



# PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

Volume 3 Issue 4

WOW! What a Space, What a Place.

We look forward to seeing you  
when we open in the spring.

Save the date:  
MUSEUM WEEK 2021 July 18- 24 2021



Fall 2020



## Director's Note

Happy Holidays to members and friends of the Beaver Island Historical Society. I would like to personally thank each of you for your continued support. 2020 has certainly been a year with abundant surprise. The beginning of the season looked dismal. But our interns and docents showed up and did a fantastic job! The reduced museum hours and increased cleaning services were a challenge, in addition to the uncertainty, "are we doing enough to keep our island safe?"

One thing I have discovered, COVID is an opportunity to rethink how tourism interacts with communities and their economic sectors. For example, Beaver Island saw a steady flow of visitors traveling to the island to embrace solitude and enjoy the natural resources of our beautiful island. In 2020, data gathered from the local business community demonstrated the public's desire to safely engage in outdoor recreation.

Based on these results, the Historical Society partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and submitted a grant that (if funded) will shift the paradigm of our museum model beyond our walls. It will place more interpretive signage around our island, both on and off the trails and produce a new mobile app that will benefit the entire island economy. Visitors will enjoy a cultural experience in a COVID-safe environment by being outdoors, whether it's enjoying the historical walking tour in town, hiking the trails, or biking or driving a new historical tour with interpretive signs. These are just a few of the grant objectives.

Another COVID outcome was a redirection of our efforts away from public events which allows us to spend more time developing exhibits, organizing collections and focusing on new grant opportunities. Hopefully, next summer we can have more of a traditional summer, but if not, we are more confident about hosting virtual programming and embracing our visitors from a safe social distance. Please stay safe, I wish you good health in the New Year and look forward to your visit next season.

Kindest Regards,  
Lori Taylor-Blitz



### 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

Angel Welke - President  
Tracy Paquin - Vice President  
Roberta Welke - Treasurer  
Maeve Green - Secretary  
Joe Calian - Trustee  
Vincent Ebersoldt - Trustee  
Mark Engelsman - Trustee  
Jacque LaFreniere - Trustee  
Larissa McGinnity - Trustee  
Dick Mulvihill - Trustee  
Sheri Timsak - Trustee  
Craig Turnbull - Trustee  
Alan Vicstein - Trustee  
Alvin LaFreniere - Hon. Trustee  
Doug Hartle - Hon. Trustee

Lori Taylor-Blitz - Exec. Director  
Sharolyn Hunter - Adm. Assistant

### 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  
[beaverislandhistory.org](http://beaverislandhistory.org)

BIHS Newsletter designed by  
Melinda Hill & Tim Schulte

Over the summer our front offices were remodeled. The floors were sanded and clear coated, the walls painted, and the spaces refurnished with Steelcase pieces.

## **Hello From Your New President**

2020 certainly has been an interesting year! Beaver Island experienced many changes this year. For me, one of the highlights was the day I walked into the museum front door after the mural arrived. To stand in the original building, next to the Native America basket display, facing the hand hewn lumber from the Mormon era, looking at the circa 1940 WPA mural "Hauling in the Net" hanging in the new museum — I was simply stunned! It is beautiful. The completion of this addition is one of the most exciting and encouraging events to happen on Beaver Island this summer. While the pandemic provided challenges to sharing this new addition there have been opportunities to see the completed project and view the progress on social media. It is our hope that in spring 2021 we can host the grand opening event this amazing new space deserves.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lori Taylor-Blitz, the Beaver Island Historical Society Board of Directors past and present, McDonough Construction, and all who donated to the project to make the addition a reality. Thank you so much for your contribution, hard work, and vision to create this amazing addition to Beaver Island.

Many people have asked: "What is next?" We would like to complete much needed upgrades to the original museum building (also known as the "post office"). The historical society board has prioritized these projects as follows:

- Repair / upgrade outdated electrical service
- Add electric heat (this area is currently unheated)
- Insulate all possible areas of the building for greater energy / heat efficiency
- Repair all damaged / rotted /unsafe flooring
- Resurface flooring (or replace flooring if damage/ rotted areas are too extensive)
- Repair all unsafe flooring in second story

Most of these repairs are safety related. We estimate the price to complete all this work is approximately \$35,000. This summer, Lori Taylor-Blitz applied for and received an \$8,000 grant from the Charlevoix Community Foundation for the work on the floor. In early 2021 we are going to apply for a Great Lakes Energy People Fund grant for the electrical improvements and electric heat. There are several other grants we are going to pursue as well over the coming months with a goal of paying for up to 75% of these project costs with grant funding.

Another question I am asked frequently is "are you going to ask for more money from the people of Beaver Island?" My answer to this is, "No, not right now and not in the near future." The economic fallout of COVID is huge and far reaching. I am not in favor of asking for additional funding for these projects during these trying times. We are only going to undertake projects we can afford or projects funded by grants. We have prioritized the projects so we can undertake them as we have the funds available.

Although the Historical Society is not asking the community for additional money this year, I want to emphasize that your membership is important and is a significant part of our revenue. Annual memberships account for 25% of our annual budget. We are fortunate that our Executive Director is successful procuring grant monies, but the foundation we build on is your membership and generous donations.

Now is the time to renew your annual membership with the BIHS. On the back cover of this newsletter is a membership form. Thank you in advance for renewing your membership in BIHS.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of this information in greater detail, please call me (231 448 2374 home) or e-mail me ([angel@islandairways.com](mailto:angel@islandairways.com)).

Angel Welke  
President  
BIHS Board of Directors

### **Cookbook & Products Online**

We have created an extensive catalog of products available on our website. If you were unable to make it to the island this year or are looking for that unique Island gift for someone, we encourage you to visit our webstore at [beaverislandhistory.org](http://beaverislandhistory.org)



**This is a perfect time to order your BIHS Holiday Gifts!**



April 13, 1949

Election day on the Island placed in office two new Justices; Fred Spalding and Vernon LaFreniere. Road Commissioner, an office dusted off and rejuvenated this election, was won by Pat LaFreniere.

Pat made no pre-election promises, but since he's in, he's casting glances around for improvements. Voters marked their ballots in two new election booths set up in the Parish Hall. A certain truck owned by a local candidate had been put into use to transport voters to and from the polls on election day. During the afternoon, something went wrong with the starter, so Tom Gatliff was called into service. Under the truck with his head as far up into the motor as possible, opposition forces saw a good chance to play a trick on Tom and at the same time slow down operations. Cautiously, the valves on the rear tires were loosened and BOOM! down went the truck and WHOOPS! up went Tom's head into a space too close for comfort. Getting Tom extricated took some maneuvering, according to Johnny Green, who engineered the maneuver. Withal Tom got the starter fixed, the tires refilled and said candidate won the election.



Protar's horse "Harry" taken 1896-8  
original print probably from the plate  
(about 1920), from the Protar home or  
from the Bouwer family  
A.P. Rice



# The Daily Northern Islander

## SPECIAL EDITION

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VOL. I – NO. 1: BEAVER ISLAND, LAKE MICHIGAN,  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020

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# PRINT SHOP EXPANSION!

The oldest part of this building was built in 1850 by followers of James Strang who led a group of Mormons to Beaver Island in 1846. Self-proclaimed “King” Strang printed a daily newspaper here until 1856. After the Mormons left the island this building housed several businesses including a boarding house, a post office, and a cobbler shop. In 1957 a group of citizens saved the building from demolition and created the Beaver Island Historical Society which still owns and operates the Print Shop Museum.

The front porch was replaced Fall 2018-Spring 2019. The Print Shop addition was completed Fall 2020 and new exhibits will be installed for our 2021 season. The original Print Shop building will be refurbished, in keeping with its historic value, Winter 2021.

Initial funding for our expansion came from the George and Joanne Bisbee Trust and other Beaver Island benefactors. Generous on-going support comes from Society members, residents, and visitors.

## IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE:

### ARCHITECT, CONTRACTOR, CONSTRUCTION OVERSITE

*Ebersoldt + Associates Architecture:*

*Vincent W. Ebersoldt*

*McDonough Construction, Inc:*

*Kevin B. McDonough*

*Construction Engineer:*

*Roberta S. Welke*

### FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

*Charlevoix County Community Foundation*

*Cranbrook Institute of Art: Gregory M. Wittkopp*

*Great Lakes Energy People Fund*

*Hunting Foundation: Alan & Cynthia Hunting*

*Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs*

*Michigan Humanities Council*

*National Endowment for the Arts*

### MAJOR SUPPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

*The George and Joanne Bisbee Trust*

*Raymond and Priscilla Becker, in memory of Philip Becker*

*Ann Broder and sons George, Josh, Matt, and Mike*

*Vincent W. Ebersoldt*

*The Henry L. Hill Estate*

*The Hunting Family*

*Raymond and Anne Stanhope*

*The Taxpayers of Peaine Township*

*The Taxpayers of St. James Township*

### BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

*Executive Directors: Bill Cashman, Kitty McNamara, and Lori Taylor-Blitz*

### Welcome to Our New Space! Come In and See What's on Display

#### Sybil Tilley Larsen's Friendship Quilt

as noted by Joyce Bartels in 2005

According to Sybil's daughter, Doris, Sybil bought the pieces of material in a kit from Sears Roebuck and started collecting the blocks in 1933. She continued until at least 1935. When someone visited, she would ask them to write their name on one of the pieces of material. She would then embroider the signature and sew the block into the quilt top she was making. Around 1984, Doris added filling and backing and completed the quilt. Doris wanted the Beaver Island Historic Society to have this treasure, but felt it was too valuable to be mailed or sent UPS, so insisted it be picked up and delivered by someone coming directly to the Island. Jean Carpenter was that person. When Jean drove her granddaughter back to Holland after her visit in the summer of 2005, Jean stopped to see Doris. Doris entrusted the quilt to Jean who brought it back to Beaver Island and gave it to Joyce Bartels, BIHS volunteer archivist.

Following is the list of names we were able to find and decipher: Flora Adams 1933 • Ella Alden

Margaret Anderson • Shirley Ashdon (Coast Guard)

Freda Bamhart

Mae Barnhart

Alice Belfy

Sylvia Bennett

10-22-35 (Coast Guard?)

Edna Mae Belfy

Emma Boyle

Irene Boyle

Helen Collar

Leona Erickson

Evelyn Forshee • Dr. Raymond Somer (in same square)

Edith Gallagher • Elizabeth Gallagher • Kitty Gallagher

Marquerite Gallagher • Lillian Gallagher • Lizzie Gallagher

Christine Gowman • Marian D. Gowman (Christina Larsen's mother-in-law) • David (Gowman, Christina Larsen's son)

Rae Gilden • Stella Greene • Mary Grosskopf

Ella Hoffman • Lorraine Johnson • Donna Kinne

Emily Kinne • Doris C. Larsen • Sybil Larsen 1933

Irene Ludwig (Coast Guard) • Ada Martin • Marion Martin

Nellie Martin • Rosamund Martin • Annie McCann

Ethel McCann • Mary G. MacDonald • Ann Mielke

Mary Miller Oct. 30/35 • Dorothy Morcher

Mary E. O'Donnell • Suzanne Palmer • Evelyn Pischner

Alice Poulin • Mayme Rouch • Della Stover • Irene Schiele

Myrtle Stafford • G. Irene Tilley July '33

Emma Tilley 1934 • Katherine Tilley • Winnie VanErkle

Emma Vandenberg • Harriet VanderBerg 12-3-1933







**HELEN COLLAR  
A GOOD FRIEND  
OF THE IRISH**

The framed drawings on the wall in front of you reflect a portion of Helen Collar's incredible work through the



years documenting the history of Beaver Island's early Irish settlers.

Helen Hoffman Collar was born on January 4, 1902 and died on January 9, 1996. This outstanding island historian first visited the island in 1915 with her parents and sister. Her family built one of the early island vacation homes. She studied geology as her major at the University of Chicago and began working in the Texas oil fields in the 1920s. Widowed while in her 30s with two small children, she supported them with the income from their Indiana farm. It was said on the island that summer truly started when Helen arrived.

Daily afternoon tea was held at various homes of island matriarchs and survivors of early settlers. She documented their memories of storms and illnesses, of weddings and births, of celebrations and scandals. Helen created these sensitive sketches from faded family photographs and verified the accuracy of the likeness with her teatime sources.

In the winter, she would check out this anecdotal history against immigration, land records, and census documents. She visited the National Archives and ...

**...For the rest of this fascinating story, stop by in 2021. We'll look forward to seeing you!**

## Our Amazing Volunteers—Want To Be One?

The definition of VOLUNTEER is a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. Throughout this newsletter you read about people who are essential to the Beaver Island Historical Society and its' growth; our Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, Contractors and donors. But, the Beaver Island Historical Society literally could not function without our volunteers. This past summer saw a group of people freely take part in an enterprise that included following Covid protocol and requiring it of others, all while continuing to engage the public in Beaver Island history. Over 1000 people visited each of our museums and toured Protar's Home even though we were open less than full time. Everything went smoothly, no one got sick and history was shared. What an amazing job they did!

Have you considered volunteering for our Society? There is a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. Our new Print Shop Museum will need an additional docent most days. We would like our museums to be open some evening hours and deeper into Fall. Both lighthouses will be staffed occasionally. Protar's Home is very popular and could be open more often. Plus, many behind the scenes volunteers are needed. Newsletter and newspaper articles to be written. Setting up for events. Artifacts to sort. New interpretive signs to be placed. Volunteer once a month or once a day. The sky's the limit!

You'll hear more later this winter about volunteering with us, but consider trying us out! It is work, but we have a lot of fun!

Operations Chair Tracy Paquin

## Joyce and John Runberg

The Beaver Island Historical Society sadly acknowledges the death of Joyce and John Runberg this summer. Joyce and John were icons in our community and long-term supporters of the Historical Society. They both gave of their time as docents at our museums, Joyce at the Print Shop and John at his beloved Marine Museum.

For years, Joyce's warm smile and kind welcome greeted and engaged visitors at the Print Shop. John was integral to the birth of the Marine Museum and many of his lake-going ancestors are featured there. Visitors loved hearing his stories about his father and grandfather. John was also on the Board of Trustees for decades and was made an Honorary Trustee in 2018.

They will both be missed.





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](http://beaverislandhistory.org)

### Contact Information

#### Print Shop Museum

231•448•2254 • 26275 Main St

#### Marine Museum

231•448•2479 • 38105 Michigan Ave

Protar Home Sloptown Rd

Heritage Park 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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

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Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Join and/or Donate online at [beaverislandhistory.org](http://beaverislandhistory.org)  
or

CK# \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: BIHS

Mail to: Beaver Island Historical Society, PO Box 263, Beaver Island, MI 49782