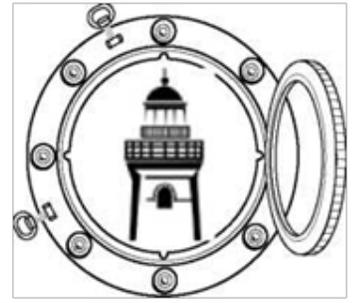


A VIEW THROUGH THE PORTHOLE



Fairport Harbor Historical Society

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From the President's Desk

MaryAlyce Gladding



PRESIDENTS LOG

These are tough times for all of us. The financial hardship caused by the pandemic has slowed travel & tourism, making it so much harder for lighthouse groups dependent on gate receipts for most of their operating budgets to share the legacy of the light they work to preserve. Our lighthouse & museum launched its 2020 season under state guidelines aimed at preventing the spread of the corona virus. Our opening day was July 1st. We usually open in April starting with personal and school tours. This year the museum & lighthouse will be open from 1 to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and all legal holidays. State requirements related to COVID-19, include 6 foot social distancing and frequently sanitizing high touch items. Before we opened we did a deep cleaning of the lighthouse & museum. The workers cleaned and organized everything that did not move for our opening day. Thank you to: Marty O'Gara, Mary Elsing, Linda Toth, Melanie Tigner, Sharon Chamberlain, and Dan Maxson who cleaned the inside. Greg Bevan power washed the outside and did the mowing. Patience Wright did the weeding and watering. The museum & lighthouse is now ready for visitors. Come and see us.

Community days on September 20th has been canceled this year because of the virus. Our annual garage sale on September 12th is still on. Two members of our society donate all the items for the sale and give us 100% profit. They bring it to the lighthouse and what we don't sell they take back. Our volunteers help set up and take down. There is no mess afterwards. Items are priced to sell.

This year is our 75th Anniversary. Plans are still in the making. We hope to celebrate September 19th. Check our website later for more information. We have to abide by the rules of the COVID19 and no one knows what is going on in September yet. Another big event planned is the 45th Anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Every five years we hold a memorial service. November 10th marks the date the Fitzgerald went down forty five years ago. A member of the crew who perished was Edmund F. Bindon, a resident of Fairport Harbor. In the marine museum there is a display that includes a life preserver and plaque listing the 29 crew. Bill Simko a Fairport resident was a member of that first crew when the Fitz was launched. He still lives here with his wife Marilyn. Again check our website (fairpoortharborlighthouse.org) as these events draw near.

Even though our hours has changed due to circumstances work is still being done at the lighthouse thanks to a private grant from a local family. Repairing and repainting the Frontenac is being completed. The 100th year sign has been painted and other projects will be completed with the grant. In addition the brick installation around the lighthouse will be completed in the near future.

Our Lake Erie, Madison, Fairport Harbor, Sailing History and Lexicon

(submitted by Dan Maxson)

Lake Erie is and remains our county's greatest resource. Its name is derived from the Iroquoian word 'eriehonan' which means long tail. Containing 26 islands, the fourth largest of the five lakes has a length of 241 miles and width of 57 miles. Its average depth is a mere 62' with a maximum depth of but 210' on its far corners. Four states touch Lake Erie. They are Ohio, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania. Nearly 11 million people get their drinking water from our Great Lake and our fishing industry is on par or surpasses all competitors. Discovered in 1669 nearly 30 years before the visit by the French explorer Louis Joliet, commerce was to become a key mainstay in the future.



The early history of sailing on Lake Erie references 'Walk-in-the Water' in 1818 and even the steamer Frontenac and Ontario but it is the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 that establishes our place in Ohio history. Early sailing vessels venturing from Buffalo could safely reach Madison's Dock Road or Fairport's harbor. Both villages were leading hubs in the commerce of the era. Over 52 sailing vessels, mostly schooners were built in Fairport and vicinity. At Dock Road in 1830 the Caroline S. Bailey was built. 1835 saw the Helens, a 75 ton vessel constructed and in 1847 the 200 ton Flying Dutchman was launched. The last ship built by the Bailey Brothers occurred in 1863.

In Fairport it was the 1819 arrival of the Rachel under Captain Robert Eaton that signaled the village's maritime future. The Superior arrived in May 1823 and the steamboat Pioneer came in 1825. Fairport's first vessel constructed was the 1826 schooner United States. In 1831 Fairport became the first federally sponsored port. Fairport thrived as a Great Lakes port well into 1867. Fairport's most famous build was the 1845 schooner Madeline, a cargo vessel destined for the Great Lakes and Traverse City. An exact replica is still in service today as part of the Tall Ships visits. The original vessel was also famous in Michigan lore as serving as a school during a harsh winter in the mid-1800s. The captain and five member crew taught the local children each of whom went on to important careers in the years to follow. As 1870 dawned, the commercial era of Lake Erie schooners was at its end. Sailing vessels remained important and from a historical perspective the more than 2000 ships role in transportation in travel, trade and war is astonishing.

** A list of all known vessels built in Madison or Fairport may be found on page 45 of the book Fairport Harbor, Ohio 1976

Through that time, sailors slang and terminology became part of our English lexicon. These sailing terms still are in use 150 years later and still commonplace to landlubbers alike. Let's see what sailing terms you know?

'A clean bill of health' - attesting to the presentation of a certificate of good hygiene and absence of infectious diseases.
- Required at entry to any port.

'Feeling blue' - crews flew blue flags and painted the hull blue if they lost their captain during a trek.

'Pipe down' - The bosun's pipe signal that indicated lights-out, quiet down, go to bed!

'Square meal' - meal plates on ship were wooden and square. Sailors wanted 3 squares a day!

'Hand over fist' - no not the money line, this meant tugging the lines in as fast as one could.

Other common terms include 'By and Large', Loose Cannon, 'Son of a Gun', 'Over a Barrel' and 'Toe the Line'.

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter can be emailed to you. It is in color if you receive it in your email. Pictures are gorgeous.

If you want to be added to the email list, please contact thelighthouse at keeper@fairportharborlighthouse.com.

Frontenac Photo Donated to the Museum

(submitted by Maty O’Gara)

Earlier this year, the Fairport Harbor Marine Museum received a framed photo of the freighter Frontenac donated by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Breuning of Chardon, Ohio.

The pilot house of the Frontenac, built in 1928, was acquired by the Marine Museum in the mid-1960’s through the efforts of member Dwight Boyer, columnist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer and author of books about the Great Lakes.

Mr. Breuning actually sailed on the Frontenac in his younger years. He acquired the picture of the Frontenac while reading water

meters for the City of Cleveland. It was hanging in the basement of a home with a collection of other ship photos in a basement. The photos were taken by the homeowner when ships sailed into Cleveland Harbor.

When Mr. Breuning revealed to the home owner that he had sailed on the Frontenac, the homeowner gave him the photograph.

Last summer, the Breunings visited the Marine Museum. When they toured the pilot house, they noticed the picture of the Frontenac hanging there was faded and hard to see. They had their photo of the Frontenac reframed and donated it to the Marine Museum. On the back of the photo are the specifications of the ship, and the story of how it came to belong to Kenneth Breuning.

The museum president, Mary Alyce Gladding, and museum members were delighted to receive this beautiful image of the Frontenac when the Breunings attended a member meeting in early 2020.

Visit the Fairport Marine Museum and you can see this lovely acquisition. We are sincerely grateful to Mr and Mrs Breuning who are life members of the museum.



OLD SALT QUIZ

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Binnacle List | a. boat in poor shape |
| 2. Cozy | b. a woman hater |
| 3. Muck up | c. ocean |
| 4. Nitty | d. a cigarette |
| 5. Briny | e. an argument |
| 6. Red Mike | f. clean up |
| 7. floating coffin | g. stingy with money |
| 8. Skag | h. the sick list |

Answers are on the last page.

THINGS OLD SALTS USED TO SAY

- “Catch the tide” is another way of saying “to seize the opportunity”
- “Sea Legs “ meant freedom from seasickness
- “Crumb” was a shipmate who seldom washed
- “Slushy” was a word for the ships cook
- “Dough Puncher”was used for the baker
- The “Black Gang”means the team in the engine room
- “Five foe Six”was the term for the ship’s money lender

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday work day. Join us and help with miscellaneous tasks and chores that are necessary to keep the lighthouse functioning with all volunteer help.

- Preservation Committee. Join us in an important part of our existence.
- Gift Shop Volunteer.
- If interested in helping out, please call the lighthouse. ALL help is appreciated.

Hold the Dates

** Both Events will be subject to Governor Mandates & social distancing protocols in effect at the time.

75th Anniversary Program - Fairport Harbor Historical Society
Saturday September 19, 2020. 6-7pm Lighthouse North Lawn
FHHS members planning on attending should RSVP before September 15th to
keeper@fairportharborlighthouse.org

On March 2, 1945, a group of public-spirited citizens representing all civic, social, and cultural groups from our village met at village hill and organized the Fairport Harbor Historical Society. On March 17, 1945 the society was formally incorporated and that summer saw a one room museum open to the public for visitation. Now seventy five years later this all-volunteer group still serves its original purpose of preserving for prosperity this landmark lighthouse as well as preserving and perpetuating the historic traditions of the Great Lakes region. Join the current society members as they celebrate a rich maritime history 208 years in the making.

Edmund Fitzgerald Remembrance - Joint Program USCG & FHHS
Tuesday November 10, 2020 6:30-7:30pm Fairport Harding HS Auditorium

In June 1958 the largest freighter on the Great Lakes was launched. A workhorse of the period, the ill fated voyage of November 10, 1975 is one of the Great Lakes best known stories. Join members of the FHHS and USCG Station Fairport for the ringing of the bell in remembrance of the 29 crewmen including a local Fairporter who perished that evening.

Fairport Harbor Creamery Accepting Donations

The Fairport Harbor Creamery owned by Karen & Brian Volzer has come to our rescue. Just as we were ready to open up for the season one of our air conditioners went down. Both of our air conditioners are 20 years old. Karen is a special person. What she sets out to do she accomplishes. She had a brainstorm about donating \$1.00 to the lighthouse when you place your order at the new ice cream store. The Fairport Harbor Creamery is helping with the loss of revenue due to reduced hours and social distancing. They will be accepting donations through Labor Day. If you would like to help either visit the Fairport Harbor Creamery or you may donate on their website fairportharborcreamery.com They have added a donation link at the bottom of the online ordering page.



Fairport Harbor Creamery
202 High St, Fairport Harbor, OH

OLD SALT QUIZ - Answers: 1h- 2g- 3f- 4e- 5c- 6b- 7a- 8d

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is the official newsletter of the Fairport Harbor Historical Society.

The newsletter is produced quarterly for members of the Society: February, May, August and November.

If your address changes, please notify us.

To be informed about upcoming events, tours, and Fairport Harbor Lighthouse news send us your e-mail address and we'll add you to our E-News list soon.



Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Marine Museum
129 Second Street
Fairport Harbor, Ohio 44077
440-354-4825
www.fairportharborlighthouse.org
