

# BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**Spring 2018**

P.O. Box 336  
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

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historical society.org

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Visit us at  
The Toft House  
8061 Highway 57

\*

Enjoy Our  
Historic Display Cases

Baileys Harbor  
Town Hall  
2392 Cty Road F

\*

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

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Baileys Harbor  
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Lost  
Baileys Harbor-  
Check out that  
Chevy!  
See p. 3

## **WINTER - SPRING ACTIVITY**

As usual, winter and spring are seasons for BHHS to plan and develop activities for the upcoming seasons of presentations and displays. It has taken a while, but the new display cases at the Toft House are now complete and waiting to be filled. We are looking for more great pictures of old Baileys Harbor to enhance our time-traveling "Now & Then" program in June. Carol Schmidt and Ginny Siegel are researching the history of the Conrad Faust family, and we are hoping to host a visit from Jens Jensen at one of our public presentations. Lots to look forward to; we hope to see you there!

L.D.

## **2018 EVENTS – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| June 13, 2018      | 7PM – Baileys Harbor Now & Then |
| July 25, 2018      | 7PM – Conrad Faust Family       |
| August 25, 2018    | 3PM – Meet Jens Jensen          |
| September 12, 2018 | Members' Brunch                 |

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society currently has 117 memberships, representing many more individuals, of course, because of Family and Business memberships. We have added 1 membership since the fall 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. Our display cabinets at the Toft House are now complete, and the gardens are looking great, thanks to our generous members. 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 the home page of our website <[www.baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org)>; just print it, fill it out, and mail it in.

## WELCOME!

This is BHHS's way of giving a warm smile and a hearty handshake to our new members! Welcome to Wayne and Kate Orsted. We appreciate your support, and hope that you will enjoy sharing and participating in our ongoing exploration of Baileys Harbor history.



## DONATION APPRECIATION!

BHHS would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who responded to our annual request for funds. We believe that supporting local history has educational value in understanding and appreciating our culture, enjoying the stories of the past, and inspiring our approach to the future. Our 2017 year-end fund-raising appeal was very successful. Contributions, in amounts large and small, totaled more than \$2,500.00 this year. These contributions will be put to use as we continue to improve our display areas, develop the Toft House gardens, and upgrade storage for artifacts. Also, many thanks to board members Phil Graupner and Suzanne Bauldry for handling the mailing.

Leann Despotes

## LOST BAILEYS HARBOR – THE SANDS MOTEL

This example of lost Baileys Harbor is one that many of us remember well. The Sands Motel at 2371 Ridges Road was built by Carl Jonas, a former manager of the Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club, and opened to the public in mid-June 1962. Right on the edge of Lake Michigan, it had its own sandy beach just feet from each unit. The Sands had 12 large units described as strictly modern with electric heat, tiled baths, and fine furnishings. BHHS member Carol Thelen Schmidt was a housekeeper there in 1962, and she reminisced that Mrs. Jonas was a demanding boss who insisted that the rooms be meticulously cleaned. Despite that, Carol said that she had a great time working with her cousin Helen, and that she still makes her own beds in the same precise manner.

Charles Tishler built a home for the Jonas family just to the east of the motel building. His son Jumbo explained that his father also joined the original two sets of five units by building two units between them and built the small office structure in front of the motel. In 1966, Jonas decided to sell, and the Sands was purchased by Bill and Jackie Cisewski, who ran it for over 18 years. When it was decided to develop the land for the Harbor Sands Condominiums, the buildings were not demolished. The Jonas home was sold for \$1.00 and was moved a short distance to the west side of Highway 57, and the motel was disposed of in the same way to anyone who would move it away. It was moved to 3120 Stevenson Pier Road, Sturgeon Bay, WI. The motel is now called the Countryside Inn (Est. 1994) and is owned by Liz Merner, who is looking into the history of the Sands Motel. She hopes to recreate the 1960s flavor of the building as she operates the motel herself and would love to have some pictures from the sixties and seventies. If you have anything, I will be glad to pass them on.

Leann Despotes

## TOFT HOUSE DISPLAY CABINETS

The part of the Toft House dedicated for the presentation of historic information needed an improved display area. The Town of Baileys Harbor and the Historical Society have joined together to fund a capital improvement for the Toft House, including donations from our 2016 end-of-year appeal. A contract was awarded to Peil Construction and Baylake Electric to provide cabinetry and a lighting system in the west room on the north side of the building.

Previously, this area had open shelves, and the lighting was not well directed toward items placed on the shelves. Of course, the lack of security severely limited the choice of items that were placed there.

The new display cabinet is approximately 12 feet long and 5 feet high with closed-door cabinets underneath for storage. This is divided into 3 sections, each with a sliding glass door. LED lighting mounted inside the cabinet at the top and sides is controlled by a dimming switch. Remova-



ble tack boards on the rear surface facilitates the changing of displays. Adjustable glass shelves provide display space for artifacts of varying sizes. Security for displayed items is assured by locks on the glass doors. The bottom one-third of the cabinet has much-needed closed-door storage space.

All of our board members have weighed in on this project, but special thanks go to Roy Cole and John Newton for their designs and following through on what proved to be a more complicated undertaking than we had imagined.

Leann Despotes

## KEEPING IN TOUCH



It may be surprising to learn that the Historical Society has many members who live far from Baileys Harbor and often have no opportunity to enjoy the public programs that we produce every summer. Even local members might have to miss presentations due to schedule conflicts or business reasons.

Yet they all have an interest in our local history, and BHHS wants to be in touch. To bridge that gap, we decided to publish our semi-annual newsletter, so that even if a member can't be there, they can read synopses of our programs, find out what else is going on, and enjoy articles and pictures exploring Baileys Harbor history. Each issue has several contributors, with Leann Despotes serving as the editor. Nancy Rafal manages our Facebook page, and that helps everyone keep up with current goings-on. If you are checking up on BHHS activities or other relevant news, that's the place to go. Leann is attempting to tweet occasionally, but this has been a slow process.

For one-stop, twenty-four/seven service on all of the above and more, visit our website! Many thanks to member Karen Berndt who sponsors the site and designed our first pages in 2010, and Cheryl Iverson, another member who contributed to provide a professional redesign in 2016. Leann Despotes keeps it all up to date. At this time, anyone can access all of our newsletters (There's even an index.), view each and every public program we have produced, and find our current schedule. In addition, there is a brief history of Baileys Harbor's first 100 years, our "Historic Baileys Harbor" tour booklet (Thank you, Sue Moore.), and descriptions of the many projects we have undertaken over the last eight years. The site provides a way to contact us, a membership form, and explains how to make donations. But there's more! Our Twitter and Facebook pages are just a click away at the bottom of the home page,

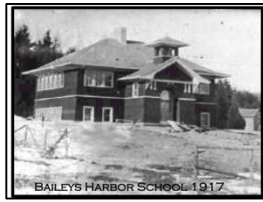
[www.baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org).

Because we are a small all-volunteer organization, we feel that our internet presence is critical for our membership as well as reaching out to the greater world. We are gradually building an online archive of Baileys Harbor history that is accessible to all, all the time. We think it's working. In 2017, our website host recorded 25,944 visits to the site. Make haste, and create your bookmark.

Leann Despotes



## THEN AND NOW – LET’S START THE TIME MACHINE!



We will present our first 2018 public program at the Town Hall on June 13 at 7PM. We are calling it *Then and Now* and viewing it as a bit of a time travel adventure. The program will present photographs of early Baileys Harbor sites and structures and compare with what is there today. We are looking forward to enthusiastic audience participation.

It is easy to take pictures of the “now” but finding the “then” can be challenging. So we are putting out a request to anyone who might have a picture that would be useful. We will gladly make a copy and return the original, or accept a digital copy through email. Some examples are: Boettcher’s garage, the first Baileys Harbor School, the Panter Hotel (Florian’s), Hoefert garage at the south end of town, Lake Theater, or any place where there has been great change. We have a great summer planned and are looking forward to seeing you all this year.



Suzanne Bauldry

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS – A PERSPECTIVE

CALENDAR 1918											
JANUARY (JANUARY)				FEBRUARY (FEBRUARY)				MARCH (MARCH)			
Sunday	1	8 18 20 27		Sunday	1	8 18 20 27		Sunday	1	8 18 20 27	
Monday	2	9 19 21 28		Monday	2	9 19 21 28		Monday	2	9 19 21 28	
Tuesday	3	10 22 29		Tuesday	3	10 22 29		Tuesday	3	10 22 29	
Wednesday	4	11 23 30		Wednesday	4	11 23 30		Wednesday	4	11 23 30	
Thursday	5	12 24 31		Thursday	5	12 24 31		Thursday	5	12 24 31	
Friday	6	13 25		Friday	6	13 25		Friday	6	13 25	
Saturday	7	14 26		Saturday	7	14 26		Saturday	7	14 26	
APRIL (APRIL)				MAY (MAY)				JUNE (JUNE)			
Sunday	1	8 18 20 27		Sunday	1	8 18 20 27		Sunday	1	8 18 20 27	
Monday	2	9 19 21 28		Monday	2	9 19 21 28		Monday	2	9 19 21 28	
Tuesday	3	10 22 29		Tuesday	3	10 22 29		Tuesday	3	10 22 29	
Wednesday	4	11 23 30		Wednesday	4	11 23 30		Wednesday	4	11 23 30	
Thursday	5	12 24 31		Thursday	5	12 24 31		Thursday	5	12 24 31	
Friday	6	13 25		Friday	6	13 25		Friday	6	13 25	
Saturday	7	14 26		Saturday	7	14 26		Saturday	7	14 26	
JULY (JULY)				AUGUST (AUGUST)				SEPTEMBER (SEPTEMBER)			
Sunday	1	8 18 20 27		Sunday	1	8 18 20 27		Sunday	1	8 18 20 27	
Monday	2	9 19 21 28		Monday	2	9 19 21 28		Monday	2	9 19 21 28	
Tuesday	3	10 22 29		Tuesday	3	10 22 29		Tuesday	3	10 22 29	
Wednesday	4	11 23 30		Wednesday	4	11 23 30		Wednesday	4	11 23 30	
Thursday	5	12 24 31		Thursday	5	12 24 31		Thursday	5	12 24 31	
Friday	6	13 25		Friday	6	13 25		Friday	6	13 25	
Saturday	7	14 26		Saturday	7	14 26		Saturday	7	14 26	
OCTOBER (OCTOBER)				NOVEMBER (NOVEMBER)				DECEMBER (DECEMBER)			
Sunday	1	8 18 20 27		Sunday	1	8 18 20 27		Sunday	1	8 18 20 27	
Monday	2	9 19 21 28		Monday	2	9 19 21 28		Monday	2	9 19 21 28	
Tuesday	3	10 22 29		Tuesday	3	10 22 29		Tuesday	3	10 22 29	
Wednesday	4	11 23 30		Wednesday	4	11 23 30		Wednesday	4	11 23 30	
Thursday	5	12 24 31		Thursday	5	12 24 31		Thursday	5	12 24 31	
Friday	6	13 25		Friday	6	13 25		Friday	6	13 25	
Saturday	7	14 26		Saturday	7	14 26		Saturday	7	14 26	

Seeking inspiration for articles for the newsletter, I turned to the year 1918, hoping to find some quaint centenary to examine. What I found made the idea of the “good old days” a bit of a misnomer, and it seems like 2018 is, in some ways, reflecting times a century ago.

In 1918, the citizens of Baileys Harbor were grappling with the Great War, both by sending young men to fight and by making sacrifices of money and creature comforts at home. The armistice was finally signed near the end of the year on November 11, 1918. Today we continue a war in Afghanistan that began in 2001, and war rages in other parts of the world.

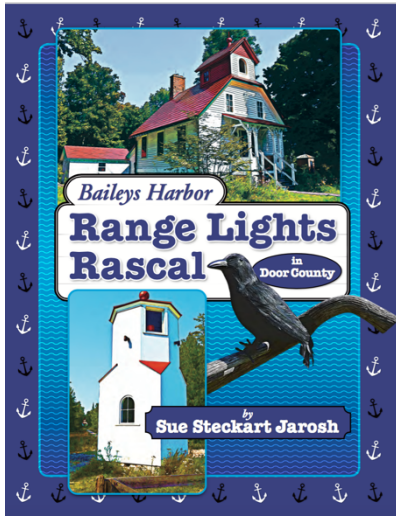
In 2018, an opioid epidemic is sweeping across the country causing dozens of deaths every day, and many people are feeling helpless about finding a solution. In 1918, the Spanish flu had spread across the country and world, and Baileys Harbor did not escape its wrath. The flu took over 600,000 American lives. It seemed unstoppable, but by the end of 1918 the worst was over.

Today, in 2018, we hear constantly about how divided the country is. Whether the topic is gun rights or political affiliation, arguments abound. In 1918, two of our most controversial constitutional amendments went through Congress. Women’s suffrage, the nineteenth amendment, passed with not a vote to spare. But I am proud to say that Wisconsin was the first state to ratify it. The eighteenth amendment, also called the Volstead Act, establishing the prohibition of alcohol overrode Wilson’s presidential veto and went to the states for ratification in 1918. This time Wisconsin was the fortieth state to ratify. If the stories are true, many Wisconsin counties were not enthusiastic enforcers of this law.

So, it appears that we have dealt with war, pestilence, and social injustice before, and though the solutions have not been perfect, we progressed. This perspective might give a bit of hope in 2018 that we will progress just a little further.

Leann Desportes

## RANGE LIGHTS RASCAL



BHHS member, Sue Jarosh, has recently published her second children's book featuring a historic Door County lighthouse. *Baileys Harbor Range Lights Rascal* tells the story of a mischievous crow, a pet of the sons of the lighthouse keeper, George Larson. The story is based on Captain George and Gertrude Larson and their sons, Willie and Charlie, who actually lived in the Upper Range Light from 1882-1888. The tale focuses on Rascal's love of shiny objects, and takes us to several historic sites in town, as the boys interact with some of the people who lived in Baileys Harbor in the 1880s.

The colorful, stylized illustrations are digitally rendered photographs taken by Sue, and feature historic buildings carefully framed to give the appearance of early Baileys Harbor. She has dedicated the book to her parents, Marguerite and Robert Steckart, lifelong supporters of the Ridges Sanctuary. Willie and Charlie Larson are portrayed by Sue's granddaughters, Abigail and Anna Jarosh.

Sue has made an effort to showcase our local history as well as tell an engaging story. You will visit August Zahn's blacksmith shop, the Eatough house, and the Toft house as well as the area of the Ridges and Hidden Brook. She includes an epilogue that provides interesting historical notes on the settings used in the book, along with "then and now" pictures, making this little tome not just entertaining, but informative as well. Current information on opportunities to enjoy the Ridges is also included.

The author learned that choosing a crow as her protagonist was very fitting for Baileys Harbor, since we have a bit of a history with those birds. Peter Collins (1864-1935) owned a locally famous crow, Dick. There are stories of Dick's love, like Rascal's, of shiny objects. My mother spoke of Dick, marveling at his intelligence. In fact, in 1921 Dick received an obituary reference in the *Advocate's* Baileys Harbor news column, after he died from poisoning. "Dick, the famous crow is no more.... Summer people from the different towns came to hear him talk which he could do as well as a person." In 1959, another *Advocate* article tells of Peter's grandson, Bill Collins, who had a crow, also named Dick, that was also able to talk and probably equally full of mischief.

*Range Lights Rascal* is a sweet story that entertains, but also gives a delightful taste of Baileys Harbor history as it was in the 1880s. It will be available in many local shops.

Leann Despotes

## ANOTHER LOOK AT THE BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP PRESENTATIONS

The Baileys Harbor Historical Research Group, active from approximately 1992-2006, was founded and headed by Mary Ann Johnson, a long-time summer resident and proprietor of the Hjertehjem import shop. She currently lives in Lake Forest, Illinois. She was very active in collecting information about the early days of Baileys Harbor and the people who settled here. She arranged dinners and would invite guests to tell the stories of their families and of things that happened in old times. Those sessions would be recorded on tape and, more recently, they have been

re-recorded on DVDs. Although I have lived in Baileys Harbor for over 35 years, I never attended any of these programs and wasn't aware of the recordings until I started looking at DVDs of the more recent Baileys Harbor Historical Society programs. I was curious to learn more of the history of Baileys Harbor and looked around for the older recordings. Mary Ann had given records of all programs to the Baileys Harbor Library, to the library in Sturgeon Bay, and to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Unfortunately, the Baileys Harbor Library no longer had any of these recordings. However, I learned that DVDs had been made of the taped recordings and that Mary Ann Johnson had given them to the Baileys Harbor Township office for safe keeping. I was allowed to take a look at these DVDs.

There is a wealth of information and family stories on these recordings, especially from many no longer with us. Some of the titles are *Irish Settlement*, *Polish Settlements*, *Scandinavians of Baileys Harbor*, *Baileys Harbor German Settlement*, *Lifesaving Service & Coast Guard: Brave Men*, *Baileys Harbor Women's Club*, and *The Fishermen*. The quality of the recordings is not great. Sound and lighting is often poor, with a lot of secondary noise, but they are definitely a valuable historical asset that should be saved.

Philip Graupner

## BAILEYS HARBOR CHURCH CELEBRATES 125 YEARS



In 1892, Carl Peil, Sr. called a meeting of 15 families that resulted in the organization of the first congregation of Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Church of Baileys Harbor. Its charter was formally signed and recorded in July 1893. Three of the founding fathers, Carl Peil, Sr., August Rademacher, and Fred Ehrke, signed the charter. The other founders were Charles Abrahamson, William Hein, Henry Kirschner, Emil Krause, Sr., Fred Krause, Frederick Lehman, Otto Ohnesorge, Her-

man Oldenburg, John Oldenburg, Andrew Polzin, Fred Reh, and William Tischler, Sr. Now, 125 years later, members of the fourth, fifth, and sixth generations of the original fifteen founders continue to be members of Immanuel.

A church was built at the top of the hill across from the present Anclam Park, later brought down to road level, and eventually torn down. A new church building was built on the lot just south of the original site where the Scenic Grove Resort once stood.

Immanuel will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this October. Events leading up to the formal celebration will give people a chance to learn about its history. The church has also printed a calendar filled with pictures and information that highlights its history. They are available at the church for \$10.00.

Suzanne Bauldry

## JOIN US, & MEET JENS JENSEN

On Saturday, August 25, Roger Kuhns will present **An Afternoon with Jens Jensen** at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall. The program will begin at 3 pm and is being hosted by the Baileys Harbor Historical Society, the Ridges Sanctuary, and the Friends of Toft Point. Donations will benefit all three organizations. The program will be of interest to young adults and all who have an interest in nature, conservation, environment, local history, and landscape design and architecture.

Jens Jensen had a significant presence in Door County. You may know that Jensen was the founder of the Clearing in Ellison Bay and that in his seventh decade he sought a location that reminded him of his native Denmark for a folk school for adults. Jensen was an early proponent of “lifelong learning” before the term became popular. He frequently took his Clearing classes to Toft Point, where his students had a picnic lunch with Emma Toft, and he helped to establish the Ridges Sanctuary. Sunset Park in Sturgeon Bay was designed by Jensen. He assisted in preparing the *Park Board Report* for the Door County Board of Commissioners in 1945 which included sweeping proposals involving parklands, reforestation, and historic preservation throughout the county.

Before moving to Door County Jensen had been a landscape architect in the Chicago area, designing and executing landscapes throughout the area but especially the north shore beyond the city. While working near the lake Jensen and his wife lived in Lombard, far west of the city. While the Jensens lived in Lombard, Anne Marie became the first librarian of the newly formed town public library. The public library occupied the former home of William and Helen Plum and Jensen was commissioned to design a park on property donated to the town by the Plums to feature French lilacs the Plums had brought from Nancy, France, during their travels. The Lombard Park District, which owns the land, renovated a former coach house that became Jensen’s office.

Jensen’s influence on Lombard expanded and he agreed to design the nearly three-acre park for the fee of \$600 in 1928. Additional acreage was purchased and the park totals about seven and a half acres. Because of the Plum’s many imported lilac varieties, the park became known as Lilacia Park. The first Lilac Festival was held in May 1929 and Jensen modeled the pageantry after that of his native Denmark. By 1939 the festival began drawing folks from Chicago, expenses increased, and an admission fee of twenty-five cents was asked of all out-of-town visitors. The festival is a three-week event and is still going strong.

Roger Kuhns depicts Jensen when he is 86 years old and gives a very personal, moving, and engaging glimpse of this amazing person. Mark your calendar and join us for this Afternoon with Jens Jensen, Saturday, August 24, at 3 pm in the Baileys Harbor Town Hall.

Nancy Rafal

