Kathryn Eckert and Sandstone Architecture

You are invited to our next general meeting on Wednesday, October 21, at 7 p.m. at CCHS’s building, 115 Ashmun Street, if work on the façade windows and cornice has been completed. Our special guest will be Kathryn Eckert, an architectural historian and historic preservationist with almost 40 years of experience. She is the author of The Sandstone Architecture of the Lake Superior Region and is editor of Buildings of Michigan (Oxford, 1993). Ms. Eckert is a past State Historic Preservation Officer of Michigan. Her talk is on the topic of her sandstone architecture book; about the stone in general, CCHS’s building and its architect Clarence Johnston, along with other structures in the Sault and area. The book will be available for purchase and signing. We are pleased to host her as this year’s project to preserve our façade is completed. The program is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Note: the alternate location for the talk will be Bayliss Public Library.

Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour Fundraiser

Maple Ridge Cemetery on Ashmun Street may be toured on Saturday, October 24, at 1 p.m. Caroline Grabowski will lead the tour that she has warned will be a spooky one. The tour is a fundraiser for CCHS so we ask for a donation of at least $5 per person. The tour script and a map of the cemetery layout will be available for purchase for $2 each. Seasonal refreshments will be provided. Parking will be available in the lot north of the cemetery. Please dress for the weather and wear walking shoes or boots as the ground is uneven.

Sherman Park Dedication

The Sault’s Sherman Park was dedicated on Labor Day to Henry A. Sherman at an event hosted by CCHS and attended by a group of his descendants, City representatives, and the public. This year’s dedication marks 84 years since the park’s opening in 1931. Henry A. Sherman was one of the Sault’s earliest City Managers. He served in that capacity from 1920 until 1948—a time during which many significant events took place. Paul Sabourin, Bernie Arbic, City Manager Oliver Turner, and one of Henry’s grandsons, Dan Sherman, all spoke to those gathered. A framed biography with a photo of Henry Sherman now hangs permanently in the Park Pavilion. A rock with a plaque was also unveiled at the occasion. The
The latter is in place next to the stairs to the Pavilion. Dan Sherman is working on a book on his grandfather; he presented over 30 images of Henry through the years to CCHS for its archives. His extensive research was assisted by the efforts of various CCHS members.

**Date Plaques for Sale**

Our date plaques are available for your home or business. You may have seen them on many buildings of all ages in our area. They make great gifts. The small plaque is $75.00 plus shipping. The large plaque with its extra line of text is $100 plus shipping. Orders are processed individually so there is little waiting. Forms for ordering are available at CCHS and Bayliss Library, or by mail, if you contact cchs@sault.com or 906-635-7082.

**New Mural**

By Carolyn Person

The new look of the CCHS building extends around to the rear entrance. If you have driven past on Portage Avenue and looked at the cinder block wall of the office addition, you have seen the voyageur from our logo paddling toward the door. To his right is an image of the French Jesuit mission. The images are adapted from CCHS’s logo adopted in 1996 from Sault Ste. Marie’s 1968 Tricentennial Celebration logo by artist Oliver Berge. In addition to the mural is lettering proclaiming the Society’s name. Our new neighbor, the Hopper family business, has re-sided the outside of their building and helped spruced up our entrance. I would like to thank the artists who helped draw the mural: Siersha, Sydney, Tom, Cherie, and especially “color within the lines” Paul.
Our thanks to Carolyn for her vision and creativity in taking on this ambitious project.

The French Connection

Bernie Arbic spoke at our July general meeting about “Sault Ste. Marie History: The French Connection.” Sixty-two people attended the informative program at Bayliss Library, an affiliate of Superior District Library. He spoke about the arrival of the French in the new world and their movement around the Great Lakes. His research brought to light many figures who should be better known for their contributions to the history of our area. I have heard rumors that Bernie may present his talk in 2016 at a Chippewa County Genealogical Society meeting at Bayliss Library. (Note: we might be able to persuade Bernie to allow us to sell shirts like the one with the fleur de lis that he wore at his talk. Let us know if you would be interested in one.)

Façade Restoration Project

Work continues on the façade restoration project at 115 Ashmun Street, the home of CCHS. At this writing the windows on the second floor are being installed and soon the first floor windows and the cornice will be in place. A photo display by Paul Sabourin will be on view at the October meeting to show the façade’s transformation. There will be photographs of the building in our January newsletter.

Chippewa County Historical Society received a grant covering 75% of the total project cost. We are seeking your financial assistance in contributing to this cause. It is a tax deductible donation. Almost $20,000 has been raised so far. A list of those who have contributed since July is on page 5. Contact us if you would like to help.
WEDNESDAYS ON WATER STREET

A new series was launched this past summer at the Johnston House, one of the Historic Water Street Buildings. Special guests presented programs on a variety of topics. On August 26, CCHS Board members Tom and Cherie Tocco were there for such a program, dressed in period costumes, ready to welcome visitors with special displays they had prepared. Regular Johnston House docent Lindsay Uhrig is shown here with the Toccos. Although relatively new to Sault Ste. Marie, Tom and Cherie have been re-enacting different historic periods for nearly 35 years. Here they are dressed in the style of 1812. You may have also seen them at this year’s successful Rendezvous in the Sault.

MICHIGAN SURVEYING PROGRAM

In honor of the 200th anniversary of the Surveying of Michigan, CCHS and Bayliss Library co-sponsored a talk by Lake Superior State University professor Dennis Merkel. It was held on September 29, the anniversary date of the start of surveying downstate in 1815. His talk, “Not more than one acre in a hundred’: Wasteland, War, and Innovation in Michigan’s Public Land Survey,” presented an introduction to surveying and the history of the ambitious project that took 30 years to reach the Sault. At one point, the land was thought to be worthless for agriculture and the project was nearly abandoned. On display at the talk was a sample of the witness trees and survey markers from the H.C. Lawrence Collection at CCHS. Dr. Merkel mentioned that the types of witness trees and other information collected by the surveyors yield a great deal of information about what Michigan’s landscape was like in the early 19th century. At some point such trees were replaced with the metal markers used today.

COLLECTIONS

By Carolyn Person

Filing, labeling, and photo recording of artifacts in the collection continues. Over 250 bottles from the Fred Warth Collection have been catalogued with fantastic help from Kathy Newcomb. Dawn Aldrich is great at making lists of box and folder contents and then inputting the information into the computer. Mike Bennett and Ken Randall are very cooperative with directions of “Put it there, no there, no it looks better over here.” Roger Blanchard is back working on the second floor making shelves and removing old flooring. There is still a lot to do and if anyone has time on Mondays or Fridays, your help would be welcomed. It’s a fun group to work with and you might even learn some area history!

SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

CCHS had a table at the Sault Summer Arts Festival in August. Mary M. June donated Maureen Mousley's print of “Whitefish Point” that was won by Tom Kelly. Many of our books, historic photos, and cards were sold. We thank all of the volunteers who cheerfully assisted this year.

HISTORIC CHURCHES

We took a break from the Historic Churches of Sault Ste. Marie programming this past summer. So far we know that
St. James Episcopal Church, the Central Methodist Church, and the Salvation Army Citadel would like to continue offer programming. We have not had much of a response from volunteers willing to step forward and assist with planning. If anyone would like to help with programming for 2016, please contact us.

One-Room School Reunion
By Carolyn Person

Bruce Township Hall was the scene of a One-Room School Reunion on September 19. The Hall was packed to the rafters with former students of ten of the Township’s one-room schools. Old friendships were reunited, stories told, and histories were caught up as people found classmates and friends. The organizers worked for a year gathering names and addresses and planning the event. It was a great afternoon and all agreed they would like to meet again in five years! Contact Shirley Patrick, 906-748-0952 for a copy of class photos (see below for sample in black and white).

Thank you to the following:

New Member:
Jerry Donnelly

Renewals:
Meta S. Geyer
R&B Electronics, Inc.
Norajean Wilcox

Facade Project:
Larry Cooper
Gerry & Fern Coutant

Ginny & Gil Cymbalist
Meta S. Geyer
R&B Electronics, Inc.
Norajean Wilcox

Volunteers:
Dawn Aldrich, Bernie Arbic, Mike Bennett, Roger Blanchard, Amber Clement, Ginny & Gil Cymbalist, Shawn & Mindy Durham, Jim Dwyer, Caroline Grabowski, Susan James, Mary M. June, Marian MacLeod, Shawna Mauldin, Rowan Mauldin, Kathy Newcomb, Patty Olsen, Shirley Patrick, Carolyn Person, Ken Randall, Karen Sabatine, Paul Sabourin, Dee Stevens, Tom & Cherie Tocco

Newsletter Contributors:
Susan James, Bernie Arbic, Paul Sabourin, Jim Dwyer, Carolyn Person

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Connie Thompson

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Mary M. June, President
Susan James, Vice President, Programs and Publications
Paul Sabourin, Vice President, Membership and Fundraising
Bernie Arbic, Treasurer
Virginia Cymbalist, Secretary

Robert Aldrich, Jim Dwyer, Caroline Grabowski, Dennis Hank, Patty Olsen, Carolyn Person, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Cherie Tocco, Tom Tocco
By Bernie Arbic

This article is the second one dealing with passenger vessels that passed through the locks over the years. The idea arose from the fact that the vessel MS Saint Laurent made four trips to the Sault this past summer, on excursions that began or ended, variously, in Montreal, Chicago, and Toronto.

The earliest passenger ships were serving travelers going from Point A to Point B. For example, the Northstar, mentioned in the earlier article, certainly provided the fastest and most convenient way for people to travel between the Sault and Detroit in the mid-1800s. These days, vessels such as the Saint Laurent serve a different purpose—providing an interesting way to enjoy the Great Lakes and its scenery. Several Board members from CCHS served as local tour guides this summer when the passengers from the Saint Laurent disembarked for a four-hour bus tour of Sault Ste.

The MS Saint Laurent, (above) moored at James Alford Park in August, 2015. This cruise ship was built specifically for Great Lakes cruises, but it spends winters in the warmer waters off Central and South America. It can handle about 200 passengers.

The Christopher Columbus (below) is shown downbound here, ca. 1900, approaching the Weitzel Lock. The State Fish Hatchery that was located on the bank of the rapids between about 1895 and 1910 can be seen beyond the ship, above its bow. The fish hatchery was moved to the east end of Brady Park to allow construction of the Davis Lock, and it later became the American Legion Building.
Marie, with stops at the Museum Ship Valley Camp and the Soo Locks Visitor Center included. It’s good to see that the tradition of passenger ships visiting the Sault is still alive.

The steamboat Christopher Columbus was in service between 1892 and 1933. It was the only passenger ship ever built on a whaleback hull, and it was constructed specifically to be used to transport passengers from downtown Chicago to the site of the World’s Columbian Exposition—six miles away—that celebrated the 400th anniversary of Columbus’s 1492 “discovery” of the New World. It could carry 5,000 passengers.

The South American was one of the last passenger vessels from an earlier time. It was built in Ecorse, Michigan in 1913, and carried passengers for the Chicago, Duluth, and Georgian Bay Transportation Company. It was retired from regular service in 1967, but operated that year carrying passengers between Detroit and Montreal for attendance at the World’s Fair Expo ’67. John Matheson told me that when he was a boy in the 1930s, the South American used to pull in to a slip here, and he and some friends were able to pick up a little pocket money by diving next to it, to retrieve coins thrown into the water by passengers.
YES! I want to be a CCHS Member!

Membership Rates

- Individual $20
- Family $30
- Student $10
- Senior $10
- Contributing $50
- Business/Corporate/Org. $50
- Lifetime $200+
- New Millenium $1000+
- Additional Donation $____
- Façade Project: $____

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Please keep me in mind for:  ☐ Volunteer Work  ☐ Board Member

Make checks payable to: Chippewa County Historical Society, P.O. Box 342, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Upcoming Events

Join us on Wed., Oct. 21, at 7 p.m., for our General Meeting, featuring Kathryn Eckert speaking about “The Sandstone Architecture of the Lake Superior Region.”

Join us on Sat., Oct. 24, at 1 p.m. for Caroline Grabowski’s tour of Maple Ridge Cemetery

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Monday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
and by appointment at back door

Gift Shop Hours:
Call for our fall hours.
Open during events and by appointment.

Office Hours:
Soo Locks Park

Water Street

Ashmun Street

Parking

Portage Avenue

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