

NOVEMBER 2022

PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND PRESENT



TRAVERSE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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& Much More!**

FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK

We had two programs since our August Newsletter. Our September program was entitled "Being Negative: the Photographs of Al Barnes." Historical Society Board member Jim Warner presented a selection of Record Eagle photographs from the Traverse Area District Library Archives of local historian and photographer Harry Alonzo "Al" Barnes. Al Barnes (1904-1995) was a journalist at the Traverse City Record-Eagle from 1937-1967. He implemented the newspaper's at the time state-of-the-art engraving shop for photographs, and wrote, photographed, and photo engraved for the paper. He subsequently worked for The Preview Community Weekly from 1975-1990. Barnes is well known for his four books on Grand Traverse regional history, and was considered the area's senior historian. This presentation described some of Al's wonderful pictures and also engaged the audience in helping to identify some of the people he photographed. The audience added important context for some of the photographs.

Here is one that generated a good discussion:



This is a picture of Lance Brown Rambler. The taller gentleman in the middle is Lance Brown. The facility today is Junior's Tires and the photo hangs on the wall at the business.

We held the program in-person and via zoom. About twenty attendees joined us through either format. The recording of the presentation can found at the TADL website at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHKYPCKEoBM>

We met in October for our annual meeting. We highlighted three Michigan History Day student award winners who presented on their projects.

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FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK CONT.

Jack Ducote won national honors by receiving the Senior Division World War II History Prize for his individual exhibit, Rigorous Debate, Diplomatic Failure, and America's Worst Day: The Road to Pearl Harbor. He placed seventh in the nation for the Senior Division Individual Exhibit category. His presentation stressed the debate within Japan about the necessity to go to war with the United States and within the U.S. about the likelihood that Japan would attack our country.

Lauren Johnson completed a group exhibit with her peer McKenna Wilcox. They were selected as one of two National Finalists from the State of Michigan for their group exhibit The Divide: Dissent Within the Women's Suffrage Movement that explores the impacts of the debates that divided the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) and American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). Lauren presented on the origins of the division within the woman's suffrage movement, their different approaches to winning the right to vote and their final unification that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Alex Potrafke, whose team made it to the national finals in the Group Website category, presented the website on the Kansas- Nebraska Act. He shared how the conflict in Kansas and the subsequent Act impacted the coming of the American Civil War.

All our local Michigan History Day students are fully funded by our Society for their local, state and national registration fees.

Following these presentations, we presented our state of the society report and our proposed 2023 budget. We followed this by our election of board members. Congratulations to Sharon Jennings, Brian McCall and Peg Siciliano on their reelections to the board and to Jordan Anderson, Marty MacLeod and Emily Modrall on their elections to the board.

After the board election, the members voted on the revision of our society bylaws, not updated since 2017. The new bylaws were unanimously accepted by the members in attendance. The primary changes are as follows:

- Expanding access to voting members virtually.
- Updating bylaws to align with current practices and streamline administrative practices
- Eliminating obsolete articles referring to an unused executive committee and discontinued executive director position
- Expanding the number of seats on the board to provide greater capacity for more member participation

The meeting was attended by fifteen members and ten guests. The meeting was recorded and can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyyC3beqR14>

Our final autumn program will be held on Sunday, November 20th at 2:00. Newly elected board member, Dr. Emily Modrall will present on "Old Indian Trails" and the Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabe History Project. Her presentation will include a summary of research and project

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FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK CONT.

activities to date. As the project coordinator, Emily will also discuss several specific topics in regional nineteenth-century history, including the 'Old Indian Trails' in the Grand Traverse area. The goal of the project is to bring more attention and awareness to the existing trail markers and to the broader Anishinaabe history of this region. The program will be held in person at the McGuire Room in the Traverse Area District Library and available on Zoom by registering through the TADL program website at

<https://www.tadl.org/event/traverse-area-historical-society-5>

Our tour season concluded this summer with our Oakwood Cemetery Tours on October 29th. This year we offered our regular downtown and cemetery tours and developed a new tour this summer. Author and TAHS member Marty McLeod provided a new guided walking tour of TC's Old Towne.

The tour attendance was lighter than in previous years with some of our tours canceled due to no attendance. In the coming months, the Board will discuss how to approach next year's tours.

Our Halloween Tours ended well with 25 attendees for the three tours.

FROM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR JENNINGS' DESK

Dear Members,

I am happy to report our membership count is up to 149. We are happy to welcome new members Liam Barrigan and Henry Holland both from TC. I'm also happy to report that our members have donated \$1295 in addition to their membership dues. Thank you to all of you who support preserving the history of this area by becoming members, attending our programs and tours, and giving additional monetary support!

Our "Spotlight on Members from TC Historical Families" would like to introduce Gini LeClaire. She is the proud descendant of four pioneer families of our region.

Please let me know if you are a member with early ties to this community. We'd love to feature your family in our next newsletter!

FOUR PIONEER FAMILIES OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE REGION
By Gini LeClaire

The Dempsey Family

This family hailed from Ireland and by 1850, they were living in Cleveland and the patriarch was working on the railways. By 1861 they were in Upper Canada (Ontario), but by 1870 they were living on a farm in Kewadin. When she was 18, daughter Ellen took the stage to Traverse City and found employment at the Hannah Lay boarding house on Long Lake where she would meet her husband.

The Dugal Family

Pierre Narcisse Severin Dugal was born in Quebec. He followed the lumber industry to Traverse City and was known as Peter. Peter was a lumber scaler for Hannah Lay; he would mathematically estimate the number of board feet that a tree would produce. He met Ellen at the Long Lake lumber camp and built a house for her on Second Street in Traverse City. They were married here in 1872. Peter later managed the Hannah Lay Docks. Of their 5 children, only one survived to adulthood.



Image To Right - Wedding Picture of Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dugal
 September 1, 1872

The Wilhelms

Four Wilhelm brothers (Josef, John, Anton, and Franz) emigrated from Bohemia (Czechoslovakia today) in the 1850s. Franz eventually returned to Europe because his wife was afraid to cross the ocean. At least two of his children remained here. This large family became very prominent in Traverse City as businessmen and professionals. They were involved in the development of the City Opera House and Oakwood Cemetery. Edna Wilhelm was the queen of the first 4th of July Carnival, forerunner of the Cherry Festival.

The Zimmerman Family

The patriarch of this family (John) emigrated from the Alsace Lorraine region and by 1851 had settled in New York. His wife (Johanna) also hailed from Germany. It is believed that she had been married first in the old country and had two children, one of which died enroute to the United States and was buried at sea. Her husband and the other child died soon after their arrival. John and Johanna were married in New York and after a stay of several years in Ohio, in 1868 they travelled by covered wagon to Grand Traverse County and purchased a farm. Most of the early settlers farmed, but subsequent generations were businessmen and public servants. Image to Right - Marriage Picture of Joseph E. Wilhelm and Rose Zimmerman



FROM TREASURER BOWERS' DESK

This quarter we did have some interest in a couple of our tours. In October we had our "Halloween tours with a twist" at Oakwood Cemetery. It is historically our most popular tour of the season and that remained true this year. Board member Marty Mcleod also gave her new tour called the "Old Towne Traverse City" which generated some revenue for the Historical Society. Along with the tours we have continued to be the fiduciary for Emily Modrall's Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabe History Project. In our annual board meeting in October, I presented our new 2023 budget and answered questions from the public and members of the society regarding the budget. The society is actively working on new revenue or local sponsorships within the community to better serve our mission statement to preserve, protect and present local history.

NEWS ON THE KCHI WIIKWEDONG ANISHINAABE HISTORY PROJECT

Signage and project artwork are in the final stages of design, and the website for the Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabe History Project is cued up to be put online. The website will include maps, text, video, and sound as well as a bibliography for further reading. Project Coordinator Emily Modrall gave a presentation to the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society in October and welcomed the discussion on historical sources and local history that followed. Emily is the November speaker for the TAHS monthly series at the Traverse Area District Library.

Any and all who are interested in further information about the project are welcome to get in touch at any time: emily.modrall@gmail.com

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

If you've visited our website lately, you might have noticed some changes. Thanks to the dedicated work of Scott Morey, Assistant Director of Technology Services, TADL has a new website! The initiative was directly related to a major goal of the TADL Strategic Plan to make the library more accessible which our new website does. Kudos to Scott and his staff.

You might have also noticed if you've been looking around our Local History site, <https://localhistory.tadl.org/>, are about 2,000 new items contributed to our database by Mary Morgan from the Peninsula Community Library. If you go to our website and click on Browse Collections you'll see a wide range of new information including Peninsula Community Library Local History Talks, Peninsula Community Library Cavasos Family Historical Photograph Collection, and pictures from the Old Mission Peninsula School. Thank you to Scott Morey and Amy Barritt, Kingsley Branch Manager for their work to get Mary up and running. Rumors are that some letters will be added that are sure to be interesting and of important historical value.

I am thankful to have so many people who are committed to preserving our region's history!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS



Would you like to...

- Be a docent on a history walking tour?
- 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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