

NOVEMBER 2020

PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND PRESENT



TRAVERSE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEATURED ARTICLE:

The Greilick Pioneers

The Traverse Area Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly.
The four issues are published February, May, August, and November.

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PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND PRESENT

FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK

Our society has pivoted to work around the current health crisis. Last month, we resumed our monthly programs in a virtual format. Our program featured Admiral Jerry Achenbach, the superintendent of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, who spoke on the history of the first fifty years of the academy. He shared several documents and photographs from the Northwestern Michigan College archives, illustrating the establishment of the academy in 1969 due to work of both local and state leaders.



US Senator Rober Griffin, State Representative Arnell Engstrom and Lt. Governor William Miliken

Admiral Achenbach also recounted how the Academy has grown in terms of our cadets and vessels that have been used since.



Training Ship State of Michigan

He also noted how the college awarded the first community college bachelor's degree in the state for two Maritime Academy graduates.



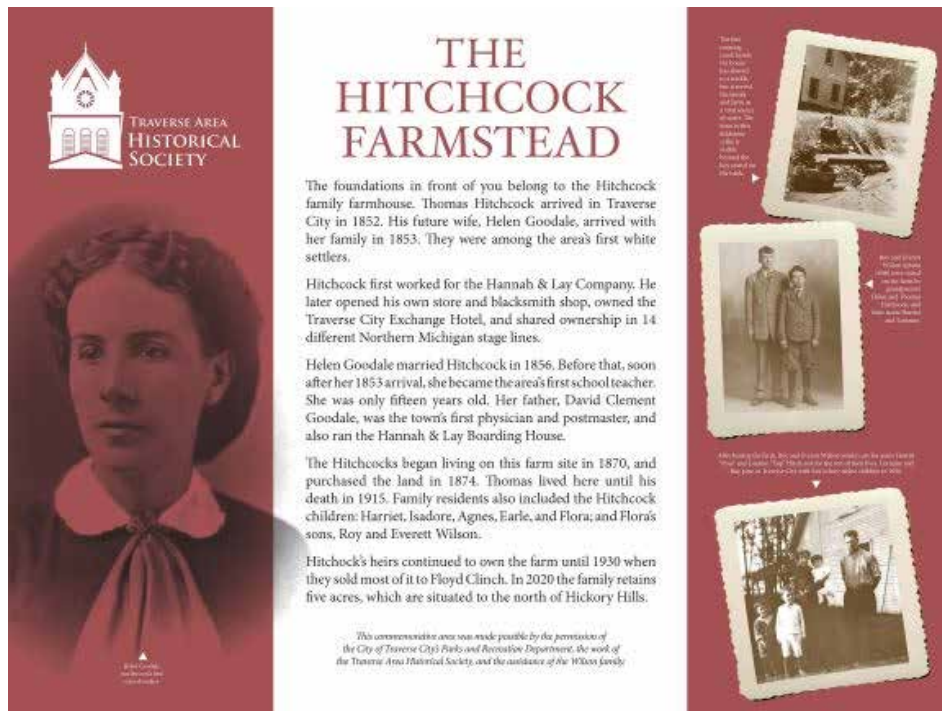
NMC awarded its first Bachelor's Degrees in Marine Technology (BSMT) in 2014.

Continued ...

FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK CONTINUED

At our annual meeting on October 25, I shared with our members the state of the society focusing on our programs. Based on the work of our treasurer, Matt Groleau, we shared how we have been able to donate funds to the Traverse Area District Library for the archives, to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for cemetery headstones and preservation, to local school children for participating in the History Day event, and to an area committee authoring a new history of the Traverse Area District Library.

We are also in the final stages to designing historical signage for the Hitchcock/Goodale Farmhouse Foundations project. The area has been cleared and the signage once approved from the Traverse City Parks and Recreation Committee will be installed along with benches next spring.



Proposed Signage for Hitchcock Farmstead

Finally, our society was once again selected to be part of the Shop Your Community Event in downtown Traverse City. We were one of the 35 organizations selected to benefit from the event. Get all of your holiday shopping done in advance and 5% of your purchase amount will be donated to our society when you designate us for this program. New this year, Shop Your Community Days will span from Thursday, November 12th through Saturday, November 14th. Since this is a full weekend event, it will allow shoppers to spread out their shopping times and stay safe. For more information, go to <https://www.traversecity.com/event-detail/2020-shop-your-community-days/12167/>

Thank you all for your continued support for our society.

FROM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR JENNINGS' DESK

At this time we have 148 members on our list. Thank you to all our loyal members who continue to support us during this time of Covid. We are hoping our membership will grow when we are able to be out again with our tours and programs. If you know someone interested in history, who might become a member, please let me know and I will contact them and invite them to join. Remember your support is what is keeping our history alive and your membership is so important to our endeavors.

Due to Covid many of our projects have had to be put on hold. Our goal of getting local history into our schools is one of these. Hopefully life will return to normal soon and we can continue our mission of promoting local history.

Thank you again for your support! We will look forward to seeing you again soon!

THE PRESERVATION CORNER BY PEG SICILIANO

Suffrage Celebration – August 26th

Historian and TAHS Board Member Peg Siciliano gave a talk on Women's Suffrage in Northern Michigan at the August 26th celebration of the 100th anniversary of women voting. Over one hundred supporters commemorated that event on August 26th at Traverse City's Open Space. The celebration was hosted by the TAHS, Woman2WomanTC, the League of Women Voters – Grand Traverse Area, and the American Association of University Women – Traverse City Area.

Exciting Developments at the Traverse Area District Library's Historic Archives

Several exciting moves, which the TAHS supports, are being made to improve TADL's Historic Archives services. TADL is applying for a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' grant to purchase new, movable storage shelving for the archives. These would greatly increase the archives' capacity. Stay tuned for information on whether TADL is awarded the grant.

Also, as part of larger physical reorganization plans, the Archives' service area may be enlarged, with the possibility of expanded service hours.

And, the TAHS is proud to continue supporting the Historic Archives with regular financial contributions, most of which are used to purchase important archival-quality storage materials for the library's valuable local history materials. Once the pandemic recedes, the TAHS also intends to continue providing archival volunteers, and to assist with the summer Petertyl Internship Program.

TAHS plans to partner with TADL for expanded Historic Displays

TADL has started to rotate community displays through the Library's first floor rotunda. The TAHS has several ready-made displays and photographs that we hope to show in that area.

Continued ...

THE PRESERVATION CORNER CONTINUED BY PEG SICILIANO

Virtual Cemetery Tour

From early September through most of October, 30+ images of Oakwood Cemetery were posted on the TAHS Facebook page. They and the accompanying text presented a “virtual tour” of the Cemetery. The posts can still be seen by going to the TAHS Facebook page and scrolling back into October and September.

FROM PROGRAM AND EVENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR LOUP’S DESK

The Traverse Area Historical Society board has been working to adapt programming and TAHS events during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have partnered with the Traverse Area District Library for hosting TAHS programs via Zoom. In September, NMC superintendent Admiral Jerry Achenbach presented to a virtual audience of 20 on the history of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. These programs will be recorded in this format - and you can view this program here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAFOqRVwkVU&feature=youtu.be>

The member’s annual meeting had 20-25 virtual attendees. Board members discussed with members and potential members the 2020 activities of TAHS and future goals. The meeting can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_60OxJN1c8

For future programs, please subscribe to the Traverse Area District Library YouTube channel -- TADLnotjustbooks

We look forward to scheduling future programs, and please pass on suggestions of presenters and/or topics of interest.

Walking tours, both of Downtown Traverse City as well as the Oakwood Cemetery were put on hiatus in 2020 due Covid-19. We have tour guides who are considered high-risk, and we believe that this would be the best course of action and this point in time. We look forward to bringing back our in-person historical walking tours as soon as is safely possible.

In the meantime, board members have put together a “virtual” tour describing a few stops of the popular Oakwood Cemetery tour. Please visit our Facebook Page - Traverse Area Historical Society - to view these posts. Also, the TAHS board is exploring video recording of tours for future usage. Stay tuned!

Traverse Area Historical Society in conjunction with the Traverse Area District Library will be hosting our next virtual program on Saturday, December 5th, 2020 at 2:00 pm. Come and join TAHS via Zoom and see some of Michigan’s most historical shipwrecks as they look today with diver Chris Roxburgh. Registration by visiting the event site: tadl.org/mishipwrecks

The program will be recorded for later viewing.

FROM TREASURER GROLEAU'S DESK

As reported at the annual Members Meeting, your Historical Society is still doing well financially, however COVID continues to impact our revenues. If it weren't for our major donor this year, we would certainly be running in the red. Fortunately, however, that isn't the case, and we have also been fortunate enough to have had surpluses in several prior years. And because of this we have been able to continue strengthening our financial position while continuing to support projects in line with our mission. In addition to providing our normal support for the historical archives at TADL, we also supported a project at the cemetery earlier this year, and more recently made a significant contribution to support a publication documenting history of the Traverse Area District Library.

We continue to take a conservative approach moving forward, and have kept our administrative expenses below where we were at this point a year ago. We still anticipate having a positive Net Income to continue improving our financial position for the future. Thank you for your continued interest and support which allows us to preserve, protect, and present the historical record of Traverse City and the Grand Traverse area.

The Greilick Pioneers

Godfrey Greilick was a well-known architect educated in Germany and a contractor in Kratzau, Austria in the early half of the 1800s. Many of the more imposing structures in Kratzau, as well as in other parts of Austria, were the result of his work. He and his wife Theresa had five sons and two daughters while living there. One daughter died at eighteen months.

There was much unrest in Austria and surrounding principalities leading to the so-called European Revolution in 1848. Godfrey made the difficult decision to move his family to America. Tragically, son Ferdinand died at age 14 while the family was crossing the Atlantic. He was buried at sea. They arrived at New York City July 4th, 1847 where they lived for the following six years.

In 1854, the family moved to Chicago and a sixth son, William, was born. The family moved to Norrisville in northern Michigan (later renamed Greilickville) in 1856. Godfrey built a sawmill at the stream near where Cherry Bend Road now is located. Although Godfrey was fluent in three languages, through some strange machinations of the mind, he never was able to master the English language of his adopted country. In 1874 a tragic piledriver accident took Godfrey's life at age sixty-three in Traverse City.

The elder son, Joseph E. Greilick (1834-92) became a partner in the Hannah-Lay Company. He married Nancy Case in 1868 and they had six children: Clarence, Ernst, Amy, Frances, Arthur, Edna, and Josephine. As in other similar circumstances, Perry Hannah helped Joseph to establish his own business. In 1879 he built a large plant at the corner of Bay and Division Streets where he produced finished building materials such as interior and exterior door and window framing. Known as the "J.E. Greilick Co.", it became "one of the most valuable manufacturing properties in this section of the state". The business received a great boost when it was selected to be the sole source contractor for finish materials to be used in building the State Hospital buildings. Joseph built a beautiful "modern" home on West Bay near the City limits. It was one of the first houses in the area to have running water. This was made possible by Judge Ramsdell giving the right to use a bountiful spring flowing from his property. Permanent rights later were deeded to Joseph's widow, Nancy, in gratitude for her kindness to the Ramsdells in nursing them back to health from some sort of tragedy, presumably a fire. Joseph was very well thought of in the community, being civic-minded and a generous public benefactor. He was elected Trustee at the first charter election of the Village of Traverse City, April 1881.

John Greilick (1840-1898), the second oldest son of Godfrey, also worked for Hannah-Lay. He married Salina D. Weller and they had two children, Walter E. and Ida. John left Hannah-Lay and in 1862, started building a mill and brewery near their father's mill, in partnership with his brothers, Anthony and Edward (who also had been working for Hannah-Lay. In 1881, they bought half interest in a Suttons Bay saw mill and bought it out two years later. The "Brothers" also stocked Darrow's Mill on Carp Lake. They got into the shipping business by selling the brewery and buying the schooner "Lake Forest". For their fleet, they built one of the "best" docks on Traverse Bay and acquired the "Granger". Additions to their fleet included the schooner "Minehaha" and tugs "Drisco" and "Charles C. Ryan". In the year 1883, "The Greilick Brothers" cut eight and one-half million feet of hardwood lumber.

Brother Edward Greilick (1845-1901) married Caroline Ansarge who also was born in Austria. Their four children were: Louis, Julia, Hattie, and Alfred.

Continued ...

The Greilick Pioneers Continued

Brother Anthony Greilick was a skilled blacksmith but went into the lumber industry upon becoming a partner in "The Greilick Brothers".

William Greilick, born in 1854 was the youngest and only son of Godfrey and Theresa born in the United States. He was employed by the "Greilick Brothers" in Suttons Bay as a millwright and general manager for eleven years. Then William lived in Traverse City. He never married. It was said of him: "he is a frank, candid man, intelligent beyond others whose life has been devoted to long hours and hard work, but the most refreshing feature of his disposition is a passion for minding his own business and the granting to all people a similar privilege". The only daughter of Godfrey and Theresa to live beyond infancy was Mary, who married Frank Brusck in Traverse City where he conducted an extensive meat market.

The remarkable accomplishments of this one family and the lasting influence they have had in shaping our community's history, represent the best in achieving the American Dream.

Compiled by Clint Kennard, February 73, 1996

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!

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

TRAVERSEHISTORY.ORG | LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: TRAVERSE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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