

The County Historian

News from the Ontonagon County Historical Society

Dean Juntunen, Editor

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NOTE: If you want an article published in the newsletter, send it to Dean Juntunen, 11425 Aspen Lane, Mass City, MI 49948, or e-mail it to deanjunt@jamadots.com.



Greetings everyone. In this issue of the County Historian, we open with a success story.

SUMMER HISTORY INTERN WINS ESSAY CONTEST

The Mac Frimodig Historical Writing Award has been given by the Keweenaw County Historical Society since 1997. It honors David “Mac” Frimodig, a former superintendent of Fort Wilkins State Park, who made a significant contribution to local history through books, stories and other writings and through stewardship of the rich history of the Copper Country. Mr. Frimodig was a Trustee of the Keweenaw County Historical Society and Editor of that Society’s award winning newsletter, *The Superior Signal*.

On May 22nd the Ontonagon County Historical Society received the following note from

Virginia Jamison, one of the judges:

“I am very pleased to announce that Ailee Graff's essay, *A History Of Typewriters*, has been selected as one of our two winners of the Keweenaw County Historical Society's Mac Frimodig award. Her very interesting essay was well written with an extensive bibliography and many photos.”

“We were able to award two winners this year. The other winner was Daria Saari from Dollar Bay for her essay on *The History Of Red Jacket*.”

There were 18 total entries in this year’s writing contest. The winning essay will be published in the August 2017 Issue of *The Superior Signal* and will reach over 1300 readers throughout the country and abroad. Other essays may be published at a later date.

The \$300 award is given to a student or students who win the competition by submitting a well-written essay about some aspect of the history of the Copper Country. The essay should be from 1,000 to 2,000 words. At least one photo related to the essay is required. More copies of old photos will improve

chances of winning and of later publication.

Ailee served as one of our SHIP Interns during the summer of 2016, and as such, was required to produce a research paper on the subject



Ailee Graff, winner of the Mac Frimodig Award for the research paper she wrote while a SHIP Intern at the OCHS Museum in 2016. Ailee is shown with some of the antique typewriters in the museum collection.

The Subject of her research paper was the history of the typewriter, featuring some of the typewriters at the museum.

of her choice. Ailee chose to research and write about the antique typewriters we have in the Ontonagon County Museum. Staff provided minimal support and guidance in the preparation of her paper.

Representatives of the Keweenaw County Historical Society will attend the June 15th OCHS dinner meeting to present Ailee with her award check of \$300. Congratulations, Ailee, we are very proud of you!

Ailee is the daughter of Jeremy and Candice Graff of Ontonagon.

Ailee's paper on the OCHS typewriter collection appears at the end of this issue of *The County Historian*.

MUSEUM NEWS

Summer is coming soon -- we promise. Thus, we return to summer hours after Memorial Day. We are open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Saturday with Lighthouse Tours at 11:00, 1:30 and 3:30 daily. After June 18, we will be open Sundays at the museum from 10:00 to 2:00, and Lighthouse Tours will be available at 11:00 and 1:30.

We could use another Lighthouse Tour Guide, so please considering volunteering one day per week. We will provide training to all tour guides.

We have two new part-time Museum and Gift Shop workers: Rob Burrows and Karen Seid.

We have classy, cool new T-shirts in our Gift Shop. Come check them out.

In our museum, Edna Yonker donated unique carvings from her late husband, Bo Harbison.

The Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) Advisory Commission has again awarded us

a grant to run our Summer History Intern Program (SHIP), so we'll have another lively summer.

We also received a KNHP grant for archival materials.

Also, Jordyn Wallace, a SHIP Intern, and Willah Penegor, our 5-year old permanent Intern and daughter of our museum manager, Coriane Penegor, have their picture featured on the 2017 *Keweenaw Guide*, published by the KNHP. Willah is always willing to lend a hand at any of our OCHS events.

Ontonagon's CopperFest is set for June 23-25, and we will provide Lighthouse Tours of course, as well as a Museum Open House.

With the help of Katie Keller from the KNHP, we have a new Interpretation Plan as a Heritage Site. An Interpretation Plan is essentially a Strategic Plan. As part of the Plan, we have a new mission statement. See next article.

MISSION STATEMENT

Along with our new Interpretation Plan, we need to amend our OCHS Constitution, incorporating a new mission statement. The amendment will have to be approved at a Membership Dinner Meeting, with prior notice given. This is that notice.

We will adopt the amendment at our August 20 dinner meeting.

The current mission statement follows: "The Ontonagon County Historical Society's purpose is to collect and preserve historical material connected with the County of Ontonagon and its vicinity, to house such material where it

may be adequately displayed and accessible, to encourage historical study and research, and to educate the public about the history of Ontonagon County."

The philosophy behind the new mission statement is that we are more focused on education, so that comes first. Proposed mission statement follows: "*The Ontonagon County Historical Society's purpose is to educate the public about the history of Ontonagon County by collecting, displaying, interpreting, and providing access to relevant historical material connected with Ontonagon County; to encourage historical study and research; and to house historical archives and other materials where they may be adequately protected for future generations.*"

LOCAL HISTORY SMACKDOWN

Normally held on the fourth Thursday of April, the KNHP Local History Smackdown had to be postponed this year due to snow. It was a nasty storm, and schools were closed throughout the Lake Superior Copper District.

However, on the first Thursday in May, the weather was amenable, and so the show went on. Perennial winner, Ontonagon, who had won 8 of the previous 13 years, did not win this year; however, our defending champion *Nonesuch Know-It-Alls* did place 3rd. Team members were Colton Heikkinen, Nathan Ashbreck, Rory LaBine, and Henry Menigoz.

The *Dollar Bay Minettes*, who had won in 2015, reclaimed the title this year.

Ontonagon had a second team, the *White Pine Wizards*, who acquitted themselves well. Team members were Hannah Davidson, Abby Ollila, Kaitlyn Ray, and Kaili Weiner.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Bruce Johanson

Dear Members and Friends:

We are about to embark on our 61st year as a historical society. We have come a long way from the single room display during Morris LaCroix Days back in 1956 that led to the formation of the Ontonagon County Historical Society. In 1976, the Society Museum was moved from the old Holly House into the former Halter & LeMoine store building that had housed the Midland Co-op.

We have been in our present museum home since 1993 -- the former Mass Co-op and later the Hoefflerle IGA -- for the longest period in our history.

We now host the Chamber of Commerce Information Center, which brings many more people through our doors, and the tours of our our historic lighthouse as well as our museum draw thousands of visitors each year. In addition, our Summer History Intern Program is recognized as one of our unique contributions to the youth of the community.

We are now one of 22 Heritage Sites associated with the Keweenaw National Historical Park, and a respected member of the

REQUEST

You can save us money and resources if you opt to receive your newsletter electronically in pdf format. Your computer is probably already equipped with the Adobe Acrobat Reader, but if not, you can go to the Adobe website and download it. So far, over 100 people have signed up for e-newsletters. Graphics are better in pdf, and you can zoom to your preferred font size. If you're interested, please send an e-mail request to deanjunt@jamadots.com.

Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association. Forgive me, please, if I brag a bit, but I am very proud of our Historical Society and what we contribute to the life of the Ontonagon County community.

Plans for the summer include the usual maintenance of the lighthouse, the Awanita, our wooden cabin cruiser, and hopefully getting our fishing boat painted and ready to move to the island. Your Board of Directors is also leading the movement to encourage the Village of Ontonagon to acquire the old school buildings that we were instrumental in placing on the National Register of Historic Places.

We do need more volunteers at the museum to help with our archival work, to greet visitors, and to just talk to people about our community and answer questions that come up. We are short a couple of lighthouse guides as well, and we meet some of the most interesting people during our hours of operation. If you are willing to give us a hand, please contact me at the museum any time. We can

even give you a list of things to talk about with visitors.

Finally, I received a nice message from Virginia Jamison of the Keweenaw County Historical Society. We have had a great association with the folks in Keweenaw County and we have visited several of their sites with our interns each summer. The Keweenaw Co. Historical Society sponsors the Mac Frimodig essay contest each year, and Ms. Jamison had asked if any of our interns had written anything we could enter in their competition. I had Coriane, our Manager, send the essays of last summer's interns to Ms.

Jamison. As you probably know, we have each intern prepare a research paper over the summer on a subject of special interest to them. Ms. Jamison sent the following message:

"I am very pleased to announce that Ailee Graff's essay, *A History Of Typewriters*, has been selected as one of our two winners of the Keweenaw County Historical Society's Mac Frimodig Award. Her very interesting essay was well-written with an extensive bibliography and many photos."

"We were able to award two winners this year. The other winner was Daria Saari from Dollar Bay for her essay on *The History Of Red Jacket*."

Ailee received \$300 for her essay on the typewriter collection we have at the museum. I'll bet that many of you didn't know that we have one of the neatest collections of antique typewriters anywhere. We are very proud of Ailee; she is a real credit to our intern program.

Bruce H. Johanson, President

LIGHTHOUSE NEWS



The tourism season is starting in earnest as of Memorial Day, and we would love to have you volunteer to be a lighthouse tour guide one day per week. If you can do it, please call the museum at 906-884-6165. We train our tour guides very well.

Meanwhile, our “light box” is on display in the museum.. Check it out. It demonstrates how Fresnel lenses work, turning all light that passes through from inside the lens into an outgoing horizontal beam, with almost no dispersal.

For people with mobility impairments who tour our Lighthouse, we now have a video produced by Michael Raymond which will show the upper floors in addition to first-floor stuff. This video is also for sale in our Gift Shop for \$9.99 for anyone who wants a permanent copy.

If you are interested in being a lighthouse philanthropist, we still have the following rooms or structures available for sponsorship.

32 Spiral Steps	\$300 ea
Oil House	\$3,000
Master Bedroom	\$5,000
1st-flr 1890’s kitchen	\$6,000
West Parlor	\$6,000



UPCOMING DINNER MEETINGS

ALL DINNERS AT 6:30 pm

June 15, Thursday -- Holy Family Catholic Church
(Martin Buscombe Responsible)

Martin Buscombe and his wife Arlene will give a presentation on the evolution of food to the table, focusing on how groceries and their transit to the kitchen have evolved, along with the evolution of the kitchen itself.

July 20, Thursday -- Tentatively Methodist Church in Ontonagon
(Diane Penegor responsible)

Tim Nelson, Social Studies teacher in the Ontonagon Area School, will give a presentation on a field trip he recently led to the Presidential Inauguration, Memorials, and Museums in Washington, DC in January of this year.

August 20, Sunday -- Location to be announced
(Bruce Johanson responsible)

Bruce will present “Time and Testimony,” and prefers to remain secretive as to details, but he promises that it will be unique and fun.

September 21, Thursday -- Location to be announced
(Dean Juntunen responsible)

Presentation to be announced.

PAST PROGRAMS

February:
(Margot Anderson responsible)

Darren Lukkari of Mass City gave a fascinating presentation on his work stint at South Pole Station, Antarctica, which included wintering over in 2016 (our summer).

March:
(Ken Raisanen responsible)

Ken Raisanen presented stories of his mentors in college, and then presented a DVD on glaciation in the Great Lakes region and the varying lake levels.

April:
(Doreen Parker Responsible)

Retired State Trooper Bill Witt gave a presentation on the history of the Michigan State Police, and the history of police agencies in Ontonagon County.

May:
(Dave Bishop responsible)

Joe Panci, Conservation Educator from the Watersmeet Ottawa National Forest Office, gave a presentation on “The Cutover,” leading to the establishment of area farms and the Ottawa National Forest. Our own Bruce Johanson had provided many historical photos and bits of information for the presentation.

Editor’s Note:

The following is essay contest winner Ailee Graff’s research paper which she wrote last summer as a SHIP Intern.

HISTORY OF TYPEWRITERS

By Ailee Graff

Typewriters are devices of a past generation. Many do not know what a typewriter is, or its function. What many do not realize, though, is that without these devices, we wouldn't have the QWERTY keyboard we have today. Many also do not know the history of typewriters.

The concept of typewriters actually dates back to 1714 when an Englishman by the name of Henry Mill filed for a patent with a very vague description of what is believed to be a typewriter. The first typewriter actually proven to work was in 1808, and was made by an Italian, Pellegrino Turrin. It was made for his blind friend Countess Carolina Fantoni de Fivizzano. No one is quite sure what it looked like, but there is a letter that was composed on it.

The invention of a "typewriter" in America was that of William Austin Burt in 1829, a Detroit native who also invented the solar compass. The typographer, as it was called, was actually invented in Michigan.

The QWERTY keyboard was added on in 1878. It was invented by Christopher Latham Sholes and was to solve the problem of keys jamming. It became popular after the 5 biggest typewriter companies decided to adopt it as the de facto of keyboards. The QWERTY keyboard has been adopted into our society, though it is no longer needed.

The Ontonagon County Historical Society has many typewriters, so we can take a look

at a few of them. We can begin with a Smith Premier No.10.



The Smith Premier No. 10 is one of the older ones in the museum. It was first manufactured in 1908 and was the last model in its line, along with being the last Smith with the Smith name. It was also the only front strike with a full keyboard; a keyboard that had a lowercase keyboard and an uppercase keyboard on the same level.

The company claimed that this made it quicker and easier to type, due to the fact that you could just reach up for a capital letter. This of course was never actually true and this design actually made typists slower in typing competitions.

The value of a Smith Premier No. 10 nowadays can be as high as approximately \$400.

The next typewriter is the Corona No.3 Portable Typewriter. It began production in 1914. The name was changed multiple times due to translation issues. It was first known as the Standard Folding Typewriter, until the translation proved to be an issue. It is known by many names, such as Coronet, Franconia, and Piccola across different countries.

It seemed to be a popular model and had sold over 150,000 annually by 1920. Sadly production ended in 1922. Many typewriters were modeled after it in an attempt to share its success.

Now the Corona No. 3 can be worth up to \$400, but depending on the condition it can be as low as \$80.



Now we have the Oliver No.9 typewriter, an army green typewriter with what looks like ivory keys. It actually has a pencil holder that can be used for lining, but the Oliver at the museum is missing this part of the typewriter.

On the Oliver, it used the down strike, which means the type bars actually come from the sides and stand like two towers. The reason behind the two towers was to let the typist see what they were typing immediately.

The Oliver typewriter was actually produced from 1916 to 1922. It was invented by a Canadian preacher, Thomas Oliver. He felt that his sermons weren't legible enough for others to read in his absence.



He decided that he would make his own typewriter to make it much easier for him. The first one that he introduced was made out of nickel and is the rarest typewriter of this brand. The No.9 that the museum owns is one of the most common types and is actually modeled after the No.7. This Oliver No.9 typewriter was actually used in the T.V. show *The Waltons*. One of the characters, John-Boy, would actually come and borrow the Oliver from the owner, the Baldwin Sisters.

Its type is also quite unique. It's called printype and is made to replicate type in books. The type actually does look like a book type. The value nowadays, in good condition, would be around \$300.

Next is the Hammond Multiplex Typewriter. It was used by an inmate at the Marquette Prison. It was considered a portable, because it had a cover, but was no more than just a typewriter with a cover. It was about the same size as the office Hammond and weighed the same if not more.



It was called Model 26 by many people for being so late in its line along with the multiple prototypes before it. It was also called the Varitype, though, eventually it was actually renamed

this. It was eventually named this because it didn't have the rounded keyboard as the other Hammonds.

This was actually the only Hammond that didn't have a rounded keyboard, which was the item that made the Hammonds so special. The keyboard was rounded to allow the typists to put out their elbows comfortably.

The other item that made a Hammond special was the way the type was put on the paper. Rather than using a front strike or down strike they used a round wheel. This wheel had many different fonts along with cursive. The typewriter was actually one of the first typewriters that you could use to write in cursive.

Writing in cursive made it well liked, which in turn made it a very common typewriter. The value is right around \$375 in good condition.

Another typewriter that is of interest is a Remington Portable #1. This portable typewriter, unlike others, was actually portable. The type bars could be raised or lowered and the carriage could be locked. It also came with a wooden cover, usually covered with real or faux leather.

Production of the Remington began in 1920 and ended in 1925 and was started by a man named Eliphalet Remington. It stopped production a year after they started, then redesigned and began reselling. The Remington's made before the break are now extremely rare. There are many ways to distinguish them, but the best way is to see if there is a right shift key.

Now Remington's have a way to tell you what make, year, and month it was made, and it's all in the serial number. The first letter

of the serial number is the make, whether it is a Junior or a Butler Brothers. The second number is the month it was made in. With P being January, M February, L March, K April, X May, S June, V July, E August, D September, C October, Z November, and A December. The first number following it would be the last number of the year and the following four numbers were thought to be where in the sequence of typewriters it was made that month.

For example ours is NS55900. So using the number we can see, it's a Remington Portable #1 possibly the 5,900th made in June 1925. Using that information we can see that its value would be about \$600 dollars.



Out of all of the typewriters here the Corona Portable No.3 is the one in the best condition. The ribbon in it is good and the gears seemed to be cleaned often. The type bars tend not to get jammed too easily either.

A typewriter is a machine that sent us in the direction of modern technology. If it weren't for typewriters we wouldn't have what we have today. Typewriters are a big part of our history and they themselves have a very intriguing history.