

BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

P.O. Box 336
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

info@baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org

Board of Directors

-Leann Despotes
President

-Suzanne Bauldry
Vice-president

-Marianne Newton
Secretary

-Mary Moran
Treasurer

-Roy Cole

-Philip Graupner
-Nancy Rafal

-Howard Williamson

Town Board Liaison

-Roberta Thelen
Newsletter Editor

-Leann Despotes

Visit us at
The Toft House
8061 Highway 57
*

Enjoy our
Historic Display Cases

Baileys Harbor
Town Hall
2392 Cty Road F
*

On the Web
www.baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org
*

Find us on 

Baileys Harbor
Historical Society



Lost Baileys Harbor:
This pier reached out into Baileys Harbor at the foot of County Highway F. Learn more on page 2.

WINTER & SPRING

For BHHS and many others, winter is a time for reflection and planning. There was a feeling that we needed to do something that differed from our usual events, and Lynn Mattke bravely suggested a Baileys Harbor Grade School reunion. She was happy to operate under the “You name it-you claim it” rule, and thenceforth she was in charge. Her efforts have been mighty. To participate, see the article on page 4.

As usual we partnered with the Community Association for the December tree lighting party and contributed a tree festooned with weather-proof kitchen utensils to the parade of trees standing as sentinels through wintery Baileys Harbor.

As the days lengthen, we are all looking forward to coming together to enjoy exploring the always fascinating history of Baileys Harbor.

TENTATIVE 2017 EVENTS SCHEDULE

June 25, 2017 – 11AM—3PM: Baileys Harbor Grade School Reunion Picnic at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall

July 26, 2017 – 7PM: The Brann Family of Baileys Harbor at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall

August 16, 2017 – 7PM: Golf in Baileys Harbor at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall

**September 13, 2017 – BHHS Members Breakfast/Brunch
(Location to be arranged)**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society currently has 113 memberships, representing well over 107 individuals, including 42 Lifetime Memberships. No new memberships have been established since our Fall 2016 Newsletter. Renewal reminders are sent each month as yearly memberships expire. Membership levels are: Business \$50, Family \$25, Individuals \$15, and Lifetime \$150. Members' dues help support our continuing research, displays outside the Baileys Harbor Library and at the Toft House, our events and presentations, and our newsletters. We are also working to improve our display infrastructure and the gardens at the Toft House. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and family members to join BHHS so that they can enjoy supporting the dissemination of our local history, sharing information, and exploring the history of our community. A printable membership form can be found on our website <www.baileysharborhistoricalociety.org>; just print it, fill it out, and mail it in.

WELCOME!

We have no new members to report in this newsletter, and this may be the last newsletter for some present members. When a membership comes up for renewal, the member receives a letter and form to return with payment. If there is no response, another letter and emails will be sent. After two annual cycles, membership will be discontinued. We know that the cause is often just carelessness or forgetfulness, so we do our best to notify members several times.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR RENEWAL!!

LOST BAILEYS HARBOR

This Baileys Harbor postcard shows the Kilgore/Brann Pier that was to be found at the foot of County Road F. Early on, it belonged to Moses Kilgore, an early Baileys Harbor mover and shaker. It was then rented to John Rottman, and eventually it belonged to the Brann Bros. (August and William). In the late 1800s our harbor sported three commercial piers. Brann's Pier was located as described above. Some of Anclam's Pier remains as part of Anclam Park, and Wholtman's Pier was located near the curve on Frogtown Road. Commercial piers were the lifeline of towns like Baileys Harbor along the Door Peninsula. Lumber and other products sold and shipped provided residents with actual cash and enabled them to buy the necessities that they couldn't grow or make themselves. The close of navigation each year, from approximately December to April, must have been something that every family had to plan for.

Information found for the Kilgore/Brann Pier shows that two frequent maritime visitors were the vessels *Tallahassee* and the *Nancy Dell*. Both of these vessels were the responsibility of Captain John Brann for years. In 1869, the *Truesdell* picked up 2,000 railroad ties and 50 cords of wood at Kilgore's Pier. (Dimensions of one cord of stacked wood are 4' x 4' x 8'.) On December 23, 1880, it was reported that the pier shipped 3,000 cords of wood and 40,000 pieces of cedar for the 1880 season. If just the cords of wood were lined up, end to end, the line would be 4.5 miles long; that doesn't count the cedar posts, and don't forget that there were two other piers in town. This should give some idea of the economic importance of lake shipping to Baileys Harbor in the nineteenth century. As the twentieth century got under way, things began to change. For one thing, much of the local lumber had been cut. That, with the development of the automobile, set the stage for another industry, tourism.

Leann Despotes

MAY I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?



Who doesn't remember, "2 good 2 be 4 gotten," usually coyly written as an addition problem above a signature in an autograph book? Even today, each graduating eighth grade student in Chicago public schools receives an autograph book with a graduation ribbon at the end of the year. BHHS was the lucky recipient of a very special autograph book on August 1, 2016. Mike & Susan Schultze of Charlotte, NC, contacted me through the Visitor Center, and showed me a book that was given to Carrie Wildhagen by her mother as a Christmas gift in 1894. The Wildhagens were clearly Baileys Harbor people, and Mike said that he

always has his eyes open for items from Baileys Harbor since they have loved visiting their place in North Bay for many years. We shared several of the charming entries in the book, and Mike and Susan asked if the historical society would accept it as a donation. Of course, the answer was yes! But that was just the beginning.

Who was Carrie? How old was she? Did she stay in Baileys Harbor? Did she marry? Lots of questions. Some of the entries were from schoolmates, but the content was clearly not written by children. I had never heard of a Wildhagen family in Baileys Harbor. The first step was transcribing the contents of the fragile book, so it wouldn't be handled too much. This allowed me to examine the content of each entry more easily. Recognizing some of the signatures, i.e., Olive Toft, made it evident that those who signed were contemporaries and it appeared that Carrie was probably in her twenties.

Searching historic newspaper archives showed that many of the autographs were from people who, with Carrie, attended teacher training institutes held around the county. These seemed to be part of continuing education for rural teachers, and the topics and attendees were reported regularly. Collecting signatures and comments in a Bible or other book is an educational tradition that began in the 16th century in the first universities in northern Europe. These served as a sort of resume, and, eventually, blank books were published to serve this purpose. Autograph books became very popular in the 19th century, but school yearbooks came to supplant them. We all have some of those, I'm sure, but who knew they grew from a 500-year-old tradition?

Alas, the old newspapers did not yield much more: no marriage, no obituary. But then, BHHS received three audio cassettes of oral history interviews conducted in the 1970s by Bill and Leland Tishler. One of them was an interview with Elsie Anclam, who was asked to respond to some old photographs. One of them seems to have been a picture of the students and teachers of the Baileys Harbor school. Elsie remarked fondly on the primary teacher, Carrie Wildhagen, and mentioned that she had married Andrew Zak.

Back to the newspapers! Her obituary as Mrs. A. Zak, showing her maiden name as Carrie May Wildhagen, further illuminated her life story. She was born in 1877, married Andrew in 1907, and had one son, Lewis Zak. She attended the Oshkosh Normal and taught in the German settlement school and the Kangaroo Lake school, finishing with 11 years at the Baileys Harbor grade school. She is said to have given her hometown much publicity by writing articles for newspapers, but none of these have been located. The obituary also notes that she was "well and most favorably known not only in Baileys Harbor but throughout the county." Being able to search as Mrs. A. Zak, Mrs. And.

Friend Carrie:

*Scatter seeds of kindness
for the reaping by and by.
Your school-mate
Olive Toft*

*May your sky of happiness and
prosperity remain ever undimmed.*

*Your friend and teacher
W. T. Anderson*

Zak, and Mrs. Andrew Zak also informed that she suffered from periodic illness that might have been due to pernicious anemia; anemia was listed as her cause of death.

Carrie's autograph book spanned just two years, 1895-96, but left us with a collection of charming, perhaps even cloying, verses, but representative of their time. Using other sources, we were able to determine who many of the signatories were, and get a feeling for the sincerity of the fledgling teachers. Let's not forget "Bad Boy," who shows us that seriousness could be put aside at times. Then, the final mystery is the final page. Ten years later, in April 1906, William Chapman seems to have written a proposal to Carrie, "Two we are and one will be, when you consent to marry me." She preferred Andrew, it seems. There must be a good story there.

Dear Carrie,
On our way to Sturgeon Bay,
it was on a stormy day.
But you bet we did not mind.
Fruits we had of many kinds.

Bad Boy

Leann Despotes

BAILEYS HARBOR GRADE SCHOOL REUNION!



Come and join us in celebrating the centenary of the last Baileys Harbor Grade School! Lynn Mattke has taken the lead in planning a school picnic and presentation at the Town Hall on June 25, 2017, at 11AM. Traditionally, the end of the school year was marked by a festive outdoor potluck picnic that included the students, teachers, and parents. The menu generally included hot dish, hot dogs and trimmings, Jello salad, coleslaw, pickles, cake, and ice cream. Games were played, races were run, and a good time was had by all. (Our picnic will be catered by the Cornerstone Pub.)

The first Baileys Harbor Grade School was a log structure located on Bluff Road approximately where the current Post Office is situated. In 1878, a new frame schoolhouse was constructed on the site of the current St. Mary of the Lake parking lot. That building was consumed by fire in December 1916, and the third and last school was built on Guy Street in 1917. This is currently Orphan Annie's Schoolhouse Inn. Two rooms were added to the front in 1954, making Baileys Harbor the first four-room rural school in Wisconsin.

Lynn is making a concerted effort to contact and invite as many alumni of the school as possible to come together and share fond memories of Dick and Jane, eraser clapping, baseball games, geography bees, and all the trappings of a wonderful grammar school experience. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the school reunion, whether you attended BHGS or not.

As you might imagine, there is much to be learned here about rural education, childhood fun, and the dedication of parents, teachers, and children to improve life for the residents of Baileys Harbor.

Contact Lynn at evandlynn@gmail.com or 920-495-3853.



SCHOOL FACT:

When the Baileys Harbor School District was dissolved just over fifty years ago, in 1966, Ernald Viste retired, having served as principal and upper grade teacher of the Baileys Harbor Grade School for 43 years.



Like us on Facebook!

We now have 760 Likes. We do repost items of interest from other sites along with our own original posts, so the page has new content about twice a month or more. Some weeks we've had as many as 1000 hits, thanks to our Facebook fans. As we march into spring we'll be posting and reposting even more frequently.

COMMUNITY MURAL UPDATE

It was a sad day in December when the Nelson Shopping Center closed its doors in Baileys Harbor.. The "got everything" store is empty and the Baileys Harbor Community Mural will need to be moved. Since its completion in 2013, the Community Mural had become a destination for visitors and an inspiration for other towns to consider similar ventures.

The mural will remain in place until the fate of the building is known and until the Baileys Harbor Historical Society has the funds to remove and relocate the artwork. About \$6,000.00 is owed the anonymous lender for the work done to complete the original project and it is estimated another \$5,000.00 will be required to remove the mural from the Nelson site and reinstall it in another location. The mural is on 4 X 8 foot panels and is not directly on the building.

BHHS would appreciate your financial help. The original project was financed mainly by many small individual contributions. Please make a donation of any size to BHHS designation MURAL to help pay for the retirement of the interest-free loan on the original project and for the removal and relocation of this significant piece of public art.

The mural has given enjoyment to many residents and visitors at its present location. We need your help so many more can enjoy it in the future in a new location. Donations may be sent to BHHS, P.O. Box 336, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202.

Nancy Rafal

DONATION APPRECIATION!

BHHS would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who responded to our 2016 year-end appeal for donations. We realize that there are many worthy causes to consider as one allocates charitable funds each year, and we very much appreciate those of you who see the value of promoting local history as an educational venue and are able to support it financially. Our 2016 appeal resulted in donations totaling over \$2000. This amount will help to improve display areas in the Toft House as well as renewing the gardens around the building. Also, many thanks to Roy and Jo Cole for spearheading and executing the annual appeal!

Leann Despotes



HISTORIC DISPLAYS



Did you know that the Baileys Harbor Historical Society has two venues for displays? The display cases at the entrance hallway to the Baileys Harbor Town Hall have been used by the BHHS for a while. Kristen Peil handled the displays for a number of years and visitors were greeted by a wide variety of displays. The members of the BHHS board currently handle the displays which change about every two months. During February and March of this year Susie Bauldry treated visitors to another display of her costume jewelry. These pieces are different than those displayed last winter but are,, equally engaging. The Baileys Harbor Community Mural will be featured in April and May.

The display area of the Toft House is being improved. There are both wall spaces and a sizable, flat tabletop case. A schedule of exhibits at the Toft House is in the works.

We would like to have exhibits up for these three timeframes: April-May-June, July-August, and September-October-November. If you have a collection you think would be of interest to visitors, please contact a board member or email info@baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org.



Nancy Rafal

TREE-LIGHTING, ORNAMENTS, AND SANTA



On December 3, 2016, the Baileys Harbor Historical Society again took part in the children's Christmas celebration and the lighting of the Christmas tree. The board members of the Historical Society welcomed the children and their parents after the parade that brought Santa Claus to the town hall. They had set up tables at which the children and even adults could make old-fashioned Christmas ornaments and gifts. They could paint rocks, make ornaments out of pine cones, little Christmas trees of pine branches in a birch stand, and fabricate traditional paper chains and other ornaments using colorful and sparkly twist-rods.

Philip Graupner



THE YANKS ARE COMING....

One hundred years ago the United States officially entered World War I. Following the treachery of German Foreign Minister Zimmerman's telegram offering to support a Mexican war with the United States, and the subsequent sinking of American merchant ships in the Atlantic, isolationist Woodrow Wilson requested that Congress declare war against Germany, which they did on April 7, 1917, becoming allied with England and France. Mobilization included conscription, and all Baileys Harbor men registered. At least ten Baileys Harbor youths* became part of the Algoma/Door County National Guard Company F that went to Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas, August 17, 1917, and became part of the Army's renowned Wisconsin/Michigan 32nd Division. More than 100 of the approximately 150 members of Company F were wounded, gassed, or killed in the conflict.



Isolationist ideals held by many in the country were put aside as the nation girded itself for the war effort. The new recruits began training in Sturgeon Bay, and their progress was carefully followed in the newspapers. All families were expected to subscribe to War Savings Stamps; Wisconsin's goal in 1918 was \$51,000,000. At the urging of National Food Administrator, Herbert Hoover, Meatless Mondays and Wheatless Wednesdays were adopted throughout the country to protect us from food shortages and later help feed war-ravaged Europeans. Citizens established over 5,000,000 Victory Gardens throughout the country. The Fuel Administration encouraged Heatless Mondays, Gasless Sundays, and Lightless Nights to conserve energy resources.

President Wilson mobilized the Red Cross to provide support for the troops at home and in the field. The membership drive's goal in Door County was to increase from 1,109 to 4,000 members in the ten days before Christmas 1917. The Door County chapter sent more than 190 dozen bandages, bedding and all types of linen

for hospitals, knitted sweaters, sox, and scarves to the Chicago headquarters at the beginning of the membership drive. They also sent sweaters and scarfs to any Door County boy in army training camps deemed to need them, another 66 parcels. Further, the Red Cross was charged with selling Christmas Seals to fight tuberculosis, now considered a part of the war effort. This was begun by the Wisconsin Anti-Tuberculosis Society and spread throughout the country.

On the battlefield, the Wisconsin-Michigan 32nd Division, including about 27,000 soldiers, landed in France in February 1918. They pressed to be used not to fill in other units, but to fight together on the front. Jenny Nolan of the *Detroit News* described their service as follows: "The unit won fame under three names: Officially it was the 32nd Division; to the people of Michigan and Wisconsin it was the Red Arrow Division, and to the French who fought alongside these midwestern Americans, they were known as '*Les Terribles*'."

From May to November 1918 -- nearly seven months -- the division was under constant fire, with only 10 days' rest. The Red Arrow fought on five fronts and took a leading role in three great offensives which met and vanquished 23 German divisions. The division suffered more than 14,000 casualties, captured more than 2,000 prisoners, never yielded a foot of ground to the enemy, and was the first American division to set foot



*Those who shipped out in August 1917 included Edward Berns, Andrew Brann, Jr., Lester Brann, Emery Eatough, Will Eatough, Emil Hafert, Martin Hickey, David Shine, Guy Toseland, Walter Reimer, and John Wasserbach. (Let me know if there are others.)



on German soil." The bravery and sacrifice of these soldiers is memorialized by State Highway 32, which reaches from Wisconsin's southern border, north to Land o' Lakes, Michigan, and continues in Michigan, the Red Arrow symbolizing the soldiers pushing through the front line.

Our Baileys Harbor boys did not return unscathed. Emil Hafert lost a leg in France but came home and lived for decades. Andrew Brann, Jr. was gassed, and though he returned home and married, his weakened lungs caused him to succumb to tuberculosis at a young age. Finally, Emery Eatough was gassed near St. Gilles and died of pneumonia at a hospital in Tours, France, September 1918. His body was not returned to his family until October 1920. This is the *Door County Advocate*'s report of the occasion: "Accompanied by a large delegation of members of the American Legion, including color bearer, color guard, pall-bearers, firing squad and escort, together with a great number of friends and relatives of the deceased, the body was taken [from Sturgeon Bay] to Baileys Harbor Sunday afternoon. At the village the funeral cortege was met by a procession of school children, residents and ex-soldiers, and escorted to the Hillside cemetery where services were held. Rev. Warren of Hope Congregational church officiated. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Blakefield sang 'Lead Kindly Light,' the firing squad gave its tribute and taps was sounded by the bugler. The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful."

A century ago when the country went to war, the war mobilization affected everyone, and the home front was as vital to victory as the battlefield. The soldiers of Door County/Algoma's Company F commemorated their service in World War I by holding an annual reunion every August for more than 50 years. This spring, on Memorial Day, let us take a moment and remember the sacrifices of those who were a part of "The War to End All Wars."

Leann Despotes



EMERY EATOUGH

TRAGEDY AVERTED!

Two Narrowly Escape as Truck Breaks Through Ice

Fish Creek—Two men narrowly escaped death here Tuesday when the ton and one-half ice truck they were driving to Camp Meenahga

broke through an unsuspected patch of thin ice and sank in 25 feet of water.

Smashing one of the cab windows, Roland Peil, the driver, crawled out to safety and dragged his companion, George Reinhardt, with him just before the truck disappeared below the surface.

Coast guards from the Canal and Baileys Harbor stations were called to rescue the truck. With Roy Brown of the Canal in charge, the crew worked from 1 o'clock Tuesday morning until dark and then from 8 o'clock Wednesday until 4:15 in the afternoon before being successful.

Except for the broken window, a dented fender and a good soaking, the machine was little the worse off for its ducking.



In January 1940, my dad, Roland Peil and George Reinhardt were harvesting ice on Green Bay to fill the icehouse at Camp Meenahga in Peninsula Park, and things almost became tragic as their ice truck broke through the ice and sank. In those days, refrigerators had not fully replaced iceboxes, and ice cutting provided winter income for many families, as well as supplying a way for them to preserve food. My brother Loren and I loved to sneak down to the Baileys Harbor icehouse (current marina location) and play on the sawdust covered ice. This was dangerous, and a definite no-no, but irresistible.

Dad talked about the fact that neither he nor his friend could swim, and thankfully, they escaped quickly and were able to crawl out on the ice as the truck sank into 25 feet of water. I am really glad he did, because I would not be here today, as I was born 2 years later. I remember Dad laughing at how he let the truck dry out for a few days, got into it, turned the key, and it started right up. Can you imagine that today? The photo shows my mother Julia holding Loren in front of the intrepid truck.

Those were simple times, hard times, but good times.

Suzanne Bauldry