

BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

P.O. Box 336
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historicalsociety.org

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8061 Highway 57

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Lost Baileys Harbor:

Who remembers
this Ridges Road
landmark?
See Page 2.

SPRING & SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The spring and summer seasons opened with a wonderful open house sponsored by the Community Association to showcase the Toft House (8061 Highway 57) and inaugurate it as the new home of the town Visitors Center and the Baileys Harbor Historical Society. The first historic displays were installed, tourist information was laid out, and a festive gathering, including music, great food, and community spirit, made the Toft House part of the commons of the town.

In addition to holding three evening history events this summer, we have also installed a historic farmhouse bedroom at the Toft House and a display of vintage and antique kitchenalia.

In September we held our first-ever Members' Brunch to do a bit of celebrating as well as a bit of business. We are also debuting our *Historic Baileys Harbor* tour booklet that highlights eleven historic sites in Baileys Harbor. As always -- busy, busy.

Tentative 2016 Events Schedule

(Held at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall)

June 15, 2016 -7PM: A Lighthouse Keeper's Life

July 20, 2016 -7PM: Otto & Hedwig Peil: a Pioneer Story

Aug. 17, 2016 -7PM: St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church

**Sept. 14, 2016 -7PM: Rural Schools in Northern Door
County**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society currently has 104 memberships representing well over 100 individuals, including 32 Lifetime Memberships. Seven new memberships have been established since our Spring 2015 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. 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 in 2015. We hope you will enjoy and join in our exploration of Baileys Harbor history. Glad to have you aboard, Janet Defnet, Florian II Lakeshore Supper Club, Liz Hoffman, Stephen P. Johnson, Pat Klitzman, Karen and William Reifsnnyder, Jim & Evie Rossol, Jane Wilson, and Marsha Williams!

LOST BAILEYS HARBOR – THE BATHHOUSE AT RIDGES BEACH PARK

In late 1935, the United States Department of Commerce deeded the 40 acres around the Range Lights, including the Ridges Beach, to Door County. Most of that land eventually became the Ridges Sanctuary, but the beach remains as a county park. In the late 1930s, the beach area was improved by the addition of the bathhouse shown in the picture. There was also a refreshment stand on the beach that sold hot dogs, candy, and soda. By the mid-1950s, the refreshment stand was no more and the bathhouse was becoming a ruin. Eventually, wooden outhouses for men and women were replaced by the current bathroom facility, the bathhouse was removed, the parking lot gravel was replaced with pavement, and large rocks were added to mark the beach's perimeter.

Leann Despotos

TOFT HOUSE UPDATE

This summer, BHHS has been able to take advantage of a new opportunity for disseminating the history of Baileys Harbor by installing exhibits in the Toft House, 8061 Hwy 57. The two following articles will describe the pioneer Peil family bedroom and kitchenalia displays that visitors have been enjoying this summer. Board members have been able to enhance the space with a Wisconsin-made, antique glass display case and an antique dictionary stand that holds a register to record visitors' comments on the displays. Comments have been very positive, and visitors have made contributions to support our efforts. We are responsible for dusting and tidying our part of the house, and anyone who is willing to spend a bit of time helping with that can send an email message to info@baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org to let us know. This is not a big job, but it makes a big difference. The more it sparkles, the better it looks, and the more inviting it is. Suggestions for future exhibits, including featuring your family history or other pertinent topics, are most welcome. We will work with you to help develop your ideas, if you would like.

FOOD PROCESSING – THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY

This summer's colorful exhibit of kitchenalia in the Toft House showcased antique and vintage cooking equipment, advertising cookbooks, and printed and damask tablecloths. Gathering items for the exhibit required a search through the cupboards, pantries, and attics of some lifelong Baileys Harbor residents, who kindly lent us kitchen utensils from their mothers and even their grandmothers. The examples in our display case, all together, probably couldn't accomplish what the average KitchenAid food processor can with a few attachments.

There is history in these old items, though. I learned that the thumb-gear ice cream scoop that can be used with one hand was a major innovation. Previously, one needed a second utensil to push the ice cream onto a dish. Electric toasters didn't become popular until there was a regular supply of uniformly sliced bread. Also, what we now call an eggbeater was originally made by the Dover Company, and using one was called "Dovering," much as some people referred to vacuuming as "Hoovering."

If this display does nothing else, it should remind us not to take all our "modern conveniences" for granted. It wasn't so long ago that we ground our own coffee because we had to, sifted flour to remove coarse leavings from the milling process, and almost everyone had a little metal flanged tube to make stuffing sausage coming out of our meat grinders easier. Be sure to give your food processor a little extra polish this week.



Leann Despotes

THE PEIL FAMILY EXHIBIT



My memories of spending time at my grandparents' farm (then owned by my aunt and uncle, Agnes and Walter Peil) are some of my sweetest childhood memories. Threshing times and playing in the oats while they (along with a few mice) were being blown up into storage, tables laden with food for the hungry threshers, skipping school to pick potatoes at 50 cents a bushel, and spraying milk into the

mouths of the barnyard cats, all bring back a special time in a child's life.

Memories are made to be shared and when the town purchased the Toft House for the Historical Society, it seemed the perfect fit to display the Peil homestead's bedroom furniture and memorabilia passed down from my grandmother. All the furniture and related items are authentic, including the wardrobe made by my grandfather, Otto, as a wedding present to my grandmother, Hedwig, in 1895. Other items include the christening gown that was worn by all ten Peil children, the wall-mounted German music box, musical family album, washstand, commode, porcelain dolls with clothing made by my mother, and the well-used rocking chair. The crocheted bedspread was made by Hedwig's grandmother, Omla, who emigrated in 1899 when her first great-grandchild was born. Photos of the family complete the exhibit.

Because many of our emigrant grandparents settled and developed farms, fisheries, and businesses in the Baileys Harbor area, the Baileys Harbor Historical Society hopes to have other families share their histories and stories. We are the caretakers of our history, and it is important that these stories and the memorabilia are collected and kept for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. Archives are being established and if you have something you could share, please contact BHHS. Photos and clippings can be copied and returned to you.

The Toft House is a historical treasure and we hope to provide future exhibits featuring lumbering, fishing, and the other enterprises that made this town such a beacon for our emigrant forebears. We welcome you to become a part of this history!



Lynn Mattke

HISTORIC TOUR BOOKLET



Strange as it may seem, it has taken over a year to develop a historic guide to Baileys Harbor. We have produced a sixteen-page booklet that will take a visitor, or perhaps a resident, on a journey highlighting some of the sites in our little town that inspire regard for the struggles and successes of ordinary people in a small town responding to the environment, the economy, world events, and spiritual needs.

We began by including the seven sites that are on the National Register of Historical Places. We added the Birdcage Lighthouse because it was the first lighthouse in Baileys Harbor. The Ridges Sanctuary is Wisconsin's first land trust. Björklunden exemplifies a site that has achieved prominence as a site dedicated to a spiritual journey to peace. Finally, we added the Toft House, current home of the Historical Society.

BHHS is eagerly anticipating input for the expansion of the tour booklet. We look forward to including other historic sites in the future. Please be sure to forward your ideas to info@baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org. Special thanks are due to Sue Moore, who shepherded the

project to its final form.

WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION COMES TO BAILEYS HARBOR

On May 26th Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) and their Hometown Stories video crew arrived at the 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. Folks filled the hall with rollicking stories of Baileys Harbor’s past, including topics on commercial fishing, clearing the land for farms, and families immigrating to this once unoccupied harbor. By offering materials and resources to the WPT we have been able to assist the crew in finding interesting people to spotlight in the Door County Hometown Stories video. Watch for a feature on a Baileys Harbor woman who made her way from Germany to Baileys Harbor by agreeing to marry a man who would pay her passage. Many images and stories of Baileys Harbor and Door County in general have been gathered over the summer by the video crew and now we are awaiting the final product. Watch for notification from us as to when and where the premiere of the Door County Hometown Stories Video will happen



Kristen Peil

PEIL CREEK AND RIEBOLDT CREEK ARE NOW OFFICIAL NAMES



The spelling of the names of two small creeks in Baileys Harbor Township got the “ie” and “ei” mixed up. I was only familiar with the pronunciation of Rieboldt Creek being REEboldt. I had seen the old plat maps and knew that an A. Rieboldt had owned most of the land around the creek and some of Mud Lake, from which the creek flowed a short distance before emptying into Moonlight Bay. I was annoyed later when the signs at the creek showed up with the

Reiboldt spelling but I didn’t know anything about A. Rieboldt. I learned that from the book *North Bay, Door County, Wisconsin*, written by a local man, James Erickson, who wrote that August Rieboldt was co-owner of the Rieboldt and Wolter Ship Yard in Sturgeon Bay (now known as Bay Ship), that he had a cottage next to the creek and people had started calling the creek “Rieboldt’s Creek,” and even wrote that Rieboldt was buried in the Bay Lake Cemetery in Sturgeon Bay. However, the spelling of the name in his book was always Reiboldt. The incorrect spelling for both Rieboldt and Peil Creek showed up in the 2013 county plat book, but I didn’t get motivated to attempt to get the spellings changed until an article on fly-fishing appeared in the early summer 2014 issue of *Door County Living*, showing the fisherman in a creek identified as Reiboldt’s Creek. Based on the information from the J. Erickson book it was easy to gather documentation online about August Rieboldt. The case for the Peil name was also quite easy, since there are no Piel families in the plat books or phone books of Door County. I wrote a letter stating my reasons for changing the spellings and enclosed copies of old plat maps, newspaper clippings, and cemetery records. I took one to Douglas Smith, the Baileys Harbor Township Administrator, who passed it on to various county departments including Greg Coulthurst of the DC Soil and Water Conservation Department. It was through him that I learned what forms to use to apply for the spelling changes. He helped me through the bureaucratic process and kept me informed when the Land Conservation Department, and the Door County Board had it on their agenda and would be voting on the proposals, so that I could say something. I also took the initial letter to Jim Lundstrom of the *Peninsula Pulse*, not intended as a letter to the editor, but he printed most of it anyway under his title “Restore Rieboldt’s Good Name,” which was read by Daniel Rieboldt, a descendant of the family, who got involved in the process. David Winston of the Wisconsin DNR and a member of the Geographic Names Council kept us informed of the progress of the proposals. Finally, on July 9, 2015, the proposals were approved by the US Board on Geographic Names in Reston, Virginia, and notice was sent to me on July 15, 2015.



Peil Creek can be seen about a mile west of Baileys Harbor on County Road EE. Rieboldt Creek can be seen about 3 miles northeast of Baileys Harbor on County Road Q.

Philip Graupner



BUILT ON A ROCK—IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Roberta Burlo, whose husband's family have been members of Immanuel Lutheran Church for six generations (as have the Tishler, Krause, and Peil families), presented an interesting program on the church's history at the July meeting of the BHHS.

The church, located at 7973 Highway 57, was founded in 1892, with fifteen families. Lavern Schoblocher, a granddaughter of Charles Abrahamson, one of those early members, was present at the meeting. The site of the original church on the hill had been the location of Anclams' General Store. The altar was always decorated ornately for Christmas, including small figures representing church history, dating back to those who first crossed the Atlantic. A rose window above the altar

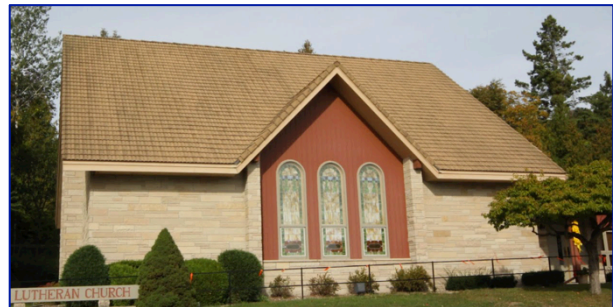
and a steeple were added in 1914. The church was heated by a wood stove near the front door, with a stovepipe that ran the length of the church to keep the rest of the building warm. It was not unusual for families who did not have horses to walk 3 or 4 miles to attend services. Susie Peil Bauldry remembers that her grandmother, Hedwig Peil, insisted that the family never miss church. If her grandfather felt it was too cold for the horses to be outside, they all walked.

The first pastor, Immanuel M. Brackebusch, served from 1893, when the church was incorporated, until 1901, and it is believed the church may have been named in his honor. Salaries for the six pastors who served from 1901 to 1930 ranged from \$50 to \$95 a year and were often paid, in part, in food or wood. From 1930 to 1955, pastors lived in the Upper Range Lighthouse, rented for \$1 a year from the U.S. Lighthouse Service. They were undoubtedly the only pastors in the country who also cared for two lighthouses! The Rev. Susan Gunderson has been Immanuel's pastor since 2005.

In 1937, a night wedding had to be approved by the church council, as both the bride and groom had to work during the day. The church celebrated its golden jubilee in 1943, and twenty-eight members served in the armed services during World War II. Beginning in 1960, Betty Weiss became the church organist and continued for more than 30 years. In the 1960s, Alice Hickey became the first woman to serve on the church council; Susie Bauldry was the second. The Rev. Kimberly Stowell became the first woman pastor in 1986.

To assure that larger church governance reflected parish attitudes, Immanuel has sometimes changed its synod affiliation. In 1928, Immanuel ceased its relationship with the Wisconsin Synod and by 1930 joined the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest of the United Lutheran Church in America. In 1991, Immanuel joined the ELCA, and in 2011 joined the Lutheran Church in Mission for Christ.

In 1931, the church building was moved east and lowered onto its new foundation on Highway 57, hoping to take advantage of the limestone escarpment itself as part of the foundation. Unfortunately, water seepage from the limestone cliff used as the west wall of the basement



presented ongoing problems of dampness and mustiness. Walter Zahn served as janitor for 5 years for \$50 a year. On April 29, 1962, ground was broken for a parish education building where Anclams' Scenic Grove Hotel had been located. The new sanctuary was added and dedicated on March 1, 1981. The original rose window, stained glass windows, chandeliers, and pews were brought from the old church. Philip Graupner, a member of the audience, told how he took down the old church building and used the lumber to build his home on Highway Q. Susie Bauldry and Bill Fairchild made a stained glass piece for the new church to match the rose window, and Annie Peil etched the glass doors with religious symbols. The bell tower and three crosses were added later. The congregation also enjoys meeting at Immanuel Woods, an informal natural worship setting off of Frogtown Road.

Patty Williamson

ADELINE (PEIL) EDMUNDS 2015 SCARECROW HONOREE



Adeline, or as most people called her, “Tootsie,” was born in Baileys Harbor on May 27, 1907. Her parents were German immigrants, Otto and Hedwig Peil. She was one of ten children.

From the time she was born she began to form the kind of person she would become. She loved school; learning, writing, and the gathering of knowledge. As was the case for most children then, she was only allowed to go to school until she reached eighth grade, but because she was needed at home to help out she had to quit before she could graduate, a great loss to her. But she absorbed and retained everything she could and her whole life she never gave up on her quest for knowledge.

That quest set her on the path to write a book of her family history. She loved words, so in her early 70s, she decided it was time to write her book, *The Loving Spice of Life*.

When she was done, she took it to a publisher in Milwaukee. After reading it, he said he would publish it, but only after many rewrites to get it “read-worthy.” It was not written as he felt it should be. Adeline was adamant “that this was her story, and that was the way it would be told.” The two parted ways, and she took it upon herself to publish and pay for all costs on her own - not an easy thing to do. Having worked her whole life as a cook and baker, money was not easy to come by. But the German in her made her strong. This was her story and no one would change it. Not only did she sell out the first printing, she went on to do a second printing. She did it “HER WAY.”

A copy of the book can be found in the library. Read and enjoy it. It is the basic story of what it was like to be the child of an immigrant family who came to America in the 1890s. Adeline passed away in 1992.

Suzanne Bauldry

RIDGES ROAD: SHORT DISTANCE, LONG STORY



Leann Despotes presented the history of Ridges Road at the BHHS's first meeting of 2015. Walking, biking, or even driving along Ridges Road takes one into a quiet, scenic escape from a bustling world. Surprisingly, this peaceful byway reflects Baileys Harbor's history from its very beginning.

Alanson Sweet, the owner of the *Gazelle*, the schooner Captain Justice Bailey brought safely into harbor here in 1848, saw business possibilities in the abundant timber and stone in the area. He immediately purchased two lots, got the legislature to establish the borders of Door County with Baileys Harbor as the county seat, and contracted with the federal government to build in 1851 what we now call the "birdcage" light at the entrance to the harbor. Now this is one of just three such lighthouses in the United States.

Unfortunately, the lighthouse was placed incorrectly, which contributed to many of the shipwrecks for which Baileys Harbor became known. It was replaced in 1869 by the Cana Island Lighthouse and the Range Lights, now part of the Ridges Sanctuary. The Range Lights were reactivated as navigational aids this summer. The birdcage light was sold in 1926 to William Mahler as a private residence and remains private to this day.

The Lifesaving/Coast Guard Station was established in 1896, saved hundreds of lives, and was a major part of life in Baileys Harbor until 1948, when it was closed "because of inadequate lake traffic." Local men, including those from the Anclam, Hickey, and Levanger families, were favored for hire, because they knew the lake and the local weather. Both the lighthouses and the Coast Guard Station reflected the robust lake traffic and shipping of those days. Ridges Road was locally referred to as "The Station Road" for many years.



Commercial fishing has been a great tradition in Baileys Harbor, and fisheries existed along Ridges Road from the earliest pioneer days. There are stories that fishermen used to return after a day on the water "waist deep in fish." One of the giants in the business was Cliff Wenniger, who came from Algoma in 1931 and established a thriving business on part of the Coast Guard land. Today, the Hickey Brothers Fisheries continues the tradition, providing the freshest whitefish at the retail store on Ridges Road.

In 1871, Thomas Toft came to Door County and found a job as foreman for the Buckley and Wing Stone Company. When the company went bankrupt, and the owners left town owing the workers, Toft was awarded some of the land from the company in lieu of owed wages and he purchased more at a sheriff's sale. He was adamant that the old-growth trees on his land not be harvested. In 1967, the land Toft, and later his daughter Emma, protected for so long, was sold to the Nature Conservancy, with life tenancy given to Emma. Today, Toft Point is owned by the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and is a popular destination for hikers and lovers of nature, even sporting an eagle's nest.

One of the early attempts to make Baileys Harbor a site for vacation homes was the North Point Reserve, organized in January 1923 by a group of businessmen from Sturgeon Bay, who advertised 50' x 300' lots on Ridges Road. The area became known as Lighthouse Point Reserve. Selling points included access to a telephone (Coast Guard Station), accessible mail (again, Coast Guard Station), and land set aside for hunting. This project didn't seem to amount to much, but today, there are many vacation and year-round homes enjoyed along Ridges Road.

With auto-mobility, vacationing was becoming a big business. In 1935, Baileys Harbor summer residents, Jac and George Schmitz, established the iconic summer resort, Schmitz Gazebo, located where the Yacht Club is today. The resort could house forty-five guests, and also included a Duncan Hines-approved dining room and a cocktail lounge. The Schmitz brothers worked with Town Chairman, Clarence Mann, and succeeded in getting the (Station/Ridges) road paved in the 1930s. Previously, one had to walk along the shore or over very rough terrain to get into town. 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.

After George, the last Schmitz brother died, the land was sold to Aribert Wild, who built the Baileys Harbor Yacht Club in 1969. Its incredible dining room, which for some years required formal dress, attracted owners of 85-foot boats, like Ray Kroc, who built McDonald's into the most successful fast food operation in the world. The clubhouse burned in 1993, and the new Yacht Club, built away from the water, features condos and lodging.

After the Coast Guard Station closed, the land was given to the County Park Department, and around 1950 a bathing beach and bathhouse (See Lost Baileys Harbor.) were established at Ridges County Park. Before that, in the 1930s, the County Park commission decided to fill in the swales in the Baileys Harbor bog and establish a trailer park to take economic advantage of the enthusiasm for camping trailers at that time. Local residents who treasured the wildflowers and natural qualities of the area protested loudly with the help of botanist Albert Fuller, and eventually prevailed, establishing the nationally known Ridges Sanctuary, Wisconsin's first land trust. The new Ridges Interpretive Center now stands at the entry to Ridges Road.

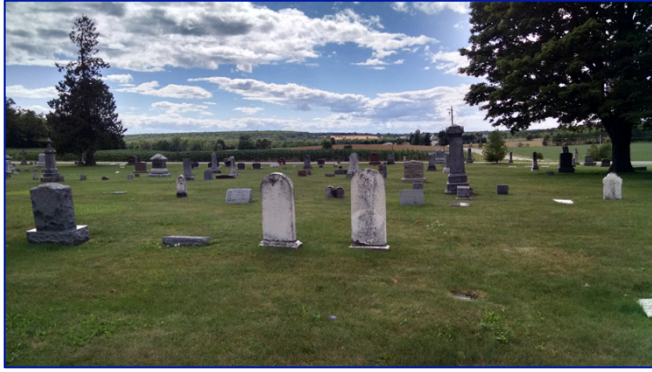
Despite its bucolic appearance, Ridges Road has been key in the development of lake shipping and commerce, the fishing industry, the tourism industry, and the conservation movement. All of this in 2 1/2 miles.

Patty Williamson

MANY PLOTS, AND MANY STORIES IN BAILEYS HARBOR CEMETERY

Susie Bauldry's dad, Rollie Peil, was for years the person who dug the graves at the local cemetery. She gave the cemetery's history at the August meeting.

Susie and her siblings often accompanied their dad to the local cemetery. When her dad finished digging a grave, the children always looked in, sure this was the time they'd see buried treasure. Sometimes they did spot old bones, proof that the area had been a burial ground before the cemetery was established in 1889. Rollie Peil dug his first grave at age 15 and was paid \$10. He continued to age 84. In the winter, he often built a fire on the gravesite to thaw the ground.



Baileys Harbor purchased the first land for a future cemetery from Mrs. A. M. Fry in 1863, but it was not plotted until 1889. A 20' x 20' plot, large enough for eight graves, sold for \$2. (Now a single plot costs \$125 for a Baileys Harbor resident and \$1,000 for a non-resident.) In 1999, the town paid \$70,000 for 7 acres across Cherry Road for an eventual expansion. The cemetery is divided into Town and Catholic sections.

One of the first projects of the present-day Baileys Harbor Women's Club in 1913 was to improve the cemetery, including fencing to keep out animals from the local farms.

When Susie was elected to the town board in 1990, she was put in charge of the Cemetery Committee. The record Susie was given when she took on the Cemetery Committee was a piece of tag board divided into 1-inch squares with up to eight names penciled in each square. She viewed it as a challenge and also as an amazing history of the town that led her to hours of additional research. She learned, for example, that a diphtheria epidemic in 1889 killed sixteen Baileys Harbor children, ages 1 to 13. The prescribed treatment was a gargle of old potash, iron, and whiskey. Susie compiled, for the first time, detailed records with information about every burial site. A book with a copy of the records is available in the library.

Some unusual experiences:

- A man looking for a burial site for himself and his wife laid down on the ground and spread out his arms in four locations before finding one where he felt comfortable.
- Greg Casperson provided Susie with information about early burial practices. Because most funeral homes in the early days did not employ an embalmer, a family that wanted a body embalmed had to pay for one themselves. Generally, wakes were held at home, with burial within no more than 3 days.
- In hot weather, the body might be placed on a perforated wooden platform with ice underneath. In the old days, caskets could be purchased at Brann's Store, now the site of the Cornerstone Pub.

Susie spoke of two unusual deaths, reported in lurid detail in the newspapers:

- On June 26, 1919, town board members were called from a meeting to come to the toolshed at the cemetery, where Otto Bitzen from Kewaunee had committed suicide on the day he was to have married a local girl.
- The tombstone of Augusta Reh says, "Shot in Lincoln Park, Chicago," and a newspaper article includes a photo of the site and of her and the man who killed her and then himself when she rejected his proposal.

The oldest person buried in the cemetery is Grandma Honold, who died in 1982 at age 109. The youngest is Lizzie Williams, 20 months and 21 days.

The bell Susie had mounted near the cemetery pump (the original, and it still works) has a special story. When her husband, Gene, died, the grandchildren were told he was an angel, but they didn't believe it, because they hadn't heard a bell ring as it does in the movie, [A Wonderful Life](#). The old dinner bell that belonged to Susie's dad was rung at Gene's funeral. Susie invites anyone who'd like to ring it for loved ones and then sit on one of the nearby benches to celebrate and rejoice in their lives.

Patty Williamson

MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH AND BYLAWS REVISION

On September 23rd, more than thirty BHHS members came together for our first members-only gathering to share brunch at the Cornerstone Pub in Baileys Harbor. The food was fabulous and plentiful; the pleasant hum of conversation and the clink of coffee cups filled the room. Everyone judged the event to be a success, and we look forward to a similar get-together in 2016.



Part of this event was a business meeting called to consider two revisions to our bylaws. Both are necessary in order for our organization to reflect the reality of the demographics of our membership. When we adopted our bylaws, we had no idea that our members would eventually reach from Alaska to Florida, and from Texas to Vermont. It is rare that our whole membership would be in the same state, much less the same zip code. Consequently, it is very difficult to achieve the 40% quorum for the purpose of getting any vote, including a change in the bylaws. This was definitely a Catch-22. The other issue was that Board Members were limited to two consecutive 2-year terms. This is a great way to get new people and ideas on the Board, but we have been unable to guarantee that we can find new people every year.

After consulting with the Wisconsin Historical Society, we found that we could extend our in-person vote electronically through email. We needed fifty-five at the brunch to achieve a quorum, so we did have to collect email votes. A report of the outcome of the vote will appear in the Spring Newsletter.

BHHS GETS TOP BILLING IN HERITAGE ALLIANCE DOOR COUNTY BROCHURE



BHHS is the first name on the list when you open *Historical Door County*, the Heritage Alliance Door County (HADC) brochure of historical entities. Well, maybe it's because the list is alphabetical, but it works for us! Numerous meetings were held last winter, where any history-related group could attend and be a part of the decision making process. The results are a beautiful brochure that lists the name, location, phone, website, and a map of the peninsula with stars designating locations of any history group that paid the small fee to be listed. Brochures were distributed all around the county, including The Toft House. We have it in our display area.

HADC exists as a resource to strengthen and enhance local heritage organizations, promote collaboration, and develop county-wide programming and events. The organization is a great source of information for anyone interested in local history events in Door County. You can find them on Facebook.

Kristen Peil