

The Clapboard

Fall/Winter 2016

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear

Preserving and Interpreting the Historic Structures, Landscapes, and Heritage of Sleeping Bear Dunes



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A Storied Landscape EXHIBIT OPENS!



The excitement began to percolate as board members, staff, and volunteers greeted honored guests at the Olsen Farm. The preview party of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear's new interpretive exhibit, along with savory hors d'oeuvres and desserts, wet the appetite in anticipation for the grand opening the next day.

On Saturday, June 18th, we officially opened the doors of the eagerly awaited exhibit to the public. The first floor displays weave themes of community, land, and water, to tell the story of life in Port Oneida through the lens of the Olsen family, and evolution of land use includ-

ing the establishment of the park, and the history of preservation efforts.

A ribbon cutting ceremony under sunny blue skies included moving comments by several invited speakers. Chairman Bill Herd gave the welcome, noting that today Preserve was taking a big step towards two of its goals—to open an educational center, and adaptively reuse historic structures.

Tom Ulrich, Deputy Superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (NPS) spoke of the importance and quality of the project saying:

"Thanks to Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, for the first time ever, the Lakeshore has a place to introduce visitors to the thoroughly American story told by the cultural landscape of Port Oneida. The exhibits you have designed and installed here at the Olsen House meet or exceed any National Park Service standard. You should be very proud of what you have given to us all. Thank you, Preserve."

- Tom Ulrich, Deputy Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes



Preserve Chairman Bill Herd welcomes attendees to the exhibit opening

Director Susan Pocklington thanked exhibit writers and designers, including Susan Sanders of the NPS. Also, Port Oneida historian Tom Van Zoeren, for providing many pictures and historical information. We grate-

fully acknowledged the Americana Foundation, Biederman Foundation, Oleson Foundation, Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Michigan Humanities Council—an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, for their generous support.

Port Oneida descendants Penny Szczechowski and Gale Mack shared how meaningful it was that this history is being preserved, having spent several summers

in the area in their youth. Penny, a Preserve board member is related to the Burfiend family, and Gale is the great-granddaughter of Hattie and Charles Olsen. Penny reflected that “this area is part of my heart and I know forever I can wander down to the farm. It’s the way I remember it from many years ago and I thank everyone for supporting this work.” Gale recalled many fond memories of her time here, and expressed gratitude for the preservation of her family farm for others to enjoy.



It was so gratifying to hear the comments

“This is awesome!” “What a wonderful exhibit” “Fantastic” “Great job!”



Anne Marie Oomen’s imaginative monologue, ‘In the Voice of the Olsen House’ was recited vividly by Norm Wheeler. First commissioned by Preserve in 2004 to celebrate the Olsen house rehabilitation, this was the perfect occasion for its revival. Rounding out the day’s festivities was music by Norm and local musician Pat Niemesto; narrated horse and wagon tours; refreshments; and book signings by authors Tom Van Zoeren and Norbert Bufka.

We hope many will come through these doors for years to come. Those of us present for this milestone in Preserve’s efforts to “Save the History—Tell the Story” in the National Park’s centennial year, will remember it with a great sense of joy and satisfaction.



Displaying the NPS Centennial sign and the National Trust’s “This Place Matters” campaign sign are Directory Susan Pocklington and Intern Sarah Rosso

ROOTStories PROGRAM HOSTS LEONARD THORESON

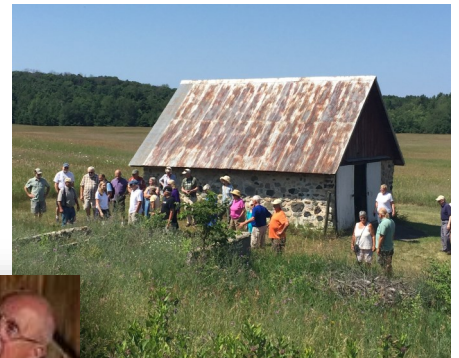


Leonard Thoreson is somewhat of an icon in Glen Arbor. Seen riding his bike regularly through town, even strangers sense he's someone special in the community. It wasn't surprising then that our July ROOTStories program featuring Leonard, drew our largest gathering yet.

The first part of the program was held in the Olsen barn to accommodate the crowd. They came to hear Leonard talk about his roots growing up on Thoreson Farm in Port Oneida, now part of the national park. You would never guess Leonard was celebrating his 90th birthday this year! Spry, with a quick memory, he shared one anecdote after another, captivating his audience. There's something about listening to an "old-timer"—a term Leonard would use

to describe himself—that instills a quiet sense of respect and appreciation.

On the tour of his former family farm, Leonard had a twinkle in his eye and a story around every corner. Only one problem, however. He was puzzled as to why we couldn't come up with the key to unlock the tractor shed where his broken-down tractor is stored. Little did he know—it wasn't there. A few weeks later at the Port Oneida Fair, the Fair Committee and several park service staff gathered at the



farm. They opened the shed, and invited Leonard to sit on the tractor and turn the key. A puzzled grin came across his face when—surprise, the tractor started! The tractor

had been removed and repaired in secret for his birthday—quite the feat given Leonard knows everything about his old farm. It was a gracious day with Leonard and we look forward to many more tours with him!

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE!

History comes to life when it feels real—when you can taste, smell, see, touch, and hear it as it might have been. The historic buildings in the park are “the real deal” as the park's Tom Ulrich wrote in last year's Clapboard. They're still standing where they once were.

Connecting to this history in as real a way as possible is our goal, and challenges us to demonstrate and emulate aspects of life in the 1800s. The park's weekly firing of the Lyle rescue gun in Glen Haven for example sounds very real! Preserve's weekly narrated horse and wagon tours of Port Oneida give the experience of riding in a horse-drawn wagon, of hearing the horse's hoofs on the road, and smelling the field grass. What a tantalizing way to experience the histories this landscape



has to teach. Consider this the next time your house-guests are looking for a fun experience!

Every year the Port Oneida Cultural Fair, presented by the National Park Service in partnership with Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, brings craftspeople to Port Oneida to engage the senses. The Fair committee strives to add new activities each year, so there's always a reason to return. At the Olsen

Farm, it was a lumberjack competition that was educational and entertaining; a costumed re-enactment of farm life; and a fascinating “Seed to Shirt” demonstration of the process from flax seed to linen. Our aim is to “keep it real”, exemplifying the ingenuity and hard work of our ancestors. Next year we'll be offering more ways to bring history to your life!

MEET THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT

We welcome Scott Tucker, who began his new role as Superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on June 24th. A 19-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), Scott comes from serving as Superintendent of Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. Prior experience includes management positions at President's Park in Washington, D.C.; the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian; the National Mall and Memorial Parks; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Alaska. Originally from Colorado, Scott, his wife who is a Michigan native, and their two young children are "thrilled to be moving to northern Michigan and eager to make a connection with both the park and the community."



Scott Tucker, Superintendent

PHSB Director Susan Pocklington sat down with the new Superintendent in mid-November to learn about his plans for the park and his perspective on the relationship between the park and PHSB.

Susan: Scott, you've been on the job about 5 months now. What kinds of goals have evolved during this time?

Scott: I broke up my first year into thirds. The first 4 months to watch, listen, and observe; second, start to ask a lot of questions from my observations; and third, submit a few new ideas based on my observations. After 5 months in, some of my focus will be: 1) Cultural Resources within wilderness and what we are required to do. 2) Improving internal communications. 3) Making sure our law enforcement program has the resources and staffing available. The other continual goal is to engage more regularly with all our partner groups along with Tom Ulrich's office to further those relationships, meet the expectations of the groups, and to be more transparent on the decision making with what we can and can't do.

Susan: Going back to your point on wilderness, areas where PHSB has sometimes worked, can you be more specific?

Scott: For something as simple as using a chainsaw or generator in wilderness there is specific paperwork required. There's no consistency with our internal operations which makes it difficult for volunteer groups who want to do work. Also, we're going to offer free online wilderness training for our volunteer groups.

Susan: With your background at historical parks. I would imagine that would be of particular benefit to cultural resources here.

Scott: We have cultural resources here? *(laugh)* When I first looked at the organizational chart and saw no cultural resource division at all, and had only a historic architect and a temporary museum technician, it made some whistles go off in my head. In anything we do I always have that cultural resource side in my head. I have worked in both cultural and natural resources – but I'm a history geek.

Susan: So you see a need for more cultural resource staff at Sleeping Bear?

Scott: I do! Before I came, the region did an operational assessment and put together a package so the new Superintendent knows what's going on. One of the recommendations is to take a serious look at the cultural resource program here, and either formalize it under a division or create its own division. Of course there are dollar signs attached to that, but it's a topic we'll be talking about.

Susan: And how do you see that impacting PHSB?

Scott: I think it will dramatically open communications. It will allow the NPS and PHSB to focus on a joint vision of what to do and where to focus resources. And I think it will legitimize the fight for the 300 plus historic structures we have.

Susan: And if you were able to come up with funding for some new positions, will that also provide more funding for cultural resources?

Scott: Yes and No. Will more money come from the NPS because we have a cultural resource person, no. But it will put someone responsible looking for projects, writing projects, looking for funds through grants, through park service competition. It would hopefully focus us on putting cultural resources on the same plateau as natural resources in this park.

Susan: Wow, that's a pretty important statement. PHSB has been striving for this goal since our inception.

Scott: Anyone can read our enabling legislation and pick out the line they want, that's going to focus on them.—"preserve the glacial phenomena, recreation, etc". Not one mention in our enabling legislation about cultural resources. But we have this other thing called the creation of the National Park Service and their enabling legislation that says to "preserve and protect the cultural and natural resources". So whether the enabling legislation for this park says it – we are mandated by the Organic Act that created the NPS.

Susan: And the Historic Preservation Act.

Scott: – Yes, we have that act that guides us as well. So my hope is to guide by law, policy, regulations, and do what's right for the stewardship that I've been tasked with. To leave Sleeping Bear Dunes in a better position than when I arrived administration-wise, education-wise and natural and cultural resource protection-wise.

Susan: If you were able to get cultural resources on par with natural resources and help staff it, would that help the NPS become more competitive for federal dollars for cultural funding?

Scott: Not really. We're not trying to pick between Sleeping Bear's resources – we have a mandate and responsibility to preserve the dunes, plovers, clean water, and all things, but we also have a re-

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Meet the New Superintendent continued from page 5...

sponsibility to the historic structures and the stories. So, what can we do with our limited resources to do what we need to do. And a piece of that is strengthening a relationship with PHSB and finding ways to empower PHSB to do more for the park

Susan: And so what role and importance do you see of PHSB in helping with these historic resources as we go forward talking with donors and members?

Scott: The maintenance backlog is 20 million at Sleeping Bear, and 2 billion in the NPS. Our budget has flat lined for the last 5 years and any projection into the future. We have to look at how to do, not even more with less, but less with less. Partnering with PHSB, we can bring some of our funding, giving PHSB the opportunity to leverage that. PHSB provides an additional volunteer and financial resource. So the ability of PHSB to fundraise on behalf of the park with specific projects at hand focusing on historic preservation of our over 300 historic structures....if it didn't happen, we would fail in our mission to preserve the historic fabric of this park.

We are partners, so the role of PHSB with the park is as equals at the table, and part of the family; having tough conversations at times about the goals around project planning by the park and PHSB and melding them together; having to balance out doing some of the more "popular" projects to take care of the less popular. I've worked with partners my entire career working with 15 different federal agencies. If you can't get along with your partners you'll never achieve your mission. We all want this place to be pristine and amazing and be here another 200 years.

Susan: Having a place at the table gives NPS employees more awareness of who we are and what we contribute too.

Scott: Exactly. It's solidifying internal relationships with our staff, that we are all one, and that our partnerships are a leg. How do we better serve our partner groups?

Susan: What's your impression of the quantity and quality of the cultural resources here?

Scott: I had no idea to be honest. When I visited in the past, it was the dunes, and hiking. When researching the position, I was floored by the cultural story that is here that intertwines with the natural history of the park and history of the Great lakes. All it does it further a visitor's appreciation for why this park is here. Any great interpreter wants to help a visitor along the path of either an emotional connection or intellectual connection – and in the best world's it's both. Most visitors look at the solitary hikes and breathtaking vistas, and then you can layer on to that the intellectual pieces of how it was settled, and the U.S. coast guard, and an agricultural community of northern Michigan. There are so many layers of a story here that you can literally bring a family with mom, dad, kids, grandma, grandpa and each one can have a completely different experience of something that strikes them as a reason Sleeping Bear Dunes was preserved and why it needs to be preserved forever.

Susan: That was my next question which was what do you see as the importance of the cultural resources to the visitor experience? You basically answered that.

Scott: The importance of the cultural resource story is hand in hand with the natural resource story. It wasn't the original intention of the legislation, but that is often the case with any legislation. The original intent doesn't capture everything in hand. So, the cultural piece of the story is one that captures our visitors surprisingly, because they come here thinking oh, I'm going to climb a dune, and go on a hike, and then play on the lake and then get a glass of wine in wine country but then they stumble across the maritime museum or a log cabin, or the Olsen house, and next thing you know, you find people lost on the backroads of Port Oneida, not looking for the dune climb, but so-and-so's farm. And that completely changes the visitor experience to one of, I need to come back again and again or extend my visit because there's so much to see. It opens up variety and diversifies the story we tell.

"We have an unfunded mandate to preserve all of these structures"

- Scott Tucker

Susan: Right! What would be your elevator speech about, "Why do I care about these historic structures"?

Scott: I think the "why do I care", is because a visitor can see themselves there. You can tell a visitor this used to be a farming community, but that moment when a visitor can lose themselves in the story, to be able stand out in Port Oneida gazing across a field that has been cleared and lose yourself in what

would have been there 100 years ago – that's the connection, creating those moments is what is going to preserve this place forever.

Susan: And that's one of the challenges, facilitating an emotional connection. When you see people get it and the light turns on it's great – but not everyone does or is going to. We'd like to do a better job in making those connections.

Scott: We need to make the cultural resource piece of the story a core part of the visitor expectation before they even get here. So when they visit our website or mobile app they can plan. It will allow visiting farms from cell phone, and before and after photos showing the work that PHSB does.

Susan: One of the intangibles of Port Oneida is the serenity and pastoral peace of it. As we do raise the consciousness of cultural resources, how do we make sure we don't undo the very thing we are trying to preserve? How do we balance visitation with preservation?

Scott: Yes, how do we preserve that landscape? What's the answer – I don't know, but it's still on the table. We have to look at what we consider success.

Susan: With all of these historic buildings how do you see them being used or just preserved to contribute to the experience?

Scott: To be honest, I haven't jumped into that enough. The best way to preserve a building is to use a building. The Park is dabbling in it with the Olsen house occupied, and a use agreement with the

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Glen Arbor Art Association; we have the future of the Sleeping Bear Inn; and the proposal by PHSB for the Katie Shepard. So we're dabbling with ways to bring these buildings back to life.

Susan: Because you don't have the cultural resource staff, PHSB was asked to help facilitate adaptive-use once the Park and PHSB figure out the parameters for different properties.

Scott: That's the first I've heard of it so I'm interested in learning more.

Susan: You have a lot of experience with partnerships. How do you think PHSB is doing as a partner? Are there things that you would really like to see PHSB do or have us achieve to help the park better besides obviously raising a million dollars?!

Scott: Yes, money! *(laugh)* I think it's a very strong relationship. We both understand each of our limitations - staffing, sustainable volunteers, fundraising, - all challenges we have to overcome. But from my experience I think the relationship is very healthy. We can always do better. Some joint long-range planning will help focus both of us. Stretching out some of the planning might be uncomfortable at first, but will be a benefit for everybody so we get the Park's 5-year plan and PHSB's 5-year plan side by side and talked about interchangeably.

Susan: What do you see as PHSB's role in interpretation of historic resources? We've started giving tours and programs over the years, because from our vantage point we feel it's very important and is what does make the emotional connections.

Scott: I see the role of PHSB as on the ground labor, volunteering, restoration work, all the way through interpretation, education - as all one package. NPS doesn't have enough people to do it all. We'll work together so there's no overlap, to benefit each other.

Susan: Anything you'd like to add?

Scott: I think PHSB is in a great position, with a strong board, dedicated volunteers, to continue the mission and I'm hoping that my being here will help you grow as well. How can the park encourage growth and development of PHSB, and how can we support that—to increase both your philanthropy and position as an equal family member/partner.

Susan: I appreciate that. If you can help us raise awareness of who we are and what we do, we can grow, raise more money, offer more programs and preserve many more historic structures and landscapes. Thank you and welcome!

NEW PROCESS STALLED PROJECTS

Because a few national parks were found to have carried out projects that damaged cultural resources, the National Park Service Midwest Regional Office began last year to require their review of nearly all cultural resource projects. Not only are preservation projects by the park and Preserve reviewed and approved within the park, but every project proposal must now be documented far more thoroughly for subject matter experts in the region as well. Last

summer several projects we had submitted were held up by this new compliance procedure. We hope these projects will be approved for next year along with our planned list for 2017. Last year's proposals included repairs at the Eckert and Eitzen farms, vegetation clearing around many historic structures; repairing the foundation of the Riggs Cottage on North Manitou Island, and restoring Olsen Farm gardens.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Jean Jenkins - and her husband Scott are part-time residents in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District. Having grown up on a southern Wisconsin farm, Jean brings an innate appreciation for rural areas as well as some practical experience dealing with agriculture and animal husbandry. She served as a founding board member of the Euphrates Institute; was a Film Production Manager in New York City and had a career as a radio correspondent for Monitor Radio. Jean is getting her Master Gardener certificate, and has enjoyed working as gardener at the Olsen farm and as narrator for our horse and wagon tours.



John Goff - is fascinated by the history of Port Oneida and has done extensive research about the area. After 27 years with a creative career in advertising, he retired in 1989 as Manager of Professional Communications for the International Division of the Upjohn Company. With his acquired skills in carpentry, electrical wiring and plumbing, he rehabilitated the 1880's retirement farm in Frankfort that he and his wife now call home. John has been leading our Burfiend window preservation team and is our new Project Chair.

THE NORWEGIAN INFLUENCE IN PORT ONEIDA

Olee Joel Olsen



In August 2016, I visited Sleeping Bear's Port Oneida area for the first time. It was a significant experience for me since my great-great-grandfather was Ole Olsen whose home and farm is now preserved as part of the largest rural historic district in the country. Growing up with a name like Olee Joel Olsen in North Carolina

was not easy. I would use my middle name in school until someone made an announcement, "Would Olee Olsen please come to the Principal's office?" My classmates teased, "Your name is Olee? Like Roly Poly Olee?" Yes, it is my name, my father's name, and the name of one of the first Norwegians to settle in Port Oneida.

I lived in Norway for more than 13 years and my wife and kids are Norwegian. The first time I visited Norway I went to the library in Kristiansund. Imagine my surprise when I opened a book about Norwegian emigration to the U.S. which featured Leelanau county on the first page!

In 1869, Ole Olsen traveled with his grandparents across the Atlantic Ocean to Northport when he was just 14 years old. While his grandparents moved to Chippewa, Minnesota soon after arriving, young Ole stayed with the Garthe family in Northport. He later moved to North Manitou Island where in 1874, he met and married Magdalena Burfiend when he was still just a teenager. They lived in a small cabin on the Burfiend farm until 1877 when Ole and Magdalena built a home on what is now the Howard Olsen farm. They had eight children. Their second child, Charles Olsen, was my great-grandfather and the future husband of Hattie Brammer Olsen.

By 1888, Ole had helped two brothers Nels Olsen and John Olsen Halsey, his mother Helga, and a half-sister, settle in Leelanau County. The Norwegian influence throughout Leelanau county became quite strong in the late 1800s, but Ole Olsen who



Great grandson Olee Joel Olsen Sr., and great, great grandsons Olee Joel Olsen Jr. (l) and Bruce Denton (r) visit their family homestead painted by PHSB in 2015.

settled in Port Oneida, was one of the first. His daughter Ellen Olsen Miller wrote, "He did not have a dime in his pocket when he landed, but bought books, papers, and read continually. He was a fine penman and one might say 'quite brilliant man.'

Our family is honored that the homes and farms of Ole Olsen, Charles Olsen, and other members of the Olsen family have been preserved by Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear and the National Park Service for future generations. We want to thank the staff, the docents, the many volunteers and donors that have made this area so special.

Are you an Olsen descendant? Plans are being made for an Olsen Reunion in Port Oneida on Saturday, July 15, 2017 organized by the Olsen family. Call 231-334-6103 for more information.

Ole Olsen was born in 1855 on the Broskehagen farm near the town of Stangvik in the Nordmore region of Norway. His grandfather was well known throughout the region as the "Big Blacksmith" and was rumored to be 6' 8" tall. Looking at this



map of Leelanau county on the first page!

FROM THE DOCENT DESK

Mary Taylor, Texas

In May, I arrived in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to volunteer as Lead Docent at the Charles Olsen Farm. I was immediately impressed by the pristine feeling: no big-box stores, no chain stores, no fast food. It was like stepping back in time. My immediate thought was—“this is going to be a great Summer”.



I had a tour of the Olsen house and moved into the housing provided at the farm across the street. We started getting the Olsen house prepared for summer visitors—cleaning and installing new displays. I started reading the historic information and learning how hardy and resilient the early pioneers had to be to survive in their stark new surroundings.

When the house was finally ready and open to the public, I soon learned how important preserving this historic area was to the surrounding neighbors and people visiting from all over the U.S. I heard stories from many whose ancestral farms had been turned into shopping malls, sub-divisions, highways, etc. They spent time reading about the area and why it was preserved, and stories and anecdotes of Port Oneida families. For example, how the ice box worked, how Hattie preserved fruits and vege-

tables, hand sewed quilts, cooked on a coal stove, and raised and lost children. How hard Grandpa Olsen worked in the field, kept the antiquated machinery running, shared produce with neighbors, and was always willing to lend a hand to those in need.

I enjoyed the young families visiting with children, who liked reading the stories, comparing the current time with the historic time, and explaining the historic items: butter churn, ice box, quilts and farm implements; telling their children family stories of their own. The Olsen family ancestors were especially fun, as they related the “crazy” stories of pranks they pulled on each other and their parents and grandparents.

The summer activities were enjoyable, especially the Port Oneida Fair, the horse and wagon rides, the Fun Run, and the preservation projects that keep the old homes and barns viable for future generations. But my favorite times were after all the visitors had left for the day and the house was closed. I could sit in the quiet and imagine the Olsen family preparing for supper, talking over the events of the day, caring for and helping each other. It was almost as if I could hear it all. I thank everyone at Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear for a memorable summer and the opportunity to learn and share the history of Port Oneida.

INTERNSHIP PROVIDES A WIN,WIN

Sarah Rosso, New York



My summer internship with Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear was nothing short of amazing. In the few short months I spent there I learned so much and made friendships and memories that I will never forget

As a historic preservation student with a minor in public relations and media communications, working as Preserve’s marketing and events

intern was a perfect fit for me. I was promoting and raising awareness about a cause that I truly believed in and cared about, while also gaining training in preservation skills such as tuck point and plaster repair. Entering into my senior year, the experience and knowledge I gained

through this internship helped me better understand myself, what I was looking for in a career, and the challenges facing preservationists.

I am humbled to have lived in the untouched beauty of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and worked under one of the most passionate and hard-working women I have ever met. I would like to give my most sincere thanks to PHSB and all the amazing people I met this summer who helped me along this journey.

We were fortunate to have Mary and Sarah! Their dedication and hard work ethic was essential to our successful summer. Sarah assisted with our new exhibit, preservation projects, events, and wowed us with her creativity. Mary was our knowledgeable, lead docent, warmly greeting visitors at the Olsen Farm. If you are interested in working with us next summer, we’d love to hear from you!

HOPE THRIVES - THE DREAM GOES ON

Doug and Margo Detzler, David Watt



Original wood walls were cleaned, stained, and touched up, restoring the grandeur and beauty of the interior

The concept plan for Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear to run the Katie Shepard Hotel on North Manitou Island as a primitive hostel has been approved by the Park! There are still many important questions to resolve, but Preserve and the Park are working together toward this goal. Restoration of “The Katie” to a hostel has been the vision of Preserve volunteers for the past eight summers as we repaired the porch, the foundation, the parlor ceiling, the ceiling boards, and a bit of everything else. These volunteers are eager to share “The Katie” with visitors to the Park and we are beginning to think about the details of running it as a hostel.

How did this “hotel” get started on this remote island? In 1895, the Louisiana style Shepard cottage was built as a family summer home, with the kitchen and dining area as a separate building behind the house. Around 1908, daughter Katherine (Miss Katie as she was affectionately known to the Island residents), opened the house as a hotel known as “The Beeches”. Purchasing goods and food items from the island farms, and employing workers from island families, Miss Katie ran her hotel until ill health made it necessary for her close in the early 1930s.

Over the course of the last eight years, more than 50 Preserve volunteers have worked together for 8-10 days each August to have “The Katie” ready to serve as a hostel. This year, our vegetation clearing crew opened up the view to Lake Michigan just as it was for the Shepard fami-

ly. Inside the Katie, a team repaired the framework of the dormers and reinstalled ceiling and wallboards. Our wood restoration team brought to life the patina of the original wood walls by meticulously cleaning, staining, and touching up rough wall and ceiling surfaces in the entrance parlor and on the grand staircase to remind us of its former grandeur shown in the photo (left).

This fall, volunteers organized a workshop to repair and rebuild Katie’s screens taken off the island. They are ready for installation next summer along with our



hope to build a privy, and complete the upstairs ceiling. One major hurdle appears to have been successfully resolved—conducting bat exclusion from the building while protecting the species according to regulations. The cost was \$4,000, but was necessary for going forward. Next step, a formal business plan and final answers from the park regarding safety requirements. Each step

will bring it closer to use as a primitive hostel. We are eager!

PRESERVING THE FARM FIELDS

A three-year project of removing invasive Autumn Olive at the Martin Basch farm was completed thanks to our volunteers from Christian Service Brigade and TCAPS, and the Park’s removal of brush piles. The field will be ready to mow in 2017.



PHSB’s Susan Pocklington with Kerry Kelly, FOSB

At the Olsen Farm, the east field was finally mowed! It took us multiple years of field clearing, stump pulling, and a \$4,000 investment in a new mower for the old tractor this year to make it happen. The \$8,000 mower expense was split between Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear and Friends of Sleeping Bear. PHSB owns the main tractor and mower, and gifted the new mower to the Park. PHSB clears the fields, and the Friends train and schedule volunteer mowers. For details on Preserve’s adopt-a-landscape program, including field clearing and orchard pruning,, email us at PHSB@leelanau.com.

TWENTY-SEVEN WINDOWS INTO THE PAST

John Goff



In 1928, the last new home was built in Port Oneida by Howard Burfiend, grandson of Carsten Burfiend, the first European who settled there around 1860. Today, the house is empty but it resonates with the lives of the people who lived in it, and its twenty-seven windows invites us to experience what they saw through them.

The six windows and double glass-doors on the west house-front offered spectacular views of Lake Michigan and the Manitou Islands beyond the original two-track Port Oneida Road that traversed the bluff along the lakeshore.

The view from seven windows on the north side crossed a broad expanse of flat fields to the tree-line that separated the Burfiend farm property from the Baker farm. On the east side another seven windows and a door carried the eye along the gracefully curving driveway to the big barn and silo, the granary and corn-crib, the milk-house, a wagon shed, the farm shop, and beyond over the broad expanse of fields that comprised the 303 acres of the Burfiend farm.

To the south, six windows and a door opened to view the attractive house that Howard's father, Peter Burfiend, and his grandfather, Carsten, had built in 1893, and where Howard and his wife Orpha Fralick Burfiend had lived for five years before building their own home next door where they had reared their five children.

The double glass doors on the front porch open invitingly into the fascinating interior of the house beginning with the living room where a broad brick fireplace greets the eye. A pair of generous bookcases flank the windows testifying to Orpha's profession as superintendent of Glen Arbor schools, and that she was a "marvelous schoolteacher".

A living room archway opens into a dining room where two double-hung windows open to view the lake, and a long picture-window leads the eye into the northern fields and picturesque hills beyond. A breakfast nook cuddles between the dining room and kitchen, its single window flanked by two floor-to-ceiling glass-door cupboards. A small pass-through opening leads into the convenient kitchen where Orpha prepared the meals for her family, baked bread twice a week and canned vegetables yearly on the wood fired cook-stove. She must have been very busy between teaching,

and rearing her family over the 57 years that she inhabited the house. Imagine the number of meals that must have gone through that little pass-through into the breakfast nook!

A short hall passes the stairway curving upstairs, and leads into a downstairs bedroom known as "the bull-pen" on the southeast corner of the house. The house was built on the original barn site, and the bulls were kept in that corner of the barn. Howard Burfiend had a herd of 25 Guernsey cows, and he and Orpha and their progeny developed their acreage into the largest and most prosperous farm in Port Oneida.

A trek up the stairway to the second floor reveals three bedrooms and a bath, each with its own dormer embracing a window with striking views of the countryside. But the light from these windows reveals something else, there is a gap between the baseboards and the floor, and all of the doorframes are out of square.

Four basement windows each have a story to tell. The basement beneath them shelters stacks of ancient firewood. The original furnace, the fireplace, and the kitchen wood-stove were fired with this fuel flung through these windows and stacked where its remnants remained long after the house was abandoned until recently removed. Light from these windows illuminates the cause of the sagging floors and doorframes upstairs. A long wooden beam supported by three tree-trunk posts runs the length of the basement, and it is sagging. Preserve plans to repair this beam and restore the house to its original condition. Once completed the house can be made habitable again and it could serve as a "Bed & Breakfast" or even for long-term rentals for tourists who could savor the charm of this dwelling and its surroundings as the Burfiend family did for six decades.

Of the twenty-seven windows, all but four have now been removed, repaired, and reinstalled. Two in the attic have no floor over the joists making them difficult to reach. Their son George observed that, "Our air conditioning was, you'd open that window, and that window up there," as he pointed to each end of the attic. Now the day is not far away when our window restoring volunteers will see what George saw when he looked through those windows.

PRESERVATION WORKSHOPS AT BURFIEND, KROPP FARMS

BURFIEND FARMHOUSE PLASTER REPAIR



Instructor Chris Lewis demonstrates plaster repair

With a few major exceptions, Preserve has primarily done stabilization or restoration work on the exterior of historic structures to keep them protected. We're excited to

begin working on more of the interiors of buildings to make them accessible and safe for visitor tours. Last summer we held a two-day plaster repair workshop at the Howard Burfiend farmhouse. Standing empty for years had led to leaking roofs resulting in falling plaster walls and ceilings.

Our knowledgeable instructor led volunteers and National Park Service maintenance staff in hands-on repairs completing most of two upstairs bedrooms. We'll continue to work inside here and hopefully on other structures next year so we can open these buildings up for people to see!

KROPP FARMHOUSE FOUNDATION REPAIR

The ingredients and expense are minimal—a 5-gallon bucket, water, sand, lime, cement and some small hand tools is about all you need for “Tuck Pointing”, or stone repair. But while the materials might be few, the work is labor-intensive.

The method of removing old, crumbling mortar between stones, and then filling the cracks requires some patience, and don't forget the knee pads! The Kropp Farmhouse sitting high on M-22 in the Good Harbor area made our project list having one of the worst foundations we'd seen—a recipe for moisture damage. Park employee Bill

Love, who specializes in this craft, trained our volunteers as they worked alongside him for two days last July. Our extra hands on the job freed up other park staff who did additional repairs at the farm, and our volunteers learned a new preservation skill to pass forward.



Preserve volunteer works alongside an NPS intern

INTERIOR REPAIRS READY PORT ONEIDA SCHOOLHOUSE



Water damaged walls

When the doors of the one-room schoolhouse opened on August 12th for the Port Oneida Fair, the transformation was amazing to see. The once water-stained walls had been treated, primed, and newly painted. The roof had leaked prior to Preserve's putting a new roof on in 2015.

Our dedicated and skilled volunteer worked many hot days and long hours to ready the building in the weeks before the Fair. “It was a pleasure to work on a historic structure, and rewarding to get the building back in shape”, he said. In addition, the ceiling moulding was reinstalled; a major repair to the chimney wall removed rotted material and required replacement; wainscoting was cleaned and touched up with matching paint; and

the north window trim got fresh paint. A woodworker, the volunteer also custom-made a moulding piece to match the original. The school was ready for the Fair's re-enactment of an 1800s school session once again.



Above: After ceiling replacement, wall repair and paint; Right: chimney repair

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

LICENSE PLATE BILL

The bill for a Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore license plate was approved in the Senate in 2015, but has stalled in the House of Representatives. Meanwhile, in November, a bill was signed by the Governor to restrict the number of fundraising license plates to 20 in the state, excluding university plates. There is room for only a few more!

Let your Senator and Representatives know if you would like to see a Sleeping Bear plate approved! Check out how to help at www.phsb.org.

PORT ONEIDA RUN

The 5K and 10K run was great fun and raised \$2,700. Thank you to all who volunteered and participated! Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 5th, 2017.

CHALLENGE MATCH

In December 2014, we met and exceeded a generous donor's \$25,000 raising \$29,500! Last December, the donor offered another challenge match with the first goal set at \$30,000. While we didn't meet the goal, we're grateful for everyone that helped us raise \$17,000 matched by the donor—members who joined for the first time, joined after a lapse, or increased their donation. Thanks to you and our very generous donor! We hope members will give generously this year so we can continue to fund our 2017 projects and programs.

2017 ESTIMATED PROJECT EXPENSES

\$61,000

CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2015-16

Preservation Projects	\$17,090
Interpretation	\$12,409
Total Cash and Cash In-kind	\$29,499

IN-KIND TO PARK

5,986 volunteer hours value	\$141,030
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TOTAL VALUE: \$170,529

GIVE TODAY!

With a donation of any amount you can become a member or "Steward" of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear. Please join or renew this year!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation

\$5,000+	Preservationist	_____
\$2,500-4,999	Harvester	_____
\$1000-2,499	Barnraiser	_____
\$500-999	Cultivator	_____
\$250-499	Tiller	_____
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PLOWSHARE SOCIETY

Join with a pledge to give a minimum of \$500 annually!



Sowing Deep Financial Seeds

GIFTS, HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

A membership to *Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear* is a meaningful gift for someone who loves the National Park. For the person who has everything, it is a great Christmas, Birthday or Wedding gift. A gift in honor or in memory is also a unique way to recognize a loved one.

LIFESAVER LEGACY

Ensure a legacy you can be proud of. Planned Giving could include bequests, designating PHSB as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement account, gifting real estate, or artwork which benefits PHSB and may avoid capital gains tax.

Visit www.phsb.org for further details.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PHSB, P.O. Box 453

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WWW.PHSB.ORG



CHEERS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Fiscal year 2015-2016 (Oct.1-Sept.30)

5,986 Volunteer Hours = \$141,030 value

We thank you so much for all that you do. Your contribution is of tremendous value to Preserve and the National Park Service!

Please let us know if we missed anyone!

Chris Armbrecht

Steve Baase

Tom Blodgett

Joanne Blodgett

Cheri Boss

Kathleen Bridson

Arvon Byle

Sally Byle

Gray Carlson

Christian Services
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Marlene Heron

WORK, PLAY, STAY!

Would you volunteer if you had a place to stay? We have found that when volunteers work, eat, and lodge together, friendships and synergy develop, creating a productive and bonding “Preservation Vacation!”

We have reserved some nearby rustic cabins for our 2017 project weekend of Thursday, July 13—Sunday, July 16. The rate is \$16 per night per person with shared accommodations up to 12 beds, Meals are also optional for \$10 each meal. Details about the cabins can be found on our website in February. You must register as a volunteer for the PHSB project prior to making your direct reservations. Complete our volunteer form at www.phsb.org, or email us, and you will be sent cabin information and how to register. In addition, park housing is also sometimes available for volunteers at a nominal fee. When you complete our volunteer form, please indicate your need for housing. Come join us for some work and play!

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



There are many ways to get involved! Our volunteers participate in preservation projects, greet Park visitors, give tours, tend gardens, serve at events, adopt a building or landscape, and help in many other ways.

Applications are also currently being accepted for the Board of Directors, and committee positions for Adaptive-Use, Development, Outreach, and Projects. Please contact us for more details.

Volunteer Staff: We are hiring a summer lead docent at the Olsen farm with housing provided; and a volunteer writer for press releases, social media and our website.

Specific Tasks: Volunteers are needed for office work and other tasks. If you are interested, please complete the volunteer form at www.phsb.org.

Honor Roll of Donors

received October 1, 2015—September 30, 2016

Preservationist

(\$5,000 & up)

The Americana Foundation
Anonymous
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Anonymous

Harvester

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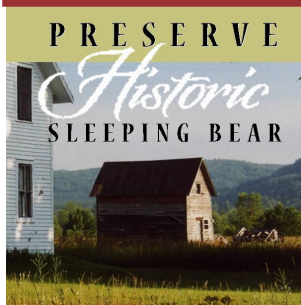
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Susan Pocklington

FAUST CABIN TOUR

We are working with the National Park Service and the Glen Lake Library to include the Faust Cabin at Inspiration Point, on the library's home tour, July 27, 2017. This is an opportunity for the public to tour this beautiful log home. PHSB will help prepare the building and be on-site to raise awareness for restoration funds needed for the structure.



AMAZON SMILE

We encourage shopping at your local businesses. If you do shop online however, consider raising funds for PHSB with your purchase! At no cost to you, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear with AmazonSmile. You'll find the same prices and selection as Amazon.com.

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, use your regular Amazon account and just select PHSB to receive donations before you begin shopping. Thank you!

SAVE THESE 2017 DATES!

Port Oneida Run: Saturday, August 5

Port Oneida Fair: Fri. & Sat. August 11/12

IS YOUR CLUB OR ORGANIZATION LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS?

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear makes presentations about our work to community organizations and clubs. We have addressed historical society's, libraries, Kiwanis, and more. We're booking for next spring, summer and fall. Contact us at 231-334-6103 or phsb@leelanau.com.