



# ***Museum Notes***

## **Newsletter of the Bellaire Area Historical Society**

### **A Note from the President**

Happy Summer! It's the very busy, very happy, family and friends season here and we're open at the Bellaire Area Historical Museum! We have changed our hours a bit in response to our public. We are now open from noon to 8 pm every Wednesday - including all of the Chamber of Commerce's Music in the Streets nights. Additionally, we're open noon to 4 pm Thursday through Sunday. Hope this makes it even easier for you to come by. And you can call us and make an appointment if our hours don't work for you. We have much to share!

We are having an Open House! Please mark your calendar and join us at the museum on Sunday, August 10 from 1 to 3. We will introduce you to all we have going on - exhibits new and old, resources for you to find personal and area history, how to research the digital newspapers, our website, community events in which we participate, volunteer opportunities, and more! We'll tell you how to be a part of our Family History Project. We'll wine and dine you, inform you, surprise you and make you glad you came!

Looking forward to seeing you.

**LouAnne Cooper**  
**President**  
**Bellaire Area Historical Society**

### **Newspaper Digitization Project** **Update**



### **Extra!! Extra!! Read all about it!!**

Two years ago, the Bellaire Area Historical Society began a campaign to digitize our local historic newspapers and make them available online with an easy-to-use search interface.

Thanks to outstanding community support and the generous donations and grants we've received, *The Antrim County Herald* (1881-1882), the *Antrim County Record* (1920-1931), *The Bellaire Record* (1931-1955), and *The Antrim County News* (1947-1966) are now available online at <https://digmichnews.cmich.edu>. These newspapers are keyword searchable with in-text results, and they provide a definitive resource for all researchers of Bellaire's history.

*The Bellaire Spectator* (1972-1976) has been digitized and put on an external storage device, and these are available for review at the museum. *The Antrim County News* (1974-1986) is available and searchable at: Old Fulton Postcards, a privately run website at <https://fultonhistory.com>. The site is free, but it may require a log-in.

*The Antrim County News* (1967-1974) and *The Bellaire Independent* (1895-1919) are in the process of being digitized by Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan



University, and they are available on their website. We will post an announcement when they “go live” on the Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal (DigMichNews).

The Clarke Historical Library website also has links to websites with browsable PDF files of the following newspapers:

- [The Antrim Review](#) (2006-2021) *Free*
- [The Antrim County News](#) (1974-1986) *Free*
- [Elk Rapids News](#) (Current) *Free*
- [Elk Rapids Progress](#) (1949) *Free*
- [The Mancelona Herald](#) (1886-1964) *Free*

A list of donors to this project is below. Thank you so much for your support!

Carl Griffith & family  
Charles Caldemeyer  
Mary King & Mike Connell  
Jean Bedell & Judd Fuller  
Jan & Bob Ringel  
Dick & Sharon Lessard  
Anndy Lessard Whipple  
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Ellen Thomas Smith  
Judge Michael & Vivian  
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Jim & Connie Sexton Clarey  
Great Lakes Energy  
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Bellaire Rotary Club  
Paul Sak  
Karen Wallace and Jerry  
Dettloff  
Michael Carlton  
Community Foundation  
Rotary Endowment  
Paula and Gary Griffith  
Brad and Annie Rowe  
Bob and Sue Holtzmann  
Kurt and Kelley Shoecraft  
Sally Ann Corner  
Diane Rice  
Janet Koch  
Sharon Flaim and Robert  
Behar  
Tracy Marrin





## Historical Signs Update

We have installed new signs around town!

After visiting another museum about six years ago, members of the Bellaire Area Historical Society decided to create signs that tell our story on the streets of Bellaire. Since 2022, the society has placed them at 26 sites, including public works, homes of Bellaire's historic figures, and businesses that were vital to the growth of the village. These accounts, meticulously researched from documents and records, some of which are found only in the museum's collection, include each structure's history, brief biographies, and period photographs. Read them on a walk around town using our historical walking tour brochure (available at the museum) as a guide.



The Dr. Arthur T. Bodle house, 204 E. Cayuga St.



The William and Emma Nixon house, now the Park Street Inn, 212 Park St.

## **We Want YOUR STORY!**

Our historical signs document the major historical figures in Bellaire's history, but there were many others who played a part in building this area. We are documenting these contributions in our newly launched **Family History Project**. In approximately 350 words, tell us how your family came to be here – as best you know – then add a picture or two. We'll help you put it all together. It's not just the beauty of Up North Michigan that brings us here - it's our community!

The first stage of this project is now in process in the form of an exhibition in the hallway leading to the museum. It features these brief family stories and pictures. We plan to add to this exhibition as necessary, archiving all we learn in the records at the museum. A book is also in our plans, and who knows what else? Come by the museum during our hours of operation (see below), and one of our docents will help you. You may also contact us through our website ([bellairehistoricalsociety.org](http://bellairehistoricalsociety.org)) or email LouAnne Cooper at: [louanne@mac.com](mailto:louanne@mac.com).



## **Donors to the Museum, 2024-2025**

The Bellaire Area Historical Society would like to thank the following people who have donated items to the museum in the past year:

Troy Matthew Akins  
Area Seniors  
Theodore T. Baker  
Lolly Wilks Balon  
Mitch Bart  
Jean Bedell  
Bellaire Public Library  
Mike Belanger  
Jeanette Bell  
Veta Brooks  
Caren Culver  
Peg Comfort  
Bryan Davies  
Ken Fifelski  
Melissa Fischer  
Debbie Goldenberg

Sally and Tim Hannert  
The Estate of Betty Hoover  
Susan Holtzmann  
Sue and Bob Holtzmann  
Beverly Johnson  
Ethel Jones (for Francis VanSice)  
Jane Kopecky  
Mary King  
Jack and Myrna (Thie) Matthew  
The Estate of Edward and Mary Kay McDuffie  
Sandi Muller  
Evan Proudfoot  
Janice Proudfoot  
Brian Steinmacher  
Marian Seidenstucker  
Jim Templin  
Scott Thomas  
Mitchell Townsend  
Karen Wallace  
Peter Wendling  
Jennifer West  
George and Joyce Wilks

## **B.A.H.S. Board**

LouAnne Cooper, President  
Mary King, Vice President  
Charles Caldemeyer, Secretary  
Suzanne Ring, Treasurer  
Chris Golday  
Evan Proudfoot  
Janice Proudfoot  
Jean Seman  
Thomas Shilts

## **Bellaire Area Historical Museum**

202 North Bridge Street, Bellaire  
P.O Box 646, Bellaire, MI 49615  
231-533-8631

BellaireHistoricalSociety.org  
[bellairehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:bellairehistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

**Hours:** Wednesday, 12-8  
Thursday through Sunday, 12-4  
Memorial Day through Labor Day

## **Upcoming Events**

**Museum Open House** – August 10, 1-3 at the  
Bellaire Area Historical Museum  
**Bryan Gruley Talk** – August 14, 6-7 at Forest  
Home Township Hall, courtesy Bellaire Library  
**Farmer's Market** – August 15, 8-12 behind the  
Antrim County Commission on Aging  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Fair** – November 1 at the  
Grand Ballroom, Shanty Creek

## **Membership Form:**

Membership is \$10 a year. Additional donations are welcome! Thank you for your support!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and return this form with your check to: Bellaire Area Historical Society, PO Box 646, Bellaire, MI 49615