

# NEWSLETTER

# KEEP THIS FISH



*Keeping  
Island History  
Alive!*



**Marine Museum**  
Opened July 4th 1976

Wilbur Gill built this structure circa 1904 for Shing Martin, a third generation Island fisherman, who used it as a net shed, a place to hang and repair his nets.

Later, George and Martha Miller donated it to the Historical Society, which created a museum featuring pictures and stories about shipwrecks, the arduous lives of fishermen, the Island's many Captains, and the ships that docked in Paradise Bay. Exhibits include nautical equipment, fishing boats such as the *Bob S*, the last gill net fish tug to work from Paradise Bay, and a 13' WPA mural by Zoltan Sepeshy titled *Bringing in the Nets*.

— a Bicentennial Committee project —



**Fishing Village**

From the 1870s to the 1940s, the Beaver Archipelago was the center of Lake Michigan's fishing activity. Paradise Bay was full of fishing boats, docks, net sheds, net reels, fish-box mills, and ice houses. As the fish tugs returned in the late afternoon, those living in St. James could distinguish the boats by the hum of their engines.

When overfishing, the abandonment of the stocking program, and the lamprey eel decimated commercial fishing, the population of Beaver Island dropped below 200. Since then it has grown as a center for cultural arts, thanks to events such as Museum Week, Baroque on Beaver, MAD Camp, and the Music Fest, which have attracted new residents and visitors.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FALL 2016

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Hartle - President  
Mike Weede - Vice President  
Linda Wearn - Secretary  
Sandy Birdsall - Treasurer  
Mark Engelsman  
Lynne Flanagan  
John Fiegen  
Alvin LaFreniere  
Sheri Timsak  
Bobbi Welke  
Johnny Runberg

## STAFF

The Position of Director has been posted and the search committee of the Board is in the process of interviewing the candidates. When the position has been filled, we will post the name and contact information of the new director on the web site.

Administrative Assistant  
Krys Lyle

## OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Society shall be to foster the collection and preservation of materials concerning the history of Beaver Island; the dissemination of information concerning historic events and places relating to Beaver Island; the procurement and preservation of historical relics and places; the owning, leasing, furnishing and managing of historic buildings; and the purchase or construction of buildings and property in the furtherance of these purposes for which this Society is formed.

## MUSEUM HOURS

Winter - By appointment  
Print Shop Museum  
26275 Main Street  
231.448.2254  
bihistory@tds.net  
www.beaverislandhistory.org  
Marine Museum  
38105 Michigan Aveume

## THANK YOU KITTY MCNAMARA

Kitty McNamara, our Executive Director for the past two years, resigned her position effective September 15, 2016. During her tenure with the Historical Society she accomplished many objectives and expertly moved the Society forward on a progressive and positive path,

Kitty organized our Capital Campaign drive. She created and led two very successful Museum Weeks, adding several new presentations and activities each year. She also successfully negotiated a land swap which will enable the Historical Society to continue moving toward its goal of expanding the Print Shop Museum.

We at the Historical Society are extremely grateful for her leadership and efforts on behalf of the Society. Kitty is leaving the Director's position and will remain an active member of the Society.

## WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New Board member **John Fiegen** has lived on the Island for twenty two years. During that time he has held a variety of jobs and is currently the Tour Director for the Beaver Island Boat Company. He taught Political Science, Sociology and History for thirty five years before moving to the Island. On Beaver Island he has been on the School Board, The Preservation Association Board, the St. James Township Planning Board, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Currently he serves on the Library Board and as a docent at the Marine Museum. John is looking forward to being actively involved with the Historical Society.

**Roberta (Bobbi) Welke** has been a lifelong visitor to Beaver Island and seasonal resident since 2015 after retiring from the Michigan Department of Transportation after a 31-year career as a licensed professional civil engineer. She has engineering degrees from MSU and UM. She spent the last 18 years of her career as the Southwest Region Engineer in Kalamazoo, responsible for all MDOT activities in the nine southwest Michigan counties. Between 1993 and 1997 Bobbi was the design and construction project manager for the second Blue Water Bridge located between Port Huron, MI and Point Edward, Ontario. The Welke family has been visiting the island for 90 years, with Katherine (Schmidt) Welke, wife of Chuck Welke, born and raised on the island. Bobbi built her island home in the mid-1990s. She works part-time in the road/bridge construction industry as a certified dispute resolution specialist.

**Mark Engelsman** has been coming to the Island for 7 years. He and Kai Lonnie and their son Sy are now fulltime residents. Mark grew up in Grand Rapids. He has also lived in Chicago. His education was in furniture design. He worked in the museum field for 15 years. He is now a stay-at-home Dad caring for his son. He keeps busy in the summer season with his business Happy Paddle, renting kayaks, bikes and paddle boards. He is also active in community organizations and is a member of the Beaver Island School Board and the Chamber of Commerce Board.

## A TRIBUTE TO ANN COLLAR BRODER

Ann Collar Broder, a lifetime summer resident since 1929, past Historical Society Board member and one of the founders of Museum Week, died peacefully in her home in Arlington, Virginia, on Friday, September 30th. Her final resting



place will be the St. James Township cemetery. Her beloved family cottage, with views of Garden, Trout and Whiskey Islands, was the second summer home ever built on Beaver Island, by her grandparents Uriah and Ella Hoffman in 1915.

Ann was the daughter of Helen Hoffman Collar, the unofficial historian of the first Irish settlers here. Helen's research and drawings of those hearty souls are on permanent display at the Old Mormon Print Shop Museum. Both Ann and Helen were passionate, dedicated supporters of the significance of the Historical Society. In 1980, Ann, with Floss Frank and a few other inspired women established Museum Week as a cultural event and fundraiser for the BIHS. Thirty-six years later (and counting) it continues to be a centerpiece of Island summer activities. The first Museum Week featured storytelling, an author's evening, box supper and dance, art demonstrations and a slide show on Island geology.

Ann's grandfather Uriah Hoffman's classic two-person wood skiff was donated to the Marine Museum decades ago. Beautifully restored, now it's a featured part of the showcase North woods diorama at the new Beaver Island Airport. And most generously, at her direction the Broder family in 2014, while celebrating their 100th Summer here with family and friends, announced a \$25,000 gift in support of the Museum's expansion.



A memorial service for Ann is being held in November in Arlington. The family has designated the BIHS as a suggested beneficiary in lieu of flowers. A Celebration of Life will be held on the Island next summer.

## Capital Campaign Still Seeking Donations & Volunteers

The campaign has had two successful "House Party" fund raisers. This year's Party at John McCafferty's barn was lots of fun and the music and dancing were enjoyed by the audience. Ed Palmer's playing brought back wonderful memories to many who attended. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

Progress on the campaign also includes achieving a land swap with Roger Sommer, who owned the land adjacent to the Print Shop, land that would facilitate the Historical Society's plans to add to the Print Shop Museum. Thanks to the generosity of Jon and Sally Fogg who bought the corner property at Donegal Bay Road and Kings Hwy and helped the Society reduce payments for the property and attain clear title.

In 2016, the Society was able to make repairs to the Print Shop, new doors, new windows, and painting the exterior, all a prelude to a museum addition.

We have all heard from people who love the quaint print shop museum and don't know why we need an addition. Here is why:

1. The current building is not:
  - A. temperature and climate controlled, a must for preserving artifacts and books.
  - B. Large enough to expand our displays.
  - C. Cannot provide an adequate toilet facility for visitors and volunteers.
  - D. The building has no insulation and only a small baseboard heater in the office.
  - E. Our volunteers, who are extremely dedicated, have to work in very cold conditions when the weather is bad.
2. There is so much we have planned to do to improve the museum that can not be done in the existing space:
  - A. Develop a small theater space which will allow us to tell the stories of Beaver Island to visitors
  - B. Develop a genealogy room where residents and visitors can trace their heritage.
  - C. Create space for travelling exhibits.
  - D. Exhibit more of the artifacts we have but don't have room to show.
3. The current building is not in good condition. The roof leaks, the floors in part of the building are not stable and are sinking.
4. Finally, Beaver Island has an amazing cultural history of Indians, Mormons, and Irish settlers. It also has an important natural history.

Beaver Island's History is so unique that a New and Updated Museum would be a tremendous attraction for visitors. Beaver Island has a great history and should have a Great Museum.

The plan for the New Museum of Island Life is available at the Print Shop and Marine Museum.

Stop and take a look. The plans were done in conjunction with the Historical Society and with help from a Museum Planning and Design Firm.

Want to help? Volunteer to Serve on the Capital Campaign Committee. Call the Print Shop at 448-2254 and leave your name and number and desire to be part of this exciting project and we will call you back.

## REMEMBERING JOYCE BARTELS

The Print Shop Museum felt empty this year. No Joyce to answer questions, fill in for an absent docent, or chat while working along side her.

\*\*Joyce sent letters at Christmas to her family detailing various years of her life, her history. The quotes are from these letters.



Ellen Kuligoski said that Joyce was super smart. We saw that every day at the Print Shop when she knew details about people of the past, their families, how they made a living and where their house was located.

But Joyce's intelligence wasn't limited to the island. She graduated June 9, 1943 as valedictorian of her class. The war interrupted her education and she went to work as a clerk typist at the Fisher-Body Tank Plant. She worked there from 1943 till VJ day August 1945.

"Sometime during those years a friend joined some kind of government training program that was held at Purdue University. Her letters telling about that college really intrigued me and I became very interested in attending their engineering school. When I received the application, I found I was missing some required subjects. About four weeks before the end of the first semester in 1945, I returned to Grand Blanc H.S. to make up the Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry." She made learning subjects sound so easy.

She entered Purdue as one of two women in her Engineering class. During her first year – in her own words - "One project was to lay out a road across a golf course. We used a level, a transit and a plane table alidade along with the surveyor's poles and chain. I learned to coil up the chain and snap it into the two small circles for carrying and storage just like the fellows did."

On July 9, 1948 she married Harold Bartels. After the birth of three children, Elizabeth, Karl and Amy they became the focus of her life. She gave herself over to motherhood. To her children, she was Mama.

There was some drama involved about her first trip to the island in August of 1960. She and the children were going to visit Phil and Lill Gregg. They arrived for the late crossing but instead saw the coast guard towing in the ferry. And to their surprise and shock, the Greggs on that boat. They had come over to get their chauffeur's licenses. The Boat Co. sent for a diesel mechanic and if he could fix it, they would depart at 6 a.m. the next morning.

"Some of the passengers left to find lodging, but we decided to stay there. (on the boat) The captain, Laurence McDonough gave blankets to Lillian and me, we set up the playpen we had brought along for Amy in the small cabin. Elizabeth and Karl

rolled out their sleeping bags on the seats in the big cabin and we spent the night.

The engine was repaired and we did leave at 6:00 a.m. I don't remember much about the trip except the lake was smooth and the sun was shining brightly. We entered Beaver Harbor just as the church bells were ringing. What a wonderful first sight of St. James."

At that time they did not have a house on the island. Instead they camped. Having the care of three children on the island, cooking and preparing meals, washing clothes, didn't seem to faze Joyce. At first they lived in a big tent, then later bought a Railart camper. "At least the bed was off the ground. We began to acquire more equipment which made meal preparation and sleeping a little easier." They continued to camp and bought the land for their future home in 1961 and started building it in 1964. Her present home was purchased in 1974.

How did she gain the knowledge about the island? It can partially be explained by the following. Lillian Gregg and a partner were running a tour business. "They needed someone for a tour. I rode along with Lillian in the taxi and listened to what she told people. The next day, I gave a tour."

"I had started learning all I could of the Island's history. I read all the books that had been printed and if someone asked a question I couldn't answer, I did my best to find the answer. I talked to Mary "Bert" McDonough, Liz Lafreniere and Mary Minor, Archie Lafreniere, Johnny Andy Gallagher, Don and Lil Cole and others."

It is difficult to pinpoint when Joyce started volunteering at the Historical Society but there are tapes of her interviewing islanders in 1988. Therefore, using that vague date, Joyce volunteered for the museum for at least 25 years. And when looking around her office, one can see how her love of history prevailed. There are file cabinets and binders full of historical records, photos, family genealogies, and more – all dutifully recorded. She worked with Ruth Kelly on exhibits and was computer savvy. She recruited all the volunteer docents for years. Describing what she did on a daily basis would be impossible, as she did a little bit of everything and was the glue that kept the museum going.



# Veteran's Day November 11, 2016

In this issue, we honor the Beaver Islanders who served in World War II, five of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice.

## Beaver Islanders' who died in service to our country:

**PFC ROBERT BELFY**, US Army paratrooper of the 101st Airborne Division, killed on March 24, 1945 on the Rhine River at age 19.

**S/SGT THOMAS EMMETT BURKE** was a US Army Air Force B-17 radio operator and gunner in the 709th Bomber Squadron. His plane was shot down on June 29, 1944, in a bombing mission off the docks in Hamburg Germany, killing Burke at age 30. The rest of the crew was able to parachute to safety. He is buried in Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.

**PVT HUBERT GREEN** was in the US Army Air Force, he died January 29, 1944, at age 19 from Spinal Meningitis while at training camp in Utah.

**SEAMAN 2nd CLASS JAMES FRANCIS NEER**, US Navy was killed on May 1, 1945 at age 19, off of Okinawa when his ship was hit by a kamikaze. James was the only casualty on the ship during the attack.

**PFC EDWARD WOJAN**, US Army, 259th Regiment, 65th Infantry Division, was killed March 19, 1945 at Saarlautern, Germany at age 25.

## Beaver Islanders who served during WWII noted by family name:

**Belfy:** Chet Belfy; Erwin Belfy, US Navy assigned to the Pacific (Note: Erwin & Archie LaFreniere met in Mondo Bay in 1943, 7,000 miles from Beaver Island); John (Delbert) Belfy, US Navy assigned to the Atlantic; and Merrill Belfy

**Boyle:** Dan Boyle; and Owen Boyle, US Army

**Burke:** Francis Burke; and Jack (John) Burke, US Army Sergeant, Transportation Corps and Harbor Craft Company

**Cull:** Betty Cull, US Army, Lieutenant, Nurse Corps (the only Beaver Island woman to serve); and Raymond Cull, US Navy, Aircraft mechanic, assigned to the Pacific/Pearl Harbor

**Gallagher:** Andy "Mary Ellen" Gallagher, US Lightship; Daniel Emerald Gallagher, Merchant Marines; Earl Gallagher, US Army, Captain, Engineers, assigned to build air bases in England and Engineer headquarters in charge of the map depot, Awards: European, African and Middle Eastern theater ribbon, American Defense Medal, American Victory Medal, Citation from French Council General for Service; Edward Gallagher; Francis Gallagher; James Gallagher, US Coast Guard; Johnny Andy Gallagher, US Coast Guard; Leo "Saucer" Gallagher, US Navy; Norm Gallagher; US Army; and Peter Gallagher; US Army Airforce, Lester Gallagher, US Army.

**Gatliff:** Joseph (Corneil) Gatliff, US Army, Company E of the 330th Engineers, Engineer and Truck Driver Tech 5, assigned to Burma and China; Paul Patrick (Danny) Gatliff, US Navy, Petty Officer, 2nd Class, Machinist Mate, USS RE Coontz Troop Transport, assigned the Pacific/Asiatic theatre; and Robert Gatliff, US Army Air Force, Aircraft mechanic assigned in the states

**Gillespie:** Daniel Gillespie, US Marine Corps, assigned to the Pacific; and Girard Gillespie, US Army;

**Green(e):** Andrew "Foggy" Greene, Merchant Marine; Daniel Green, Merchant Marine; and Daniel Green, US Army, 703rd Engineer Petroleum Distribution Unit, Pump Operator Tech 4, assigned to North Africa, Europe, Italy, Po Valley headquarters in charge of the map depot, Awards: European, African and Middle Eastern theater ribbon, American Defense Medal, American Victory Medal, Citation from French Council General for Service; Edward Gallagher; Francis Gallagher; James Gallagher, US Coast Guard; Johnny Andy Gallagher, US Coast Guard; Leo Saucer Gallagher, US Navy; Norm Gallagher; Peter Gallagher; and Father Victor Gallagher



**LaFreniere:** Daniel “Archie” LaFreniere, US Navy, Smoke Screen Tech, assigned to the invasion of Lingayon Gulf in the Philippines; and Joseph M. (Bussy) LaFreniere, US Army Sgt in the 107th Infantry, duty as a non-commissioned officer, assistant platoon leader assigned to Europe, Tunisian, Sicilian, Rome Arno

**Martin:** Richard Martin, US Army; and Robert Martin, US Army infantry, assigned to Europe, during the Battle of the Bulge he lost an eye and sustained a leg injury

**McCafferty:** Arthur “Lano” McCafferty, US Army, Engineer Unit, assigned to Alaska; Francis McCafferty, US Navy; and John (Bing) McCafferty, US Navy, assigned to the Atlantic Ocean

**McCann:** Alrod McCann, Merchant Marine; Charles McCann, US Army National Guard, assigned stateside; Edwin McCann, Merchant Marine; James E. McCann, US Army Infantry; James O. McCann, US Army Air Corps (Note: James O’s cousin James E was drafted by mistake. James E was discharged and James O took his place.); John G. McCann, US Army Air Force, Lt Col pilot and civil engineer in an anti-submarine squad. He flew 25 missions out of California and Tinian Island in the Pacific. John served in Korea and Vietnam; John Roland McCann Jr., US Marines; and Robert McCann, US Navy

**O’Donnell:** Bernard O’Donnell, US Army; Billy O’Donnell, US Navy; Joe O’Donnell, US Army; US Army Air Force; and Francis O’Donnell, US Army

**Ricksgrs:** George S. Ricksgrs, US Army, assigned to the Pacific, Australia, Philippines, and the Army Occupation of Japan; Henry Ricksgrs, US Army Air Force, assigned to India; Joe Ricksgrs, US Marine Corps; Robert Ricksgrs, US Army Infantry, assigned to Europe; and Roger Ricksgrs, US Army

**Wojan:** Leo Wojan, US Army; Ted F. Wojan; and Walt Wojan, assigned to Australia, New Guinea, and Okinawa

#### **Other Beaver Islanders who served during WWII:**

**Sgt. John Connaghan**, US Army, Tech 4, assigned to Europe; **Fred Korthase; Art Lewis, Robert Malloy, Jack O’Regan; Preston Ott; Charles Pischner, Raymond Smith; Charles Wabinimkee, Archie Washagesic;** and **James Willis**, US Army, assigned to New Guinea and the Philippines **Robert Delaney; L.N. Ditlesfen; James (Buster) Elms**, US Coast Guard;

Beaver Islanders who served at home: Five women produced a monthly publication from Beaver Island for BEAVER ISLANDERS serving in World War II. The monthly publication THE RUSHIN NEWS, published 30 issues until the end of the war. By that time they were sending 300 copies to Islanders and non-Islanders who requested copies. The five women behind the publication were Margaret Lyneh, Mary Fox, Rita Vallier, Marion Rick, and Kay Partney. They were assisted by Eleanor Herrington, Helen Patrick and Joanne Spalding.

This information came from a publication, Charlevoix County’s Contribution to World War II, Volume II, compiled by George Thomas Lasater. This book notes some difficulty in reporting on some Beaver Island personnel because of their use of middle names as a person’s predominate name.

Please share with the Beaver Island Historical Society any additions or corrections to the information given. We salute all the World War II Veterans and especially those that gave their full measure for our freedom.





## AN EXPLANATION

As you can see from the membership form below, the Historical Society Board has voted to increase the dollar amount and renamed several of the membership categories. The membership costs have not been increased for almost 20 years.

The reason for this change is:

- 1} Increased costs of operating and maintaining our aging facilities

The increase is aimed at moving the Historical Society into the future and to ensure preservation of and our history and artifacts.

ALL MEMBERSHIPS RUN FROM JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31 OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR. YOU MAY ALSO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE! PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT (231) 448-2254.

We would like to help the Beaver Island Historical Society in its mission of ***Keeping Island History Alive*** by becoming members at the indicated level:

Student/Senior \$25.00  Individual \$35.00  Couple \$50.00

Family \$100.00  Sustaining \$250.00  Corporate \$750.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 263  
Beaver Island, MI 49782  
bihistory@tds.net  
231.448.2254  
www.beaverislandhistory.org



## WHAT AND WHERE ON BEAVER ISLAND WAS THIS?

Be the first to identify this old building on Beaver Island Michigan and be eligible to win a item from the Beaver Island Historical Society's gift shop. Please call the BIHS Print Shop at 231-448-2254 and leave your name, number, date and time you called or or email [bihistory@tds.net](mailto:bihistory@tds.net), as well as identify the building - what was this old 'historic' building and where was it located. The first correct caller will be contacted about their prize and recognized in BIHS' Spring Newsletter.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

# MUSEUM WEEK 2017

JULY 16 - JULY 22

