

2018 Summer Events Highlighted by G. Mennen Williams Celebration

As we welcome summer to the Mackinac area, it's time to start preparations for the annual Mackinac Associates members-only events.

The unofficial kick-off to summer is the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration, scheduled for June 23 at the Captain's and Major's Quarters next to Fort Mackinac. Island House will once again be handling the catering of the event, and cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will take place on the lawn at 7:30 p.m. The G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration has become one of the premier events on the island, and MSHP staff is excited to show off two historic fort buildings that the public does not get to see.

"We are thrilled to be hosting the G. Mennen Williams Celebration at the Captain's and Major's Quarters," said Phil Porter, MSHP director. "These are historic Fort Mackinac structures that have recently undergone some significant restoration. We are pleased to provide the opportunity to Mackinac Associates members to tour these structures."

Less than two weeks later the tent will be set up adjacent to Fort Mackinac as the annual Red, White & Blue Celebration begins at 4:00 p.m. on July 4. Join fellow Mackinac Associates members for a casual afternoon of cocktails,



The Captain's (left) and Major's (right) Quarters will host the annual G. Mennen Williams Celebration June 23.

hors d'oeuvres and friendship.

The finale to the season will be the Mackinac Associates Annual Meeting, scheduled for August 18. The event will take place at the Mackinac Island Peace Garden, located in beautiful Marquette Park adjacent to The Richard and

Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum. Jack Barnwell, owner of Barnwell Landscaping, and Jeff Dykehouse, Mackinac State Historic Parks Curator of Natural History, will present a program highlighting Mackinac's native plants and flowers. This event

will start at 4:00 p.m., and refreshments will be provided.

See the events calendar on the back page for details on these and all of the special events happening throughout Mackinac State Historic Parks' historic sites this season.

"Landscapes of Mackinac" to be celebrated June 20 at Art Museum

Join fellow Mackinac Associates as well as the finalists of the juried exhibition as we celebrate the "Landscapes of Mackinac" as captured in art. This special event will feature short comments and light refreshments just outside The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum in beautiful Marquette Park on June 20 at 6:00 p.m.

"We are pleased to be hosting the 9th annual open house and presentation of awards and prizes for this juried exhibition," said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks director. "We are excited to have Liz and Neil Ahrens of Harbor Springs to select the award winners."

"This annual contest helps fulfill the mission of The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum to encourage the creation and display of arts inspired by Mackinac Island," Porter said.

From the bustling interplay of horses, bicycles, and pedestrians on Main Street, to the magnificent

grandeur of the cottage-lined bluffs and the serene beauty of woodland paths lined with colorful wildflowers, Mackinac Island is blessed with an abundance of intriguing and picturesque landscapes.

Liz Ahrens serves as the president and executive director of the Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey and Traverse City, while Neil Ahrens holds a Master's Degree in Painting from Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Prizes are awarded for first, second, third and honorable mention. The best of show winner will also receive a \$2,500 cash prize, receive a gold medal, and have their name added to the list of winners on display at the museum.

All prizes are donated by Mackinac Associates and the Mackinac Arts Council. "We are very grateful and appreciative to Mackinac Associates and the Mackinac Arts Council for their generous financial support," Porter said.



This untitled view of Main Street, Mackinac Island by Stanley Bielecky is one of three new pieces acquired by MSHP. See story on page 3.

MSHP Releases Two New Publications, Revises Another

The 2017-2018 off-season was a rich one for Mackinac State Historic Parks' publications, as a new book, a new vignette and a new edition of one of its more popular publications were introduced.

The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac: An Illustrated History, is authored by MSHP Director Phil Porter and co-published by Mackinac State Historic Parks and Michigan State University Press. It tells the story of Fort Mackinac through the lives and images of its soldiers.

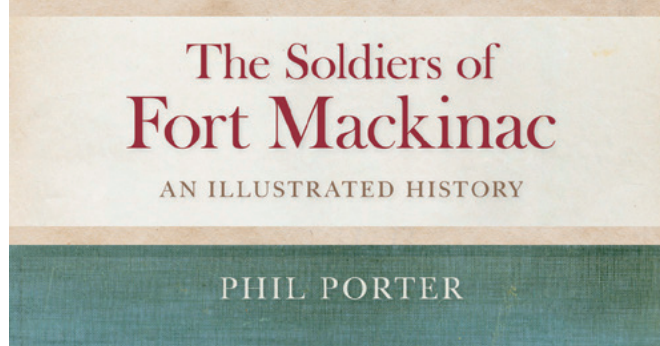
Profusely illustrated with more than 150 historic portraits, photographs and maps, both military historians and readers interested in Mackinac's history will appreciate the interesting and visually compelling story of soldier life at Fort Mackinac.

The book's introductory essay weaves the story together to provide context for the images that follow.

"In the introduction I wanted to provide an overview history of Fort Mackinac and explain how the nature of service at the fort evolved over its 115-year history," Porter said. "The essay comes to life on the following pages through art and images.

"The most exciting part of writing this book was the hunt," Porter continued. "I was able to find portraits and photographs of soldiers in libraries and museums around the United States and Great Britain. Seeing an image of a Fort Mackinac soldier for the first time was thrilling."

Writing and procuring images for



The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac was a three-year project for Porter, but publication of this volume fulfills a longer-range goal for Mackinac State Historic Parks.

"This is an institutional achievement more than 60 years in the making," Porter said.

Porter was quick to point out the contribution of Dr. Keith Widder, former MSHP Museum Historian, and Brian Dunnigan, Associate Director and Curator of Maps at the University of Michigan's William L. Clements Library, who encouraged Porter and assisted in finding images and reviewing the manuscript.

Where Shall They Be Sent? Confederate Political Prisoners at Fort Mackinac tells the story of three political prisoners held at Fort Mackinac during the Civil War and the creation of the Stanton Guard. Written by MSHP Registrar Brian Jaeschke, this vignette shares Fort Mackinac's small, but important, role in the Civil War, and expands on this not-widely known story.

"I was interested in learning more details about the three men, their imprisonment at Fort Mackinac and the soldiers who were recruited to guard them during the summer of 1862,"

Jaeschke said.

"There are thousands of books about the Civil War, especially on the battles and generals, but this sidebar story of the war has not been covered in detail before."

Jaeschke is proud to expand on the role the home front played in the war, an angle of the war that hasn't received much attention until recently by historians.

"I hope that people will enjoy learning this part of Mackinac Island's history, and if they already know the story, come away with

some of the new details I found in my research," Jaeschke said.

Jaeschke has had an interest in the Civil War since the 4th grade, when he first learned about Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant. His interest in the war was encouraged by his teacher, his mom and his uncle, and his love for the topic has grown ever since. His great-great grandfather served

in the Ohio Infantry Regiment in 1864, and he has visited several battlefields and other historic sites associated with the war.

The first edition of *Mackinac Island: Its History in Pictures* was published in 1973 by Dr. Eugene Petersen, MSHP director from 1958-1985. The book has remained one of MSHP's most popular titles, and has been reprinted nine times. Changes in the printing process, however, did not allow for another reprint, so the decision was made to redesign it. With few exceptions, MSHP preserved all of Dr. Petersen's original image choices and captions. Changes were made only where the original was no longer available, where a better version had surfaced, or to update contemporary images.

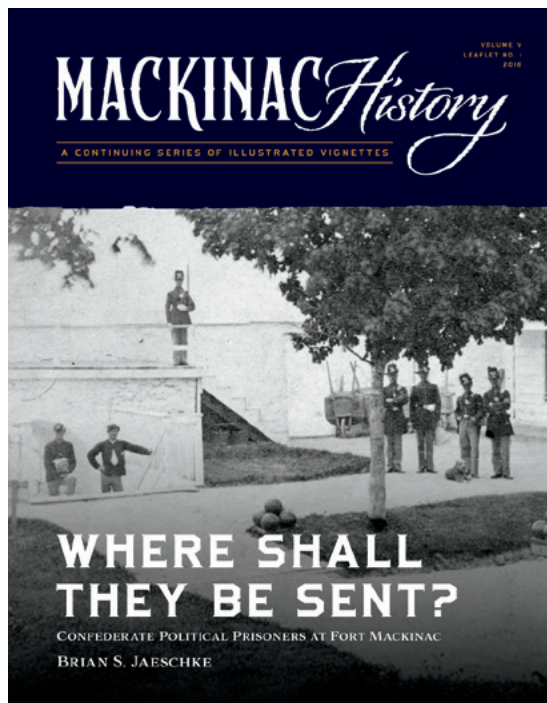
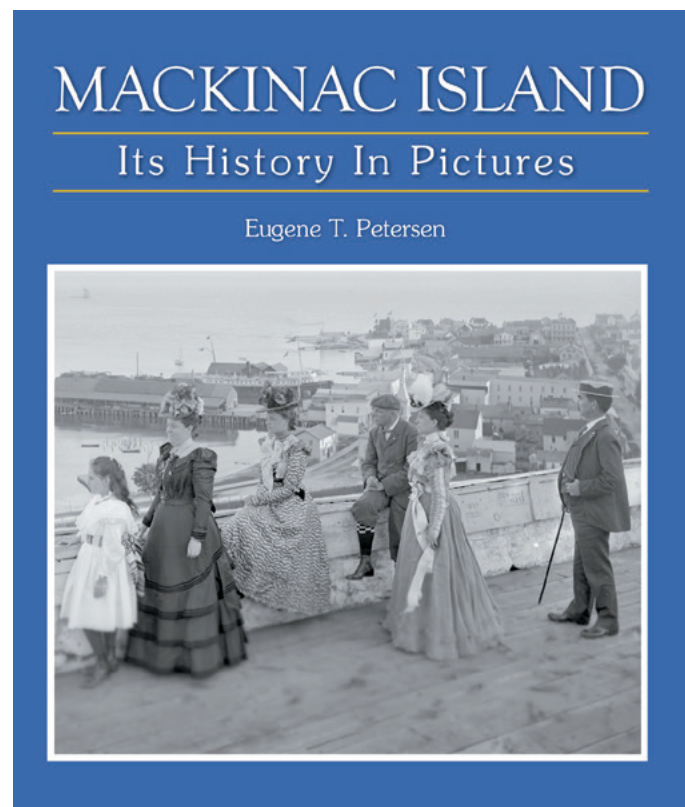
Minor changes were made to the text to make corrections or add information from subsequent research. The work was edited by Curator of Archaeology Lynn Evans, Museum Historian Craig Wilson, Porter, and Deputy Director Steve Brisson. Jaeschke located images for the book.

"We are confident that Dr. Petersen would be pleased with the results," Brisson said. "His hope was that this book would inspire fond memories for those who know Mackinac Island, prompt others to visit who had never been, and serve as a record of a vanishing heritage. "He also hoped that the book would find an honored place on

many shelves, which indeed it did," Brisson continued. "This revised edition will ensure that it continues to do so."

The redesign of *History in Pictures* was made possible by a grant from the Mackinac Island Community Foundation.

Publications have been an important part of the fabric of Mackinac State Historic Parks dating back to Dr. Petersen – "it was in his DNA," Porter said – and publishing the re-



MSHP Archaeology Begins 60th Year

2018 marks the 60th consecutive season that archaeological work will take place at Colonial Michilimackinac. The season kicked off in earnest on Friday, May 24, with staff members preparing the site, with full-site excavation beginning June 4.

In 1959, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission contracted with Michigan State University to carry out a season of excavation, which has continued every summer since, turning into one of the longest ongoing archaeological digs in North America.

Today, Dr. Lynn Evans serves as the Curator of Archaeology for MSHP, a position she has had since 1996. She has been a part of the Michilimackinac team since 1989.

"It is truly amazing to be part of something so big," Evans said. "When I learned about Michilimackinac in college, I never imagined I would run the project one day. I feel a great responsibility to maintain the tradition and pass it

along some day."

Current work inside Colonial Michilimackinac is at House E in the Southeast Rowhouse, a project that enters its 11th season in 2018. Evans guesses that there are at least six more seasons worth of work at the site, depending on various things, such as the depth of the root cellar at the site.

More than 1,000,000 artifacts have been unearthed at Colonial Michilimackinac, with more added each season. The sheer quantity and relatively short time frame the first was occupied are a big part of what makes the collection notable. Beyond that it mostly depends on a given persons particular interests. Michilimackinac has yielded excellent examples of military items, trade goods, and religious objects. The best artifacts are on display in *Treasures from the Sand*, the archaeology exhibit at Colonial Michilimackinac, and in the book *Keys to the Past*, written by Evans.

Work has not been confined to

Colonial Michilimackinac, though. Archaeology played a major role in the development of Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, and work has been done at Fort Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manogogian Mackinac Art Museum, Mackinac Island State Park and Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse.

Work will continue at Colonial Michilimackinac and the various MSHP sites as it provides a clearer look at the historic residents of the Straits of Mackinac. "We are still learning from it," Evans said. "It gives us a glimpse into the fascinating details of daily life that weren't written down, and insight into those who didn't leave written records."

Dr. Evans and the archaeology crew will be at Colonial Michilimackinac every day until August 25, weather depending, and the archaeology dig is part of daily programming at the site.

sults of staff research continues to be an important activity in fulfilling its mission of protecting, preserving and presenting Mackinac's rich history.

The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac and *Where Shall They Be Sent?* represent the 124th and 125th books published by Mackinac State Historic Parks. *The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac* is the sixth co-published with Michigan State University Press.

"We are very pleased to continue this relationship with MSU Press," Porter said. "They are a professional university press that provides outstanding design, layout, editing, and distribution that allows us to share our research with a broad audience."

The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac: An Illustrated History is available through Michigan State University Press and is available at all Mackinac State Historic Parks museum stores. It retails for \$29.95. *Mackinac Island: Its History in Pictures* is available at all MSHP museum stores, and retails for \$18.00. *Where Shall They Be Sent? Confederate Political Prisoners at Fort Mackinac* will be available in mid June.

DIRECTOR'S OUTLOOK

Preservation is a multi-faceted responsibility of Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP). Our efforts include restoring historic sites and buildings, collecting and accessioning historic objects and archival materials, excavating and cataloging archaeological features and artifacts, protecting natural wonders, and preserving and sharing the rich history of our region. In recent years, we have also taken an active role in helping to preserve Mackinac Island's unique equine culture.

The 1898 ban on "horseless carriages" was essential in preserving the historic, pre-automotive ambiance that makes Mackinac Island such a special place. Cars were banned before they could change the nature of the community. As such, we still have quaint, narrow streets, no stop signs, no stop lights, no gas stations, and fresh air free from the sounds and smells of vehicles. And, unlike pretty much the rest of the world, we still have horses doing what they did for centuries.

Today, Mackinac Island's equine

culture is alive and well, thanks in large part to the families and companies that have been in the horse business for decades. Horse-drawn carriages and taxis continue to line up on Main Street waiting to serve island visitors. Similarly, drive-it-yourself carriages, saddle horse are available for day tourists. Mackinac Island Carriage Tours and the Chambers family restored the "Little Barn" on Mission Hill. Here, the Mackinac Island Children's Riding Academy provides equine opportunities for young riders. The barns of many summer cottages are filled with saddle and driving horses that enhance the equine environment. It was while living in my parents' summer cottage that I first experienced the joy and thrill of riding and driving horses on Mackinac Island. However, many of the island's newer residential areas are not platted to allow for houses and barns on the same lots.

To help meet the increasing desire of local residents to participate in the island's equine culture, MSHP partnered with the

Mackinac Horsemen's Association (MHA) to make possible the Community Equestrian Center. In 2008 the Mackinac Island State Park Commission leased three acres of the old Early Farm on the east side of British Landing Road to MHA. Here, a dedicated group of local volunteers constructed a facility that now includes a stable, turnouts, arena, and manager's residence. In recent decades, the commission has been very reluctant to lease park property for any purpose other than for local utilities that benefit the entire community. The argument for making this property available and assisting in the effort to preserve Mackinac's horse culture was compelling and convinced the commission to approve the lease.

Today the facility provides long and short term boarding, riding and driving lessons, weekly speed shows, clinics for islanders and tourists, Kid's Camps, and a wide range of equestrian activities administered by the Mackinac Island 4-H Club. Additionally, MSHP donated tools and worked with



Phil Porter
Director

MHA to cut and clear park trails and has recently loaned the old "Beaumont Emergency Hospital" horse-drawn ambulance to MHA for display in their barn.

On the tenth anniversary of the MHA lease to the equestrian center property, I am pleased to report that the facility is fulfilling its mission. The Equestrian Center is part of the community's crucial effort to protect the horse culture that is so important to the special character of Mackinac Island.

Three Pieces Added to Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum

Three paintings were added to the collection late last year, all of which are on exhibit at the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum. Two were generously donated and the third purchased through our Martin and Patricia Jahn Collections Development Fund.

The first piece, donated by Glenna J. Paukstis, is a ca. 1935 watercolor of the harbor and east end of town by Miriam Suleeda (Kesterson) (1902-1990). A native of Grand Rapids, Suleeda was an accomplished commercial artist, producing work for numerous firms in the Grand Rapids area. She had, however, been a painter since her youth. She and her husband were also avid sailors and spent the summer of 1935 on the island, where



Left: Untitled view of east end of town from dock, Mackinac Island, by Miriam Suleeda. Donated by Glenna. J. Paukstis. Right: Untitled view of the Mackinac Island Harbor, by Stanley Bielecky, donated by Sarah Newton.

she painted many island scenes.

The other two pieces are by Stanley Bielecky (1903-1985), the most prolific Mackinac artist

of the mid-twentieth century and the subject of a special exhibition in 2016. Both are watercolors on paper and in a similar

"rainbow style." One, donated by Sarah Newton, is a view of the harbor. The other, the Jahn Fund purchase, is a view of downtown. Each exemplifies Bielecky's delightful vibrant style. They join several other works by Bielecky in the permanent collection.

Mackinac State Historic Parks is grateful to both donors, the Jahns, and the numerous contributors to the collections fund.



Photo Album: Celebration, ca. 1955

Not the G. Mennen Williams Celebration, but G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams himself at a Park Commission celebration. The reception was at the Fort Mackinac captain's and major's quarters, the venue for this year's annual event honoring Governor Williams. Soapy is third from the right. On his left are Commissioner James Dunnigan and his wife, Jane. If anyone knows the identity of others in the photo, please contact us. The photo was donated to the park's archive by Brian Dunnigan.

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2018 MSHP Calendar of Events

June

4 - King's Birth-day Celebration, Colonial Michilimackinac
6 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island
9 - Historic Downtown Mackinac open
9-10 - Soldiers of the King: The British Garrison of Michilimackinac, Colonial Michilimackinac
13 - Governor's Residence Tours, Mackinac Island
13 - Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park
8-17 - Lilac Festival Events, Fort Mackinac
17 - Lilac Festival Parade, Mackinac Island
20 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island
20 - "Landscapes of Mackinac" Art Exhibition Open House, Mackinac Art Museum

23 - G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration, Mackinac Island
23-24 - Rendezvous at the Straits: Voyageur Culture, Colonial Michilimackinac
27 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island

July

4 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island
4 - A Star Spangled 4th of July, Fort Mackinac
4 - Mackinac Associates Red, White & Blue Celebration, behind Fort Mackinac
4 - An American Picnic, Fort Mackinac
11 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island
13-15 - Robert Griffing Art Show, Colonial Michilimackinac
14 - Ghostly Mackinac, Fort Mackinac

18 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island
21 - Vintage Base Ball, Fort Ballfield
21-22 - Diverse Entertainment: Historic Pastimes and Games, Colonial Michilimackinac
25 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island

August

1 - Governor's Residence Tours, Mackinac Island
1 - Ghostly Mackinac, Fort Mackinac
4-5 - War of 1812 Weekend, Fort Mackinac
8 - Governor's Residence Tours, Mackinac Island
11-12 - Gardens and Good Things to Eat, Colonial Michilimackinac
15 - Governor's Residence Tours, Mackinac Island

18 - Mackinac Associates Annual Meeting, Mackinac Island
22 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island
29 - Governor's Residence Tour, Mackinac Island

September

8-9 - Michilimackinac at Work: Labor and Trades, Colonial Michilimackinac
15 - Fire at Night, Fort Mackinac
22 - The Coronation of Their Majesties Celebration, Colonial Michilimackinac
22 - Fire at Night, Fort Mackinac
29 - Fire at Night, Fort Mackinac

October

5-6 Fort Fright, Colonial Michilimackinac

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