



# DOOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 1926 - 2021 April & May

### 95 YEARS PRESERVING DOOR COUNTY HISTORY

*Our Mission: The Door County Historical Society strives to collect, maintain and share the history and heritage of Door County through preservation, education and programming.*

*Our Vision: We envision a Door County Historical Society that is committed to keeping history alive for future generations through collection, preservation and sharing of the heritage of Door County.*

#### President's Message by Jay Zahn

We've hit the month of April and things are coming along well for the Door County Historical Society.

Since our last newsletter we have hosted two successful Zoom programs and an Easter Egg Hunt at Heritage Village. Bailey's program of local history had over 130 in attendance! Our Easter Egg Hunt had over 230 children and many good comments from the parents.

We are very close to a new 15 year lease with the DNR for the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse. This is something that has been going on for a number of years so it will be nice to have this settled! Staff is in place for the new year and soon we will be open for the season.

Our next Zoom program is Joseph Tachovsky, the author of "Forty Thieves on Saipan". This is a book about his father Frank and his service in World War II. I have read the book and highly recommend it. Many of you will remember Frank as the former mayor and postmaster of Sturgeon Bay. You will be surprised to learn the history

behind this story. The book is available at your local bookstore!

Another upcoming event is our annual garage sale on May 29th at Heritage Village. I'm sure if you are like me, that after a year you have a lot of "treasures" to get rid of. Bring your donations to the village on May 15th or 22nd, or call Bailey to schedule an appointment! No clothing, please.

Other events this summer include: Root Beer Fest, a new event called "The Dog Days of Summer" and many others.

As of this newsletter, I should have my second COVID shot. I hope you are getting yours too so we are all back together in person soon!

Time to make more history!

Jay

#### Director's Desk by Bailey Koepsel

Can you believe the wonderful spring that has arrived in Door County? It has given us an extra month to get Heritage Village and Eagle Bluff Lighthouse ready for the season!

Brady and I spent two weekends cleaning out the Petersen Granary to open up some additional storage space. With the addition of Heritage Halloween and the Eggs-traordinary Village Event, we had to find somewhere to keep all those supplies!

As we look towards summer, there are several volunteer projects on our list! We are looking for people to help paint the Petersen Granary and the Village Chapel. To make things easier, we are hoping someone has a paint sprayer we could borrow for a week. There are also flowers to plant, walkways and stairs to pressure wash,

trim to replace, and a railing to build. As always, we have quite the list!

We are also looking for a few volunteers to be in the Greene Store when the village is open. Those opportunities are available Tuesday—Saturday, starting June 5th, for any amount of time between 9:30am and 3:30pm. The Greene Store volunteer is responsible for opening and/or closing the village buildings. Once each building is given a quick cleaning, this volunteer is able to enjoy the summer breeze on the Greene Store porch.

This summer should be exciting and busy, and we can't wait.

I hope to see everyone soon!

Bailey

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**Endowment Fund (Now over \$44,000!) - Thank you!**

## Save the Date! Eagle Bluff Opening Day!

Eagle Bluff Lighthouse will open for the 2021 season on May 21st!

In the aftermath of the Civil War, pioneers made their way to northeastern Wisconsin. Boats, carrying the newcomers, navigated Green Bay's treacherous waters and were guided by the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse—its beam casting a shimmering and guiding light 16 miles over the swirling waters. Lighthouse guests will delight in recalling life during "Captain" William Duclon's tenure, the second keeper, who served from 1883—1918. Furnished with a selection of the Duclon family's original furniture, the lighthouse recreates life in close quarters and recounts the keepers' duties.

DCHS members, active duty military, and children age 4 and under receive complimentary tour admission. All guests to Peninsula State Park must purchase a daily parking pass or seasonal sticker to enter the park.

Admission for all other guests will be:

\$5 per person for walkthrough tours

\$10 per person (\$5 for children 5—13) for guided tours.

Check availability by calling the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse at 920-421-3637.

Updated COVID-19 policies can be found at [www.doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org) or on the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse Facebook page.

Eagle Bluff Lighthouse will be open 10am—3:30pm, seven days a week from May 21st until October 24th.

To reserve a private tour time or book a private event, please call 920-421-3636.

The Door County Historical Society does not receive county, state, or federal funding for the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse. All tour proceeds go towards restoration and preservation efforts!

## Door County Deaths from 1859 to 1880...

There are 240 of them; the registration is patently incomplete. For instance, there are no registrations from Washington Island. There are none for the 128 men, women and children who perished in the great fire of 1871.

One startling fact is immediately apparent. Of all the registrations, almost 1/4 were of children less than one year old, with age arranging from a few hours to a few months. 46% of all registrations were of the deaths of children under school age. Another concentration of deaths occurred among adults 20 years of age and over. Adults between 20 and 75 accounted for about 1/3 of the total.

Persons reporting deaths were asked to give the cause of death. The largest single cause of death reported was diphtheria, which seems to have been particularly hard on children of all ages. Diphtheria, of course, is a highly infectious disease, but the nature of infection was not understood.

More than 10% of all deaths in the sample were reported to be caused by dysentery or diarrhea. Another 10% or so was said to have died of "fever" or "brain fever" which could have meant anything. Pneumonia, including bronchitis, croup, pleurisy, and other respiratory diseases, was an important cause of death. Out of 15 such cases reported, 11 were four years or less in age--mostly under one year--while four were adults.

Tuberculosis accounted for only 7.5% of all deaths. One person was reported as having died "suddenly". It was assumed this meant he had a heart attack. Death from typhoid and scarlet fever were equally common. Typhoid seemed to have been fatal for adults while those dying from scarlet fever were mostly children.

During the 19th century people generally did not know how to swim. Six drownings were reported during this period--three children aged 7, 8, 9 and three adults. Eight women died in childbirth. This possibility, along with the possibility of the early death of their children, must have haunted pioneer women.

One death reported was that of a man thought to be about 20 years of age whose body was washed ashore on August 2, 1881. His head was gone, the body nude. The report was made by the Sturgeon Bay Moravian clergyman.

Probably the 18 deaths classified as due to "other" causes give a better idea than anything else of the texture of everyday life with its hazards, difficulties and tragedies. This number includes the 3 year old child whose clothes caught fire while she was playing around the stove, a 12 year old boy whose skull was fractured when a tree fell on him, and a man who died at the Exchange Hotel from complications following a fracture of his sternum or breastbone. A 32 year old man was killed by shooting, and another died from shock following an accident. One can understand that accidents could be fatal in pioneer days when transportation was such a problem and good medical care was not generally available.

*Excerpts from "Pioneer Cemeteries" by John Kahlert. Photo by Albert Quinlan*



## Volunteer Opportunities!

With this beautiful spring weather, our volunteer opportunities are blooming!

<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>
Planting flowers	Heritage Village	Any time after May 1st
Pressure washing	Heritage Village	Any time after May 1st
Small construction	Heritage Village	Any time after May 1st
Cleaning	Heritage Village	Mid—late May
Exterior painting	Heritage Village	Starting late May/early June until all projects are finished
Interior painting	Heritage Village	Starting late May/early June until all projects are finished
Mowing lawn	Heritage Village	As needed, starting mid-May until mid-October
Minding the Greene Store	Heritage Village	Opportunities available Tuesday— Saturday starting June 5th

Interested in lending a hand? Give Bailey a call or send an email!  
920-421-2332 • [doorcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:doorcountyhistory@gmail.com)

## Membership, Donation, and Volunteer Interest Form

I am committed to keep history alive for future generations through the collection, preservation and sharing of Door County heritage.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my newsletter by email only

### Membership Levels (Circle One)

**Individual** \$35  
(1 adult)

**Couple** \$50  
(2 adults)

**Family** \$75  
(2 adults & 2 kids under 17)

**Corporate/Organization** \$100  
(\$50 sponsorship, 4 passes to Eagle Bluff & Heritage Village)

**Sustaining** \$100  
(2 adults & \$50 program sponsor)

**Nonprofit Organization** \$35

**Individual Life Membership** \$600 (\$300 is placed in the Endowment Fund, \$300 for operations. Also includes 4 guest passes/year.)

**Donation—Annual Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation—Program Sponsor** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*The Door County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3)  
charitable organization; your gifts are tax deductible!  
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## April—June 2021 Virtual Programs

Program Title	Presenter	Program Date & Time	Program Zoom Link
40 Thieves on Saipan	Joseph Tachovsky	April 26 at 7pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/3ra53Pz">https://bit.ly/3ra53Pz</a>
The Wisconsin Story	Dennis McCann	May 24 at 7pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dsQHWh">https://bit.ly/3dsQHWh</a>
Women Who Dared	Jessica Michna	June 28 at 7pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/3apRmWx">https://bit.ly/3apRmWx</a>

*These virtual programs are free to DCHS members and the public.*

**Thank you for sponsoring the 2021 dinner program season!**  
**The Cordon Family Foundation**  
**Anonymous**