

BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

P.O. Box 336
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historicalsociety.org

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**Lost
Baileys Harbor:**
A favorite illustration in early tourist brochures to lure the aspiring fisherman. See page 2 for more.

SPRING AND SUMMER 2016

The 2016 season began with the premier of WPT's *Wisconsin Hometown Stories: Door County*, June 10th, at Crossroads at Big Creek. This was soon followed by a showing in Baileys Harbor. BHHS presented four interesting history programs over the remainder of the summer and wound everything up with a Members' Brunch and Meeting in September.

We have also received some interesting artifacts that further describe or illustrate the history of Baileys Harbor. Current projects include working on beautifying the Toft House gardens as well as making the first-floor display area in the house a more effective space.

Add some fascinating history inquiries that people brought to town, and we have had a pretty great spring and summer!

TENTATIVE 2017 EVENTS SCHEDULE

June 25, 2017 – 11AM: 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 112 memberships, representing well over 107 individuals, including 41 Lifetime Memberships. Six new memberships have been established since our Spring 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.baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org>; just print it, fill it out, and mail it in.

WELCOME!

The BHHS would like to extend a welcoming smile and a hearty handshake to the new members who have elected to join our organization since our March Newsletter. We hope you will enjoy joining in our exploration of Baileys Harbor history. Glad to have you aboard, Mike Bacsi, Baileys Harbor Cornerstone Pub, Door County Brewing Company, Ed & Sandy Miller, and Jerald Smuda.

LOST BAILEYS HARBOR

This photo of a black bass catch appears in several promotional Baileys Harbor resort and tourist brochures from the early part of the twentieth century. Taken from a Commercial Club brochure created in 1916, copy accompanying the picture includes, "The disciples of Isaac Walton will find here, in and around Baileys Harbor, one of the few spots still left, where they can enjoy a tussle with the game fish of the northern waters. The picture speaks for itself, and catches of this kind are not as common now as in years past, but to anyone who cares for this kind of sport, they can be assured that they will not have to draw upon their imagination when they spin fish stories after a visit to this locality."

Amazingly, we had a copy of this image annotated by John Brann, who was able to name the men in the picture. It seems that most of them were members of his family or extended family. Left to right: Gus Brann, Andrew Brann, Sr., Will Brann, John W. Brann, Lester Eatough, Jack Wasserbach, Alfred Olander, and Andy Brann.

In addition to amazing fishing, tourists were encouraged to come to Baileys Harbor for the cool weather, lively entertainment, complete hay fever relief, excellent automobiling, and unsurpassed bathing. Who could resist?!

Leann Despotos

WISCONSIN HOMETOWN STORIES – DOOR COUNTY

On May 26, 2015, Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) and their Hometown Stories video crew arrived in our town hall eager to hear stories about the pioneers of Baileys Harbor and Door County, the first in a series of three “Listening Sessions” to be held around the county. The Hometown Stories crew collected information and images throughout the county and especially in Baileys Harbor. This was because leadership support for the program was from Phillip J. Hendrickson in memory of Elizabeth B. Hendrickson, who was the granddaughter of Andrew Brann, an early resident of Baileys Harbor.

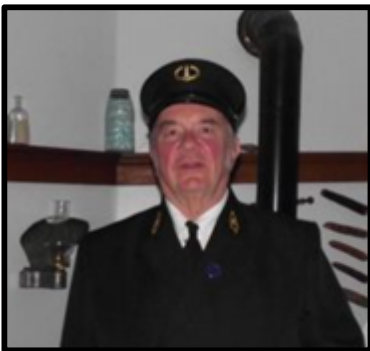


The television show premiered at Crossroads at Big Creek on June 10, 2016, and was shown at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall later that week. Both of those showings included some of the special segments on Baileys Harbor that were not shown on WPT. The Baileys Harbor segments included interviews with Lynn Mattke (about her grandmother, Hedwig Peil), Randy Zahn (about his great-grandfather, Albert Zahn), and Kriss Schorer (about her great-uncle, Michael McArdle). DVDs of this project can be purchased through <WisconsinHometownStories.org>. We have made the DVD available at the Baileys Harbor McArdle Library.

In addition to doing a masterful job in producing an informative and entertaining program, the Wisconsin Hometown Stories team has also reached out to teachers throughout the county, and with their help has developed local history curriculum for students. If you have the opportunity, be sure and treat yourself to viewing this program.

Leann Despotes

OH, THE KEEPER'S LIFE FOR ME . . . 164 YEARS OF LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY



Baileys Harbor, rich with lighthouses today, is lucky to have any at all, considering its initial venture in 1852. Everyone knows the village's origin: The story of Captain Justice Bailey, who chanced upon the harbor as refuge from a storm and reported the rich resources of stone and timber to Milwaukee businessman Alanson Sweet. Sweet, a New Yorker who came west to seek his fortune, had as his motto, "Own nothing. Control everything." He seized the opportunity to build the first lighthouse in the area and secured federal funding for the 53-foot "birdcage" light on the southeast side of the harbor in 1852. (It's still standing 164 years later, but now on private property.)

Ed Miller, a tour guide at Eagle Bluff Lighthouse, and Dwight Zeller, historic site manager at Cana Island, were the speakers at the June meeting of the Baileys Harbor Historical Society. Unfortunately, they said, the birdcage light was situated in exactly the wrong place and probably caused more shipwrecks than it prevented. When it needed some repairs 13 years later, it was decided that it might be better to start over, so the \$15,000 allocation was used instead to build the Cana Island light and the two Range Lights.

The Cana Island light was finished in four and a half months in 1869 – six weeks ahead of schedule and 15 percent under budget. (And it was a government project, Zeller quipped.) Thought it's only the third tallest

in Door County, at nearly 90 feet high, visitors say it “looks like a lighthouse should.” The lighthouse, keeper’s home, and privy (a top-of-the-line two-seater) were built of Milwaukee cream city brick – beautiful, but soft. After 33 years of exposure to the elements, the lighthouse required a cover of metal plates similar to a ship’s hull.

William Jackson was the first of Cana’s seven keepers, responsible for opening the station in April 1870. He had no experience in that line of work, nor did his wife, hired as his assistant. Like many of the early keepers, Jackson was a Civil War veteran and he had been wounded (although he had successfully run a business and operated a farm), but the key to his \$1,000 congressional appointment may have been the fact that he was chairman of Wisconsin’s New Republic Party, the party of Lincoln. (“Thank goodness,” Zeller said, “nothing like that goes on today!”) Keepers were required to keep a daily log that was inspected annually. One Cana Island keeper wrote, “Weather fair to middling. Ships passing,” followed by 30 rows of ditto marks. (No word as to whether this passed inspection.) Another Cana log reported it took two days to clean the grounds after townsfolk partied there!

At this point in the program, Miller took over to describe early years at the Range Lights. There were once six pairs of range lights around the Great Lakes. Ours are the only ones still intact. Keepers here, like those of the lighthouse, had a thick book of regulations to follow. As employees of the federal government, they were to welcome all visitors. And the Range Lights, easily accessible from Baileys Harbor, had lots of visitors and many social activities.

Perhaps the most difficult regulation for many keepers was the one detailing the amount of government provisions delivered annually: 200 pounds of pork, 100 pounds of beef, two barrels of flour, fifty pounds each of rice and brown sugar, 24 pounds of coffee, 24 pounds of dried beans or peas, 4 gallons of vinegar, and 2 barrels of potatoes. Plenty to feed a man for a year, but the food allowance remained the same if he had a wife and children – like the Duclon family at Eagle Bluff with seven sons, some of whom continued to live at home, even after they were married. All the keepers were expected to supplement their rations with large gardens, hunting, and fishing.

Docent-led tours are available at Cana Island (for times and cost, call 920-743-5958) and at the Range Lights (for more information, call 920-839-2802.)

Patty Williamson



Did you know that BHHS has a Facebook page?

Easy to remember, it’s our name: Baileys Harbor Historical Society. A recent post about Nelson Shopping Center had nearly 700 views. If you don’t already “like” us, visit the page and do so. Nancy Rafal tries to add something new several times a month, some repostings and many original posts relating to Baileys Harbor. Do comment or message the page. We’re there for you!

MEMBERS BRUNCH/MEETING – ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our 2016 Members Brunch was held at the Harbor Fish Market and Grille on September 21. Karen Berndt presented a fresh and delicious selection of dishes to choose from, and everyone enjoyed the conversation and good food, always a winning

combination. Design Door County decorated the tables with beautiful flower-filled coffee mugs distributed to members by a drawing at the end of the meeting. Attendees also received a copy of our Historic Tour Booklet and sample greeting cards of

Baileys Harbor Lighthouses donated by artist/member, Cynthia McGuire. Recently acquired artifacts, including Beverly Anclam's Early History of Baileys Harbor, a recently framed antique German hair wreath, and Carrie Wildhagen's 19th-century autograph book were on display for members to examine.

The principal business of the meeting was the election of the "even year" candidates to the Board of Directors. This year, Suzanne Bauldry, Roy Cole, Nancy Rafal, and Howard Williamson were unanimously approved to continue on the Board. Their terms begin January 2017 and continue through 2018. Philip Graupner will also join the Board to complete the term vacated by Kristen Peil.

BHHS honored a special guest, Brynn Swanson-Stimers, who has changed her status with the Community Association, and will no longer be

in charge of the Toft House. Brynn was a fabulous partner for us to work with as we embarked on mounting our displays, publishing our Historic Tour Booklet, as well as directing history queries to the Historical Society. She knows how to make things work. We will miss her, but look forward to getting to know Jessica Hatch who has taken over that function for the Community Association.

One suggestion, going forward, was that we consider doing our programs on Friday nights of festival weekends. Brynn explained that the BHCA never has activities on these Fridays, and it may encourage even better attendance at our events. Lynn Mattke suggested having a traditional school picnic for alumni of the Baileys Harbor Grade School. Contact her at 920-495-3853 if you would like to participate in planning that event.

Leann Desportes

**To anyone who has current contact information for
Baileys Harbor Grade School alumni:**

Please share with Lynn Mattke to make our Baileys Harbor School Picnic a reality!
She can be reached at 920-495-3853 or email to evandlynn@gmail.com.

TOFT HOUSE DISPLAY CASES

The BHHS has been featuring historical displays for the glass enclosed display cases at our Town Hall. After several weeks each display will be moved from the Town Hall to the Toft House, where it can be seen by tourists stopping at the Visitors Center. In this way each exhibit is made available to two audiences.

At the present time the open shelves at the Toft House do not provide a secure space for display. We now plan to rebuild this space with LED lighting, glass shelves, rear mounted tack boards and locked glass sliding doors. This will provide a secure enclosed space.

John Newton and Roy Cole have prepared drawings and have consulted with local contractors to establish construction costs. Because we are improving town owned property, we hope to share the cost for this modification. If things proceed as planned, we hope to install the new cabinets this winter.

Roy Cole

HEDWIG PEIL, THE “MAIL-ORDER BRIDE” WHO TOOK DOOR COUNTY BY STORM



On August 9, 1895, as Otto Peil was preparing to marry Hedwig Heinrich, his "mail-order bride" from Germany, his father told him that his right foot had to cross the threshold of the church ahead of Hedwig's or she would forever have the upper hand and rule him for the rest of his life. The 20 direct descendants of the couple who were in the audience for Lynn Mattke's presentation roared with laughter because they knew how that turned out.

The Peil dynasty in Door County began 145 years ago, when Otto's parents, Karl and Augusta, arrived from Germany and began farming on 80 acres at the corner of EE and F. Later in life, Karl planted maple trees along both sides of F. Most of them are still there today.

When Otto was 30, he took over the farm and was ready to find a wife. Through a friend, he contacted Hedwig in Germany, offering to pay the \$60 fare and an extra \$40 to reach Door County if she was willing to come to the "land of opportunity." Hedwig agreed. She had been a very bright student, of whom her teacher said that it was a pity she wasn't a boy, so she could make something of herself.

The couple hoped for children, but their first son died shortly after birth and the second child was still-born. After being told by a doctor that she would never carry a baby to full term, Hedwig saw an ad for Peruna, a patent medicine that guaranteed a baby in every bottle; Otto agreed they should try it, even though it cost \$1 a bottle. Two years and 35 bottles later, Carl August was born. More babies followed – ten in all in 14 years.

Hedwig did wallpapering for others, became a midwife, and decorated birthday and wedding cakes. She spoke no English until she learned with her children when they started school, but she was an astute business-woman. She was especially determined to acquire property that would provide rental income. When five lots "below the bluff" were offered for sale at \$60 each, she lobbied Otto to buy them for her, but he refused. Furious, she moved to Milwaukee and went to work in a kosher bakery. Lynn Mattke's mother, Adeline Peil, left the seventh grade to care for her younger siblings. Missing her children after a few months, Hedwig returned home after Otto relented and purchased the lots. The rental cottage Henry Seiler built there, never out of the Peil family, is now the home of Everett and Lynn Mattke.

A story Hedwig loved to tell in later life concerned a neighbor who came to her home, angrily waving a Sears catalog and the woman's dress he had received instead of the mail-order bride he thought he had ordered.

In 1920, when the 19th Amendment was passed, Hedwig was excited to vote for the first time at age 49. She was thrilled to attend the Chicago World's Fair in 1932 with Ivor Anderson and his wife, owners of the town laundry.

Hedwig passed away in 1962 at the age of 91, leaving 8 children, 26 grandchildren, and 41 great-grandchildren. Not to mention, as Mattke pointed out, all the Kalms, Anschutz, Gerdman, Tischler, and Koepsel families with Peil blood. That long-ago teacher in Germany would surely have agreed that little Hedwig did, after all, make something of herself.

There are many more stories about Hedwig in the book, *The Loving Spice of Life*, by Hedwig's daughter and Lynn's mother, Adeline Peil Edmunds.

Patty Williamson

BAILEYS HARBOR COMMUNITY MURAL IS IN DANGER



The historic mural on the north side of the Nelson Shopping Center has been a cultural landmark portraying the history of the town together with significant Baileys Harbor individuals, and a poem, *Wintergreen Ridge*, by Lorene Neidecker responding to the natural beauty of the Ridges Sanctuary.

We have learned from Gary Nelson that The Nelson Shopping Center and Motel must close by December 15, 2016. The cost to replace the site's old well is prohibitive. The mural, which was completed in 2013, can remain until the fate of the building is determined. The mural was NOT applied directly to the wall but on

about sixty 4 X 8-foot panels. These panels can be removed and relocated to one or more locations. What is needed is the money to move and store them when the time comes. The panels are the property of BHHS, so it is our job to move and store them.

Please make a donation to BHHS designation MURAL to help pay for the retirement of the interest-free loan for the completion of the mural and for the removal and relocation of the mural.

Many people have enjoyed the mural in its present location. With your help, many more can continue to enjoy it in its new location(s).

Nancy Rafal

TOFT HOUSE GARDENS

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society, along with the town and the Baileys Harbor Community Association, is spearheading a garden project at the Toft House. The vision for the gardens includes using old, traditional, perennial plantings popular since the beginning days of Baileys Harbor to enhance the historic nature of the building. This fall, work will be done removing spent flowers and bushes, readying the grounds surrounding the Toft House for the new look this coming spring. If you have perennial plants that have been thriving in Baileys Harbor for decades, and you would like to make a contribution, let us know. It is our hope that we will be able to have flowers blooming most of spring and summer and into the fall. Once this project is complete, some have suggested that future gardens may include a series of small memorial gardens featuring family donations in memory of loved ones. The image shows the current state of one of the front gardens.



Marianne Newton

FAITH BUILDS A CHURCH: THE STORY OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE



Kriss Schorer gave a well-researched program on the history of St. Mary of the Lake at the August meeting. The first missionaries who arrived in Door County in the early 1600s were Jesuit Fathers from Quebec, including Fathers Marquette, Allouez, and Andre. They did missionary work with the Potawatomi Indians, finding them mixed with villages of Sauks and Outagamies. Settlers began arriving in Baileys Harbor in the early 1800s.

Fr. Pernin from Peshtigo established Baileys Harbor as his mission in

1860. It was organized in 1862 by Fr. Bernier. At that time, a missionary would arrive twice a year, finding that families from miles around had come to greet him. In 1870 the northern part of the county fell under the care of Sturgeon Bay and Ahnapee (now Algoma). Bishop Mechler thought it would be easier for the pastors of those towns to take charge of the mission in Baileys Harbor and the newly established mission in Egg Harbor. Fr. Adler from Sturgeon Bay was put in charge. The first mass was said in the home of the James B. Carr family on the east shore of Kangaroo Lake, on what is now the property of the Goss family.

By 1874, the locality had attracted enough settlers to build a church. Fr. Rhode of Ahnapee was the regular visiting priest. Twenty families comprised the first congregation. The little white church was 60 x 20 with a 30' bell tower. Parishioners Martin Schram and James McArdle mortgaged their farms to help defray the cost. Pew rental was \$12 a year.

Among the 20 original families were Hugh, John, and Con Collins, Peter and Tom Goss, John Lalle-mont, Henry Pleck, John Sloan, Michael McDermott, Owen Cassidy, James Carr, James McArdle, Martin Schram, Theodore Zak, John Raza, Lawrence Frank, and Gray and Casimir Smith

In 1876, Fr. Blume was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's in Sturgeon Bay and became the priest for the mission parishes of St. Mary of the Lake, St. Rosalia's in Sister Bay, St. Michael's in Jacksonport, and St. John the Baptist in Egg Harbor. St. Mary of The Lake Cemetery was established in the early 1880s.

Fr. Pellegrin succeeded Fr. Blume in 1884. In 1886, Fr. O'Laughlin was appointed the first resident pastor of St. Mary of the Lake, but passed away within a year. Ten years elapsed until Fr. Francis Kroll was appointed permanent pastor in 1895. He built the first rectory across from the church. In 1925, when the parish had grown to 55 families, Fr. William Haley oversaw the expansion of the church. Thirty more pastors served our parish between his tenure and the arrival of Fr. David Ruby in 2006.

On April 10, 1935, Michael W. McArdle, who had grown up in the church, sent a letter to parishioners advising them that he was donating the funds to build a new church and rectory. The new church, which cost \$50,000, was dedicated on November 29, 1936. The parish celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1961.

On November 29, 1964, a year after the Second Vatican Council, the "New Mass" was introduced into parishes throughout the U.S. Fr. Noonan faced the parishioners to say mass, which was now in English.

In 2005, the new Stella Maris Parish joined all five parishes into one congregation of faith. Religious education classes were all brought to Baileys Harbor, and the Egg Harbor rectory was established as the parish office.

On October 23, 2011, St. Mary of the Lake celebrated the 125th anniversary of its founding and the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the new church. The parish continues to grow and to be a central part of the Baileys Harbor community.

Patty Williamson

NORTHERN DOOR COUNTY ONCE HAD 26 RURAL SCHOOLS

Nyla Wickman Small, a product of a rural school in northern Door County and now a docent at the Door County Historical Museum, presented a program on the history of rural schools in northern Door County at the September 14 meeting. Small and the other museum docents have also compiled histories of rural schools in central and southern Door County. Small talked about 27 schools and showed pictures of most of them. To conserve space, this article will focus on general information and on schools in the Baileys Harbor area.

In 1862, Milton Lyman became the first superintendent of schools in the county, with an annual salary of \$350.

By 1862, there were 29 schools in the county. By 1913, the number had grown to 66. Twenty-six of these were in Northern Door. Semesters varied in length – usually a total of three months a year, the legal minimum.

Liberty School was also called German Settlement School and Liberty Grove School. It was built before 1899 and closed about 1915. A larger school was built further south about 1915 and closed in 1961. The second building is still standing north of Highway 57 and Q.

Liberty Grove School District No. 1, now a private home, is still standing at Highway 57 and German Road just South of Q.

Pershing School, also known as Poland Junction School, was located on County Trunk EE near Little Marsh Road on the Gibraltar/Baileys Harbor line. It was built in 1899, and classes were held there until 1956.



BAILEYS HARBOR SCHOOL 1917

Baileys Harbor School was first a log building, located where the post office is today. The second school was located north of where the Catholic Church is now. It was destroyed by fire on December 18, 1916. The new school built on Guy Street is now Orphan Annie's.

Kangaroo Lake School . . . On Sept. 14, 1880, Ann T. Griffin sold one-half acre of her land on the northeast corner of County Road E and Logerquist Road to the board of School District No. 2 in Baileys Harbor to build a school. The price was \$15. Among the students were Wilmer Anschutz' mother, Hattie Peterson, who was born in 1895, along with her older siblings, Ella, Hans, Oscar, and Harvey. Others who attended included children from these families: the Krishkas, who lived on

the farm just west of the school; the Krauses, who lived south of the school at the intersection of E and Maple Road; the Bergers, who lived on Berger Road; the Collins, Stephans, Krowases, and Mannys, who lived on or just off Logerquist; and the Copiskeys, who lived on Beach Road. The school was in operation until sometime prior to October 5 1907, when the district sold the property to Hugh Collins for \$35. In the early 1920s, the little school building was moved to the Collins' farm, later owned by the O'Briens and later still by St. Joseph's Re-

treat Center. That land was sold in the 2000s to Waseda Farms, and the little schoolhouse is still there. The outside has been improved and the inside restored to the appearance of an 1800s rural school. (From *The History of Kangaroo Lake*)

Peninsula Center School was located on County E near County A, on an acre of land sold by William and Flora Dallmann on July 31, 1905. The building was sold to Leon Charneski on September 24, 1953.

Woodland (Swamp) School was located north of Baileys Harbor near the swamp. The land was purchased from Albert and Augusta Schultz in 1900 and sold to George and Mildred Lindahl in 1954. It is now a private home.

North Bay School, that served Baileys Harbor and North Bay, was built in 1899, north of Mud Lake.

Patty Williamson

SHOW AND SHARE AT THE TOWN HALL & THE TOFT HOUSE

As part of the BHHS goal to explore the past and inspire the future, we have mounted semi-permanent displays at the Toft House, like the pioneer farm bedroom, and various artifacts and pictures. Beginning in 2010, Kristen Peil began installing historic displays outside the library showing various collections relating to local history. We have continued this activity, and also cycle these collections through the Toft House to reach out to Baileys Harbor visitors. We are currently developing plans to enhance the display space.

This year, one of the most popular displays at both the Town Hall and at the Toft House has been Jo Cole's collection of mechanical toys. Jo worked with deaf children and the toys were a way for her to communicate with the youngsters and for them to engage with her. Another display at the Town Hall featured Marianne Newton's cups and saucers and tea towels. The Toft House hosted a display of woodcarvings by Bill Dehos, a nationally known local carver. Earlier exhibits have included vintage costume jewelry, mid-century planters, artifacts from our local history, and vintage needlework.

We are always looking for interesting collections and artifacts. If you have a collection you'd like to share, please contact Nancy Rafal at 920-493-0124 or at mrsticket@gmail.com. Put BHHS in subject line. Items related to Baileys Harbor or of general interest will be considered, and assistance will be provided to help mount the display.

Nancy Rafal

BON APPETIT!



Do you remember what your favorite meal was when you were growing up and still is today? Was it an ethnic meal that was handed down from your grandparents? Sauerkraut and pork with dumplings, a special potato soup, or chicken served on Sunday just like Grandma made. Well, now is your chance to not only share the recipes with everyone but have the opportunity to have others enjoy it.

Paul Salm from the Cornerstone Pub would like to create a "Family Meal Tradition Night." He shared his idea with the Baileys Harbor Historical Society. He would like to serve traditional Baileys Harbor family meals as specials, served for a limited time. Recipes would be submitted, and several menus would be developed and served with the background of the dishes explained. It could be such fun and so delicious. If you have recipes to share, please send them to:

info@baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org.



Suzanne Bauldry