

AUGUST 2019

PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND PRESENT



TRAVERSE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEATURED ARTICLE: Continued Support of Michigan History Day!

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

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FROM PRESIDENT SICILIANO'S DESK

Our 2018-2019 Monthly Program concluded in May with Traverse City's Planning Director Russ Soyryng sharing his insights on the development of the different waterfronts in Traverse City. Check out the summary of the talk later in the newsletter. We will also have a video recording of his entire presentation on our website in the near future.

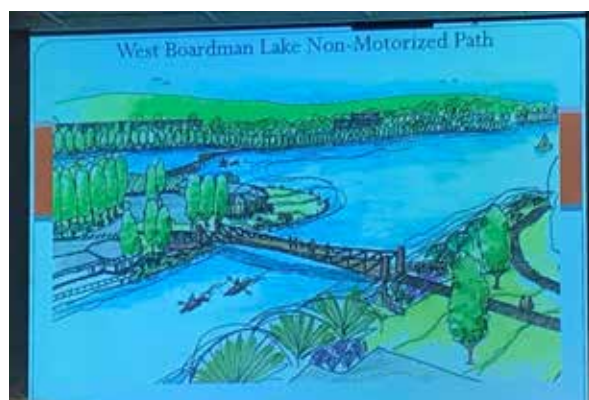
Continuing Successful Programming

Much of the summer has focused on our downtown tours and the tours of the Oakwood Cemetery. Through publicizing them in various publications including the Record Eagle, the turnout for the tours have been positive. Please check out the Program and Events section of the newsletter for more information. Share the word with your friends about these events.

The biggest news for the summer has been the restoration of the Petertyl Internship Program. We have been fortunate through member donations to restore funding to the program and hired two wonderful interns for the summer to work on various archival collections at the Traverse Area District Library. Please see Peg Siciliano's Preservation Corner for the great news on our outstanding interns and their work.

Finally, I am glad to announce a new board member has joined us. Brian McCall, a history teacher at Interlochen Arts Academy, an adjunct professor of history at Northwestern Michigan College, and the president of the Benzie Historical Society Board, has joined the board and will stand for election at our annual meeting this fall.

At our annual meeting this fall, we will provide our yearly report on our activities and events, our annual budget, and hold our board elections. The annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th at 1pm in the McGuire Room at the Woodmere Branch of TADL.



FROM VICE PRESIDENT ANDERSON'S DESK

LOCAL HISTORY PLAQUE PROJECT

We are working with downtown businesses and local arts organizations to support a TAHS-generated effort to place 10 local historic plaques in downtown Traverse City. This project has taken far longer than we anticipated. It was given final approval by the Traverse City, City Commission on July 15, 2019. Paperwork to begin the production process of the plaques is expected to be issued shortly and we are hopeful that they can be installed at the 10 locations by late August or September.

NEW MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION PLAQUE INSTALLED

All of us on the TAHS Board are very pleased with the recent development in front of the former Ladies Library building. On July 23, 2019, a Michigan Historical Commission Michigan Historic Site plaque was dedicated at 216 Cass St. in Traverse City. The sign commemorates the 150th anniversary of the organization of Traverse City's Ladies Library Association and the 110th anniversary of the dedication of the Ladies Library building at 216 Cass Street. This historically significant building was the home of the Ladies Library from 1909 until 1944.

Prior signage which recognized this building was broken off and disappeared. Through the generosity of Kent and Nancy Walton, who currently own the building, a new plaque has been produced and installed. This signage will allow future generations to better understand the historical significance of both the Ladies Library Association and the Building to Traverse City.

The Ladies Library is an example of the rich cultural history of the area. It was initially organized in 1869, which was 26 years before Traverse City was officially incorporated as a city. Nationally ladies' libraries were not that common and the women's owned library in Traverse City is a testament to these pioneering women and their contribution to the very early cultural development of the area.

FROM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR JENNING'S DESK

We are happy to report that we have had six new members join TAHS since our last newsletter. These new members are Mary Brady, Barbara Stamiris, Scott Schlagel, Karla Herbold, and Lori and Randall Hall. A warm welcome to all! This brings our total members to one hundred sixty eight. Please help us to increase our membership by inviting your friends and family who enjoy history to join us. And a big "Thank You!" to all our faithful members who help us keep the history of this wonderful area alive!

We are deeply saddened to report the loss of one of our long time members, Ida Tompkins. Ida and her husband Jim were lifetime members of TAHS and were very involved in the history of Traverse City as well as their many other civic projects. Thank you Ida and Jim. You will long be remembered.

FROM PROGRAM AND EVENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR LOUP'S DESK

Program Dates - Our remaining 2019 Programs are coming together.

The following is what we have planned:

Sunday September 8th, 2:00, TADL McGuire Room - Brian McCall will present *Our Lost Doughboys: Grand Traverse County Heroes of the Great War*

Saturday October 19th, 1:00, TADL McGuire Room - TAHS Annual Meeting

Sunday November 17th, 2:00, TADL McGuire Room - Peg Siciliano will present *The History of the Park Place*

TAHS programs will be held on Sunday afternoons in 2020. Please check back on our website or Facebook page, and look out for a email blast in December with more details.

Summer Tours - Our walking tours are in full swing, and we would love to have you join us on one (or more!) of the walking tours led by TAHS members. Remaining Tour dates:

Downtown - 10:30am - August 10th & 24th - September 14th & 28th - October 12th & 26th

Oakwood Cemetery - 4pm - August 11th & 25th - September 15th & 19th - October 13th

Halloween Tours - Sunday Oct 27 - 1:00pm & 4:00pm (2 tours), Monday Oct 28th, 4:00pm tour

Due to the popularity of our Oakwood Cemetery Halloween tours, we are offering two tour times on Sunday, October 27th, and another tour on Monday, October 28th.



Please visit traversehistory.org for more details on all the Traverse Area Historical Society walking tours.

TAHS IS ACCEPTED FOR SHOP YOUR COMMUNITY DAY!

We are excited to announce that Traverse Area Historical Society has been accepted to participate in Downtown Traverse City's Shop Your Community Day program on Saturday, November 9, 2019. The Shop Your Community Day program is one of a number of ways that Downtown TC gives back to our local community.

We will be sending more information and reminders about this event, and we hope that the supporters of the Traverse Area Historical Society will be our shopping on November 9th and supporting our downtown merchants along with the historical society!

THE PRESERVATION CORNER BY PEG SICILIANO

Preservation Opportunity for the Foundations of the Hitchcock/Goodale Farmhouse

Discussions stalled for a bit concerning the preservation and presentation of the Hitchcock/Goodale farmhouse foundations due to the busy summer activities, however we have reached out to restart the dialogue with Derek Melville with the Traverse City Parks and Recreation Committee. We are hopeful we can make progress on this project this coming Fall.

State Hospital Museum

The small State Hospital Museum is still in the works at Building 50, however the project has been delayed due to the busy summer activities at The Commons. Initiated by the Minervini Group, TAHS members have assisted with this project. The Minervini Group sees this as a first step towards a larger

museum presence at the Commons.

At this point, lighting and security cameras have been ordered, and a new timeline of the history of the State Hospital has been put on display (see photo) outside the area where the new museum will be housed. The display

area inside the museum space is still in the process of being designed. We are still interested in locating additional artifacts. If you know of any such artifacts that community members would be willing to donate, or loan, to the project, please email the TAHS at traversehistory@gmail.com.



If readers have other preservation concerns they would like to see addressed, please e-mail your ideas to contact@traversehistory.org

CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN HISTORY DAY!

The TAHS is continuing to utilize the Peter-tyl Fund to nurture a love of history in our area youth.

In 2018 the TAHS Peter-tyl Fund covered the fees of 8 TCAPS students who went to the State Finals. On May 29th, Larry Hains presented reimbursement checks to 6 of the 8 West Middle School students who participated in the Michigan History Day activities (2 had other commitments).

In the spring of 2020, we expect the Peter-tyl Fund will continue to support local students who choose to participate in the Historical Society of Michigan's History Day program. Middle School students who choose to work with their school's History Day mentor will have their \$25.00 registration fee for state competition (should they advance to it) paid for by the Peter-tyl Fund. Any Traverse Area students who advance to nationals also will have the \$150 registration fees covered.

As a bonus, the newly selected Superintendent, Ms. Cordon, stopped in for the first part of our ceremony.



UPCOMING TAHS MEMBER SURVEY

The TAHS Board of Directors is interested in learning more about the current organization membership, and is also wanting to get more feedback from the membership about the activities we are involved in. So, with that in mind, you can expect that over the next months you will be seeing some short surveys in your email to help us in these areas. When you see them, we simply ask that you please take a few minutes to fill them out for us so that we can hopefully improve the organization for the future.

LOCAL HISTORY ON C-SPAN!

With the support of our Charter/Spectrum cable partner, the C-SPAN's Cities Tour presented Traverse City Weekend – July 20-21. One of the segments featured our own Peg Siciliano who gave a historic tour of Traverse City.

The videos can be seen at <https://www.c-span.org/citiestour>

PETERTYL ARCHIVAL INTERNSHIPS RETURN!

We are pleased to introduce Megan Owens and Victoria Koro, who were awarded 2019 Petertyl Archival Internships at the Traverse Area District Library. This program is an exciting “resurrection” of the Petertyl Summer Internships that ran for several years when the TAHS managed the historic archives in the Carnegie Building.

Each intern earned \$500 for 40 hours of work, paid from a donation to TADL from the Traverse Area Historical Society. They were directed on site, on a volunteer basis, by former TAHS archivist Peg Siciliano, with the entire program being supervised by Librarian Amy Barritt. The interns received training in archival theory and methods, and processed several collections.

Those collections included papers of Arnell Engstrom, who served as a Republican member of the Michigan House of Representatives from 1940 to 1968, and was the co-owner of the Engstrom-Hicks Insurance Agency. He served on the Traverse City’s board of supervisors, the city commission and the local school board and was also a founding trustee of the Northwestern Michigan College. Many of the papers at TADL have to do with business transactions he had with the Oval Wood Dish Company and the Smith & Hull Company.

Other processed collections include papers of the DeYoung family farm, Clarence Anderson (mid-twentieth century Traverse City city clerk, city commissioner and mayor), and the Buttrick family.

Megan Owens currently lives in Avon, Indiana, and has spent many summers in Traverse City with her grandparents. She taught high school social studies for several years, and is preparing to attend graduate school for Public History this coming fall.

Victoria Koro graduated from Traverse City Central and currently attends Taylor University in Upland, Indiana where she is majoring in musical theater. She is also an expert seamstress who specializes in historic costuming. She

publishes a blog on her costuming activities called “History on a Budget,” which can be accessed at historyonabudget.wordpress.com. One of her long term goals is to be a Historic Interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the TAHS’ Petertyl Educational Fund that makes these internships possible. Both the Petertyl Fund and Internship are named after notable local historian Julius Petertyl. He passed away in 2007 at the age of 103, after decades of supporting local history. At that time he left a sizeable financial donation to the TAHS, a fund which the current TAHS intends to continue replenishing.



Left to Right: Victoria Koro and Megan Owens, 2019 Petertyl Archival Interns; Michele Howard, TADL Adult Services Coordinator; Peg Siciliano, TAHS Board Member and Archival Advisor

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS



Would you like to...

- Help out at the archives under the supervision of Amy Barritt, special collections librarian (see her report in this issue for possibilities)?
- Be an assistant for TAHS downtown or cemetery tours?
- Write an article about history or nature for the Grand Traverse Journal?
- Explore ways of getting local history into the schools?
- Serve on a board committee to work on such projects as newsletters, mailings, programming or maintaining the website?
- Attend TAHS board meetings to find out more about board activities and what you might do to participate?
- Consider being a program presenter at an upcoming monthly program at TADL?
- Or...do whatever job you think would be useful to the Society?

Leave an email at contact@traversehistory.org if you are interested in doing any of these things.

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