



PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

Volume 3 Issue 3

We Are Open and Welcome Our Visitors!



The Marine Museum and the Print Shop Museum are open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 11am - 5pm
Protar's House is open for touring Wednesdays 1-3pm.



Summer 2020



Director's Note

Greetings to members and friends of the Beaver Island Historical Society. As I sit here contemplating what to share with you, the shadow of COVID is ever present. But it is only a shadow. Our summer may not be what we planned, but there are great things happening behind the scenes. I am thankful for the various COVID grants we received. These funds are helping us to fill in the budget gaps created from reduced tourism, shortened museum hours, and paused donations. COVID slowed our progress on the construction due to shutdowns, but it also extended our timeline to plan more thoughtful and engaging exhibits!

I am excited to tell you about an extraordinary donation of a period-appropriate PRINTING PRESS! The press is a Chandler and Price Platen Press with a patent date of June 10, 1899. While it is not the exact press the Strangites used to publish the Northern Islander it is similar to presses of the period. A complete print case was also donated with drawers full of various letters and fonts.

This generous gift was donated by Jamie McDonough, second generation owner of Johnston's Printing in Escanaba, MI. Jamie is related to the Beaver Island McDonough's through Valentine (Val) "Red" McDonough who moved off Beaver Island in the 1920s. Jamie's father James (Jim) McDonough purchased a print shop in Escanaba. Since then the business has passed through two generations.

In March 2020 the Beaver Islander ferry was sent to Basic Marine in Escanaba for maintenance. The stars aligned and the printing press floated over to its new island home when the ferry returned.

The Society asked Karl Bartels to clean up the machine and removed a large wheel of the press so it could fit through the door of the museum. Once the press is set in place, the wheel will be replaced. He did an awesome job – thanks, Karl!

During the construction of the new addition the original log and chink wall was uncovered and identified itself as the perfect spot for the press. It will be displayed in the original Print Shop building.

Kindest Regards,
Lori Taylor-Blitz



(L) Karl Bartels at the Heritage Park working on the Printing Press. (R) The west wall in the Print Shop proper. Recently the original wall was uncovered and naturally identified itself as the perfect spot for the Printing Press. Photo Credit: Beaver Island Historical Society.

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Society is to preserve and share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Vision Statement:

The Society will share the unique historical stories of the Archipelago through the renovated and expanded museum properties.

Board Members 2020

- Mark Engelsman - President
- Mike Weede - Vice President
- Roberta Welke - Treasurer
- Maeve Greene - Secretary
- Vincent Ebersoldt - Trustee
- John Fiegen - Trustee
- Dick McEvoy - Trustee
- Larissa McGinnity - Trustee
- Tracy Paquin - Trustee
- Sheri Timsak - Trustee
- Craig Turnbull - Trustee
- Alan Vicstein - Trustee
- Angel Welke - Trustee
- Alvin LaFreniere - Hon. Trustee
- Doug Hartle - Hon. Trustee
- John Runberg - Hon. Trustee

- Lori Taylor-Blitz - Exec. Director
- Sharolynne Hunter - Adm. Assistant
- Elsie Burton - Intern
- Matthew Swarthout - Intern

Museum Properties

- Print Shop 231•448•2254
- Marine Museum 231•448•2479
- Protar Home Sloptown Rd
- Heritage Park Donegal Bay Rd
- Beaver Island Historical Society
- PO Box 263
- Beaver Island, MI 49782

BIHS Newsletter designed by
Melinda Hill & Tim Schulte

MPS Isle du Castor

Are you familiar with this site? This is an archaeology term used to identify the Mormon Print Shop. Known by many names throughout the years the Print Shop building has also been called; the Gibson Boarding House, the Post Office, the Shoe Shop, and the Barbershop.

Thank you for your patience this year as we all adjust to the reality of the pandemic. Like many organizations, most of our events are canceled and some events are now virtual. Construction of our Print Shop addition was delayed by a Covid-related work stoppage but is now back on track. The 40th anniversary of Museum week is on hold until next summer.

We are moving forward securing funds through grant opportunities. We love our members and hope you will be able to continue supporting the Historical Society by renewing your membership or joining our organization. Our membership application is on the back page.

Some interesting events are still scheduled and we hope you can participate.

- We are offering cemetery walks and talks on alternate Sunday afternoons. These are narrated by family members at both island cemeteries at 11:30am. On August 9, and 23 at Holy Cross Cemetery and Sept 6 at the Township Cemetery.
- The restored Sepeshy mural returns to the island

Archaeological Artifacts from Beaver Island on Display at the Print Shop Museum!

Some of you know that Northern Michigan University archaeology students have been excavating at digs around the Island for several years. The students excavated at the Print Shop, Protar's House, Coles Bay Fishing Village, the Burke/Egbert Farmstead, and French Bay. These excavations allow the students to develop a timeline of events, life styles, habits and progress on the island. Two classes are still working on this project. Under the leadership of Dr. Scott Demel, the students in the Museum's Study and Archeological programs gain valuable experience. Mary Simmons, Dr. Demel's assistant, said that even though they won't make it back this year, the students are busy putting together several exhibits from previous excavations on the island. Their work will be on display in the expanded Print Shop Museum when it opens. Some of the exhibits will be permanent, but some will rotate because there are so many artifacts to show you!

Example, pictured right is an individual hot-metal letter from the Mormon printing press that was found by the students.



Several of the artifacts uncovered, most likely used only by Protar, will be on display along with explanatory posters. We are keeping this under

wraps until you come see this rare find, used by our beloved Protar.

mid-August. We are excited to host a virtual 3-way conversation with the artist who restored the mural, the president of Cranbrook Collections and our BIHS Director on August 9, 3-4:30pm. Check our website for registration information.

- We also have a geocache tour set up. If you would like to participate in the geocache event or learn more about it, check out the geocaching.com web site and sign up for a free account. In general, geocaching is a type of treasure hunt. You are searching for a container hidden at specific coordinates. Inside the container is a log to sign and you then confirm your find through the website or app.
- August 1, 11-1pm is a Protar walk. After Protar died in 1925, the islanders honored him every year by walking to his house from town or from his house to his tomb. This continued until the 1950s. We are walking the short mile from his house to his tomb....not from town! If you are on the Island come learn more about our beloved and mysterious doctor from the past.

Cookbook & Products Online

We have created an extensive catalog of products available on our website. If you are unable to make it to the island this summer or are looking for that unique Island gift for someone we encourage you to visit our webstore at Beaverislandhistory.org



Welcome our interns!

Elsie Burton is a permanent resident who graduated from the Beaver Island School this spring. She will be attending Michigan Tech in the fall. She enjoys interacting with the guests and islanders that come to the Print Shop Museum.

At the Marine Museum you are likely to run into Matthew Swarhout. A Sophomore at Kalamazoo College he has returned to us this year for his second summer on the island as an intern.

We welcome our interns and hope that through their positions they grow and gain knowledge that they will carry into their future endeavors.

New members on the Board of Trustees

Some of our board members will be stepping down or timing out of their positions. Elections for vacant positions will be coming up in mid-August. New candidates for the trustee openings are: Joe Callian, Dick Mulvihill, and Jackie LaFreniere.

We thank the "retiring" trustees John Fiegen, Dick McEvoy, and Mike Weede. Their devoted service to the Historical Society can never be repaid. We are fortunate that all three will continue to use their talents and stay active in the society.



PO BOX 263
 BEAVER ISLAND, MI 49782
 231•448•2254

BIHS Preserving and Sharing the Unique History of Beaver Island and the Archipelago

Admission

Your Free-Will Donations are Appreciated



beaverislandhistory.org

Hours & Contact Information

August Hours Only, Please Call for Fall Appointments

Print Shop Museum 231•448•2254 26275 Main St

Wed, Fri, Sat — 11am - 5pm

Marine Museum 231•448•2479 38105 Michigan Ave

Wed, Fri, Sat — 11am - 5pm

Protar Home Sloptown Rd

Wed — 1-3pm

Heritage Park - Daily - Donegal Bay Rd



MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31

Become a BIHS member and enjoy and preserve the Island History! Members enjoy free admission to the Print Shop and Marine Museum, special discounts on Museum Merchandise and a one-year subscription to the BIHS newsletter. (BIHS is a 501C (3) non-profit organization, and your contribution may qualify as a charitable contribution)

- Individual \$35 Senior/Student \$25 Couple \$50 Family \$100
- Sustaining \$250 Benefactor \$500 Corporate \$750 DONATION \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Amount: _____ CK# _____

Please make check payable to: BIHS
 Mail to: Beaver Island Historical Society
 PO Box 263, Beaver Island, MI 49782