

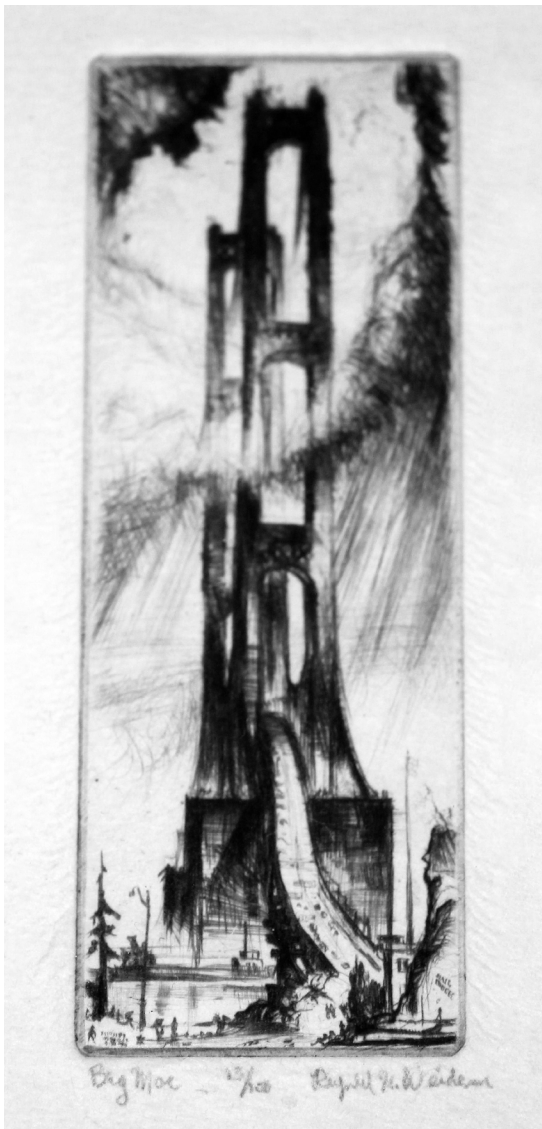
# CURIOSITIES

VOLUME XXXVIII



2018 ISSUE 4

## NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR THE HISTORICAL COLLECTION



A miniature engraving of the construction of the Mackinac Bridge by Reynold Weidenaar.

Another active year of collecting added nearly 500 individual items to the historical collection. The objects were acquired both through donation and purchase, some of the latter supported by the Jahn Collections Development Fund. The pieces include a vast array of object types.

Numerous original historic photographs, dating from the 1880s to the 1970s, were donated and purchased. This included a previously unknown stereoview card and several commercial cabinet cards. We have been actively collecting these since the 1960s and yet continue to find unique examples of these popular photo souvenirs of the Victorian era. Two significant donations of family photo albums were also made. The first were from a descendent of a crew member from the Mackinac Island Coast Guard Station, now the park visitor's center. The views show the men at work and play on the island and the only known images of the station's interior. The second donation of albums were from descendants of the Milton Tootle family of the East Bluff. Among the photos are views of the famed Japanese Garden on the cottage grounds and images of family and friends swimming at the Cudahy family pool on the West Bluff and golfing at Wawashkamo. A number of glass-plate negatives were also part of the gift. Thirteen excellent mid-twentieth century press photographs were also added to the collection as well as twenty previously unknown postcards.

Significant additions to the art collection included a watercolor by Stanley Bielecky, featured in the summer issue, and two miniature engravings of the construction of the Mackinac Bridge by Reynold Weidenaar. Very rare, these

two works were part of a series of five bridge views by the noted Grand Rapids artist. Over the last eight years we have acquired examples of the three larger, better-known works, and this acquisition completes our collection. The Bielecky watercolor went on exhibit at the Manoogian Art Museum this past summer and the Weidenaar works will join them next season. The Weidenaar acquisition was acquired through the Jahn Fund.

A wide variety of other objects demonstrate the breadth and depth of our collections scope. Of note are a number of pieces added to the souvenir-ware collection including four Kriesche engraved pressed-glass items as well as a number of late-Victorian, German-produced pictorial porcelain pieces. Other interesting acquisitions included an 1891 New Mackinac hotel register; a SS North American ship's newsletter; and shipwreck artifacts from the 1871 Colonel Ellsworth. Several historic objects were also purchased to enhance existing period settings at Fort Mackinac.

All the objects acquired this year enhance the richness of the museum and archival collections. Whether rare or common, whimsical or inspiring, each adds another piece to our mosaic of Mackinac history, helping form a more complete picture that allows us to better understand and appreciate our past.

*(Please see page 4 for a list of collections donors.)*

## MACKINAC ISLAND NATIVE AMERICAN MUSEUM COMING TO THE BIDDLE HOUSE

Mackinac State Historic Parks, with Mackinac Associates, is seeking support for a very special addition to Mackinac Island - the Mackinac Island Native American Museum to be developed at the Biddle House on Market Street.

Mackinac Island has been a sacred and historically significant place for Anishinaabek people (Odawa, Ojibway, and Potawatomi) for centuries. Oral tradition, supported by archaeological evidence, speaks of Native settlement dating back to 1000 A.D. From this point forward, Mackinac Island occupied a central place in the Anishinaabek world.

"Few areas in the Great Lakes have the historic relevance that Mackinac Island holds, especially for the indigenous people of our state, the Anishinaabek," said Eric Hemenway, Director, Repatriation, Archives and Records of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and project consultant. "Stories of creation, war, trade, government, as well as everyday life all relate to the Anishinaabek on this special island. These stories have helped to shape what is Michigan today."

The exhibition "Agatha's Mackinac" tells the



Anishinaabek story of Mackinac Island from pre-contact to today through the experiences and relationships of Agatha Biddle (1791-1873), an Odawa woman whose life provides a lens through which to understand and appreciate this rich story.

In recognition of Agatha Biddle's importance to the Anishinaabek people and the region, she was recently inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

More information can be found at [mackinacassociates.com](http://mackinacassociates.com). To donate, visit the website or call (231) 436-4100.

## ART CONTEST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Mackinac State Historic Parks will be celebrating 10 years of juried exhibitions at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum in 2019 with the theme "Visions of Mackinac."

Mackinac State Historic Parks encourages artists working in all media to share their artistic visions of Mackinac Island. Subjects may be people, places, gardens, buildings, landscapes, water views, or whatever subject best captures the artist's creative vision of Mackinac Island.

Entries are currently being accepted and will be accepted through March 8, 2019. Artists will be notified by the juror by March 29 with results, and the "Visions of Mackinac" exhibition will open to the public on May 2, 2019.

An awards ceremony announcing the exhibition winners will take place on June 19.

"We are excited to commemorate 10 years of The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum and we look forward to celebrating the beauty of Mackinac Island with this exhibition," said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks director.

A juror for the 2019 show is still being finalized and will be announced in the coming weeks. Follow [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com) for updates.

# EDUCATION OUTREACH

Mackinac State Historic Parks closed for the 2018 season in early October. However, that doesn't mean MSHP has stopped interpreting its history to the youth of Michigan.

Each year, historic interpreters from MSHP visit hundreds of students throughout Michigan with its Education Outreach program, thanks in large part to Mackinac Associates. 2019 marks the 31<sup>st</sup> year of *Historic Mackinac on Tour*, an overview of Michigan history through the lens of Mackinac, and the 26<sup>th</sup> year of *Water, Woods and Wildlife*, a natural history program led by MSHP Curator of Natural History Jeff Dykehouse.

Mackinac Associates devotes more than \$30,000 to provide low cost programs, financial assistance, and, in some cases, free programs. Mackinac Associates also provides scholarships up to \$500 to assist schools making field trips to MSHP sites. Further, Mackinac Associates has created an Education Endowment Fund, with a current balance of \$290,000, to ensure that Michigan students will be able to enjoy these programs for years to come.

About 8,000 students receive an outreach program each year. Interpreters traverse Michigan—from the western U.P. all the way down to the Detroit area.

"Students experience the Great Lakes watershed, the fur trade, and, one classroom at a time, students

learn the cultural and natural history of Michigan that makes our state great," said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks deputy director.

The 2018–19 outreach season kicked off in November with the *Water, Woods and Wildlife* programs. *Historic Mackinac on Tour* will begin in early 2019. The in-class visits are designed to complement an on-site visit to an MSHP historic site.



Mackinac State Historic Parks Curator of Natural History Jeff Dykehouse leading one of his *Water, Woods and Wildlife* programs.

## GIVE A MACKINAC ASSOCIATES MEMBERSHIP AS A GIFT

Do you have friends or family that would enjoy the benefits of a Mackinac Associates membership? Consider gifting a membership as a unique gift. You can purchase a gift membership on our website at [mackinacassociates.com/join](http://mackinacassociates.com/join).

## MEMBER PROFILE INFO

Beginning in 2019 we will include a member profile sheet with your membership renewal. We want to verify the contact information we have for members and gather additional information. We wish to increase the number of email addresses we have for members. There are member benefits that are only shared through email, such as discounted rates for hotels or other businesses, and those could be shared more broadly with the membership. An electronic newsletter will be used to promote events and announcements that may come up between print issues of *Curiosities*. This information will only be used for Mackinac Associates communications and will not be shared. Look for your membership profile sheet in your next membership renewal.

# BE AN ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Mackinac Island has long been an inspiration for artists. Mackinac State Historic Parks is providing an opportunity to continue this tradition.

The Mackinac State Historic Parks Artist-In-Residence Program is designed to promote and encourage the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island. The residencies are available to writers, composers, sculptors, and visual artists including photographers.

The two- and three-week residencies are available beginning in early June and continuing through early October.

"We are excited to see this project come to fruition in 2019," said Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Phil Porter. "We are looking forward to hosting talented artists and watching them create art inspired by Mackinac."

The resident artist will be housed in the newly-remodeled second floor of the Mackinac Island Visitor's Center, formerly the 1915 Mackinac Island Coast Guard Station. The residence, which overlooks the Straits of Mackinac, includes a studio apartment with one full size bed with bedding and towels provided, private bath and shower, kitchen with stove, sink, and full-size refrigerator, washer and dryer, WIFI, and basic kitchen

and cleaning supplies. It's an historic building and the second floor is only accessible by stairway. The residence is provided rent-free to the selected artist.

There is a large adjoining work/gathering space that is available by appointment for the artist when not in use by park. The artist also has access, with previous arrangement, to the work space in the lower level of the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum for project work and/or workshops.

The artist is asked to provide two public presentations (workshop, lecture, reading, demonstration, etc.) during the residency and contribute one piece of their work to Mackinac State Historic Parks within 12 months. The artist is responsible for transportation to and from Mackinac Island and should bring all personal equipment, supplies, and food.

A jury of representatives from Mackinac State Historic Parks, the Mackinac Island Arts Council, and the Mackinac Island Community Foundation will select from the pool of applicants. Selections will be made solely on the basis of merit and how their work can advance the program's goal of encouraging the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island.

The application process and schedule are available at [mackinacparks.com/artist-in-residence](http://mackinacparks.com/artist-in-residence).



The Artist-in-Residence apartment features a full-size bed, living room space, full kitchen, bathroom, and incredible views of Haldimand Bay and the Straits of Mackinac.

# 2019 G. MENNEN WILLIAMS MACKINAC CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars: the 2019 G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration will be held at the cottage of Mike and Wendy Young on the West Bluff on June 22.

The G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration is Mackinac Associates largest fundraiser of the season and has become one of the premiere summer kickoff events on Mackinac Island. Guests will be able to tour the Young cottage, enjoy a cocktail reception, and have dinner on the property while taking in views that only the West Bluff can provide.

"We are very appreciative that Mike and Wendy Young have agreed to open their house to host the 2019 G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration," said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks director. "This is a beautiful cottage with a spectacular view of the Straits of Mackinac, and our guests will be thrilled with the opportunity to visit this house."

Porter also wanted to express his gratitude to Mike (Skip) Young, Jr, Mackinac Associates Board Member, for his work securing the cottage for the event.

Visit [mackinacassociates.com](http://mackinacassociates.com) or [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com) for more information on this wonderful event.



The 2018 G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration was held at the Commanding Officer and Officers' Quarters next to Fort Mackinac.



# DIRECTOR'S OUTLOOK

Since the time of earliest settlement, Mackinac has always experienced a dramatic shift in activity between summer and winter. For centuries Native Americans set up seasonal fishing camps in the Straits of Mackinac, only to retreat to winter hunting grounds with the coming of the autumn winds. Similarly, the fur trade and fishing industries generated significant summer activity followed by long, quiet winters. And now, for more than 150 years, tourism has been the economic engine generating summer activity. Not surprisingly, this seasonal fluctuation very much dictates the flow of life for Mackinac State Historic Parks.

Between early May and late October we host nearly 1,000,000 visitors to our parks and historic sites. As the flow of tourists diminishes at the end of the season we shift our primary focus from providing public programs and services to a season of winter projects. Like most area businesses, the "off season" provides the only opportunity to address new construction, exhibition, and major maintenance issues.

This winter our island park operations staff is completing the renovation of the second floor of the Visitor's Center for the Artist in Residence program, initiating work on the new restroom/shelter facility behind Fort Mackinac, remodeling restrooms and kitchens, clearing trees and brush along roads and hillsides, and tackling a myriad of ongoing maintenance and small construction projects. On the mainland, major projects include continued brick restoration and plastering at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, construction of new chimneys and repairing bark roofs at Colonial Michilimackinac, and remodeling housing units.

New exhibits, designed and fabricated by our museum programs staff, include an updated "Water Power Station" at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, a dramatic audio-visual display in the North Blockhouse, and new period

settings and exhibits in the Post Headquarters at Fort Mackinac. The exhibit space in the north room of the Michilimackinac Soldiers' Barracks is being remodeled into an interactive period setting. This winter we are also beginning to design the interpretive elements that will be included in the new Mackinac Island Native American Museum at the Biddle House.

Winter also provides time for historic research and writing. New publications this year include a book featuring images from the photo album of Lieutenant Edward Pratt who served at Fort Mackinac in the 1880s, and *Memories of Michilimackinac*, the fourth in our series of French translation publications cooperatively published with Michigan State University Press. Reprints include *Historic Mill Creek*, the *Historic Mackinac Island Visitor's Guide*, *Mackinac National Park, 1875-1895*, *Were-Wolves and Will-O-The-Wisps*, and *Movies at Mackinac*.



**"I LOOK FORWARD TO WINTER'S PACE OF LIFE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE NEW RESEARCH TOPICS, DESIGN AND CREATE NEW PROJECTS, AND GET READY FOR THE NEXT SEASON."**

– PHIL PORTER, DIRECTOR

All of these projects will wrap up by early May when we will once again switch gears and prepare for a new season of summer operations. Personally, I very much enjoy the change of seasons. It's exciting to kick off a new season, renew summer acquaintances, and debut

fresh offerings. But, by late October, the cool temperatures and brisk winds signal that it's time for a change. I look forward to winter's pace of life and the opportunity to pursue new research topics, design and create new projects, and get ready for the next season.



## PHOTO ALBUM: ALL ABOARD

As the sign on the side of the "Tally-Ho" omnibus proclaims, these visitors are about to depart to Arch Rock and Fort Holmes. The 1885 view is taken in front of the Palmer House, left, the site now occupied by the Main Street Inn. The gap beyond it is the yard in front of the roller-skating rink, today's haunted theater.

## THANK YOU MARA GOETZ-FROESCHKE

2018 marked the first time we hired a seasonal membership office assistant for Mackinac Associates. A huge thank you to Mara Goetz-Froeschke for all of her hard work in 2018. She was a great addition and was especially helpful in the transition after Diane Dombroski's retirement. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

### BECOME A MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT

We will again hire a seasonal assistant for 2019. The office assistant will serve members and donors by maintaining the membership database, providing acknowledgement of membership dues and other donations and responding to member inquiries.

The full posting can be found at [mackinacparks.com/employment](http://mackinacparks.com/employment).

## MACKINAC ASSOCIATES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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For membership information,  
call 231-436-4100

*Published by Mackinac Associates. Subscription is a membership benefit. Membership levels include Friend, \$70; Mackinac Heritage, \$85; Voyageur, \$95; Sentinel, \$200; Explorer, \$400; Commandant's Circle, \$650; Steward, \$1,000; Guardian, \$2,500; Patron, \$5,000; Benefactor, \$10,000. Other membership benefits include unlimited free admission to Colonial Michilimackinac, Fort Mackinac, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse and The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum; 15 percent merchandise and publications discount at the six Mackinac State Historic Parks' museum stores; invitation to Mackinac Associates special events; and discounted admission for member's guests (excluding Heritage level).*

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## MACKINAC ASSOCIATES THANKS OUR COLLECTIONS DONORS

We are grateful for all of our collections donors this year.

- **Sarah Newton**
  - Watercolor painting of regatta boats by Stanley Bielecky
- **Dr. Lynn Evans**
  - Plastic shopping bag from Mackinac State Historic Parks and *National Geographic School Bulletin* with Fort Mackinac article
- **Dr. Keith Widder**
  - Sketch of Post Hospital and Steward's Quarters at Fort Mackinac by Jim Worden and Panorama postcard of Fort Mackinac from Main Street
- **Paul Wandrie**
  - Register from New Mackinac Hotel
- **Phillip Pomber**
  - Birchbark basket, souvenir leather container, bone manicure tool, Bayview yacht race medal and Native American pottery sherds
- **Kathy Touchtone**
  - Mackinac Island wood souvenir box with lid
- **Sam Hoiles**
  - Henry O'Brien's Carriage Line business card
- **Dan Dunnigan**
  - Wood walking stick made by Don Andress for Commissioner James Dunnigan
- **Deb Beard**
  - *Island House* print by Christine Garrity West
- **Joseph Woolheiser**
  - Coast Guard photograph albums of his father with images of Mackinac Island
- **Ron and Penelope Schneider**
  - Rendering of Cornwell painting of *Beaumont and St. Martin*
- **Karin Everett**
  - *Historic Mackinac* two volume set by Edwin O. Wood
- **Stu Stuart**
  - Posters and brochures from Stu Stuart comedy show
- **Craig Warren**
  - Ship's compass from shipwreck *Colonel Ellsworth* and cannonball from straits
- **Ellen Pavelek**
  - Mackinac Island brochures, souvenir decal, Teysen's suggestion card and color postcards
- **Penny Draper**
  - Framed photograph of Dr. John W. Claxton, pastor at Little Stone Church
- **Debra Orr**
  - Mackinac Island *The Island News* newspapers, black and white photographs of *SS Alabama*, color postcards of Mackinac Island and straits area, and architectural pieces from the Orr Cottage
- **Cynthia Harris**
  - Souvenir arrowhead from 1763 attack at Michilimackinac
- **Walter Hannabass**
  - Photograph albums with images of the Tootle family including images of the Tootle Cottage garden on Mackinac Island

## 2019 MSHP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May

- 1 | Colonial Michilimackinac open for 2019 season, 9 a.m.
- 2 | Fort Mackinac open for 2019 season, 9 a.m.
- 2 | The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum open for 2019 season, 10 a.m.
- 3 | Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park open for 2019 season, 9 a.m.
- 3 | Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse open for 2019 season, 9 a.m.
- 11 | Fort2Fort Five Mile Challenge, Fort Mackinac to Fort Holmes, 9 a.m.
- 11-12 | Residents Appreciation Days
- 27 | Memorial Day Observance, Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery, 8:30 a.m.

### June

- 4 | The King's Birth-day Celebration, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 8 | Historic Downtown Mackinac open for 2019 season, 11 a.m.
- 9-15 | Lilac Festival Events, Fort Mackinac

- 16 | Lilac Festival Grand Parade, Mackinac Island, 4 p.m.
- 19 | Open House, Visions of Mackinac, Mackinac Art Museum, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 | G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration, Young Cottage, 6 p.m.
- 26 | Business After Hours, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, 5:30 p.m.
- 29-30 | Rendezvous at the Straits: Voyageur Culture Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### July

- 4 | Star Spangled 4th of July, Fort Mackinac, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- 4 | Red, White & Blue Celebration, behind Fort Mackinac, 5:30 p.m.
- 4 | An American Picnic presented by Grand Hotel, Fort Mackinac, 6:30 p.m.
- 13-14 | Pastimes in Times Past: Fun and Games Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- 20 | Vintage Base Ball, Fort Mackinac Ballfield, 6:30 p.m.

### August

- 10-11 | Gardens and Good Things to Eat Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- 18 | Mackinac Associates Annual Meeting, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, 6 p.m.
- 24 | Historic Downtown Mackinac final day for 2019

### September

- 14-15 | Michilimackinac at Work: Labor and Trades Weekend, Colonial Michilimackinac, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- 22 | Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park final day for 2019

### October

- 4 | Colonial Michilimackinac last regular day for 2019
- 4-5 | Fort Fright, Colonial Michilimackinac, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- 6 | Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse final day for 2019
- 6 | The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum final day for 2019
- 27 | Fort Mackinac final day for 2019

Visit [MackinacAssociates.com](http://MackinacAssociates.com) for updates.