



PENTWATER PRIDE

Spring 2023
Newsletter

Past · Present · Promised

MEMORIES of PENTWATER

By Denise Cantrall

Even though we don't currently live in Pentwater, I believe the fabric of my family is woven tightly into the village. My grandmother and great grandmother traveled across Lake Michigan in a steamer in 1890 to settle there. My grandchildren are the 6th generation to vacation in and enjoy Pentwater and our cottage is part of their legacy. Over the years and through the generations, our family has had many experiences and made many memories.



Mickey's Place

children. Splinters from the planks that lead to the beach were an ongoing challenge and since there was no TV or internet or radio, I learned to read challenging books at an early age. We bathed in a galvanized tub once a week and the rest of the time Lake Michigan was our bathtub. When my brother and I were infants, our cloth diapers were dragged in a net bag behind Mr. Sibley's boat. My mother said that the diapers were blinding white and spotless after the "laundry service".

My uncle was fast friends with the Bortells and I remember going into their smoke house and seeing their huge kettles. My mother and uncle were very friendly with Coho Bob. My favorite treat was visiting the glass blower at the hardware store and purchasing tiny glass animals. There was a movie theater, a bakery, a grocery store, and gas stations on Hancock Street.

Sadly, because my grandparents were moving permanently to Florida and my parents couldn't manage the cottage financially, the "north beach cottage" was sold in 1959.

On a hike up the beach many years ago, my mother, daughter, and I discovered the old cottage. My mother's painting of the north point was still hanging over the mantle. However, my husband and I rediscovered Pentwater as we were returning from a vacation further up north. We began renting

cottages and ultimately purchased Mickey's Place over 25 years ago. We have no idea why the cottage is named as it is but the sign was already there so....

Our family loves Pentwater and has loved it for generations and we are always delighted to return to this wonderful and magical Village.



Granddaughters!



Cousins in Pentwater—5th Generation

My grandmother, Edith, and my mother, Betty, purchased the first cottage on V-J Day in August of 1945. This cottage was north of the Bass Lake outlet, a long walk from where the car was parked, and had no running water, indoor plumbing, or electricity, and meals were cooked on a wood burning stove. Milk and perishables were stored in a spring house in the side of a dune. There was a pump that produced ice cold water and my mother and others chopped the wood for the stove.

I knew how to light a kerosene lamp when I was 8 years old and visits to the outhouse were expected of everyone, including young



Mission and Vision

Pentwater Historical Society seeks to connect people to the history of Pentwater by collecting, preserving, and sharing information and artifacts.

The vision of the Pentwater Historical Society is to enrich lives through access to local history, engaging members, residents and visitors alike.

GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS



The support of both local and state-wide organizations is helping the Pentwater Historical Society improve our exhibits and offerings. State-wide organizations are often tasked with distributing state funding for humanities and cultural organizations. A grant received from **Michigan Humanities** is helping us create a new exhibit; **Building Stories**, that will inform residents and visitors about the fascinating history of many of the buildings and sites in Pentwater. The first phase of this exhibit will be coming in the summer of 2023. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting development.



The Pentwater Junior Women's Club graciously contributed \$1,000 to the funding for this same exhibit. We are fortunate to be included among the many priorities for additional funding in Pentwater and in Oceana County.

The Michigan Arts and Cultural Council (MACC), in conjunction with the Michigan Economic Development Council (MEDC) granted us funds for Operational Support. These grant funds go toward maintaining our operations expenses throughout the course of the year. This year the grants have allowed us to use funds that would normally have been spent on things like electricity and water bills to instead be used to obtain online training for board members. This, in turn, allows us to meet and network with our peers at other museums and local non-profit organizations, learning disciplines and making connections at the same time. The courses taken this winter and spring will give board members a better understanding of the discipline of museum and collection management, as well as giving us greater knowledge regarding the measures needed to properly care for our historic objects and records. These disciplines will give us crucial knowledge as we prepare for an expansion of the museum. In addition, new contacts made among our peers continue to increase our understanding and the level of discussion among board members regarding future planning.



Other donations have been received from private foundations. These donations will fund operations expenses and expansion plans:
Burns Foundation **Anonymous** **Met Foundation, Inc.**

Thank you for your support through 2022, and especially in the final quarter of the year. Your donations, not to mention the time you contributed to events and programs of the PHS, both sustain us and challenge us to improve our operations and contribute more to the community.

Annual members give financial support for the membership each year and receive our newsletter when published. Seventy-two Annual members have already renewed their membership for 2023! Lifetime members, the vast majority of our membership, will receive our newsletter without an annual renewal, but your voluntary annual donations are actually life-savers against the costs of operating the museum and ongoing programs (you keep the lights on). The total of renewals plus donations from November through January exceeded \$10,000.

Without the assistance of our members and volunteers many of the museum's tasks could not be completed; staffing the garage sale, opening up the museum, maintaining the museum throughout the summer, scheduling docents, being a docent, and so many other undertakings that you do benefit the museum. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Please note in 2023 and beyond, we are switching to a policy that all annual memberships expire on December 31 and will work on a calendar-year basis. This will simplify our renewal and fundraising requests and will give us a more defined baseline for our budget from year to year. This should simplify the process of sending out reminders about renewing annual memberships next year.

With gratitude in the new year,

Beth Russell

THANK YOU!

DONATIONS

LeRoy and Dorothy Barnett
William and Toni Bigelow
Mike Castor
Ron Christians
Robert and Mary Sue Cunningham
Brian and Ann Fillion
Stuart and Eleanor Hartger

John & Margot Graettinger
Dean and Maureen Gustafson
Larry and Anne Konopka
Clark McKeown
The Met Foundation
Michigan Arts & Culture Council

Milford and Mary Miller
Pentwater Junior Women's Club
Douglas Ruby and Mary Beth Moore
Judy and Larry Pazol
Robert and Barbara Pell
Juanita Pierman

EXPANSION PLAN and FUNDRAISING OVERVIEW

Planning continues behind the scenes as we prepare for a major expansion and the required fundraising campaign. A special thank you to the skilled engineers and creative volunteers for the refinement of design plans, and to the fundraising committee that is advising us on next steps to take along the way.

Some community members have been presented with our preliminary plans and have contributed significant amounts to the coming expansion. This is what we have been calling our campaign's "silent phase." You'll be hearing more about our campaign in the spring and summer of 2023 as we move on to the "quiet phase" of our fundraising.

Our preliminary design plans for the expansion are receiving a new layer of illustration as we envision what the inside and the outside of the expanded building might look like. Many of you are familiar with the design work of Steve Bass, who was instrumental in envisioning the rebuilt Pentwater Yacht Club. Steve is performing a similar transformation for the museum and its surroundings. We can't wait to show you his visionary ideas and get your feedback. There is much work to be done before we can even break ground, but the momentum of community support is already building. We're looking forward to the future!

2022 EXPANSION FUND DONORS

Anonymous
Burns Foundation, Inc.
Mike Castor
Daniel and Teri Filus
Jill Kooiman
James and Sara Lootens
Met Foundation, Inc.
Barry and Susan Monroe
Jim and Yvonne Reinsch
Jim and Sharon Tierney
Ryan and Amy Vander Zwart
Dick and Sylvia Warner

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Peter Johnson

Bruce Knott

David and Nancy Peterson

THANK YOU JIM PIKAART!

Stroll down Pentwater's main street on a Sunday and you may come across a group of individuals gathered together happily creating melodious tunes. Jim Pikaart has been a part of the group for many years. He has also been the driving force behind the design and publishing of the PHS newsletter for over a decade. Jim started his career as an illustrator for veterinary textbooks and has evolved his talents over the years to go along with the ever-changing technology.

Not only did Jim volunteer his time to ensure a quality newsletter, but he also helped create our Homes Walking Tour, pamphlets, and brochures.

"I lived in central, very rural West Virginia but like many residents of the Village, I wound up here because pieces of my large family lived in the GR and Western Michigan area, and I would come here for family events and enjoy the lake shore. I moved to Pentwater around 2006 but I had purchased a lot in the Village some years before I retired just because I liked living in a small village like Pentwater where I could walk to stores, the beach, the coffee shop and parks. While finishing building a house and also living in it, Jim Ege and Ed Bigelow found out I was a commercial artist/scientific illustrator and immediately proceeded to twist my arm to help to produce "a little

newsletter" for the Historical Society. The little newsletter quickly became 12 pages. When the Society purchased the former Baptist church, the newsletter had four issues a year just to keep members and the Village informed of the transition progress and also to be an important fundraising vehicle.

Recently, I've stopped doing commercial work and lots of volunteer graphic work such as the PHS Newsletter and trying to find more time for reading—mostly science—and to work on my own interests. I enjoy hanging out and working on projects at the Artisan Center and love playing the fiddle at various jams in the area and going to many old time music events in West Virginia and elsewhere.

Pentwater has been a good move for me for many reasons. Smaller towns give people a better sense of community, the opportunity to make a difference, to know your neighbors and to enjoy unique pleasures such as the Thursday band concerts, Homecoming and, of course, summer. . . Summer in Pentwater! YEY!"

The Pentwater Historical Society cannot thank Jim enough for the countless number of volunteer hours he has invested in promoting and preserving Pentwater history. If you see Jim around town, be sure to stop him and give him your thanks. He took the PHS to a high level and his shoes will be hard to fill as he focuses his talents elsewhere.

THE GREEN GIANT OF PENTWATER

By Amy Vander Zwart

When comparing maps of the Village of Pentwater today to maps in the 1800's there have been many things that have changed, but there are some items that have remained constant. The streets have stayed in their original configuration, main street has endured as the centralized location for goods and services, and some of the historic yellow brick buildings have stood the test of time. One thing that has drastically changed is the number of factories and industries scattered throughout the Village. Most of the buildings have burned down or were removed when they were no longer being utilized. One of the buildings that has stood the test of time is the signature green building positioned just a short block away from the main street surrounded by homes, manicured lawns, and sidewalks.



To see this building now one may question the wisdom of its placement. One needs only to look back into the history of Pentwater to understand the logic of its location.

This building was built in the 1800's by W.B.O Sands and E.G. Maxwell. Sands and Maxwell owned a prominent lumber compa-

ny on the lakefront, the current location of Snug Harbor Marina. They also owned a large general store and grocery store at the corner of Hancock and 4th Street, the old Community Hall building and Bell Park.

They erected the framed two-story building to provide even more services to the area. It

was used as a blacksmith/wagon shop. Being close to the center of town allowed merchants and visitors to easily access these essential services.

In 1887, ownership changed hands to Jonathan Halstead. Jonathan was a skilled carriage and wagon maker as he had been learning this trade since the age of 15. He was married to Mary Reynolds and together they had three children, Zoela, Daniel J, and Stanley. While Jonathan owned the building, improvements and an expansion were made using brick. Jonathan Halstead used his skills to focus on manufacturing carriages, wagons, and sleighs during his ownership.

After only a year of ownership, the business changed to be Halstead Table Company. It wasn't without troubles, unfortunately. As soon as November of 1888 it was reported in the Milford Times that "John Terwilliger of Pentwater was wound round a shaft in the basement of Halstead's Table factory and had one of his arms crushed and five of his ribs broken." This mishap did not stop the ever-growing company and in 1893 Daniel Halstead, Jonathan Halstead's son, joined the business.





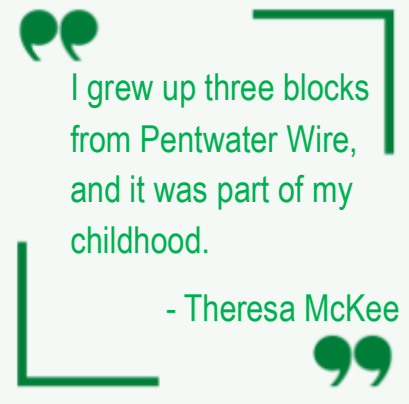
made various products, including machinery for making concrete blocks. A 15,000 sq. ft. second floor was added, fully equipped, and remodeled for the peace time production of their number one product, an outdoor grill known as the Picni-kook.

Late in 1953 the building was closed, and Pentwater Machinery relocated to Fort Wayne, Indiana. The building stood empty for three years before Pentwater Wire Products began business with an expanded 68,000 sq. ft. Current citizens of Pentwater remember the positive impact this company had for many years.

Larry Doran remarked, "I worked there for 33 years. It provided me the ability to raise a family in the town I love. Let's hope it will be the same for others."

Theresa McKee had this to say about the happenings in the green building, "Pentwater wire products has been part of the Pentwater culture, going back as far as the 50s. I grew up three blocks from Pentwater Wire, and it was part of my childhood. One of my fondest memories, that I heard for years, was the sound of the presses. I really don't know when it started, but it was there in the 50s. It provided many families with incomes; it has a long history in Pentwater. It's closed now, and someone has bought the building, so it will still be a vital part of Pentwater..."

Raymond Dewyer remembers, "In the 1960's and early 70's it was colloquially known as



I grew up three blocks from Pentwater Wire, and it was part of my childhood.

- Theresa McKee

"the finger factory" due to the number of fingers lost in the machinery. A number of workers experienced this misfortune before stricter machine guarding standards came into law in the early 70's."

Catherine Coker Worth said, "I lasted two weeks. (Working there) A kid almost crushed my ankle when he bumped a big stack of metal gates and I went airborne, landed in the packing box! Left my boyfriend's army shirt hanging on the hook when I made my final exit. Kept my fingers."

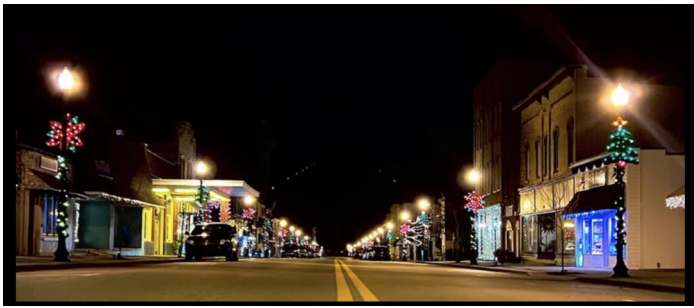
The large green building has changed ownership recently. It is currently undergoing renovations for a new venture, taking steps in again becoming an integral part of Pentwater. The community is excited and welcoming of the possibilities it may bring.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will go into greater details exploring the time when Bernard (Barney) Konopka operated the building from 1946 to around 1954.



At some point before 1910, the company changed its specialty to woodworking machinery and then changed focus as Saunders & Chase Company. Patent 1,002,762, for a net-lifting apparatus, was granted to Thomas Saunders and Henry P. Chase of Pentwater. Locals knew the invention as the "Pentwater Boy", a net lifter which was sold to commercial fishermen. In 1916 Daniel Halstead organized Pentwater Machinery Company.

By 1941 the company was reduced to just a couple of employees. War business led to a revival and reorganization of the company, however, but by this time the woodworking machinery business seemed to have been phased out. Following the war, the company





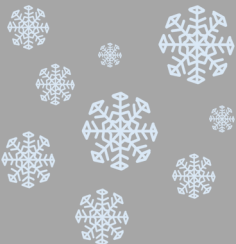
TIME WITH TIM By Tim Scovill



SNOW

snow is gently drifting down
 in the absence of a breeze
 it's settling in the yard
 and it's landing on the trees
 on this beautiful winter day
 my bride and i went out
 we saw some deer and a Hawk
 and we just looked about
 i think about the seasons
 winter may be my favorite time
 at least right now that is true
 as i am writing down this rhyme
 next will come a warm sun
 and the land will turn all green
 flowers will be blooming
 new beautiful life to be seen
 i think about the future
 spring may be my favorite time
 with joyful labors to be done
 maybe a pause for a happy rhyme
 i think about the changing seasons
 hot sunshine on my back
 there's swimming and there's fishing
 then driving on a two track
 just then it seems to me
 summer is my favorite time
 it's very easy to be happy then
 a sense of reason and rhyme
 time moves into autumn
 my favorite time of year
 the trees of wonderous colors
 and the antlers on the deer
 the time has come to harvest
 split and stack your wood
 my next favorite season is winter
 when food and heat are good
 life is like the seasons
 you need to love every day
 to see beauty is a blessing
 enjoy life your own way

Around Town Winter 2023



MUSEUM REPORT

Dan Hoekstra, Sr.
Museum Director

Although it's the dead of winter and the PHS Museum is closed for the season, the Board remains busy. We have several board members attending online classes through the AAHSLA, American Association for State and Local History.

The Board is specifically interested in the proper ways of "Collections Management" in preparation for the future of the museum. Dan Hoekstra, Beth Russell, and Norm Shotwell are taking a course called, "Basics of Archiving." Dan Girven is taking a course in March about "Managing your Collections." We are spending the winter upgrading, identifying, and maintaining our inventories of donations.

As many of you know, the huge stump next to the museum was removed this fall and we would like to thank Kenny Adams for donating his time, employees, and equipment to remove the stump and cover the eight-foot hole.

Our docents were fantastic last year and we're hoping they will volunteer again this year. It's a fun way to work with the history of the Pentwater area. You do not need to have an in depth knowledge of Pentwater history. We will provide you with everything you need! If this sounds good to any of you, we will be glad to give you the information on how to volunteer.

PHS now has several books available for purchase in the museum. This summer, you will be able to purchase any of the following books, while supplies last!

Ships and Shipwrecks: Stories from the Great Lakes, by Richard Gebhart \$29.95

Pere Marquette: A Michigan Railroad System before 1900, by Graydon Meints \$44.95

Sailing Into History: Great Lakes Barks Carriers of the 20th Century and the Crews Who Sailed Them, by Frank Boles \$39.95

PHS BOARD MEMBERS

President: Dick Warner **Vice President:** Bart Zachrich
Secretary: Dan Girvan **Treasurer:** Mike Waidelich

Museum Director: Dan Hoekstra
Marketing Director: Jim Lambrix
Director of Membership: Sylvia Warner

Trustees

Beth Russell Norm Shotwell
Karen Way Amy Vander Zwart
Newsletter Committee: Mary Marshall and Amy Vander Zwart

OUR DEEPEST APOLOGIES

In our previous issue, we made several blunders. Most were corrected via email communications shortly after the issue was sent out. The tributes that were published incorrectly have been republished in this issue with correct information. One error we have not yet corrected was the spelling of the name of some charter members that were present at our summer dinner, a celebration of our 40th anniversary with charter members included as guests of honor. Our sincere apologies to Larry and Anne Konopka for the misspelling of their name. The dinner was a wonderful celebration and a tribute to the charter members that started this journey from history to the present. We are implementing procedures to check more carefully for errors with the intent of spotting these types of problems and correcting them before we go to print. As always, we appreciate your patience.



Pentwater Historical Society would like to say a special thank you to Adam's Excavating, who have been a strong supporter of Pentwater Historical Society and Museum. After being in the hospital three weeks earlier, Kenny Adams was happy to come out to work with Dan Hoekstra in removing a stump that was approximately four feet around next to the museum. Kenny's son, Jake Adams, worked the excavator while Dan and Kenny looked on. The job wasn't as easy as it first appeared and in the end a hole 20 feet across and 8 feet deep had to be dug to remove the stump and its root structure! Not only did they excavate the area, but they also hauled everything away. The PHS could not function without the generous help given to us by our supporters. Thank you Adam's Excavating for generously donating your time and equipment!

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

It was brought to our attention that there were errors in the list of tributes in our previous newsletter. Our deepest apologies for this oversight. The corrected contributions are listed here:

- ◇ Tave & Lesley Reser in memory of Ted & Shirley Ann Reser
- ◇ Jennifer & Dan Sheehan in memory of Katharine & Ralph Donges
- ◇ Susan Rose in memory of David Rose
- ◇ Mike Castor in memory of Susan Castor

NEW CONTRIBUTIONS

Made as a tribute to family and friends:

- ◇ Cynthia Smith in memory of Howard and Dorothy Schrupf
- ◇ Burns Foundation in memory of Wesley and Francine McMullen
- ◇ Garth and Judith Warner in honor of Richard and Sylvia Warner
- ◇ Ray and Sherry Kloostra in honor of Ted Reser, Ed Bigelow, Newell Wright, and Gene Davidson
- ◇ Oceana Beach Association in memory of Robert Nash
- ◇ Dolores Sturr in memory of Bill Maxwell

PRESERVING HISTORY ON VIDEO

We love seeing pictures of the past. We also love seeing video and hearing the stories that others have to share. Marv Way recorded many guest speakers and events throughout his involvement with PHS. We are excited that these recordings are now in the process of being upgraded to current media formats. In the future, these recordings may be used for special exhibitions and be available to members. If you have old recordings you would like to share, the PHS would love to see them! Please contact us at info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You do not need any special skills or an infinite knowledge of Pentwater! You only need a desire to help out, a smile, and a little time. PHS will provide you with everything else you may need! Contact Joan Geringer at 989-277-6187 to find out what opportunities there are waiting for you!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



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IRISH VOICE OF PENTWATER

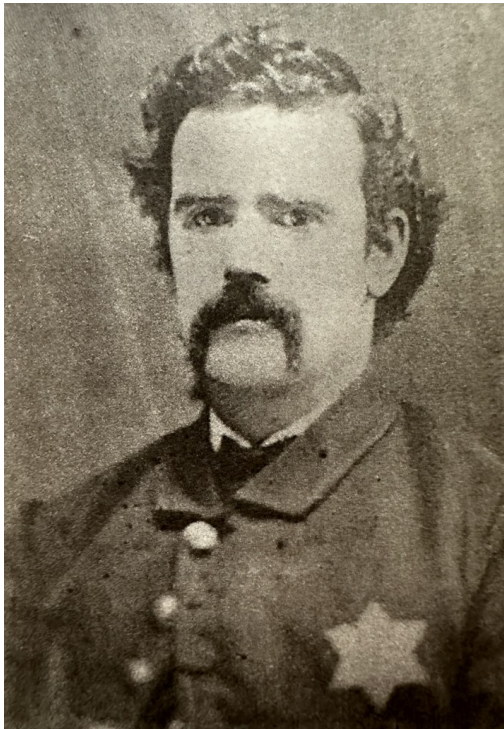
By Amy Vander Zwart

Storytelling has been an integral part of Irish culture for centuries. Storytellers provided entertainment, helped to create emotional bonds with people and places, and conveyed history from a unique perspective.

John Cahill, who was also known as Eoin Ua Cathail, was born with storytelling pulsing through his veins. Born to poor farmers in County Limerick, Ireland in 1839, John Cahill was a gregarious, kindhearted man who embraced his Irish heritage and language.

In 1863, Cahill emigrated to the United States as did his five siblings, but not before he married a wealthy older woman. He affectionately referred to his first wife as his “cash cow” because she came with a plentiful dowery. It is unknown whether he left his first wife behind in Ireland or if she also emigrated at some point.

Upon stepping foot in a new land, Cahill first settled in Washington DC as did his sister Honora who became a schoolteacher. The rest of the Cahill siblings spread around the country. His sister Elizabeth journeyed west and settled in Dallas, Texas. Catherine first



Portrait of Eoin Ua Cathail as a member of the Chicago Police Department. He served for three years (1873-1876) before returning to live in Pentwater, Michigan.



Pictured left to right: Pa Ua Cathail (Brother), Edward (friend), Eoin Ua Cathail, “Big Joe” (friend).

settled in Arizona and later moved to Denver, Colorado. Sister Bridget settled in Chicago.

John Cahill’s only living brother, Patrick, settled in Pentwater, Michigan. During his lifetime, John Cahill was involved in the US military during the Plains Indian Wars. One Chicago newspaper wrote quite definitively that Mr. Cahill “served in the US Calvary and was a member of the expedition sent out to avenge the massacre of General Custer and his command in the mountains of Little Big Horn.” Comparison of other records does not support this claim. John Cahill had been employed by the Quartermaster’s Department from 1863 to 1865. However, he seemingly never had an active military role. He did work on mule trains transporting supplies to outposts. During this time, he had many encounters with Native Americans both positive and negative. Over his last year of tenure, he was stationed in Little Rock Arkansas.

In 1873, Cahill became a patrolman with the

Chicago Police Department serving for three years. The majority of his life in the US was spent in Pentwater, Michigan during the booming lumber trade of the Great Lakes region. Cahill’s brother Patrick was most likely the reason that John came to the area. However, Patrick left before John’s arrival in town and disappeared from official historical records soon after. Family members believed that Patrick died in a US military old soldier’s home after a period of poor health.

While living in Pentwater, John Cahill held many positions in the community. In 1870 his profession was listed as “Keeping House”. Between 1880 and 1900 his profession had shifted to “saloon keeper”. However, in the interim, he opened a barbershop in 1888, a venture which ended in disaster when a fire ravaged the west end of Pentwater’s main street. His business was uninsured, suf-

ferred \$700 in damages and was forced to close. In 1910, it was noted that he was running a dairy farm. By 1920, he had relocated to Waverly, Wright County, Minnesota, where he was listed as a homeowner. The move was only temporary as he relocated back to Pentwater and was listed as a Justice of the Peace before his death in Pentwater in 1928.

It seems that the only thing that remained constant in John Cahill’s life was his love for storytelling and preserving the Irish language.

IRISH VOICE OF PENTWATER

Continued

The move was only temporary as he relocated back to Pentwater and was listed as a Justice of the Peace before his death in Pentwater in 1928.



Ua Cathail (second from left) on Hancock Street in Pentwater. His wife, Lily, is seated 4th from the left.

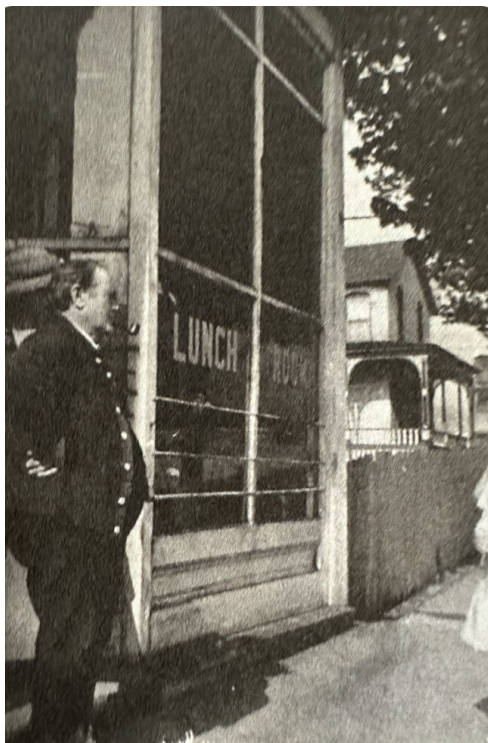
John Cahill had a total of five wives throughout his lifetime. Wives number 2 and 3 both died in childbirth. John had six children with Catherine McAndrews who he was married to during his time in the military. Family lore has it that John's fourth wife, Ellen McAndrew, suffered from mental health issues, which contributed to their divorce. It is believed that she was institutionalized for the rest of her life in Traverse City, Michigan. Their divorce was finalized on 11/27/1903 citing cruelty. His fifth and final wife, Lily, was a nurse he hired from Ft. Wayne Indiana to care for him while he was ill.

Family stories tell of a son, John, who at the age of 15 or 16 was sent to Iowa to be a farmhand. He disappeared and his father, John Cahill, searched for him until he died. No one ever found the boy or heard news of what happened to him.

It seems that the only thing that remained constant in John Cahill's life was his love for storytelling and preserving the Irish language. "The Irish language was the love of

his life, and he devoted far more attention to it and its preservation than to his family, who hover only at the edge of his stories." One of his goals in life was to get his stories published. He "hoped to publish his writings in Ireland...the stories convey the unique perspective of an emigrant who had been spatially disconnected from the home culture for over fifty years..." He and his daughter Charlotte claimed all the stories were autobiographical but "their classification within the tradition of the American dime novel seems more apt."

John Cahill did live a fascinating life. In each story he spun there seemed to be some truth and some exaggeration. He spoke of bears in Pentwater kidnapping children, jumping off of a bridge to save a drowning woman, fending off savage Native Americans as well as befriending them as close friends. Each tale had John Cahill at the center of the action and the hero. Historians have studied his



Ua Cathail enjoying his pipe and looking out onto Hancock Street in Pentwater, Michigan. From 1880-1900, Ua operated a saloon in the town.

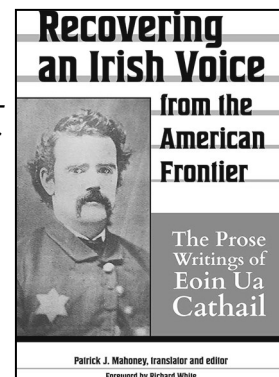
stories and believe that although many of the facts are true, they may not have all happened with John Cahill as the protagonist.

Over a century later, the Cahill family contin-

ues to have ties to Pentwater. Dodi Ducker Bailen is the great-great granddaughter of John Cahill. Dodi and her family love to summer in Pentwater and have fond memories of visiting grandparents there when she was young. She remembers her great-great Grandmother, Lily (John's 5th wife) celebrating her 90th birthday in Pentwater surrounded by extended family. Dodi grew up hearing stories of the notorious John Cahill. Her father, William H. Ducker, described John as looking a bit like Santa Claus and being very kind. He was so kind, in fact, that when the family went to put a loved one in their final resting place in Pentwater Cemetery, the site was found to be full of non-family members because John had offered the space after people could not afford a plot themselves.

Some of John Cahill's relations remained in Pentwater for many years and also made lasting impacts on the small village. Dodi's grandmother, Cecil Worrell, grew up in Pentwater and when she returned as an adult during the Great Depression, started the marching band at Pentwater High School. Cecil's mother, Dodi's great-grandmother Katherine Worrell, operated her own antique shop in Pentwater. The shop was located in the space where CRAZE currently occupies.

In the book, "Recovering an Irish Voice from the American Frontier", author Patrick Mahoney compiled the stories of John Cahill in his original Irish tongue and translated them to English on the facing pages. The book also contains a host of previously unpublished historical images of the Cahill family and also of Pentwater.



The Pentwater Historical Society was contacted by Mahoney to supply pictures and historical information and received credit from the author in the acknowledgements. When Dorothy contacted Pentwater Historical Society to find out more about her ties to Pentwater, we were able to direct her to this engaging book. What a unique perspective John Cahill's stories have given historians and family members of what life was like in Pentwater all those years ago.



Pentwater Historical Society
 PO Box 54
 Pentwater, MI 49449

SPRING DINNER

Our Spring Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24. Come join us at a new venue, the West Michigan AgBio Research Center on Oceana Drive. Our guest speaker will be Manny Valdez, Park Supervisor at Mears State Park.

5:30pm social time and dinner at 6:00pm.. Learn more about the State Park and hear about the museum's summer happenings. As is our custom, the gathering will be BYO libations. The Research Center is at 5185 North Oceana Drive, Hart, 6 miles from downtown Pentwater. Tickets will be available in early May. Stay tuned for more details.



COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Soon it will be time to begin spring cleaning! Set aside the china, bicycles, toys, small appliances, tools, and yard equipment! PHS will again be taking your gently used articles to be sold during Pentwater's ginormous garage sale event. Come in advance to donate and come on the day of the sale to find the deal of the century. We cannot accept clothing, but that's about all we can't take. Your donations matter!

Drop off days will be at the museum starting ~3 weeks before the day of the garage sale. Get a jump on the sales! PHS will be open for sales to the public starting at noon on Friday, June 9.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer Dinner
 Wednesday, August 23rd

Homecoming Parade
 Saturday, August 12th

Museum Opening Date
 June 1, 2023

SUMMER OFFERINGS

History Cruises—Private Boat
 Water Taxi Reservations: ptwtaxi.com

Walking Tours—Guided Audio
phs.tours@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

FIND US ONLINE

www.pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

