

# BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 2011

P.O. Box 336  
BAILEYS HARBOR, WI  
54202

baileyshhs@hotmail.com

[baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org](http://baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org)

## OFFICERS

**-Leann Despotes**  
President  
**Kristen Peil**  
Vice-President  
**-Mary Moran**  
Treasurer

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Barbara Anschutz:**  
Town Board Liaison  
**Suzanne Bauldry**  
**Roy Cole**  
**Leann Despotes**  
**Rozanna Gerdman**  
**Steve Hey**  
**Lynn Mattke**  
**Kristen Peil**  
**Carol Schmidt**

## 2011 MEETINGS

**TOWN HALL**  
**MAY 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**JUNE 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**7:00 PM**



Photo Follow-Up  
Remember this 1904  
fete??  
See Page 4.

## SPRING, 2011

Winter is a time of dormancy for many plants. They are still alive, but not in an active state. One might say that the BHHS has been in a state of dormancy over the winter. Board members (and volunteers) have been meeting, but our public events are on hold until May when more members can attend.

Planning has been done for presentations in the 2011 summer months. Fundraising activities have been considered, and historic displays have been mounted.

Roy Cole and Rozanna Gerdman have applied for grants which will enhance our impact in the community.

We have submitted our annual report to the Wisconsin Historical Society, and it has been accepted. IRS forms have also been filed and accepted.

Kristen Peil has kept the display cases in the Town Hall filled with vintage and historical materials. She drew materials from our Historical Society's archives collection and from her own personal collection. Vintage photos of Baileys Harbor winter scenes comprised one display and 20<sup>th</sup> century Valentine's Day memorabilia filled another case.

Archival storage supplies have been purchased so that we can properly store the items we have thus far acquired. As you can read in another article in this issue, the proper storage of documents, pictures and other paper items is critical to their survival.

As we gear up for an interesting series of events this summer, we are looking forward to seeing all of you in attendance.

## 2011 EVENTS SCHEDULE

- May 21, 2011- 7:00PM- General Meeting-**The McArdle Family of Baileys Harbor, presented by Kris Shorer
- June 9th, 2011- 7:00 PM- General Meeting-**Target subject: A Four Generation Farm in Baileys Harbor: Krowas Orchards
- July 13th, 2011- 7:00 PM- General Meeting (Annual Election Meeting)-**Target subject: A Baileys Harbor Landmark: The 100 Year History of the August Schram Building (Harbor Fish Market)
- September 14th, 2011- 7:00 PM-Oral History Training Program for Door** County Residents by Steve Hey
- TBA: Fund Raiser for the Historic Architectural Survey**

## **HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY EVENT**

On November 11, 2010, our Historical Society held an event to increase understanding of the importance of an architectural/historical survey of Baileys Harbor. The presentation was made by Joe DeRose, a historian with the Wisconsin Historical Society; Joe is responsible for Historical Surveys, National Register nominations and Certified Local Government designations.

A Historical Architectural Survey is needed to provide our community with an official inventory of Baileys Harbor's historical structures and sites and give us State recognition of our historical and cultural heritage. This survey must be done by a professional, state endorsed architectural historian and will include traditional immigrant buildings, bridges, marinas and natural resources such as wetlands.

The survey is the first step enabling us to apply for Federal and State, non-matching funds for historically related projects. Owners of structures on the National Historic Register are eligible for a 25% Wisconsin State tax credit for historically appropriate work on their buildings.

Mr. DeRose pointed out that the survey records of 57 Wisconsin communities are currently on the WHS website and a survey of Baileys Harbor's historical structures and sites would be added to this site

The completed Historic Architectural Survey is necessary for Baileys Harbor to become a Local Certified Government, with a Historic Preservation Commission and Ordinance. With these in place, Federal non-matching funds are available for our Baileys Harbor community.

The most important mission of such a Commission and Ordinance is public education about our community's historical assets. The Commission and Ordinance are also regulatory, approving some exterior changes to historic structures and requiring local approval of the proposed demolition of any of these structures.

In order to help fund the above survey, the Baileys Harbor Historical Society will conduct a 2011 campaign to cover the \$28,000 cost of the Survey and a related Walking Tour Brochure. We look forward to the support of our members and the public at large.

## **BHHS AND THE FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR**

In January, the BHHS was invited by The Friends of Gibraltar to participate in the annual Community Readers in the Classroom Program at Gibraltar Elementary School, February 1-24, 2011. The program invites community members to read to an elementary school class. The purpose of the program is to share with elementary

school students the joy of reading. Over its long history, the program has brought hundreds of readers from the community into Gibraltar Elementary School classrooms.

The theme for the 2010-2011 school year is "Door County History." Kristen Peil volunteered to read to the 5<sup>th</sup>

grade class from The Loving Spice of Life written by her great aunt, Adeline Edmunds. Ms. Edmunds wrote this book to honor her mother, Hedwig Heinrich Peil, who came to Baileys Harbor from Germany as a “mail-order bride” in the 1890’s. The book is not just the story of Mrs. Peil, but includes interesting glimpses of Baileys Harbor history and of many families whose descendants still live there. Kristen chose to read excerpts from the book that illuminated the plight of a mail-order bride in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Her reading was well received

by the students, and, no doubt, informed them about a historical circumstance of which they were probably unaware.

The Friends of Gibraltar (FOG) also asked if we could help with some sort of Baileys Harbor history event for students. Kristen volunteered to coordinate the 5th graders having lunch with the seniors at the Town Hall and then doing interviews with them. Later, she will do a scavenger hunt /historic walking tour of Baileys Harbor with the students. This will occur on March 25th .

## TOWN HALL DISPLAY CASES



For those of you who were unable to see the winter displays in person, we snapped a picture! The case on the left includes vintage and antique winter scenes and activities. The right hand case celebrates Valentine’s Day traditions over the years. The displays earned many positive responses.

If anyone has ideas or contributions that would be suitable for the Historical Society’s Town Hall displays, please contact us, either by mail (P.O. Box 336, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202) or email ([baileyshhs@hotmail.com](mailto:baileyshhs@hotmail.com)). The display cases are always locked.

## PHOTO FOLLOW-UP

In the Fall Newsletter, we asked for information on this 1904 Halloween photo. No identifications have been submitted, but considering the age of the picture, that is not too surprising. The picture was sent to Lenora John (1907-1999) about 25 years ago in a box of family photos from relatives in Michigan. They couldn't identify the people in the pictures, but they thought Lenora might be able to. In this instance, she was able to identify several of the partygoers.



If these identifications are correct, we do know a bit about who some of these people were. Mrs. Bill Toft was the sister-in-law of Emma Toft. Ivy Panter's family owned the Panter Hotel. Annie Brann was the daughter of Captain John Brann, and Frank Oldenburg was one of the builders of Maxwellton Braes.

## IT'S HAPPENED TO ALL OF US! (CARING FOR FAMILY PHOTOS)

Who hasn't opened an antique candy box or an old shoebox to look through old family photos, and wondered about the little girl with the floppy bow in her hair or the stern bearded man staring into the distance? Our 1904 Halloween picture is a great case in point. Fortunately, someone wrote the date of the picture on the back of the mounting. Unfortunately, no one

named the people in the picture. It was also fortunate that the photo paper and mounting were high quality, apparently acid free, and have beautifully survived over a century of storage.

We all have family photo collections that may include pictures as old as this, but also a parade of family memories up to the present day. An excellent source of information for

family history and document preservation is the National Archives and Records Administration. Extensive and detailed information can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/>. Following are 10 steps anyone can take to help preserve family photos.

1. Above ground interior closets maintain fairly constant temperatures throughout the year, are not damp, and should be considered for storage.
2. Do not keep photos near newspaper clippings, not even in the same box or album. The acids generated are very destructive.
3. If you have very fragile heirloom photos, make a photocopy for use and store the original to prevent handling.
4. Use paper enclosures that are made from a high quality, non-acidic, lignin-free paper.
5. Look for plastic enclosures made from uncoated pure polyethylene, polypropylene or polyester. These are considered stable and non-damaging to

photographs. Avoid the use of PVC plastics which generate acids and can stick to the pictures.

7. Album storage prevents frequent handling.
8. A safe way to caption a photograph is to write on the back with a soft lead pencil. Pencil is harmless to photographs, and won't stain or run if the photo gets damp.
9. Modern snapshots and most photographs since 1960 do not readily take pencil or ink. Felt tip film marking pens do write well on these papers; allow the ink to dry before stacking prints together and take care not to smudge the ink before it dries.
10. When writing captions on the backs of photos, write with light pressure to avoid embossing through to the front of the photograph. Label the back of photos along an edge; that way, if the inks cause damage to the photo or if the photo is accidentally embossed, the damage will be restricted to the edge not the middle of the image.

## **THE HISTORIC COLLECTION DEVELOPS**

Doug Smith and Mike Meulemans have contributed a copy of the issue of The Saturday Evening Post containing an article about the construction of the Boynton Chapel at Bjorklunden. Doug reported that he uses Google Alerts to notify him when Baileys Harbor is mentioned online. This item appeared on EBay; the price was right, and the rest is history.

Do you have pictures or other items that would illuminate the history of Baileys Harbor? If you do, please consider contributing them to BHHS. If you have photos, film or documents that you would like to share but not give up at this time, contact us about the possibility of our scanning them into a BHHS electronic format, allowing you to retain the original while sharing it.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?  
DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PRESENTATION?  
PLEASE CONTACT US.**

## **BHHS AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

Each year, in March, National Women's History Month employs a unifying theme and recognizes national honorees whose work and lives testify to that theme. For 2011, the theme is Our HISTORY is Our Strength. This year, instead of recognizing national honorees, local communities, organizations and institutions throughout the country are asked to honor women within their own communities or organizations. The BHHS has undertaken to do just that. Using the display cases outside the McArdle Library in the town hall, Kristen Peil has currently on display two exhibits that showcase some of the women who have contributed to the history of our community.

**-Louise (Mrs. Albert) Zahn** was the wife of the nationally known folk art woodcarver of Bird's Park just north of the town. What is not generally known is that she was responsible for painting his charming wooden angels, animals, and birds.

**-Phoebe Erickson**, who was raised in North Bay, authored the children's novel, Black Penny, as well as Daniel Coon and The Animals of Small Pond, to name a few of her works.

**-Emma Toft** was a local teacher, resort owner, award-winning naturalist, and founding member of the Ridges Sanctuary.

**-Winifred Boynton** used her artistic skill and religious commitment, over a period of nine years, to create the Boynton Chapel, a replica of a Norwegian stavkirke, on her family's summer property Bjorklunden.

**-Mary Sauter Tishler** is also showcased, exemplifying the strength of our early women residents; she took in laundry as well as selling plants and flowers to supplement the family income. The actual signs she used are in the display case.

**-Mary Ann Johnson** who has been a businesswoman in town for decades, also started the Baileys Harbor History Foundation in the 1990's and has been instrumental in preserving and disseminating our history as well as having four town sites entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

Firsts in town government include: **Peggy Nelson**, the first female town treasurer; **Jane Pluff**, the first female town clerk; and **Lynn Mattke** and **Suzy Bauldry**, the first women to serve as supervisors.

## **GLADYS BARNOWSKY, 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WOMAN**

As part of our Women's History Month observance, we have honored Baileys Harbor resident, Gladys Barnowsky in one of our display cases at the town hall. Information was gathered through an interview with her daughter, Nancy Barnowsky Goss.

Gladys Bellamy was born May 6, 1924, in Merinesco, MI, the middle child of eleven children, and grew up in Monico, Wisconsin. A girl guitarist, she and her sisters formed a group they called The Melody Maids and even entertained on local radio. At the tender age of seventeen, she became a World War II widow and was then a single parent to her son Mike.

She later married Arwed Barnowsky, and they found their way to Baileys Harbor where they established a lumber and logging business together with a game farm. Over the years the family planted many thousands of softwood trees in Door County. In addition to Mike, Gladys and Arwed had three children, Sharon, Nancy and Dan, and Gladys was a foster mother to many others. She was also an active member of the community, including the

Lutheran Church, the Baileys Harbor Women's Club, and was the first female member of the Baileys Harbor Lion's Club. Eventually, Gladys became one of the first, possibly the first, woman school bus drivers for Gibraltar Schools. As her daughter Nancy says, "She didn't know what gender roles were."

That all sounds like a lot of work, but Gladys definitely knew how to have a good time. She enjoyed outdoor sports like hunting and fishing, and was also a championship bowler. She and Arwed loved to kick up their heels as longtime members of the Peninsula Promenaders square dancers. She decided to learn to fly in the early 1970's, and earned her general aviation pilot's license in 1974, at the age of fifty-six.

She proved her resilience a few years ago when she suffered a broken neck on her eighty-fourth birthday, and amazingly, she survived. Sadly, we learned just after this article was written that Gladys passed away March 14, 2011, at Good Samaritan Society, Scandia Village in Sister Bay. She would have been eighty-seven years old on May 6, 2011.

## **BHHS MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in our Historical Society has increased over the winter. We now have 59 memberships representing over 90 individuals and two businesses. Starting in April, members will be receiving notices to renew their membership for 2011. The membership levels remain the same: Business \$50.00, Family \$25.00, Individual \$15.00 Lifetime \$150.00. We hope the current members will continue their support of our displays, events and newsletters as they renew membership. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and family members to join the Society so they can enjoy sharing information and exploring the history of our community.