

Oceana County

Historical & Genealogical Society Newsletter

Web: oceanahistory.org

June, 2026

Email: info@oceanahistory.com

A Note from President Paul Erickson



Graduates are Ripe in the Land of Mears

With Memorial Day behind us, and graduation party season here, we must remember our mission: To preserve and celebrate our heritage and to share it with our visitors.

We are getting the Museum Grounds ready for the Season, and will be welcoming busloads of children to the Museum Complex next week. It is a special time to share our exhibits with the youngsters and hope they leave with a better understanding of life here in Oceana County. This is an annual event, and we appreciate all who make this possible.

Looking forward to our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, we will be changing it up a bit. We have secured a very special speaker for the 22nd of September at 6 p.m. **Ric Mixer** will be sharing his knowledge of **Lake Michigan Shipwrecks**. He will be speaking at the West Michigan Research Center in the evening. We will be serving dinner, so keep the date. Tickets will be available soon to reserve your seats.

Please be sure to visit Mears and the Museum Complex Saturdays and Sundays, noon till 4.

Sincerely,

Paul

NOTE: Guide by Cell is also available at the Museum Complex in Mears.
See page 8.

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.

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WELCOME

Open Wednesdays
10-5

If you would like to do research
at the Chadwick-Munger House,
We will be happy to assist you.

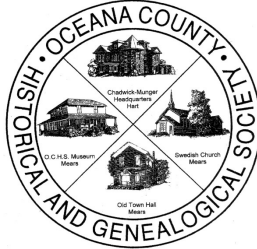


OCEANA COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Nomination Committee Ballot 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.



June, 2026



Petal Project Pentwater

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

CURRENT OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Current Officers

President: Paul Erickson (2024-2026)
Vice President—Carl Wiegand (2025-2027)
Rec. Sec.—Sharon Hallack (2024-2026)
Cor. Secretary—Claire Marshall (2025-2027)
Treasurer—Dennis Gale (2025-2027)
Past President—Walt Urick

Board of Directors

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

Karen Urick (2024-27)
Mort Wiegand (2024-27)
Brad Moul (2024-27)

Tina Kinsley (2023-2026)
Dean Gentel (2023-2026)
Jeff Lathers (2023-2026)

STATISTICS
QUERIES:11
GUESTS:44

NEW MEMBERS

Christopher Munger, Fort Collins, CO
Victor J. Vander Zanden, Dearborn, MI

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, July 19, 2026

**Transportation Museum
1981 Mears Street
Mears, Michigan**

4 p.m.

**Election of Officers, Board Members, &
Nominating Committee
Will Take Place**

JULY, 2026 ~ BALLOT

**PRESIDENT 2026-2028
BRAD MOUL**

**REC. SEC. 2026-2028
SHARON HALLACK**

**DIRECTORS
TINA KINSLEY 2026-2029
DEAN GENTEL 2026-2029
JEFF LATHERS 2026-2029**

**PAUL ERICKSON would remain on the board
as "Immediate Past President."**

Quiz Question: What is the name of the tug boat that used to come into the Pentwater harbor, bringing fish [chubs] to smoke and sell.

Answer: See page 6

OCEANA COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3	HART 4th GRADE TOURS	[AM & PM]
June 13	NATIONAL ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL [Parade]	[2 P.M.]
June 20-August 23	MEARS MUSEUM OPEN WEEKENDS FOR VISITORS	[1-4 P.M.]
July 1	MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE	
July 19	ANNUAL MEETING [Program/Speaker & Ice Cream Social]	[4 P.M.]
July 25	MEARS CRAFT FAIR [Johnson Park, Mears: Come visit our booth]	[9-3]
August 16	PLEASANT AFTERNOON [America 250 Celebration]	[1-4 P.M.]
August 24-29	OCEANA COUNTY FAIR	
September 22	EVENING OF APPRECIATION AND EXPLORATION	[Details: See page 9]
October 9	GOLDEN FAIR PARADE [note change of date]	[1 P.M.]

Visitors are welcome to visit the Mears Historical Complex (free) beginning weekends from June 20 between the hours of 1-4 p.m.

**We still need greeters/docents.
If you are interested in donating some time, please call the society
Wednesday at 231-873-2600**

**Regular Board Meetings
The third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m.**


Look Who Came to Visit!

Our very own Marge Peterson came to visit us during the lunch hour on May 27! It was so good to see her and to catch up. Marge is Paul Erickson's mom, and both of them are full of local stories. It is amazing to sit and talk with both of them.

Marge was a volunteer at the Oceana County Historical & Genealogical Society for many years and was involved in putting together displays at the county court house and at the Old Town Hall in Mears. She was the one to make sure that things got done, always with a smile on her face.

Thank you, Marge, for taking time to stop in and see us at the Oceana County Historical & Genealogical Society!

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.



Oceana County Historical & Genealogical Society Need YOU!

There are so many ways in which our volunteers add to the society, using their individual talents!



Filing!
Gardening! Caretaking! Auto Mechanics!
Cleaning!
Scrapbooking!
Organizing!
Cutting and Pasting!
Sharing Memories!
Setting Up Displays!
Helping Visitors! Researching!
Taking Pictures!
Taking Care of Donated Historical Items!
Thinking of ways to improve!
Coming up with new ideas!
Volunteering as a Docent at the Mears Museum!

OCEANA COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

**CARTER EVANS
GREEN THUMB LANDSCAPING
5722 2nd STREET, MEARS, MI**

Carter Evans has been mowing the lawn at our Mears Museum complex for over 2 years now for free. His volunteer service has been greatly appreciated.

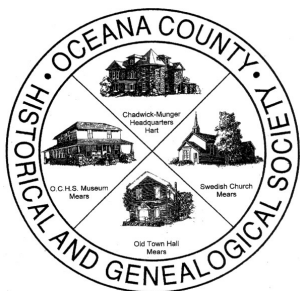
He also cleans up the property and hauls away our leaves and sprays the stones in our new garden to keep the weeds from coming up.

If you see him working around the property, please let him know what you think of all his hard work.

Thank you, Carter!



Please 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.org

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.org

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.

New Microfilm Reader

Donated to OCH&GS



Old



New

Thank you to our anonymous benefactor! We will certainly get a lot of use out of this new equipment!

APOLOGIES!

Someone sent me some photos of the school in Ferry.

I cannot seem to find them to include in this newsletter.

Would you please resend them, so I can include them in the next newsletter?

Again, I am sorry that I didn't include them in this newsletter.

wegnerjoan@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD

TRANSPORTATION CENTER

**5698 W FOX ROAD
MEARS, MICHIGAN**

Answer to question on p. 2

The name of the tugboat that used to carry the chubs into the Pentwater harbor, also called Fishtown in the 1950's, was the *Maggie Lynn*, owned by the Stenbergs of Pentwater, who used to smoke the chubs that were brought in on their tugboat.

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

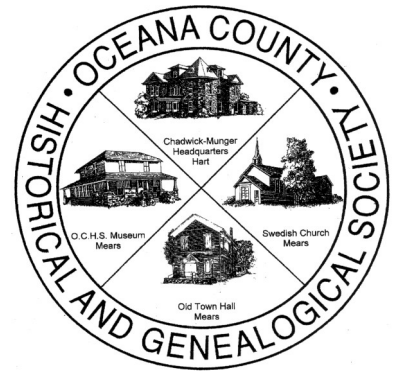
OCHGS

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

Thank You,
Claire Marshall

For Providing

QR Codes

For all of our Guide by Cell
Recordings Last Year



These women may have been from Shelby, maybe a group from the Piper area.

**The lady on the far right is Nellie Sturtevant Norton.
Can you help us identify the rest of the ladies in this picture?**



MICHIGAN STRAWBERRIES ARE THE BEST!

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.

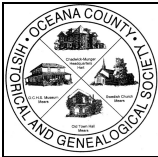


Oceana County
It's
Asparagus Season!

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!
231-873-8600



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.org

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.org