



THE BAYFIELD COURIER

Winter 2023 Edition

NEW EXHIBITS COMING TO BHA IN 2023

One permanent and two temporary exhibits to open this year, with more on deck for 2025

PIKE SAW BAYFIELD'S HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, DREAMED OF A BRIGHT FUTURE

In her book on the early history of the area, "Tales of Bayfield Pioneers," Bayfield historian Eleanor Knight described Capt. R. D. Pike as the "outstanding citizen of Bayfield's first century."

BHA is pleased to announce that plans are underway for an exhibit documenting the life and times of Robinson Derling Pike.

The exhibit will follow the life of R. D. Pike from his arrival as a 17-year-old on the shores of present-day Bayfield in 1855, through his service with the Michigan 1st Cavalry Regiment during the Civil War, his return to the area after military service to establish mills and quarries and his successful civilian efforts to introduce to the area electric street lights, telephones and a state fish hatchery.

Check the May issue of The Courier for the date of the exhibit opening.

At right: Capt. Robinson Derling Pike, BHA ID # 1981.14.57



CANOE EXHIBIT IS NEARING COMPLETION

A very popular object in the museum is the Anishinaabe birch bark canoe (or wiigwaasi-jiiimaan) built by Red Cliff elder Marvin Defoe and donated to BHA by the late Mary Hulings Rice.

In 2023, the canoe will be placed in a custom-built cedar cradle, allowing visitors an up-close view of the details and craftsmanship, while stanchions will create a protective buffer zone to avoid accidental bumps and scrapes. BHA will coordinate with Mr. Defoe to provide more in-depth interpretive signage to help visitors learn more about this impressive boat.

RIDERS OF THE STORMS EXHIBIT

An exciting new exhibit will be opening in May, for a limited time. Since 2018, local author and historian Bob Nelson has undertaken a project documenting historic boats of Bayfield in a series of folk art paintings. The series has grown to well over 40 paintings, the majority of which will be on display at BHA, with a brief history of each boat provided. Bob has agreed to give a presentation on this series in late May, kicking off the museum season. Watch for more details, coming soon!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the very beginnings of Bayfield Heritage Association, when this organization started out as a group of concerned citizens campaigning to save the historic courthouse - our work has been funded by your generosity. In late 2022, we once again appealed to you for financial support, and you once again responded. For nearly 50 years now, you've kept the lights on.

We are so thankful to each of you - not only for helping BHA meet budgetary goals but for your volunteerism, the archives we've built up together, and for all you do to help us fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing the history and culture of the Bayfield area. It's astonishing to see the list of donors filling up the entire last page of this newsletter. Because of you, we are well on our way to our 2023 fundraising goal of \$55,000. Together, we bring history to life!

If you haven't yet made a contribution this year, I invite you to explore ways to give on our website, bayfieldheritage.org.

I hope to see you at an upcoming John Matthew Black presentation, a volunteer day, or an opening event for one of our new exhibits.

All my best -
Jerry Phillips

WE LIKE MIKE!

Meet BHA board member Mike Spence

Longtime Bayfield resident Mike Spence joined the board of directors at BHA in 2022 and has quickly delved into an exciting new project.

With his professional background as an architect, Mike brings a perspective that is simultaneously methodical and creative. He's a natural fit for the BHA board, having had a range of civic and community engagement as a volunteer at Bayfield Presbyterian Church and serving on the city's Architectural Review Board among others.

It was Mike's passion for sailing that originally brought him to the Bayfield area, so it's no surprise he is working to document the history of sailing on Lake Superior, from 1950 to today. As he often says, "history doesn't mean old!" and it's true - we are always making history.

While he and his wife Kathy are frequent travelers with adventurous spirits, they always come back home to Bayfield.

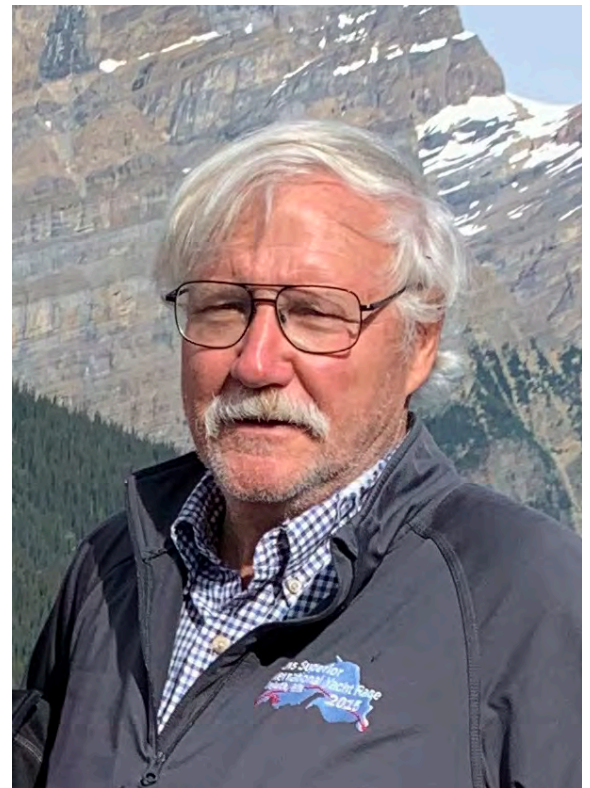


Photo courtesy of Kathy Spence

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Phillips, President | Marilyn Van Sant, Vice President | Sue Gerzina, Secretary | Marti Peterson, Treasurer
Kristin Connell | Mary Jo Fairbanks | Ellen Hauser | John Klungness | Mike Spence | Dan Wilczek

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bayfield Heritage Association gladly announces the return of in-person programming for our 2023 John Matthew Black lecture series. BHA recognizes that Covid-19, along with seasonal illnesses like influenza, can still pose a real risk to some in our community. We ask that individuals use their own best judgment when choosing whether to gather for these events. Masks are welcome but not required. Programs will be recorded and made available online, so be sure to stay connected via our website, and our social media channels!

A. BOOTH & SONS PACKING CO. - 1884 - 1958



JMB PROGRAM:

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
2:00PM - 3:00PM**

PRESENTED BY:

BOB NELSON

AT BHA - 30 NORTH BROAD STREET, BAYFIELD

Join local historian and author Bob Nelson for this "historical and pictorial" look back at Bayfield's largest ever purveyor of fish products in the Apostle Islands and outlying waters. The primary information source for this program was a series of articles (1884 – 1962) from the old Bayfield County Press, with previously unpublished photos contributed by area families.

COMING UP NEXT...

Upcoming John Matthew Black presentations:

- Dan Wilczek on R. D. Pike (in conjunction with the new exhibit), Wednesday, August 23rd

Bayfield Model Railroad cleaning & maintenance day! Do you love trains? We are seeking volunteers for a fun work bee followed by lunch (provided), 10 am, Thursday, April 20th. Space is limited; call 715-779-5958 to sign up or for more information.

Museum Volunteer Orientation in May (date TBD): as you plan your summer months in Bayfield, consider volunteering 3 hours a week at BHA! Training is provided and you will meet many interesting visitors.



Bayfield Model Railroad exhibit

YOURS IN GRATITUDE - THANK YOU DONORS!

DONATIONS

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Ross & Sue Ann Smith
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MEMORIALS

In Memory of Chuck Ludwigsen
Anonymous
Austin-Miller Studio & Gallery
Donald & Sallie Lightman

In Memory of Mary H. Rice
Joanne's Scandinavian Gifts
Margaret Erickson

Jennifer Albrecht - *In Memory of Donald G. Albrecht*
Jerome & Judy Bird - *In Memory of Harriet & Vermont Johnson*
Carl Dahl - *In Memory of Peter, Tom & Warren Jensch*
Kenneth Dahl - *In Memory of Mari Dahl*
Celia Duquette - *In Memory of Donald Duquette*
Jim & Judy Edwards - *In Memory of Frances Edwards*
Sigurd Hadland - *In Memory of Robert Hadland*
Lars & Barbara Larson - *In Memory of Scotten Knight Hale*
Lin Pomeroy - *In Memory of Walt Pomeroy*
John T. Reque - *In Memory of William G. Reque*
Richard G. Thompson - *In Memory of Kelly Marie Kirchner-Nelson*
Paula Johnson Sheehan - *In Memory of Ruth & Henry Johnson*
Bert Zimmer - *In Memory of Betsy Iverson Zimmer*

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Jo Ellen Gonzo & Jane Halvorson - *In Honor of Mary Halvorson's Birthday via Facebook*

FOUNTAIN GARDEN PARK

DONATIONS

Dianne & Paul Nussbaum

GRANTS

Town of Bayfield - *For R.D. Pike Exhibit*

