

# BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

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## OFFICERS

-Leann Despotes  
President  
-Suzanne Bauldry  
Vice-president  
-Marianne Newton  
Secretary  
-Mary Moran  
Treasurer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Suzanne Bauldry  
Roy Cole  
Leann Despotes  
Mary Moran  
Marianne Newton  
Kristen Peil  
Nancy Rafal  
Howard Williamson

*Town Board Liaison*  
Roberta Thelen

## 2015 MEETINGS TOWN HALL

June 17, 7PM  
July 22, 7PM  
August 19, 7PM  
September 26, 7PM



Lost  
Baileys Harbor:  
Remember these  
cute little cottages  
in "East" Baileys  
Harbor? P.2

## FALL & WINTER ACTIVITIES

Once again, the Historical Society joined with the Community Association to celebrate the season at the Town Hall tree lighting, Christmas in the Harbor, on December 6th. Old-fashioned ornament making was popular with adults as well as children, and BHHS fielded a great cadre of Santa's helpers to assist all who were interested. Santa was on hand, too, and approved of all activities in the spirit of the season.

You may spot a gaggle of crazy quilters at the Town Hall this winter, as another community quilt project begins to take shape. The enthusiasm for last winter's project has encouraged Kristen Peil to plan another weekly quilting bee for 2015. This winter, the project has expanded.

We have also compiled short bios of our Board members for the Newsletter so that everyone will know the group a bit better.

Plans for the Toft House are also ongoing; watch for the open house in May and the Grand Opening in September.

## Tentative 2015 Events Schedule

**June 17, 2015-7PM: General Meeting – Ridges Road, a History**

**July 22, 2015-7PM: Nominating Meeting – Churches of Baileys Harbor**

**August 19, 2015-7PM: Election Meeting – History of the Baileys Harbor Cemetery**

**September 26, 2015-7PM: -- BHHS Open House Toft House**

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society currently has 100 memberships representing well over 100 individuals, including 28 Lifetime Memberships. Ten new memberships have been established since our Fall 2014 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, our events and presentations, and our newsletters. Beginning this November we will include activities at the Toft House in the above list. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and family members to join BHHS so 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](http://www.baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org)>; just print it, fill it out, and mail it in.

## **LOST BAILEYS HARBOR –SCHMITZ GAZEBOS**

In 1935, Baileys Harbor summer residents, Jack and George Schmitz, established the popular summer resort, Schmitz Gazebos, located where we find the Yacht Club today. In the 1930s, despite the Depression, tourism became popular and easier with the ownership of individual automobiles, and the Schmitz brothers took advantage of this.

The little red-roofed cottages were the closed-in “gazebos” with views of Lake Michigan. The resort also included a fine dining room and a cocktail lounge. Jack's daughter, Irene, had a significant hand in managing the resort. In the 1950s, the cocktail bar was especially popular at night because one could look out onto the lit patio and see the local wildlife come to retrieve scraps that were put out from the kitchen. The small animals became very comfortable with the situation and provided evening entertainment for the lounge patrons. The resort was active until 1965.

Leann Despotes

## **TOFT HOUSE UPDATE**

The Toft House will open in May, with the Community Association Tourist Information Office setting up in the two south rooms on the first floor. An open house is planned for May 8th, with the Information Office officially opening on May 15th in time for Spring Fling. Plans for the open house include music, appetizers, beer, wine, and soft drinks. Tours are being planned so that the townspeople can become acquainted with the facility.

The Historical Society has been assigned the rooms on the north side of the building. By May 15 we plan to have some preliminary displays that will be further developed over the summer, leading to a Historical Society Grand Opening planned for September.

## CHRISTMAS IN THE HARBOR



On December 6, 2014, the Baileys Harbor Community Association (BHCA) held Baileys Harbor's annual tree lighting party and holiday celebration. The Baileys Harbor Historical Society has partnered with the BHCA in this event for several years, and brings an old-fashioned flavor to the gathering with hands-on activities to create old-time Christmas decorations and ornaments. Managed by Board Member, Kristen Peil, handicrafts and decorations ranging from lapel pins to painted rocks were created with enthusiasm by young and old alike. BHHS volunteers had a great time supervising the tables.

As usual, Santa was on hand to collect gift requests from the younger set, which added to the evening's merriment. The tree lighting occurred under a beautiful Full Long Nights Moon, one of the names for the December full moon. Great refreshments, plenty of glitter and creative activities, a jolly Santa Claus, and that glorious full moon illuminating the evening all added to a warm community feeling for this year's partygoers. To see dozens more photos of the event, please visit the BHHS Facebook page. It turns out that Santa is pretty photogenic!

Also, Kristen is making a shout out to anyone who has used Christmas cards to donate them to BHHS. A new craft idea is apparently germinating for next year's party.



## QUILT, OR GET YOUR CRAFT ON!

Once again, the Baileys Harbor Historical Society will be sponsoring the Community Quilt / Quilting Bee with donated fabric and related materials for anyone interested in participating in the creation of a community quilt. All are welcomed; quilting experience not required! New for 2015 is the expansion of the social aspect of a quilting bee. Those who create items with their hands, such as knitters, whittlers, and rug hookers, are invited to bring their current project and enjoy the camaraderie of the group. We're hoping to have not just "Crazy Quilters," but to add in some "Crazy Crafters." What a great way to spend a frigid Sunday afternoon! The Town Hall will be open Sundays from 11:00 till 3:00 for anyone interested in learning the skill of quilting while creating a square for the community quilt. If you have any type of handmade project, work on it with us and enjoy the social atmosphere. Refreshments and treats will be available. Be sure and check out photos of the quilting bee on our Facebook page. If you have questions, contact Kristen at [junk4joy@hotmail.com](mailto:junk4joy@hotmail.com) or call 920-495-2120.



## OUR HUMBLE THANKS...

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society would like to thank all those who helped in 2014. If there is an error or an omission, please let us know!

### Donations of Literature, Images, or Artifacts:

**Julie Collins** – Antique quilt frame  
**Sharon Eichler** – Historical news clippings of Baileys Harbor  
**Carol Hamm** – Photographic record of the construction of the town marina.  
**Melanie Hoffman Hass** – Historic fire images  
**Joe & Jerry Kwaterski** – Historic fire images  
**Carl Podlasek** – Artifacts found on Moonlight Bay shore  
**Don Prust** – Articles and artifacts relating to the BH Fire Department  
**Caleb Whitney** – Quilt display stand  
**Jane & John Whitney** – Paper ephemera and Ridges' interview of Roy Lukes  
**Carol Woerfel** – Björklunden artifacts

### Donations of Time, Help, & Money:

**Margaret Andera** – Folk Art Event  
**Inga Bacon** – Tax reporting and advice  
**Baileys Harbor Community Association** – Mutual Assistance Projects  
**Baileys Harbor Town Board** – Continued support and office space, purchase of the Toft House, flood response  
**Suzanne Bauldry** – Hospitality, 4th of July float, Cemetery Database, Christmas Party  
**Elaine Bonneville** – Fire Department Event  
**Marilyn & Orren Bradley** – Folk Art Event  
**Bill Brann** – Flood response  
**Mark Breseman** – Björklunden Event  
**Laddie Chapman** – Continued technical audio/visual assistance, flood response  
**Bob Clemens** – Flood response

**Roy & Jo Cole** – Cash donation, flood response, sage advice  
**Leann Despotes** – Publicity, membership, newsletters, flood response  
**Jay & Nancy Dickson** – Flood response  
**Door Co. Trolley** – Folk Art Event  
**Kim Eckstein** – Björklunden liaison  
**Jeanne Empke** – Quilting bee  
**Philip Graupner** – Flood response  
**Harbor Fishmarket & Grille** – Web page hosting and development  
**Harbor Ridges Assn.** – Cash donation  
**Leon Hoffmann** – Flood response  
**Melanie Hoffman Hass** – Fire Department Event  
**Sharon Honold** – Fire Department Event  
**Cheryl Iverson** – Editing the newsletter  
**Fred Johnson** – Flood response  
**Judith Kalb** – Christmas party  
**Trish & Robert Kubala** – Christmas party  
**Joe & Jerry Kwaterski** – Fire Department Event  
**Ev Mattke** – Flood response  
**Maureen McGrath** – Hospitality, treats at events  
**Mark Merrill** – Fire Department Event  
**Mary Moran** – Keeping our accounts to the penny, flood response  
**Gary Nelson** – Fire Department Event  
**Marianne & John Newton** – Folk art Event, 4th of July float, Christmas party  
**Pasta Vino** – Folk Art Event  
**Kristen Peil** – Display cases, coordinating Christmas party activities, Quilting Bee & quilt raffle, flood response  
**Jonlee Peterson** – Cash donation  
**Don Prust** – Fire Department Event  
**Nancy Rafal** – Community mural, 4th of July float, flood response

**Carol Schmidt** – DVDs, managing sales at events, Christmas party

**Kriss Schorer** – Flood response

**Bonnie Smith** – Flood response

**Tim Stone** – Pulling 4th of July float

**Carrie Baldwin Smith** – Folk Art Event

**Doug Smith** – Scheduling, copying, general support

**Roberta Thelen** – Town Board liaison

**Tim Tishler** – Tishler Builders event

**Kaye Wagner** – Folk art Event

**Caleb Whitney** – All-around general assistance, quilt raffle

**Ida Whitney** – Christmas party

**Jane Whitney** – Flood response, Björklunden Event

**Carol Williams** – Flood response

**Howard Williamson** – Flood response

**Patty Williamson** – Mega contributions to the newsletter

**Randy Zahn** – Folk art event, flood response

**Brian Zak** – Fire Department Event

## **NUMBER, PLEASE.... THE DOOR COUNTY TELEPHONE CO**

Today, we go through our days practically glued to our smartphones, wirelessly connected to the world as we check our Facebook, email, and text messages. In 1950s Baileys Harbor, we had a different kind of connection through the Door County Telephone Company. To make a telephone call, you had to lift the receiver, make sure the line was clear, and then turn the Magneto crank on the battery box, waiting to hear the operator's "Number, please." You might reply with the number of the person you wanted to speak to; you might ask "Where's the fire?" or even whether the operator had noticed a particular person driving down the street.

The story of the Door County Telephone Co. reflects the determination of citizens, even in remote areas, to participate fully in the commerce and culture of a prosperous and expanding world.

Alexander Graham Bell summoned his assistant, Watson, by telephone for the first time in March 1877; by 1890, over 400,000 phones were in service. Bell's patents began running out in the early 1890s, and consumers were tiring of the company's monopolistic behavior. Hundreds of small telephone companies were started, many to serve smaller towns and rural areas, and in January 1892, the Wisconsin Telephone Company was given permission to erect and maintain utility poles in Sturgeon Bay. Part of the large Bell Telephone Company, Wisconsin Telephone was not very interested in extending acceptable service to the more sparsely populated and less profitable northern part of the Door Peninsula.

Some Baileys Harbor residents, with other determined citizens, played a significant part in establishing telephone service in northern Door County. On April 15, 1905, the stockholders of the Door County Telephone Company held their first meeting at Brann's Hall in Baileys Harbor. It was reported that more than nine-tenths of the businesses north of Sturgeon Bay had subscribed for stock and instruments (phones) from the new company. Service



from Sturgeon Bay's Wisconsin Telephone Co. was scanty at best on the northern part of the peninsula.

Within several months of that stockholders' meeting, Door Co. Telephone had struck an agreement with Wisconsin Telephone that would allow the new company use of the already existing local exchange. In return, Wisconsin Telephone would get all long distance work and the use of any lines put up by Door Co. Telephone. In October 1906, Roger Eatough was elected manager and immediately began putting up poles and stringing wire. In January 1907, a permanent linesman was employed to maintain the system.

Establishing phone service to northern Door County towns was not a simple task. Telephone pole heights average about 40 feet, and at least 10% of pole height plus 2 feet had to be in the ground. For a 40 foot pole, that would be 6 feet. Poles were shipped in by the carload, and our terrain being what it is, pole installation required as much blasting as digging. Linemen had to be ready to maintain lines whenever and wherever they failed.

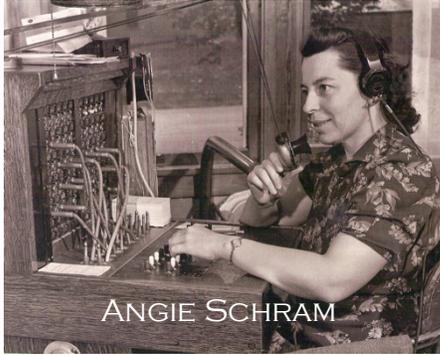
In spite of its efforts, in November 1914, complaints were lodged against the Door County Telephone Co. for poor service. In 1915, a judgment by the Railroad Commission gave the company one year to rebuild lines, have fewer subscribers per line, establish a switchboard in Baileys Harbor, and keep track of all complaints and their resolutions. In April 1916, the new switchboard was installed in August Brann's new home at 8104 Highway 57, and Baileys Harbor became home to the Door County Telephone Co.

In 1920, Frank Scholl purchased Roger Eatough's share in the company, moved to Baileys Harbor, and became the manager in charge of the lines and poles as well as housing the switchboard in his home at 8093 Highway 57, currently occupied by Door Shakespeare. Piles of utility poles were stacked parallel to Howard Avenue on the site of the present Verizon facility. In order to move the poles, Scholl ingeniously used some car tires, poles, and lumber to fashion an unusual small trailer that was often found on top of the bluff on Halloween.

Following this company in historic Door County newspapers was interesting. The company had 250 subscribers in 1921, but because of expenses, including 140 miles of poles, was not able to support itself without a rate increase. Rates were raised to \$3.00 per month within one mile of central office, and rural rates became \$1.50 per month within four miles. An interesting partnership in 1923 resulted in the 36-page telephone directory's being published by the Baileys Harbor baseball team, which kept the profit from advertisers after the team paid for printing. In November 1926, disaster struck. The region experienced a severe sleet storm that took down poles of all the local telephone companies, but Door County Telephone suffered the most with a loss of 250 poles.

The new technology was not without its glitches. In 1929, the local switchboard had to be fixed because every time the ringer was used, you could hear it on radios all over town. Now, that had to be annoying! In February 1929 there was a huge snowfall, and the phone operators were relieved at 8:15PM when the plow finally got through and stopped the barrage of calls coming from subscribers asking when the plow was coming.

In 1930, Liberty Grove Insurance Co. partnered with the phone company and established a fire alarm system by which the operator would be notified of the fire, ring fifty short rings, and then when the receiver was picked up she would disclose the location of the fire. No report on the success of that. In later years, however, if the fire truck went out, in town, you always called the operator for the fire location.



In the 1950s the switchboard was staffed 24 hours a day by three women whose voices were known to us all: Alice Hickey, Angie Schram (pictured), and Verda Peterson. Most nights, 11PM to 7AM, were covered by Adeline Knudson. The telephone office provided a bed next to the switchboard for the use of the operators. Only an emergency most grave would cause someone to call late at night or in the wee hours of the morning. Other operators at that time included Millie Lindahl, Kathleen Christiansen, and Jane Pluff. Jane

shared that it was not uncommon for ladies attending a card party to request that their calls be forwarded while they were there. It was better than an answering machine.

Finally, in June 1959 it all came to an end. Telephone technology was moving at a rate too rapid for a small company to maintain. Door County Telephone was sold to General Telephone Co., and Frank Scholl retired after 40 years of managing the company. Not too long after that we had the convenience of dial phones, but we could no longer ask the operator if she knew where our mom was when she wasn't answering the phone.

Leann Despotes

## 4TH OF JULY FLOAT

(Somehow, this article was overlooked in the Fall Newsletter.)

As we all know, the Fourth of July is a special time in Baileys Harbor, and the day begins in earnest with the 10 AM parade through town. This year was a first for the Historical Society; we entered a float depicting our new home, the Toft House. John Newton designed the float, and with the building crew of Marianne Newton and Susie Bauldry, the float structure was a true replica of the building. Of course, the house needed wheels, and Nancy Rafal was able to recruit Tim Stone to provide a trailer and then pull the float with his vintage tractor. Watch for the little house next year; I'm sure we'll use it again as the basis for our 4th of July float construction.



Marianne Newton

## MEET THE BHHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

### **Suzanne Bauldry, Vice President**

Susie is one of those people we call a local. She was born and raised in Baileys Harbor, married her husband Gene and had three children Erin, Trish, and Jason. Her mom's family (Williams) immigrated here in the early 1860s and her dad's family (Peil) came in the 1880s. She has watched the town change in many ways, and is glad to be working with BHHS to save memories and artifacts of the past.



### **Roy Cole**

Roy and his wife Jo have been year-round residents and own and operate Loc Haven Log Cabins on Chapel Lane. The Coles formerly lived in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, where Roy helped establish the Wauwatosa Historical Society. The Coles have organized quilt shows for the WHS, and Roy has had extensive experience placing sites on the National Register of Historic Places. A graduate of Michigan State University, Roy retired as an engineer from Eaton Corporation.



### **Leann Despotes, President**

Leann was born and bred in Baileys Harbor, growing up here in the 1950s and 60s. She served 37 years as a children's librarian in the Chicago Public Schools, and now spends half of each year enjoying her childhood home in Baileys Harbor. Leann is a devotee of local history and always looking for interesting topics for public presentations or the newsletter. She may often be found engrossed in a mystery novel.



### **Mary Moran, Treasurer**

Mary moved to Baileys Harbor after her retirement as an accountant in a law firm. She leads a busy life as she works in retail, is a docent in the Baileys Harbor Information Office, and is very active in her church. BHHS is very fortunate to be one of the organizations for which Mary has agreed to be treasurer.



### **Kristen Peil**

Kristen was born and raised in Baileys Harbor. Operating a business on longtime family land, raising the 6th generation of the Baileys Harbor Peil family, and driving past her great-great-grandfather's maple trees on County F reminds her how much she loves Door County history in gen-



eral and Baileys Harbor especially! As a founding board member of the BHHS, Kristen creates the library display cases, began the Quilting Bee, chaired the Community Quilt raffle, manages the Christmas ornament activity, spearheaded the Folk Art Fundraiser, and is the master of our Facebook page.



**Marianne Newton, Secretary**

Marianne was born, raised and taught 45 years on the south side of Chicago. Retiring in Baileys Harbor fulfilled a long dream for her and her husband, John. Marianne says, "Working in my garden one day, Leann Desportes introduced herself to me. She invited me to join BHHS, and the rest is history." She enjoys working as secretary and helping with the summer programs. She and John loved building the 4th of July Float and are pretty proud of it.

**Nancy Rafal**

Nancy Rafal has lived in Baileys Harbor for more than 20 years. While an elementary teacher in Illinois she worked with students to learn about the man their school was named for, Peter Hoy. The project won a first place from Kodak's *Cameras in the Curriculum*. For BHHS she presented a program on Moonlight Bay in 2014 and knows she just scratched the surface. She spearheaded the Baileys Harbor Community Mural Project in 2012-13.



**Howard Williamson**

Like Walt Disney, Howard spent his childhood years in Marceline, Missouri. He retired in 1997 after 40 years in public education. Now an official Wisconsin resident, he and his wife, Patty, spend April through November on Kangaroo Lake. He is a substitute teacher for Gibraltar, and a docent at the Baileys Harbor Visitor Center. As a volunteer, he divides his time amongst Zion United Methodist Church, Northern Sky Theater, and Door Shakespeare.



**SWEET, SWEET SPRINGTIME!**



Is there a more cheering sign of spring than the beautiful beds of daffodils seen throughout the town and county? You can create a culinary reflection of the season by preparing this springtime recipe found in the Baileys Harbor Women's Club Cook Book published in 1950.

Mrs. Lewis (Minnie) Hickey contributed the recipe. She was known for her bread baking, mouth-watering sauerkraut, and even lutefisk. Her husband worked in the U.S. Lifesaving Service, and later the Coast Guard, which allowed him to return to Baileys Harbor, his hometown. Minnie's youngest son, Jim, was a veteran of WWII, and was a rural mail carrier here for many years.

## Daffodil Cake

1 ½ cups of egg whites	6 egg yolks
1 tsp. salt	1 tsp. lemon extract
1 tsp. cream of tartar	½ cup cake flour
1 ½ cups sugar	1 tsp. vanilla
¾ cup cake flour	

Sift flour 5 times; sift sugar 5 times; beat egg whites until foamy; add salt and cream of tartar and beat until stiff but not dry. Fold in sugar gradually; divide mixture into equal parts. Into the first part, add the well-beaten egg yolks, lemon extract and fold in the ¾ cup cake flour. To the second part add vanilla and the ½ cup cake flour. Fill large angel food pan by alternate spoonful of the two colored mixtures. Place in an oven preheated to 200°. Reset temperature to 325°. Bake 1½ hrs.

Daffodil cake seems to have been a very popular dessert in the early decades of the 20th Century. Now, I have never sifted anything 5 times in my life, so I checked and found in at least three old cookbooks, including The Settlement Cook Book, that sifting 5-6 times was *de rigueur* for angel type cakes.

My daughter and I tried the recipe, and followed it as exactly as we could. (We started adding the sugar at the soft peak stage.) Our only change was that we checked and found it to be done after just 45 minutes (internal temp of 210°), so be forewarned! The result was delicious as well as pretty. (Those are our actual pictures.) There was little lemon flavor, though. Maybe a couple of teaspoons of fresh lemon zest would be the way to go. Give it a try.



Leann Despotes

## A NOTE TO OUR READERS

If you find errors or omissions in the Newsletter, or if you have information to add to the articles, please let us know. We like everything to be just right! If anyone tries the Daffodil cake recipe, let us know how it turned out, and do include a picture, if possible. Also, if you think of topics to investigate or historic people to profile, share your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you.

Leann Despotes