

Oceana County

Historical & Genealogical Society Newsletter

Web: www.oceanahistory.com September, 2026 Email: info@oceanahistory.com

President Brad Moul



A ship under motion is easier to steer! With so many exciting projects underway at our Society, we look to the fall with clear goals and great anticipation.

Conversion of the Red Russell house to a welcome center for our Mears campus is continuing to progress well. This will provide a clear entry point and greatly enhance our ability to greet and guide visitors while also offering improved parking.

Plans for restoration of Camp Houk Civil War Reunion Grounds in Elbridge are being finalized. With the property having been gifted to our Society and initial funding in place, the first phases of work

on the 4-year timeline have begun. We are honored to tell this compelling story from our past to current and future generations while providing public access to a uniquely beautiful setting. When completed, this will be a destination you won't want to miss!

We have enjoyed meeting with friends, old and new, at our special summer festivities. This includes hosting school group tours, weekend museum open houses and our traditional highlight, **A Pleasant Afternoon**. Our headquarters continues to be a busy place each Wednesday as history is mined from our large collections of all kinds. We are very grateful for the many committed volunteers that make it all possible.

As fall arrives, we are looking forward to our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on September 22 as well as the annual Golden Fair in October.

My hope is for the next generation of Oceana County history lovers to join us and provide their energy and enthusiasm to the work we share.

Enjoy the blessings of Oceana County—a wonderful place we call **HOME!**

Brad

Inside this issue:

- Note from Brad Moul, President 1
- Current Board of Directors 2
- Stats & Queries
- New Members
- Nomination Committee
- Quiz Question
- Calendar of Events 3
- America 250 Cemetery Tour
- Friends of Pentwater Cemetery
- Oceana Co. Fair & Mears Fair
- Michigan History Magazine 4
- Digitization Project
- Building Rentals Information 5
- Membership Information
- Contact Information
- Pleasant Afternoon 6
- Indian Corn
- Bakers' Dozen Origin
- Answer to Quiz Question
- Membership Dues 7
- Guide by Cell 8
- Website Update
- Hart Class of 1959
- A Dash of Pepper
- Evening of Appreciation & Exploration 9
- School Tour
- Methods of Delivery 10

OCH&GS Event
September 22, 2026
West Michigan Research Center

Tickets will be available soon online at our website.

Dinner and Speaker

Ric Mixer: "Lake Michigan Shipwrecks"

See page 9 for more information.



**Open Wednesdays
10-5**

**If you would like to do research
at the Chadwick-Munger House,**

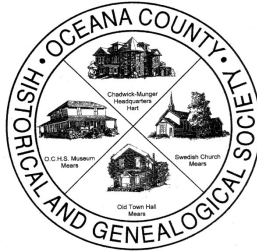
We will be happy to assist you.

OCEANA COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Nomination Committee 2027

- Paul Erickson
- Walter Urick
- Carmine Osborne
- Ron Rash
- Jan Lathers

If you are interested in serving on the Nomination Committee in the future, please contact a board member.



September, 2026



Double Rainbow
Pentwater

Email:
info@oceanahistory.com
Website:
oceanahistory.com



CURRENT OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Current Officers

President: Brad Moul (2026-2028)
Vice President—Carl Wiegand (2025-2027)
Rec. Sec.—Sharon Hallack (2026-2028)
Cor. Secretary—Claire Marshall (2025-2027)
Treasurer—Dennis Gale (2025-2027)
Past President—Paul Erickson

Board of Directors

Tina Kinsley (2026-2029)
Dean Gentel (2026-2029)
Jeff Lathers (2026-2029)

Georgia Dennison (2025-2028)
Carmine Osborne (2025-2028)
Ron Rash (2025-2028)

Karen Urick (2024-27)
Mort Wiegand (2024-27)
Walter Urick (2026-27)

STATISTICS

QUERIES: 5
GUESTS: 60

NEW MEMBERS

Greta & Richard Powers
Fremont and Leesburg, FL

Mark Bearss, Crosslake, MN

Cindy Murphy
Royal Oak & Pentwater

Suzanne Selfridge, Shelby

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Schneider, Hart

Here's When Fall Colors Begin Across Michigan



Regular Board Meetings

The third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m.
Chadwick/Munger House

Quiz Question: When were the first salmon introduced to the Great Lakes?
Answer: See page 6

OCEANA COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 11-12 **SILVER LAKE SAND DUNES APPLE & BQ FESTIVAL**
- September 22 **EVENING OF APPRECIATION AND EXPLORATION** [Details: See page 9]
- October 9 **GOLDEN FAIR PARADE** [note change of date] [1 P.M.]

OCEANA COUNTY FAIR DISPLAY

Submitted by Sharon Hallack

The OCH&GS was an exhibitor at this year's Oceana County Fair with a display of vintage hats from our artifact collection. The theme of the display was "Hats Off to America's 250." Sharon Hallack and Hannah Johnson went with a red, white, and blue theme, utilizing hats in mostly those colors. Hannah, whose hobby is researching vintage clothing, provided the narratives that were displayed along with the hats. The display received 1st prize.

MEARS CRAFT FAIR

Submitted by Sharon Hallack

The OCH&GS was asked if they would like to set up a display at this year's annual Mears Craft Fair. Sharon Hallack brought several items for display and for sale, including OCH&GS History Volumes II and III as well as various books written by local authors and vintage postcards. Many great conversations were had, and \$120 was collected. This well-run and well-attended event was a great place to let others know about our Society and to find people who share a passion for history. If you would be interested in helping next year, please let us know.



From OCH&GS Scrapbook Collection

My Flag

It has been said that as people we know very little about our Flag and are careless in observance of the respects due to it. It is important, therefore as good citizens we should know about our Flag and help to set the proper example for its use.

To salute the Flag, face the Flag and hold your hat in right hand over your heart or hold the right hand over your heart without a hat and stand at attention.

During the ceremony of lowering the Flag, everybody should face the Flag, stand at attention and salute. When the Flag of the United States is passing in a parade or review, if you are walking you should halt, and if you are sitting you should rise and stand with your hat placed on your left shoulder until the Flag passes. Women should salute by placing their right hand over their heart.

When to Fly the Flag

Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12; Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22; Mother's Day, 2nd Monday in May; *Memorial Day, May 30; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, 1st Monday in September; Armistice Day, Nov. 11.

*On Memorial Day, May 30, the Flag should fly at half staff from sunrise to noon and full staff from noon to sunset.

OCEANA COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Explore more stories of our state with *Michigan History*

**SAVE
NEARLY
60%**

Save nearly 60% off the cover price by calling (800) 692-1828, visiting www.hsm.pub/subscribe, or scanning the QR code to the right.

From OCH&GS Scrapbook Collection

WHAT ARE VOLUNTEERS?

Volunteers are like Fords
They have better ideas

Volunteers are like Coke
They are the real thing

Volunteers are like Pan Am
They make the going great

Volunteers are like Pepsi
They've got a lot to give

Volunteers are like Dial Soap
They care more; don't you wish everyone did?

Volunteers are like VO Hairspray
Their goodness holds in all kinds of weather

Volunteers are like Standard Oil
You expect more and you get it

But most of all
Volunteers are like Frosted Flakes
They're Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrreat!



DIGITIZATION PILOT PROJECT

Submitted by Sharon Hallack

This year, with the help of an anonymous donor, the Society has undertaken a pilot digitization project with some of our oldest newspapers. We have a lot of newspapers on microfilm and some that were digitized in another project years ago. The downside with these types of research tools is that some papers did not scan well and are difficult to read and none of them is searchable.

With this pilot, the Society utilized the services of ARC, with offices in Lansing, who picked up several of our older bound newspapers and scanned them. Thankfully, new technologies created a much more pleasing result and the board would like to make them available to the public for use and feedback for proceeding with any other scanning and expense.

Please ask to access this new project and let us know what you think!

OCEANA COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Rental of Buildings
Mears Museum Complex
Call
231-873-2600

OLD INDIAN CUSTOM

The American Indian started the custom of planting four kernels of corn to the hill. He planted one for the crow, one for the squirrels, one for the worm, and one to grow.



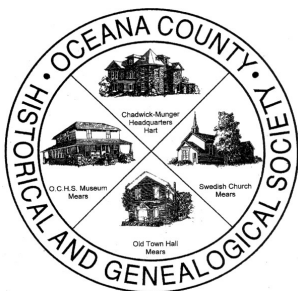
BAKER'S DOZEN

Thirteen pieces in a "baker's dozen" originated when King Louis of France warned all bakers who gave under measure that they would be beheaded.



NEED A NEW HOBBY?

Consider Joining
Our Team of Volunteers
Whatever your interest is,
we invite you to come and enjoy our group
to share and to learn more
about Oceana County history.



Address

114 Dryden Street
Hart, MI 49420

Phone

231-873-2600

Email

info@oceanahistory.com

MEMBERSHIP

The lifeblood of our organization is the retention of our current members and the recruitment of new members. We could not provide all of the wonderful services and opportunities without your support! THANK YOU!!

In reviewing our current membership list there are five levels of membership available: Regular Annual Membership (\$20), Family Annual Membership (\$30), Senior Annual Membership (\$15), Life Membership (\$250) and Corporate Sponsor Annual (\$75).

We are reaching out today to challenge everyone to think of one person, business or family you might ask to join us. We are also challenging our regular membership if it fits their budget and giving goals if they might consider becoming Life Members. If you are unsure what membership you currently have, please contact the Society at 231-873-2600 or info@oceanahistory.com

So many exciting things are happening at the "Society" all the time! Interesting discoveries are made, new people join, people generously donate their time, treasure and talents and as a result our Oceana County history is preserved. Right now we are getting ready to renew our Guide By Cell audio tour subscription and working on a complete redesign of the Society's website - stay tuned!!

As funds allow we are keeping the everyday operations going while working to add new features and installations. Therefore we are challenging each of you, if you haven't renewed, please do so today. If you are not already Life Members please consider making your membership permanent. If you are so inclined and able, we would gratefully accept any donations over and above your regular membership (Regular, Senior, Family, Life, Corporate), and forward this email to others who may be interested in joining us!

This email is not being sent in desperation. Our organization's finances are holding and we intend to keep our mission going long into the future. We are simply reminding you we are here and this is truly an organization worth supporting.

Members receive our email newsletter with news and updates. We are working to bring more benefits to Members, but even that takes more members. Please consider renewing today!

THE OCEANA COUNTY HISTORICAL
& GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

See page 7 for Membership information.

A PLEASANT AFTERNOON Sunday, August 15, 2026 Mears Museum Complex



Photos
by
Sharon
Hallack

Thank
You!



**Pleasant Afternoon
Flower Give-away Winners**
Sharon Sponhauer's daughter
Karen Urick

OLD INDIAN CUSTOM

The American Indian started the custom of planting four kernels of corn to the hill. He planted one for the crow, one for the squirrels, one for the worm, and one to grow.

Answer to Question on the bottom of Page 3

Pacific salmon were successfully introduced to the Great Lakes in 1966, when the Michigan Department of Natural Resources stocked Coho salmon, followed by Chinook salmon in 1967. These modern introductions led by fishery manager Howard Tanner aimed to control invasive alewife populations. Earlier attempts—including 19th-century stocking and an accidental 1956 pink salmon release—occurred earlier, but the major fishery began in the mid-1960s.

Oceana County Historical & Genealogical Society

MEMBERSHIP FORM

____ New Member ____ Renewal

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SEASONAL ADDRESS IF APPLICABLE AND DATES USED:

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

____ ANNUAL: \$20

____ SENIOR: \$15

____ FAMILY: \$30

____ LIFE: \$250

____ CORPORATE/ ORGANIZATION: \$75 (ANNUALLY)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OCHGS

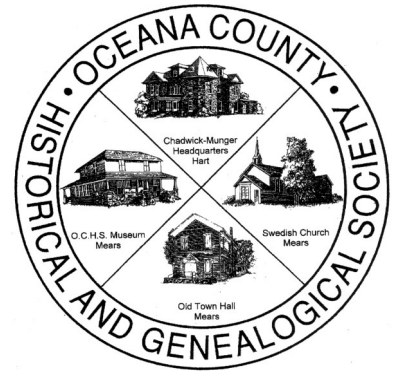
OCHGS

114 DRYDEN ST

HART, MI 49420

NEWSLETTER WILL BE MAILED ELECTRONICALLY UNLESS

OTHERWISE STIPULATED.



MEMBERSHIP

We appreciate your membership!
It helps to support this
completely volunteer, non-profit organization.

DUE: JULY 1, 2026



GUIDE BY CELL TOURS AVAILABLE ANYTIME!

Summer is here and very soon The Mears Museum Complex will open for the season! We are looking forward to sharing this wonderful place and our love of history with locals and visitors alike. The museum will be open every weekend this summer beginning Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21 from 1-4 p.m.

For anyone wanting to enjoy a trip to the museum without making the drive, take advantage of our Guide by Cell Audio Tours! Simply dial 231-383-6055 and follow the prompts. Without leaving home you can hear familiar voices sharing Oceana County history! Check it out!

Dial 231-383-6055 to get started!

- #1 - Transportation Museum
- #2 - Dr. Hasty Medical Suite, Esther Moul Cape and Cap
- #3 - Oceana County Schools
- #4 - Albert S. Hinds Attorney Office Display
- #5 - Mears Swedish Mission Covenant Church
- #6 - Medical Cabinet, Dental Equipment, Dr's Bag
- #7 - Boynton Cottage
- #8 - Trapper Ralph's Cabin
- #9 - Lathers' Home
- #10 - Swift's Dune Forest Village pt 1
- #11 - Swift's Costume
- #13 - The Mears Newz
- #14 - Celia's "Newz" Stand
- #15 - Lathers Children
- #16 - Stone Front Porch
- #17 - Swift's Room
- #18 - Bathroom and Bedroom
- #19 - Garage
- #20 - Upstairs
- #21 - Robinson Building
- #22 - Post Office Exhibit
- #23 - Laundry Exhibit
- #24 - Old Town Hall
- #26 - Bill's Dune Rides
- #27 - Mac Woods Dune Rides
- #28 - Flying Saucer
- #29 - Snowmobiles
- #30 - Bicycles
- #31 - Hay Wagon
- #33 - Log Marks
- #34 - The Barrel Press
- #35 - The Arion Band
- #36 - Volkswagen Rail
- #37 - Dune Differential Buggy
- #38 - Windmill
- #39 - Model Ts
- #40 - Lighthouse Exhibit
- #41 - License Plate Display
- #42 - Sleds and Toboggans
- #43 - Cutter - A One-Horse Open Sleigh
- #44 - John Deere Collection
- #45 - Robinson Building Rotating Exhibits
- #46 - Sun Parlor
- #47 - Front Room
- #48 - Kitchen
- #49 - Dining Room
- #50 - The Basement
- #51 - Visitors (The Lathers Home)
- #52 - The Agricultural Building

WEBSITE UPDATE

By Sharon Hallack

Due to the loss of the ".org:" domain, we can no longer be found at info@oceanahistory.org or www.oceanahistory.org. From now on we will only be using .com for our email (info@oceanahistory.com) and our website (www.oceanahistory.com). We apologize in advance for any problems this change creates.

That said, our website is still a great place to find out all kinds of information and is continuously being updated as we are able. If you would like to see something specific on our website, let us know. Email: [info @oceanahistory.com](mailto:info@oceanahistory.com).



**HART CLASS OF 1959 GATHERED
AT OPEN HEARTH**

A DASH OF PEPPER

Man's request for pepper has built and destroyed empires, led to the discovery of a New World and opened direct trade with the Orient. Henry Hudson searched for a route to India's pepper gardens 350 years ago; stumbled on the river that now bears his name. Pepper once ransomed Rome . . . was responsible for the founding of America's merchant marine! Today, its still "king of spices".

—Central Feature News

Evening of Appreciation and Exploration

West Michigan Research Station
5185 North Oceana Dr., Hart, MI 49421

September 22, 2026

5:30 P.M. ~ Punchbowl

6:00 P.M. ~ Catered Dinner

7:00 P.M. ~ Volunteer Recognition

Speaker: Ric Mixer
Great Lakes Shipwrecks

Ric Mixer Bio - For more than three decades, Ric Mixer has helped reshape public understanding of Great Lakes maritime history through groundbreaking documentaries, underwater exploration, eyewitness interviews, and historical preservation advocacy. A diver, lecturer, author, and television producer, Mixer is widely recognized for uncovering forgotten stories, correcting long-repeated myths, and bringing first-hand voices to audiences across North America. To read his entire bio, please visit his website lakefury.com

Tickets \$10 [on sale soon]

A link to order tickets will be available
on our website soon.



West Michigan Research Station

**Mears Museum
School Tour
June 3, 2026**



HOUSE CLEANING? GARAGE SALES?
OCH&GS is always looking for
YEARBOOKS, POSTCARDS, SCRAPBOOKS
ANYTHING PERTAINING TO OCEANA COUNTY!

If you are cleaning out Grandpa's or Grandma's or Mom & Dad's house,
we are interested in copying or keeping pertinent information for our files.
PLEASE KEEP US IN MIND.

Thank You!
231-873-2600



OCHGS
114 DRYDEN STREET
HART MI 49420

METHOD OF DELIVERY/MAILINGS

If you wish to receive your newsletter electronically, please let us know by contacting us at
info@oceanahistory.com

By receiving the newsletter electronically, you will receive it more quickly, and the images will be clearer.
Those of you who wish to continue receiving the newsletter as a hard copy
will still be receiving your letter in the mail as usual.

Take care! Be safe!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify us if you have a change of address.
Some members' newsletters have been returned to the Society.
If you are not receiving the newsletter, please contact us!

info@oceanahistory.com