

MAY 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.**

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

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## **INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER**

- **From President Siciliano's Desk**

- *Recent Programs & "All About Old Towne"*

- **From the Desks' of Our Board Members  
& Much More!**

## FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK

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**W**e had three programs since our last newsletter. At our February program, Anne Magoun and Ann Swaney, Co-Coordiators of the Committee to Record the Story of Traverse Area Libraries, presented on the new book *Beyond Books: Stories of Traverse Area Library History 1860-2020*.

They told the story of the development of libraries in the Grand Traverse area begins with the very early Traverse Township Library and the 1869 formation of the Ladies Library Association. Eventually the Carnegie Library on 6th Street was built to house a growing public library.

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The Carnegie Library construction started in 1904.

The story included several controversies from debate over the original location of the Carnegie Library and the challenges of outgrowing this library to the campaign that ultimately led to the new library on Woodmere Avenue.

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**FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK CONTINUED**

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Along the way, there were many librarians and supporters that made these libraries possible.

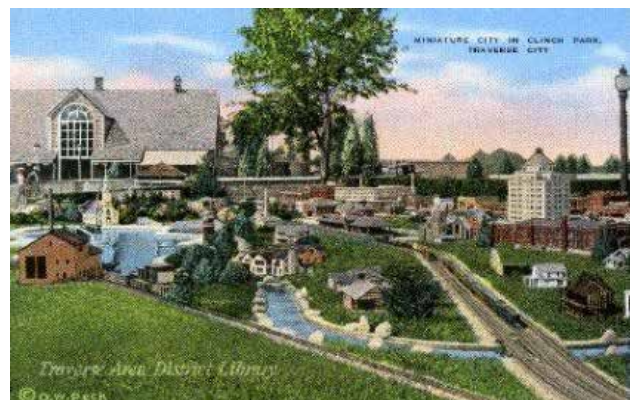
These librarians included Mike McGuire who became director in 1979 and served as director for thirty years. He brought the library into modern times.

Here is Mike with the library's first computer:



The audience greatly enjoyed the presentation and shared their stories of the libraries both from on zoom and in person. Sixty-three members and friends attend. The full recording to the presentation can be found on the Traverse District Library website at <https://youtu.be/KlawToQsH2E>

For the program in March, Jennifer Loop, former Clinch Park Zookeeper and our current Society Board Secretary, presented on the history of the Clinch Park aquarium, animals and attractions from the early 1930s through the dissolving of the zoo in 2007. Jen described the early beginnings of the space as it was developed by R. Floyd Clinch and Con Foster.



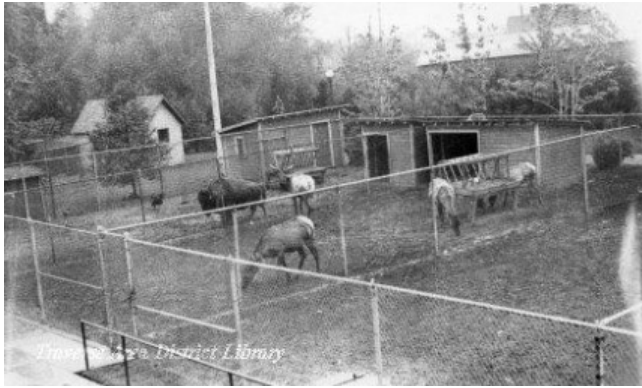
It started with the creation of the aquarium and was then followed by the miniature city and then the zoo.

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**FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK CONTINUED**

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Clinch Park also had popular attractions that brought community members and tourists to the park. These included a series of miniature trains for a quick ride around the park.



Jen concluded her presentation about her experiences working with the residents of the zoo and finding their new homes after the zoo closed in Traverse City. Each of the residents had distinct personalities.

One of the favorites was Sam the Eagle.

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## FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK CONTINUED

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The program included showing off some of the existing buildings from the Miniature City. The Music House graciously shared the buildings for the presentation.



There was a great deal of participation from our attendees. Fifty-six members and friends attended via Zoom and in person. Our March program can be found at the Traverse Area District Library website at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GppqNWw50tc&t=2599s>

Our April Program needed to be rescheduled. It was held on May 1st. The program was entitled "Voices from the Horn." Our program was presented by TAHS Board member Jim Warner who looked at the early history of the talking machine, and featured recordings from the era, starting in 1901. These recordings are little nuggets of history, demonstrating historical performances styles, the artists, and songs, and the culture. We were able to listen to recordings on three external-horn vintage phonographs see here:



Berliner Gram-o-phone(1903), a Victor Monarch (1903) and an Edison Triumph -- a 1909 version of an 1898 machine

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## FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK CONTINUED

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Our attendees enjoyed the music and presentation. Thirty members and friends attended via Zoom and in person. Our March program's recording can be found at the Traverse Area District Library website at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-Y-F06sAGk>.

Our May program will be on May 15th at 2:00 PM in the McGuire Room of the Traverse Area District Library on Woodmere Avenue in Traverse City. Anna Rowe Love and Linda Forwerck, president of the Grand Traverse Area Genealogical Society, will present on developing genealogical skills to find information focused on local history. Anna will be presenting a case study of her research into the Carothers family. Her 2nd great grandfather homesteaded 80 acres in 1878 in what is now Union Township in Grand Traverse County, Michigan. Linda will provide an extensive handout that will include sources for their research that others can use in exploring their family histories.

It will be an in-person presentation that will also be available via Zoom. To register for the Zoom access, go to the TADL website at <https://events.tadl.org/event/traverse-area-historical-society>.

Finally, our tour season will resume this summer. Our Oakwood Cemetery Tours will begin on Sunday, June 25th, at 4:00 P.M. The tours run for two hours. They will continue through the summer on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We are exploring new downtown tours.

We will share news on the tours through our email blasts and our website.

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## FROM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR JENNINGS' DESK

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I am happy to report our membership count is now at 143 members. Welcome to our newest member, William Vasilion, from Palos Park, IL. The membership corner will be adding a new feature from now on. We are aware that we have several members from all over who have ties to historical families in this area. From now on we will be highlighting one of these families in each newsletter. We are starting with the family of Susan Quillman from North Carolina. Susan's roots go back to Vencl and Kate Sleder who immigrated from Bohemia in 1879 with their four children to join other Bohemians in Traverse City. Vencl worked in Peteryl's blacksmith shop until opening Sleder's Tavern in 1882.

Susan has been working on telling her family's story and we will have more about the Sleders in our next newsletter. Stay tuned! Also, we would love to hear from other members who have connections to our historical families. Please let us know and we will be happy to highlight your family in future editions.

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## FROM TREASURER BOWERS' DESK

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Thanks for the generous support of our members, we have continued to help promote the interest of local history in the younger generation. Through our funding of Michigan History Day, we have paid for the registration fees of 33 local students who have progressed to State finals. These students attend both Traverse City East and West Middle schools, TCAPS, Montessori and Pathfinder School. We wish them the best in the next round of competition!

The society continues to be financially strong, and it's as always, we strive to preserve, protect and present local history.

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

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Thanks to grant funding for the Anishinaabe history signage project from Rotary Charities and the Native American Heritage Fund, there will soon be new digital maps that show regional Anishinaabe historical features (up to the early twentieth century), such as trails, camps, and villages. These maps compile cartographic information from several early sources and also include contemporary features and landmarks. To start, they will be available as GIS files, and will subsequently be made available in other formats.

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

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Things are slowly going back together in the Local History Collection since receiving our new shelving. Robin Stanley has been working to organize and rehouse many items. While we aren't quite ready for volunteers, we are getting closer.

I recently attended a webinar sponsored by the Northland Library Cooperative about Digital Preservation. What resulted from that was making some connections with the TADL Technology Department and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) <https://dp.la/>. Our team of Assistant Director of Technology Services, Scott Morey, and Systems Architect, William Rockwood did some quick work and facilitated the DPLA staff to use their automated system to harvest the metadata from our local history collection to be included in their database. This will allow researchers from across the globe to access our collection when searching DPLA.

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

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Scott and William are also working on setting up a system by which volunteers can transcribe items in our collection using a piece of software called Scripto. While not yet fully functional, this software will allow people from organizations like the Traverse Area Historical Society or any other interested parties to transcribe the content in the collection from home. Although Scott and William worked on this, Scott feels William deserves credit for his work on these projects.

While not a part of the local history collection but still interesting... TV 7&4 recently found 20 cans of 16mm news footage from the 1960s and 1970s. Aaron Olson is helping to digitize this collection. Stay tuned for a timeline and more details on this.



## 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](mailto: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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### CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

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

**Traverse Area Historical Society - PO Box 7051 - Traverse City, MI 49696-7051**