



<http://www.jacksonporthistoricalsociety.org>

Greetings JHS members,

We trust this newsletter finds you in good health and enjoying the mild winter we've experienced so far. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your past and continued support. Your dedication to our organization has made a significant difference, and we are truly grateful.

We have some updates and changes within the JHS community that we'd like to share with you.

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Dawn Honold from her roles as Board President and Secretary at JHS. Dawn has been an invaluable part of our community, dedicating many years to JHS as a passionate and tireless volunteer. We express our deepest gratitude to Dawn for her outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment.

With Dawn's retirement, the JHS Board Members conducted an election to fill the crucial positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary. We are delighted to announce that Kandie Skippon, a longstanding board member who has previously served as a Trustee and Treasurer, has been elected as our new President. Congratulations, Kandie, and we look forward to your continued dedication to JHS. Joining Kandie are Randy Erskine, our new Vice President, and Mary Kaye, who will continue her role as Treasurer while taking on the responsibilities of Secretary. We are confident that their collective experience and commitment will contribute significantly to the success of JHS.

We are pleased to introduce a new member to the JHS Board of Directors: Lisa Bley Bieri.

Lisa brings a unique skill and perspective to our team, and we are excited to have her on board. Please take a moment to read a brief introduction about her:

*I am proud to say that seven generations of my family live, or have lived in Jacksonport. Beginning with my great-great grandfather John Bley who migrated here from Canada to harvest the forests with one of Jacksonport's first settlers and Jacksonport's namesake, Andrew Jackson.*

*I grew up in West Jacksonport with my grandparents, aunts and uncles, great aunts and uncles and cousins all around the town. The baseball field behind Bley's bar was a regular gathering place for the cousins and our friends who biked over to West Jacksonport to play ball. Idyllic as I think back on that time.*

*In first grade I attended the Fairview School in West Jacksonport, and as the country schools were consolidated, Carlsville and finally, Sevastopol School.*

*The majority of my work-life was in real estate — bank loan department, title company, assistant to real estate developer, and Realtor. It was a fun and interesting path. I suppose my affinity in real estate is a result of my heritage. My great great-grandfather John, and great*

*grandfather Nick were not rich, but acquired land. Land enough that nearly each of Nick's children, as they married, received a farmstead. Some of those are still in the Bley family today.*

*I met my husband Bob, where else but at Bley's Bar. We lived in West Jacksonport and after a few years moved to what I call South Jacksonport. Our three children attended Zion Lutheran School and are graduates of Sevastopol High School—as are Bob and I, his parents and my mother. Our children were all able to return to Door County after college and a few years working outside Door County. They are each married and we have 7 grandchildren—six of which are or will be Sevastopol School graduates. Best of all, we all live on the same road on land that Bob's grandparents farmed!*

*I am a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Jacksonport and have enjoyed teaching Sunday School there over the years. I am a member of the Jacksonport Plan Commission, and in 2019 organized the town's 150th anniversary celebration along with a great committee. I was elected to the Sevastopol School Board in 2006, and have been president since 2017. We have excellent schools in Door County, but I of course think Sevastopol's the best and I am honored to continue to serve on that board. I currently serve on the committee planning Sevastopol's 100th anniversary.*

*The Jacksonport Historical Society is my newest venture and I look forward to helping to expand its programming and reach. My work on the town board and school board are for the future—to make our community and school even better—my historical society work is important to me because our past connects us to who we are and where we are now.*

Thank you, Lisa, for being a valued member of the JHS family.

#### **HELP REQUESTED**

As part of our ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance our historical site, the JHS Board of Directors is organizing a workday for the cleanup of the Loritz Cabin and another workday to help with our genealogy books that need pages rebound. We are reaching out to our dedicated community of volunteers to join us in this exciting endeavor. We understand that everyone has busy schedules, so please keep an eye on our website and follow our Facebook page. We'll be posting announcements and additional information as we approach the chosen dates. Whether you can spare the entire day or just a couple of hours, your contribution will make a meaningful difference. Tasks may include cleaning, organizing, and maintaining the Loritz Cabin to ensure its historical significance is preserved for future generations. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions,

**Get Involved:**

please reach out to Randy Erskine at [randye77@outlook.com](mailto:randye77@outlook.com) or call (918) 496-7762. Your willingness to contribute your time and effort is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to working together.

#### **THANK YOU**

We would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to Wayne Serrahn for his dedicated efforts in maintaining the JHS grounds and Darrel Birnschein for keeping an eye on the flag pole, the light that shines on the flag and changing the American Flag when it becomes tattered. Wayne and Darrel's commitment to caring for our surroundings has significantly contributed to the beauty and upkeep of our historical site. Another thank you goes to Vicki Bley, Mae Muehl, Sue Jarosh and Mary Witteborg for keeping our website and Facebook page current. Their generosity of time does not go unnoticed, and we want to extend our sincere appreciation for their continued support.

#### **CHERRY FEST 2024**

We are excited to announce the upcoming Cherry Fest, scheduled to take place Saturday, August 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lakeside Park. The planning for this fantastic event is already underway, promising a day filled with fun, festivities, and all things cherry! Indulge in the delectable flavors of

fresh-baked cherry kolaches, cherry pie, and cherry sundaes which will be available for purchase. This is an excellent opportunity for local businesses and artisans to showcase their products and services. If you know of someone who would like to participate, vendor applications can be found on the historical website. The Erskine Rest Area will once again host the Herb Mueller Car Show, featuring an impressive display of classic and unique vehicles. Live music will fill the air all day long. Save the date, spread the word, and get ready for a day of family-friendly entertainment and community spirit at Cherry Fest 2024. In addition, we're looking to create a logo for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Watch our Facebook page and website for information on the contest.

### **HISTORICAL MARKER**

The Jacksonport Historical Society sponsored a historical marker about five years ago that was placed in front of St. Michael's Church in Jacksonport. Research completed and assembled by Les Kiehnau and further reviewed by the State, resulted in the plaque currently at the site. It's an interesting read outlining the sites' history going back to the 1650s with the Catholic affiliated French explorers as well as the families that helped develop the current church building starting in the 1870s. The plaque, in addition to the recently renovated church interior which incorporates many of the 1870s design components, is worth visiting. Thank you to Les Kiehnau and Eileen (Birnschein) Roberts, whose efforts have been instrumental in completing this project.



The plaque reads: St. Michael the Archangel. French trader Medard Chouart des Groseilliers spent the winter of 1654-55 in Jacksonport, at the time a Potawatomi/Ottawa village known as Mechigan that was home to more than 3,000. Upon his return to Quebec Groseilliers reported on the abundance of the area's resources and on the multitude and character of its people. Having been invited by the Potawatomi to visit, Catholic missionaries requested they might be permitted to plant the cross of their faith within the village, calling their first prospective mission St. Michael, chief of the Archangels. Built more than two hundred years later, Jacksonport's Catholic church was named St. Michael the Archangel.

Prior to construction of our church, Catholic residents celebrated Mass at various nearby homes. In 1875, John Reynolds was the first recorded baptism in Jacksonport at a location referred to as St. Michael's. The next year construction began on St. Michael's church. The lakefront location, including the cemetery site, was donated by the Charles Reynolds family. Early St. Michael's member families included LeClair, Londo, Cardy, DesJardine, LeMere, Butler, Campbell, O'Brien, LaPlante, Lautenbach, Orthober, and Searth. Many of these families still have a presence in Jacksonport. Leona (Cote) Grovogel attended Mass here for 100 years, from 1899-1999.

### **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Deborah Logerquist and Paul Schumacher in memory of Ben and Althea Logerquist.

Henry Spille in memory of Marilyn Spille.

Gerald Guth in memory of Frank Bley.

Jan Birnschein in memory of Bob Birnschein.

Margaret Reese Hayden in memory of Hayne and Nancy Reese.

Joan and Toby Roberts in memory of Eugenia Loritz Serrahn.

Kurt Krueger in memory of Kay Krueger.

William and Karen Sellars in memory of Edward and Kay Krueger.

Joseph A. Gagnon in memory of Elizabeth Gagnon.

Ranny and Kris Nelson in memory of Pete Husby and Ruth Herlache-Nelson

Kevin and Deb Magno in memory of Joe and Lou Cote and Marlene Cote Magno.

Nancy Lee Arts in memory of Mark B. Nelezen.

Cheryl and John Zima in memory of Glen, Elizabeth, Alan, George and Emily Mast. Randal and Kambra Erskine in memory of Mike and Margaret Erskine. Paul and Bev Osburn in memory of Kay Krueger. Jeanette Gadomski in memory of James Stanke.

### **FISH BOIL**

We hope to once again hold the Annual Fish Boil which had been cancelled in recent years due to Covid-19 and manpower shortages. It is held the third Wednesday in the month of July. Updates will be posted on our Facebook page and Historical Society website as the board moves forward with plans for Cherry Fest and the Fish Boil.

### **PAST AND PRESENT**



Left. the Loritz cabin being moved Monday, June 11, 2012, from its original home on Loritz Road to the JHS site. The cabin was donated by Jim and Mary Lou Stanke. Below, the Loritz cabin as it stands today, next to the Cote cabin, which was donated by a member of the Marlene (Cote) Magno family. The Cote cabin was originally located on the west side of County A, just north of County V.

