

# Lee Muse

Leelanau Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

## *Our Diamond Anniversary*

Celebrating 60 years of preserving and sharing the history of Leelanau County, MI

## *Newspaper Digitization*

Searching old newspapers just got easier

## *Looking Ahead*

Fundraisers, trips, speakers...what's next?



## VIEW OUR EXHIBITS

- Shipwrecks of the Manitou Passage
- Traditional Anishinabek Arts Collection
- Great Lakes Fur Trade & the Voyageur
- Leelanau Weddings through the Decades

*New Additions To:*  
**North to Leelanau: Land of Delight!**  
*Summer 2018*

*New Mini Exhibit:*  
**Lighthouses of Leelanau**  
*Summer 2018*

*Traveling Exhibit:*  
**Native Treaties - Shared Rights**  
*June-August 2018*

## CONDUCT RESEARCH

Browse the archives online. We have more than 14,000 objects, documents and photographs of Leelanau history right at your fingertips!

[www.leelanauhistory.org/archives](http://www.leelanauhistory.org/archives)

Research inside the museum is by appointment during open hours.

## HOURS

<b>June-October</b>	<b>November-May</b>
Tues - Friday 10-4pm	Tuesday - Friday
Saturday 10-2pm	Call for Appointment!

## ADMISSION:

\$3 / Person  
\$5 / Couple  
\$10 / Family  
Free for Members

## MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve and share the history of Leelanau County to inspire others to explore and interpret the past for future generations to learn and appreciate.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As you journey with us through our diamond year recollections, indulge in a bit of our newsletter's history.

*LeeMuse*; A name inspired by the nine Greek Muses specializing in history, lyric poetry, epic poetry, tragedy, comedy, music, religious music, dance, and astronomy.

"It is more than just a play on words, and we hope it pleases you!...We shall emphasize that Clio was the Muse for history...The word "Lee" of course, means a shelter; hence a shelter for our own history."



# A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR...

**Welcome to the inaugural edition** of the new format for LeeMuse. Beginning this winter we will bring our membership an annual print issue of our newly expanded newsletter, followed by quarterly online publications which will keep you up to date with information about current news and events at the Museum. This will also enable us to provide a larger variety of articles featuring Leelanau history throughout the year. In addition, we would like to extend an invitation to our readership who might like to contribute articles as writers-at-large for the quarterly publications. We know there are many talented writers and historians among us and we would love to share your stories!

There have been many things happening at the Leelanau Historical Society and Museum since our last newsletter. This past summer we celebrated our 60th year and once again enjoyed a grand reception with the debut of the "North to Leelanau: Land of Delight" exhibit, a historical look at the early years of travel and tourism. This will remain up through the summer and will be complemented by the partial reprise of the Wood Boat exhibit. Other displays at LHS will include an exhibit featuring the lighthouses of Leelanau County

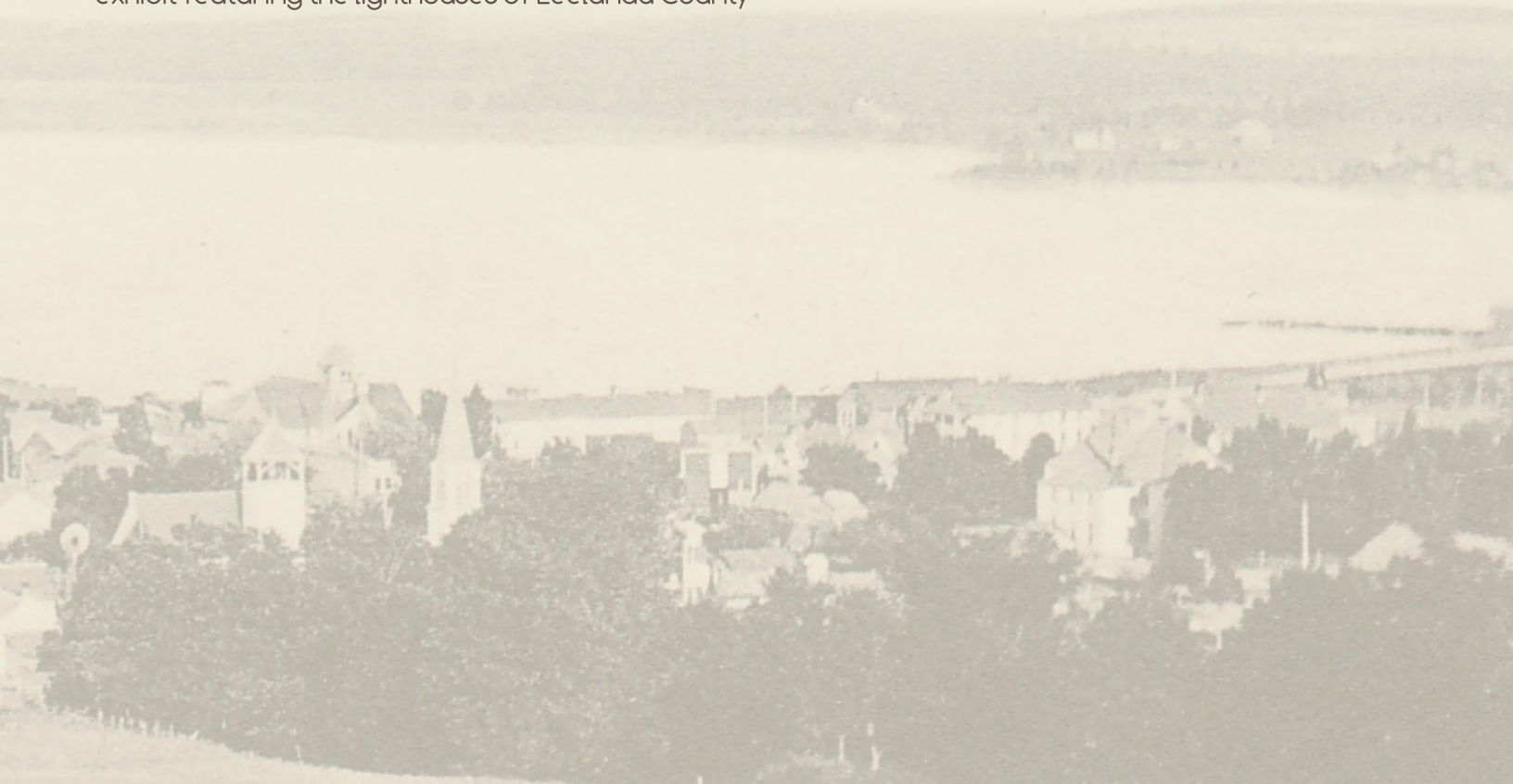
and a look into steamship travel on Lake Michigan during the 1800's. Also arriving in May will be a traveling exhibit on loan from Central Michigan University: "Native Treaties - Shared Rights".

In other news, Laura Quackenbush, former LHS curator, will be working with the Katie Wheeler family and LHS to develop an interpretive video on the history of the Traditional Anishinabek Arts. Laura's extensive knowledge and expertise on this subject is sure to add a new dimension to the unique collection of black ash baskets and quill boxes housed at the Leelanau Historical Society.

Our collaboration with area schools reached a high note this year as Leelanau Schools reached out to LHS to assist with the Winter Term "Leelanau Revealed", a study where students explored the history and people of the Leelanau peninsula. Students had the opportunity to research while exploring evidence of the area's past through written and photographic materials in the LHS archives.

In conclusion, we hope you enjoy this issue of LeeMuse and we look forward to seeing you at the Museum to join us for upcoming programs and events! ■

Francie Gits



Postcard with a view from a western hill overlooking the village of Suttons Bay. Circa 1900.





# GOLFATHON CONTRIBUTORS

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 Jim Wenstrup  
 Dan & Kay White  
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 Elli Workum



Kim Keldrehouse with Elizabeth Adams & Mark Nesbitt.



John Erb, Leslie Schmidt, Glna Erb Joanie Woods & Linda Lindquist-Bishop



Trustee, Bob Roberts & wife, Katie



The 12th Annual Golfathon was played under a beautiful late summer sky. It was a great day for some really spectacular golf! Crowds of supporters gathered at the Leland Lodge to congratulate Mark Nesbitt and Ross Satterwhite as they concluded their play, looking like they had just returned from a walk on the beach! Since the inception of this event in 2005, this generous pair have each played 1,200 holes of golf to benefit the society.

The Golfathon provides funds for a wide variety of educational programming and exhibits as well as the ongoing care for the ever-increasing array of artifacts housed in the archives. It also supports the digitization of the collection in order to preserve Leelanau history according to museum standards. The Historical Society is so very grateful to Mark, Ross, their caddies: Colin Satterwhite, Evan Rohrback & Justin Bardenhagen as well as the many donors who contributed to this event. LHS would also like to thank the Leland Country Club, the Leland Lodge and last but not least, Bill & Annie Hostetler and Jim & Mary Jo Grogan for underwriting the fabulous party which followed the days round of golf! Hope to see you all next summer for the 100 hole tournament! ■

# 2,400 HOLES OF GOLF!



Treasurer, Kit Davis with  
President, Cathy Reahard



Alisann Kepler, Paula Gits,  
Chuck Kepler & Donna Burr



Tom Reahard, John Erb  
& Jack Hayes



Keith Burnham with VP, Norb Gits



Co-Presidents, Tom & Cathy Reahard



Trustee, Tobin Sprout with Laura  
& Gretchen Sprout



# Mr. & Mrs. BRAMMER

**Matilda C. Tesch** (B. 17 Feb 1857, D. 10 Feb 1947) & **Frank F. Brammer** (B. 28 Jan 1851, D. 22 Mar 1923) married in 1880 in Germany. In 1882 they immigrated to America with their infant daughter. Frank, having previously been employed in the gristmill industry began working at a gristmill in Glen Arbor, MI. The millpond was originally built on the banks of the Crystal River north of Glen Arbor, MI by John Fisher around 1859 to accommodate a gristmill and sawmill. The mill was under Thomas Kelderhouse's ownership when Mr. & Mrs. Brammer moved to Glen Arbor. In 1897, Matilda and Frank took possession of the gristmill & surrounding 78 acres.



*Courtesy of Empire Area Museum*

They moved into the house that sits adjacent to the mill with their family. The Brammers had a total of 10 children; Hattie, Louisa, Bertha, Martin, Bernhardt, August, Frank, Herman, Amil, & Rose (died in infancy).

In 1906, Frank renovated the gristmill by updating the original millstones with roller mills, a new and more efficient technology.

*"Farmers came from all over to have their wheat ground for bread flour. Often a group of farmers got together and brought in about fifty bushels of grain at a time. It took about eight hours to grind that much grain...I think my dad used to sell flour for about \$3.50 a barrel."*

*- Interview with Herman Brammer, 1975.*

Herman took over the mill operations after Frank's death. August later returned to the area to take his turn at running the mill. Commercial grains increased in popularity and thus the demand for locally grown/ground grain faded. Mrs. Brammer had passed away and it came time for the family to close the mill. It sat quiet for 17 years boarded up with flour still resting in barrels and sieves. It was sold out of the Brammer family in 1964. It saw other uses over the years; including a recording studio owned by Fred Ball. Under his ownership the site was recognized as a Michigan State Historic Site on November 7, 1977.

Mrs. Brammer's dress may have faded; the mill weathered from exposure, but each has withstood the test of time to continue telling the story of one Leelanau County family. ■

## *But It's Not White?*

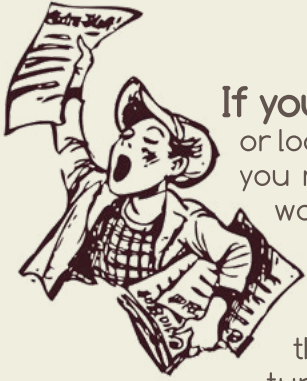
*Until the early 1900's it was not fashionable for women to wear a white wedding gown. A woman of Mrs. Brammer's social standing would have worn their best Sunday dress. Dark colors were preferred due to the fact it could hide stains or imperfections. View Mrs. Brammer's wedding dress and others on exhibit now.*





# DIGITIZATION: /,dijede'zaSH(e)n/

**NOUN:** The process of converting text, pictures, or sound into a digital format that is utilized by a computer.



If you have visited the museum or looked at any of our publications you may have noticed we use the word "Digitization" a lot (maybe too much)!

But what is "Digitization"? Put simply we can define it as: the conversion of text and pictures into a digital format that can be accessed from a computer.

So how do we do that? We are using a museum software called PastPerfect. Each artifact, archival item, and photograph is entered into this database with a description, storage location, physical condition, search terms, and in most cases a photograph. We have various scanners, cameras, and recording devices we use to capture the digital version of the archival item. This is all in an effort to make the history of Leelanau more accessible and easily shared. Sometimes we encounter items that we do not have the skill or equipment to digitize in house.

One example is our newspaper collection. The large format and fragility of the papers make it difficult for us to digitize but thankfully we have an exceptional resource in Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical Library. As you read this newsletter, about 50 years worth of early Leelanau County newspapers are being digitized at CMU. First the microfilm is scanned, the images are optimized, then special text scanning software is used to make the newspapers keyword searchable. It's a lengthy process but we expect the newspapers to be online this year.

We will update you as soon as we have a better idea of the exact date. The newspaper digitization project would not be possible without the many supporters who voted for us during the grant process or who stepped forward with a financial gift after we placed third in the grant competition. Special thanks to Board Member, Hayward Draper, who's matching gift accelerated the fundraising for the newspaper digitization. ■



1944 Leelanau Enterprise headmast designed by Frederick W. Dickinson.

leelanauhistory.org ♦ (231) 256-7475

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## SPRING EXHIBIT OPENING



## WEDDING DRESS EXHIBIT



## NORTH MANITOU SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE MODEL BY DON SCHANK

## "CRIB" TOUR NORTH MANITOU LIGHT KEEPERS



"WATERBOY"



## BOATS ON THE WALL THANK YOU JIM WENSTRUP & DAVE BALL



"CELEBRATION"



## MANITOU ISLANDS DAY-TRIP



## DAVE HOOPER LEADING A TOUR



## 2017 SUMMER INTERN ELIZABETH CATALOGING DONATIONS

## VALENTINE CRAFT WORKSHOP



## HISTORY SPEAKERS





# LOOKING FORWARD IN 2018

As another year begins, we have been working on a fun line-up of speakers, events, and fundraisers. A complete calendar of events will be available on our website in May.



- In Memory of Katherine Hall Wheeler, benefactor of the Traditional Anishinabek Arts Room, a new interpretive project is being curated by Laura Quakenbush.

- LHS will host the Northern Michigan Alliance of the Historical Society of Michigan on April 17th. The day long meeting for history professionals will include a presentation and a workshop for archival photograph care & management.

- Leelanau Peninsula History Network is working on a folding travel map identifying locations of the sixteen member organizations and additional heritage tourism sites. "Experience Historic Leelanau," coming summer 2018.

- In collaboration with local historian and author, Kathy Firestone, a History Writers Group held its inaugural meeting in October and plans to schedule regular gatherings and workshops.

## LEARNING TO LOVE HISTORY

Over the last year LHS has been actively seeking to work with area schools to expand our educational outreach. Some of our recent projects include...

- Dr. Ted Ligibel's students in Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program will be aiding the Leelanau Peninsula History Network in story mapping, a feature of ArcGIS, historic sites for inclusion in an online Leelanau history touring guide.

- The Leelanau School's history class is working with LHS, learning about Leelanau County history by delving into the archives and looking at primary source documents and photos.

- Education intern, Ben Bearre, gave presentations on life in the 1880's to a number of third grade field trip groups last fall.

- Leland Public School art students visit LHS annually to select historic photos to use for various art projects. Some students create past/present juxtapositions with various mediums, using the photo as reference. Their creativity is the limit.



**ARE YOU AN EDUCATOR? DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA HOW WE CAN WORK WITH YOUR STUDENTS?  
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT IT, PLEASE CONTACT US!**



## GIVEN IN HONOR OF...

**Daniel & Anna Oginsky**  
*North Manitou Light Keepers*  
**Donald Lowe**  
*Scott Lowe & Mary Beth Kelley-Lowe*  
**Eugene & MaryEllen Hadjisky**  
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*Laura Paine*  
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**Jerry Fisher**  
*Mike & Dawn Fisher*  
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**Joan Woods**  
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**MaryEllen Hadjisky**  
*Dr. & Mrs. Janko*  
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*John & Gina Erb*  
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*Donna Burr*  
**The North Manitou Light Keepers**  
*North Manitou Light Keepers*  
**Tom & Jane Evans**  
*Janie Markham*  
**Wendy Schopieray**  
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## GIVEN IN MEMORY OF...

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*Adele Joyes Dinsmore & Carolaine Joyes Woods*  
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*Judy Bracken*  
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*Ann & Jamie Bingham*  
**William S. McIlrath**  
*Polly McIlrath*



# MANY THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN DECEMBER 2016-FEBRUARY 2018

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 Alice Weaver  
 Gil Wheeler  
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 Ruth Winter  
 Elli Workum

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## **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The 2017 Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Joan Hanpeter. Joan is the Managing Principal of The Leadership Group, a consulting firm based out of Novi, MI. Joan spends her summers in Leland and generously volunteered to lead our board and staff through the strategic planning process last fall. Thanks to Joan we have a clear vision for the future of the organization!



North Manitou Island Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling at Dimmick's Point. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1935 and the tower collapsed into the lake in 1942.



## IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE WHO DEDICATED THEIR TIME, KNOWLEDGE, AND SERVICES.

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- Does it help tell the story of Leelanau County?
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-Will Durant. *The Story of Civilization*





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Beach at Crescent, North Manitou Island, June 2017. Josephine Dresden, a two-masted schooner wrecked during a sudden storm.  
Pictured Above: Shortly after wrecking upon the beach in 1907.