

Pioneer Tribune
Oct 14 2004

Page 6A

New book investigates 'Christmas Ship' story

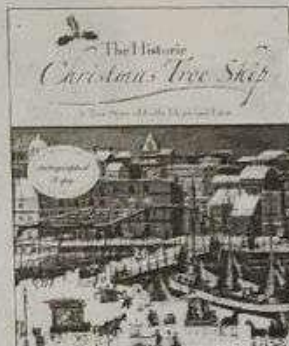
It's probably the most famous piece of Schoolcraft County history, spoken of in articles, books, poems, stories and songs. Now, with the publication of a new volume, the fate of the legendary "Christmas Tree Ship" has received the definitive chronicle it deserves.

Wisconsin author Rochelle Pennington has released "The Historic Christmas Tree Ship: A True Story of Faith, Hope and Love." The book is a detailed 320-page account of the November 1912 sinking of the Rouse Simmons, a schooner carrying a load of Christmas trees from Thompson to Chicago, where they were to be sold directly from the deck to eager Windy City families.

Through photographs, interviews and hundreds of newspaper reports, including some from the Pioneer-Tribune, Pennington assembles the complete story of the Rouse Simmons, its captain and crew, its final voyage and the aftermath.

She covers familiar territory, such as the storm, the sinking and the unsuccessful rescue attempts, and fills in many of the gaps that are so prominent in other accounts.

Unlike most previous versions of the story, "The Historic Christmas Tree Ship" closely details the vessel's ties to Thompson and Manistique, dissects press coverage of the disaster, thoroughly examines the many myths and legends that arose after the sinking, and takes an in depth look at the years afterward, when Captain



Rochelle Pennington's new book on the famed "Christmas Tree Ship"

Herman Schuenemann's widow and daughters carried on the family's Christmas tree business.

The book is Pennington's

second on the subject. She previously wrote "The Christmas Tree Ship: The Story of Captain Santa," which features the work of marine artist Charles Vickery.

During the upcoming holiday season, viewers of the Weather Channel will see some of Pennington's research during an episode of the popular "Storm Stories" program, which will air at least 12 times between Nov. 28 and Dec. 30. Pennington is interviewed during the program.

"The Historic Christmas Tree Ship" is published by Pathways Press. The cover price is \$17.95.

For more information, call the publisher toll-free at (800) 503-5507.

'Christmas Ship' author plans visit to Thompson

Because it was sailing to Chicago and sank off Wisconsin, residents in those areas have always touted the historic Christmas Tree Ship as their own. But many people in Schoolcraft County lay their own claim to the legendary vessel, which departed from Thompson Harbor with a load of locally-grown trees on its final journey into the pages of history.

Unlike many others who have written about the Rouse Simmons, Rochelle Pennington gives Thompson its due in her new book, and will be coming to the area later this month to talk about it.

The Thompson Township Board is hosting an appearance by Pennington Saturday, Oct. 23, at 2 p.m., at the township hall on US-2. She will be signing copies of her book, and will be happy to discuss her research, the Rouse Simmons' connection to the area, and other aspects of the story.

Also on hand will be singer-songwriter Carl Behrend, who will perform his song, "The Christmas Tree Ship." Coffee and dessert will be available for everyone.

For more information, contact Township Clerk Laurie Jasmin at 341-6338.

The Beginning...

Author, Rochelle Pennington kicked off our project by agreeing to come to Thompson for her first book signing for "The Historic Christmas Tree Ship, A True Story of Faith, Hope and Love".



Pioneer Tribune

The voice of the Central U.P. since 1876

2 Sections, 12 pages

Manistique, Michigan

Thursday, January 26, 2006

A welcome project

A quick tip of the hat to the folks in Thompson Township, who have worked so long and so hard to bring a new historical marker to the area. If you're unfamiliar with the story, check below for a little more information. State officials have now approved the site and the marker. The text will soon be written. Money is being raised.

This is an important project for folks in Thompson Township and the rest of Schoolcraft County in several ways, economically, educationally, and, of course, historically. It will be a service to tourists and researchers, and it will at long last give this area its proper due in the legendary "Christmas Ship" story – a story often appropriated by other communities whose ties to the Rouse Simmons are not nearly as strong as ours.

Congratulations to Laurie Jasmin and her fellow volunteers for what they've accomplished so far.

We hope people recognize the significance of their work and the benefits it will bring, and will consider supporting the project with a financial contribution.

State officials OK Thompson marker

by Paul Olson

Things are looking good for officials in Thompson Township, who have been working for several years to obtain a new historic marker. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recently approved the marker, which will detail the history of the area and the sailing of the Rouse Simmons, the legendary "Christmas Tree Ship."

At the Jan. 19 meeting of the LEAD (Leadership for Economic Action and Development) Committee, Township Clerk Laurie Jasmin said SHPO will draft the text for the marker by June 1. It will then be sent here for approval by the township board and the Thompson Historical Advisory Committee before going back to the Michigan Historical Commission for a final OK.

Once that takes place, the marker will be manufactured and the site will be officially placed on the state register of historic places as the "last port

of call for the historic Christmas Tree Ship."

Jasmin said they've also received approval from the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Natural Resources for a marker location, near the former boat launch at the township park, just off US-2.

The advisory committee is still raising money for the project, which is expected to cost approximately \$5,000, including the \$3,000 cost of the marker itself.

So far, Jasmin said, they've raised \$1,800, thanks to a \$1,000 donation from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and \$800 generated by a spaghetti dinner last fall. To raise the balance, they will be looking at other fund-raising ideas for the coming months.

Jasmin noted that much of the site preparation and installation costs will be covered by using local residents, who have already volunteered to do the work.

Marker will honor 'Christmas Tree Ship'

Julie Knauf
jknauf@dailypress.net

MANISTIQUE — An old holiday tradition will be recognized if members of the Thompson Historical Advisory Committee have their way. They hope to bring some yuletide spirit to the area with a marker honoring Capt. Herman Schuenemann's legendary "Christmas Tree Ship."

The marker would be located at the Department of Natural Resources fishing access site in Thompson, at the end

of the parking lot close to where the area's docks once existed.

"We'd like the marker to be two-sided and one side would tell the history of the ship and the other side would

tell the story of Thompson Township," said Laurie Jasmin, Thompson Township clerk and chair of the committee.

Throughout its lengthy existence, the Christmas Tree Ship,

a three-masted schooner originally

Gladstone resident has fond memories of the "Christmas Tree Ship."

— Page 6A

See SHIP on page 5A

Ship: Marker will honor Christmas tree ship

Continued from page 1A

named the Rouse Simmons, was used to carry more than a thousand cargoes in and out of the Chicago harbor.

Schuenemann used the ship to transport Christmas trees from the Upper Peninsula into Chicago. The annual voyage was the last of the sailing season.

On Nov. 23, 1912, a large storm sank the ship off Two Rivers, Wis. Schuenemann and all hands were lost.

Today, the legendary "Christmas Tree Ship" lies at the bottom of Lake Michigan.

"It's just a fascinating story," said Jasmin.

There were many schooner captains that transported lumber from the Upper Peninsula to Chicago, but Schuenemann was especially well-liked, she said.

At a glance

Capt. Schuenemann's "Christmas Tree Ship" will be featured on The Weather Channel:

- Monday, Dec. 19 — 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 21 — 9 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Midnight
- Thursday, Dec. 22 — Noon
- Friday, Dec. 23 — 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 24 — 2 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 25 — Noon

He was a generous man who gave Christmas trees free-of-charge to families in Chicago that couldn't afford them. While visiting the Upper Penin-

sula, he brought candy for the local children and visited residents, she said.

Jasmin, a sixth-generation resident of Thompson, remembers her great-grandfather used to help load Christmas trees onto the Rouse Simmons.

"Cap' used to stay with great-grandfather," she said. The pair ate meals together and chatted.

Schuenemann and his Christmas Tree Ship were very popular in the area, she said.

"I've been told that a lot of people come to Thompson looking for information about the Christmas Tree Ship," she said. "Tourism is a major component in our area. It would be one more component that would add to the attraction of Schoolcraft County."

The committee has been working towards approval of the marker for

almost a year now. The DNR has given its permission. The next step is approval from Michigan's Historical Preservation Office.

Schoolcraft County's Economic Development Corporation and state Rep. Stephen Adamini have both written letters of support to the office in hopes of establishing the marker. In November, the Schoolcraft County Board agreed to write a letter of support also.

"It appears the marker won't be too expensive, either," said Jasmin. The committee plans to keep costs for its construction under \$3,500, not including landscaping. They hope to get money for the marker via fund-raisers and donations from local residents.

Julie Knauf, (906) 786-2021, ext. 145, jknauf@dailypress.net

Friday

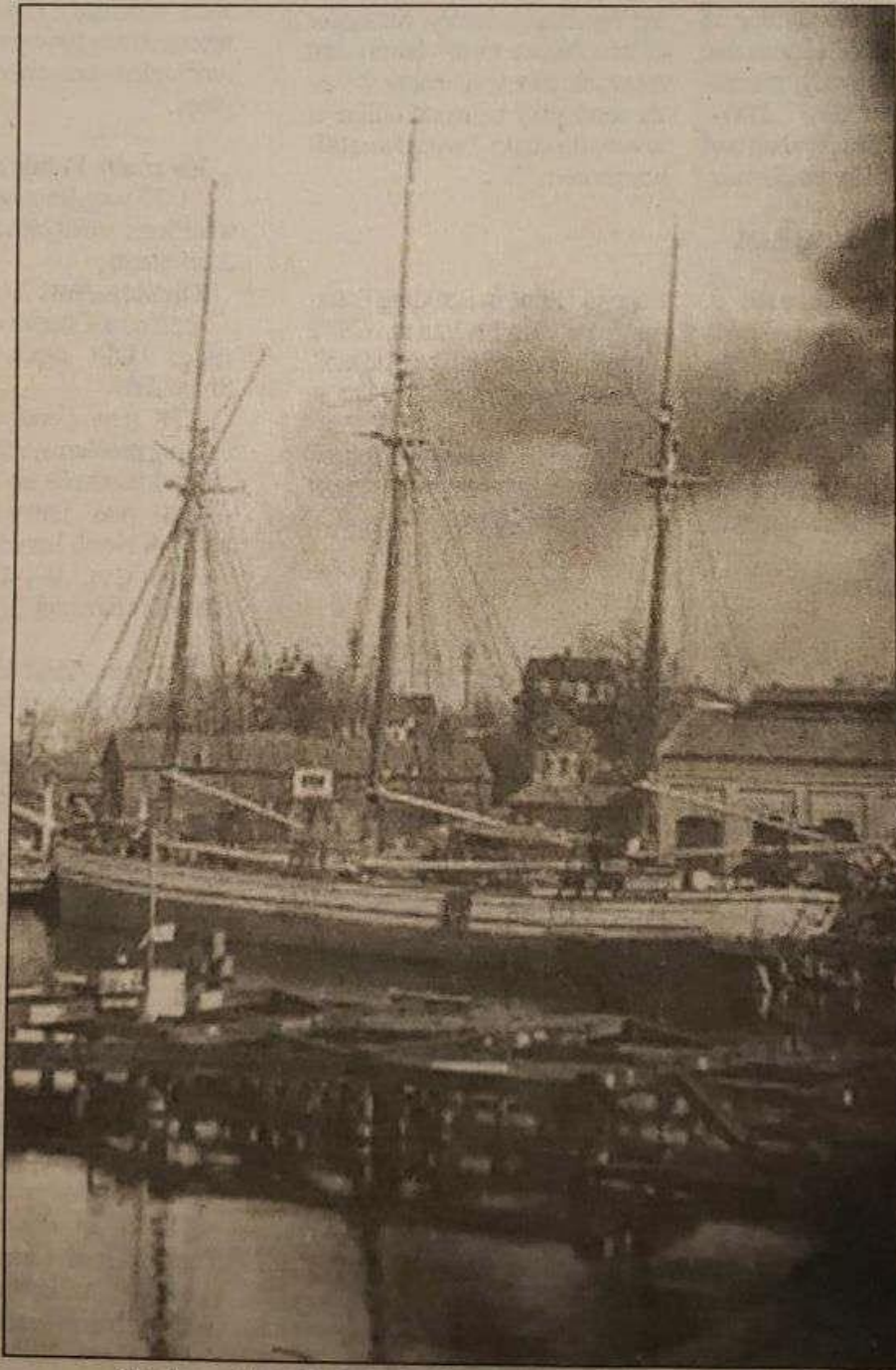
December 16, 2005

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DAILY PRESS

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97th Year No. 231



Courtesy of Laurie Jasmin, Thompson Historical Advisory Committee

Capt. Herman Schuenemann's legendary "Christmas Tree Ship" was famous for transporting Christmas trees from the Upper Peninsula into Chicago annually. Here, the ship is shown docked in a harbor. A marker dedicated to the ship is planned in Thompson Township.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

July 13, 2005

Ms. Laurie Jasmin, Chairperson
Thompson Historical Advisory Committee
Thompson Township Clerk
12515 N. Stanley Road
Manistique, Michigan 49854

Dear Ms. Jasmin:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Parks and Recreation Division, Baraga District Supervisor, Mr. Mike Cieslinski, forwarded the Thompson Historical Advisory Committee's request to place an historic marker at a Parks and Recreation Division boating access site (Thompson Creek 77-13) in Schoolcraft County. I understand the purpose of the marker is to provide visitor interpretation on the history of the Thompson area. I feel this project will be very worthwhile and you are granted approval to proceed.

Mr. Cieslinski will work with you to establish the specific marker location. Our intent is to eliminate any possible interference with boating activities at the public launch site. My permission to erect the marker is predicated on your group taking responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the marker as well as any items associated with the marker at the site. Thank you for your interest in interpreting the history of the Thompson area.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Mike Cieslinski at:

BARAGA OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER
427 US-41 NORTH
BARAGA, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Sincerely,

Ron Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division
517-335-4827

cc: Representative Steve Adamini
Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR
Mr. Rodney Stokes, Legislative Liaison, DNR
Mr. James Ekdahl, UP Deputy Director, DNR
Mr. George Cameron, Field Operation Chief, DNR
Mr. Mike Cieslinski, DNR
Mr. Lee Vaughn, DNR

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www.michigan.gov/dnr □ (517) 373-2329

BART STUPAK
1ST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

2352 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2201

PHONE: (202) 225-4735
FAX: (202) 225-4744

<http://www.house.gov/stupak>
(Email through Website)

SCOTT SCHLOEGEL—CHIEF OF STAFF
TOM BALDINI—DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

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NORTHERN BORDER CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
RURAL CAUCUS
ASSISTANT WHIP

March 31, 2006

Laurie Jasmin, Clerk
Thompson Township
Thompson Historic Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 174
Manistique, MI 49854

Dear Ms. Jasmin;

Permit me to lend my support to the efforts of the Thompson Historical Advisory Committee to have a historical marker placed on the shoreline of Lake Michigan in Thompson Township.

Recognizing the reasons for the founding of the township in the late 1800's, the important contribution of the community to the timber industry, the role the township played in the rich history of the Upper Peninsula and the State of Michigan and its significance in the "Christmas Tree Ship" are reasons enough to have a marker for all of us to remember and share with others. Historical markers are important for an area and also contribute to the overall tourism attraction.

I think it is a great idea and it is important for us as a State to remember the contributions of the past for the current and future generations.

If my office can provide any other assistance to get this marker designated and installed, please feel free to contact me or one of my staff.

Sincerely,

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress

BTS/ tlb

PLEASE REPLY TO:

111 EAST CHESHOLM ALPENA, MI 49707 (989) 356-0690
 2 SOUTH 6TH STREET SUITE 3 CRYSTAL FALLS, MI 49920 (906) 875-3751
 902 LUDINGTON STREET ESCANABA, MI 49829 (906) 786-4504
 616 SHILDEN HOUGHTON, MI 49931 (906) 482-1371
 1229 WEST WASHINGTON MARQUETTE, MI 49855 (906) 228-3700
 200 DIVISION STREET PETOSKEY, MI 49770 (231) 348-0657
 512 EAST HOUGHTON AVENUE WEST BRANCH, MI 48661 (989) 345-2258

DISTRICT TOLL FREE: 800-950-REP1 (7371)

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STEPHEN ADAMINI
MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
109TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH POLICY (VC)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ACCESS
TRANSPORTATION
JUDICIARY
MICHIGAN LAW REVISION COMMISSION

May 31, 2005

Mr. Mike Cieslinski, District Manager
Baraga District Office
Department of Natural Resources
427 US-41 North
Baraga, MI 49908

Dear Mr. Cieslinski:

I am writing today in support of the Thompson Historical Advisory Committee's attempt to secure land from the Department of Natural Resources for a historical marker and small park. It is my hope that you give their petition your full consideration.

I believe that this project would enhance local tourism through the creation of a historical destination describing the significance of Thompson, Michigan. The committee's plan centers on erecting a historical marker within a small park on land which is currently being used as a parking lot. This marker would center on the story of the "Christmas Tree Ship" which was lost in a November 22, 1912 storm off of Two Rivers, Wisconsin shortly after loading up its yearly shipment of Christmas trees in Thompson harbor.

This project would not only affect Thompson, but would also draw additional tourists into other Schoolcraft county landmarks. It is because of the wide reaching goals of the committee that I lend my full support to their efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you would like additional information please do not hesitate to contact my office.

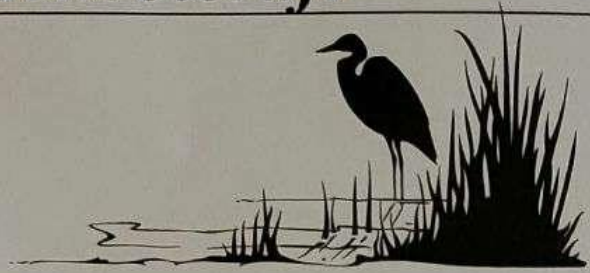
Regards,

STEPHEN F. ADAMINI
State Representative
109th State House District



County of Schoolcraft

Chairperson, Keith P. Aldrich, District No. 3
Vice-chairperson, Daniel R. McKinney, District No. 2
Commissioner Lindsley B. Frenette, District No. 1
Commissioner Margaret A. Arnold, District No. 5
Commissioner Scott R. Chartier, District No. 4



November 18, 2005

Ms. Laura Ashlee
Michigan Historical Marker Program
State Historical Preservation Office
Bureau of Michigan History
Michigan Department of State
Lansing, Michigan

Re: Thompson Township Historical Marker Project

Dear Ms. Ashlee:

At a duly noticed meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners on November 14, 2005, it was moved and seconded to support the Thompson Township Historical Marker Project.

This historical marker will showcase the famous Christmas Tree Ship and will allow Thompson Township to share their rich history, instilling a sense of pride and place to the residents of the Township and the County. It will also be a draw for tourism, a major industry in the Upper Peninsula.

We are asking that you look favorably at their application and approve Thompson Township the right to install this proposed historical marker.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Keith P. Aldrich

Keith P. Aldrich, Chairperson
Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners

Schoolcraft County Chamber of Commerce



December 5, 2005

Ms. Laura Ashlee
Michigan Historical Marker Program
State Historic Preservation Office
Bureau of Michigan History
Michigan Department of State
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Ashlee,

The Board of Directors of the Schoolcraft County Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly endorses the efforts of the Thompson Township Board and Thompson Historical Advisory Committee to receive a state historic marker and designate their area as "The Last Port of Call for the Historic Christmas Tree Ship."

We feel such a marker would be a service to the thousands of tourists and other out-of-town visitors who pass through our area each year, providing valuable information on a famous chapter of Great Lakes history and new insight into the history, people, culture and events not only of Thompson Township but the neighboring town of Manistique and all of Schoolcraft County. It would also provide a critical boost to our tourism industry.

Over the past few years, the chamber has watched with pride as the county, city of Manistique and townships came together in an unprecedented show of unity to secure Michigan Economic Development Corporation funding for an economic feasibility study, then teamed up on a new inter-governmental committee to pursue the goals of that study. The study looked at four key areas: industrial, retail, housing and tourism, suggesting numerous long-range objectives and short-term strategies for growth in all of those areas. One of the tourism-oriented projects created as a result of the study was the county's new "circle tour," highlighting many areas of natural or historical significance, including the old Thompson dock and harbor. A historical marker would greatly enhance that area and further support our efforts to build our local economy through tourism.

As you may know, the Christmas Tree Ship is often "claimed" by other cities in other states, since it was sailing for Chicago and sank off the shores of Wisconsin. Thompson (and the state of Michigan) are frequently overlooked by history fans and shipwreck buffs in pursuit of the Christmas Ship story. Yet understandably we believe this area has one of the strongest claims of all to the vessel and its legendary tale, since it sailed from here, with a load of Christmas trees from our own forests, and had strong, direct connections to local families who still live here today.

The Schoolcraft County Chamber of Commerce believes a Christmas Ship marker in Thompson Township makes sense historically, educationally, culturally and economically. We hope the State Historic Preservation Office agrees.

Sincerely,

Paul Olson
President
Schoolcraft County Chamber of Commerce

1000 West Lakeshore Drive, Manistique, Michigan 49854

Phone: 906/341-5010

Toll Free 888-819-7420

Fax: 906/341-1549

E-Mail chamber@upmail.com

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY

Economic Development Corporation

Building
Schoolcraft
County
One Success
at a time!

*Ms. Laura Ashlee
Michigan Historical Marker Program
State Historical Preservation Office
Bureau of Michigan History
Michigan Department of State*

August 1, 2005

Dear Ms. Ashley:

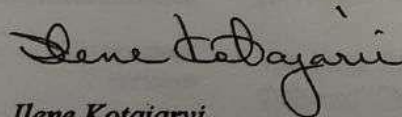
I am writing on behalf of the Schoolcraft County Economic Development Corporation to give our enthusiastic support to Thompson Township for their Historical Marker Project.

A historical marker showcasing the famous Christmas Tree Ship will allow Thompson Township to share their rich history. It will instill a sense of pride and place to the community and will also be a great draw for tourism.

Thompson Township is progressing rapidly and we strongly believe that this opportunity if approved will benefit Thompson and Schoolcraft County for years to come.

We hope you look favorably at this application and approve Thompson Township the right to install a Historical Marker for their Township.

Sincerely,



*Ilene Kotajarvi
Executive Director*



November 29, 2005

Thompson Township
Laurie Jasmine
P.O. Box 174
Manistique, MI 49854

**Office of the
Tribal Chairperson**

Aaron A. Payment, MPA

523 Ashmun Street

Sault Ste. Marie

Michigan

49783

Phone

906-635-8640
or 1-888-94-AARON

Fax

906-632-6086

Email

apayment@saulttribe.net

**Government
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**Membership
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**Economic
Development
Commission**

Re: Thompson Historical Marker

Dear Laurie Jasmine,

On behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors has selected Thompson Historical Marker, under Thompson Historical Advisory Committee as a worthy project for 2% funding. The application provided to us named Thompson Township as the local unit of government to receive these funds for disbursement. (If this information is in error, or you do not wish to participate and want to return the check, please call and we will rectify the situation.)

I am honored to transmit our check in the amount of \$1,000.00 toward this endeavor. This represents payment for the period April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005, the Fall Cycle, and is in accordance with our gaming revenue sharing agreement with the State of Michigan.

Under our agreement with the State of Michigan, a portion of the Tribe's gaming revenue is set aside to compensate local units of State government for services provided to the Tribe and its Members.

We look forward to continued cooperation between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Thompson Township in order to provide services for the general public as well as our Tribal citizens.

Sincerely,

Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson

AAP/djm

Enclosures(2)



JENNIFER GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES
LANSING

DR. WILLIAM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR

June 12, 2006

Ms. Laurie Jasmin
Thompson Township Clerk
P O Box 174
Manistique, MI 49854

Dear Ms. Jasmin:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that on May 24, 2006, the Michigan Historical Commission granted permission to erect a historical marker for Thompson and the Christmas Tree Ship. It will read as follows in the attached text. Important information regarding the delivery of the marker is explained below. **Please read this letter carefully and provide a copy to the business that will take delivery of the marker!**

Examine the attached copy carefully, paying particular attention to the dates and spelling of names. If there are no factual or typographical errors, write the word *approved* on the copy, **sign** it and return it to us with your remittance. We are requesting a check from you in the amount of \$2,900, payable to the State of Michigan for a large informational (two-post) marker with different text on each side. ***The check should be mailed with the marker text to: Receipt Processing, Department of History, Arts and Libraries, Box 30737, Lansing, MI 48909-8237.*** Once the check is received, we will order the marker. It will be delivered to the address you listed on your application within twelve to fourteen weeks.

Please note: You must inform the recipient that the marker may be delivered at any time within the next three months. **Freight companies will call ahead to schedule a delivery between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.** You must identify someone to accept delivery and assist the driver in unloading the marker from the truck. The marker will be shipped from Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio, which will mail you a shipping notice. ***When the marker arrives, inspect the exterior of the crate for damage. If there are holes or tears in the crate, check to be sure neither the marker nor the posts are damaged.*** If damage has occurred, or you have difficulty with the delivery **REFUSE DELIVERY** and telephone Sewah Studios **immediately** at 740-373-2087. **Please Note! If You Sign for Damaged Merchandise You Will Have to Pay for a Replacement!!!** Please notify us within seven days of the delivery of your marker. Any late charges incurred as a result of your failure to notify this office will also be your responsibility.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER
702 WEST KALAMAZOO STREET • P.O. BOX 30740 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-8240
(517) 373-1630
www.michigan.gov/hal

State Historic Preservation Office
Mr. Brian D. Conway to Ms. Laurie Jasmin

June 12, 2006
Page 2

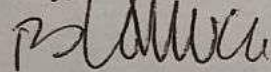
Please contact Laura Ashlee regarding your dedication plans at 517/335-2725. If you wish, she will supply you with sample programs from past dedications to assist you in planning your event, and she will be happy to contact a member of the Historical Commission, or one of its representatives, to dedicate the marker for you.

In order to retain your marker into the future, you are expected to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office and comply with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation for any work that you undertake to your property. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions. We can also mail you a copy of the standards.

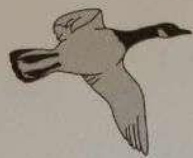
I encourage you to keep abreast of historic preservation activities by joining the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. The network publishes a quarterly newsletter and hosts an annual conference each spring, which brings together preservationists from throughout the state. The network's website is: www.mhpn.org.

We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding your text and your dedication plans.

Sincerely,



Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer



Schoolcraft County
community foundation™
For **good.** For **ever.**

April 26, 2006

Thompson Historical Advisory Committee
Laurie Jasmin
1251S North Stanley Rd.
Manistique, MI 49854

Dear Ms. Jasmin:

The Schoolcraft County Community Foundation is pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors has awarded \$200 to help with installing a state historical marker commemorating Thompson as the last port of call of the Christmas Tree Ship.

We would appreciate acknowledgment of the Schoolcraft County Community Foundation's contribution to this event in any future publicity.

The board and I welcome this opportunity to work with you toward our common goal of improving the quality of life for all who live in Schoolcraft County.

Sincerely,

Jack MacFarlane
Executive Director

JM/clh

An affiliate of the Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula
P.O. Box 452 Manistique, MI 49854 Tel: 906-341-2834 Fax: 906-341-2834
Email: sccf@up.net Website: www.cfup.org

Thompson Historical Advisory Committee

1251S N. Stanley Road
Manistique, MI 49854
Phone (906) 341-6338
laurie@uplogon.com

Fundraiser Report November 19, 2005

Committee Members: Meg Wnuk, Charlene Crosby, Deanna Fish & Laurie Jasmin

Total Funds Raised \$862.00

Less Cost of Food Items (\$149.94)

At this time, I do not have the bill from the Advisor for our ad. We will also be running a Thank you ad.

Served approximately 60 people

Thank You cards will be mailed to those who donated Art items for raffle and bake sale items and to the women who helped the committee in the kitchen, set up or clean up.

Workers: Beth Malloch, Shirley Stanley, Roe LaPlante, Dorothy Rochefort, & Lisa Boudreau.

Bake Sale Items donated by: Roe LaPlante, Guerda Frenette, Shirley Stanley, Kathy Stanley, Lisa Boudreau, Dorothy Rochefort, Theresa Lund, Beth Malloch, and committee members Deanna, Charlene, Meg, Laurie.

Art/Craft Items:

Wood Carved Morel Mushroom – Donated by Wayne Stanley – Won by Rick Toncray
Decorated & Lighted Christmas Wreath – Donated by Donna LaFoilie – Won by Joel Hoholik
Hand Crocheted Kitchen Towel/Hotpad Set – Donated by Theresa Lund – won by Beth Malloch

Hand made Amulet Bag Necklace – Donated by Meg Wnuk – Won by Mark Chevront
Hand Painted Silk Suncatcher (Moose) – Donated by Nancy Lymangrover – Won by Meg Wnuk

Hand Painted Silk Suncatcher (Tree) – Donated by Nancy Lymangrover – Won by Beth Malloch

Hand Painted Silk Scarf – Donated by Nancy Lymangrover – won by Judy Slingsby

Snowman Light – Donated by Deanna Fish – Won by Cheryl Ranguette

Rouse Simmons Hand Woven Basket – Donated by Meg Wnuk – won by Sally Dufour

Walking Stick – Donated by Harry Whaling – won by Cheryl Rangette

Walking Stick – Donated by Harry Whaling – won by Dan LaFoilie

Leather Art – Donated by Jody Wnuk – won by Joel Hoholik

Autographed copy of The Historic Christmas Tree Ship book – Donated by author Rochelle Pennington – won by Rick Toncray

Original Drawing Roses in Vase – Donated by Robin Mulligan – won by Penny McKay

Wood Reindeer – Donated by Ernie Hoholik – won by Joel Hoholik

Stone Birdhouse – Donated by Karen Klaus – won by Joel Hoholik

Finch Feeder – Donated by Dan Crosby – won by Laurie Jasmin

Lighthouse Tote Bag – Donated by Barbara Collins – Won by Ona Allen

Euchre Board – Donated by George Fish – won by Dorothy Rochefort

Christmas Ship Story Donated by Laurie Jasmin – won by Charlene Turek



The Following Email was written to Author Rochelle Pennington (The Historic Christmas Tree Ship) from Mr. Jim Brotz after he had examined the above photo. Mr. Brotz has made many dives to the Rouse Simmons and was responsible for the restoration of the schooner's wheel. The wheel is kept at the Rogers Street Fishing Museum, Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

>>>

>>>As I explained in our recent phone conversation about the possibility of
>>>the Thompson Mich. photo being the "Rouse Simmons", I can only give
>>>strong circumstantial evidence. The photo of the Rouse Simmons, with the
>>>name board clearly shown on the stern (Rouse Simmons of St. James) was
>>>taken in 1909 at the So. 8th Street Bridge in Sheboygan, WI. (photo in
>>>Runge Collection, Milwaukee Public Library and on page #209 of your book,
>>>"The Historic Christmas Tree Ship". This photo was used in my
>>>determination that the boom and gaffs on the Thompson photo and Sheboygan
>>>photo both appeared to be white under strong magnification. There is
>>>also the pin stripe under the handrail on the bulwarks. It is my belief
>>>that the white boom and gaffs would be the "smoking gun" that this is
>>>indeed the Rouse Simmons. If the original negative can be located maybe
>>>some local photo shop or lab could enlarge the bow section and bring out
>>>the nameboard.

>>>

>>>I was unable to meet up with Kent Bellrichard this past weekend as his
>>>elderly mother was ill and he could not make the trip.

>>>

>>>Thanks again for the photos and the correspondence.

>>>

>>>Happy Holidays.

>>>

>>>Jim and Susie

>>>

>>>

Genealogy of Captain Herman and Mrs. Barbara Schuenemann

Captain Herman Schuenemann and Miss Barbara Schindel were married April 9, 1891 in Chicago, Illinois. Exactly nine months later, to the very day, the Schuenemann family welcomed their firstborn, a daughter. Two more daughters, fraternal twins born in 1898, completed their family.

Children/Grandchildren:

Elsie Schuenemann

Born: January 9, 1892
Died: January 31, 1950; Age 58
Baptized: March 6, 1892 - "Elsa Christine Louise"
Address at time of birth: 170 LaSalle Avenue, Chicago
Husband: Arthur E. Roberts
Children: One son, Arthur F. Roberts
Born: September 10, 1920
Baptized: January 9, 1921 - "Arthur Fred Edward"
Address at time of birth: 1638 N. Clark Street, Chicago
Note: This was the address of Captain Herman Schuenemann in 1912.

Pearl Schuenemann (Twin)

Born: October 6, 1898
Died: July 6, 1991; Age 92
Baptized: November 27, 1898 - "Pearlie Clara"
Address at time of birth: 693 N. Clark Street, Chicago
Husband: William H. Ehling
Children: One son, William E. Ehling
Born: March 4, 1930
Baptized: September 28, 1930 - "William Edward"
Address at time of birth: 528 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago

Hazel Schuenemann (Twin)

Born: October 6, 1898
Died: January 4, 1969; Age 70
Baptized: November 27, 1898 - "Hazel Marion"
Address at time of birth: 693 N. Clark Street, Chicago
Husband: Clarence Gronemann
Children: None

From: [REDACTED]@aol.com>
To: <laurie@uplogon.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2005 9:14 AM
Subject: Historical Marker

Laurie,

My name is Barbara Ehling and I am the great granddaughter of the "Christmas Tree Ship Captain". My father gave me the letter regarding your project and forwarded your e-mail to me. It is truly exciting!! One of my goals is to ride the coastguard "Christmas Ship" to Chicago. I will be touring some of the maritime museums with Rochelle in April. We look forward to updates on your project.

Thank you for your interest in my great grandfather.
Barb

From: "Ehling" [REDACTED]
To: <laurie@uplogon.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2005 7:27 PM
Subject: Greetings

Dear Laurie Jasmin,

Thank you for your most interesting letter about your work on the Thompson Historical Advisory Committee and the fact that your great grandfather and my grandfather knew each other. The popular play "Six Degrees of Separation" seems quite true!

We share your feelings about Rochelle Pennington. Not only is she a gifted researcher and writer but a thoroughly lovely person.

Please keep me informed about your progress.

Sincerely,
W.E.Ehling

Two-post Marker
Different Text Each Side
2" caption
1 ½" text
Schoolcraft County
Thompson Township
Side Two

Approved
M.W.
L.J. 6/21/06

CHRISTMAS TREE SHIP

1 The *Rouse Simmons* was one of the
2 last schooners on the Great Lakes.
3 Built in 1868 to carry lumber, the
4 three-masted vessel became Chicago's
5 "Christmas Tree Ship" when Herman
6 Schuenemann purchased an interest in
7 it in 1910. Around 1876 the
8 Schuenemanns had begun transporting
9 trees from northern Michigan and
10 Wisconsin to Chicago. In November
11 1898 Herman's brother August
12 perished in the wreck of the
13 schooner *S. Thal*, but Herman
14 continued the business. Bound for
15 Chicago on November 22, 1912, he
16 boarded the *Simmons*, which was
17 loaded with trees from Thompson's
18 forests, and sailed into a fierce
19 snowstorm that plunged the ship, and
20 its crew and passengers, to the lake
21 bottom. Herman's wife and daughters
22 delivered trees to Chicago each
23 Christmas until around 1934.

Michigan Historical Commission ~ Michigan Historical Center
Registered State Site No. 696

This Marker is the Property of the State of Michigan, 2006

Text authored by Laura Ashlee

Approved
with 1 correction
MJ 6/2/06 L.J.

Two-post Marker
Different Text Each Side
2" caption
1 1/2" text
Schoolcraft County
Thompson Township
Side One

THOMPSON

1 The Delta Lumber Company of Detroit,
2 headed by E. L. Thompson, platted
3 the village of Thompson in 1888.
4 Seven different lumber companies ran
5 the mill in the village. By 1907 the
6 population reached 900. Three
7 churches and four saloons served the
8 residents, as did a general store, a
9 hotel, and a hospital. Stagecoaches
10 carried passengers twice daily to
11 nearby Manistique, located along the
12 Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste.
13 Marie Railway. The Thompson Rail-
14 road, used primarily for hauling
15 logs to the docks, also took tours
16 to the Big Spring, *Kitchi-ti-ki-pi* *Kitch-iti-ki-pi*
17 Lumbering activities in Thompson
18 died out quickly, and by 1919 the
19 town's population had dropped to
20 only 150. Thompson was the last port
21 of call for the "Christmas Tree
22 Ship," *Rouse Simmons*, which sank in
23 1912.

Michigan Historical Commission ~ Michigan Historical Center
Registered State Site No. 696

This Marker is the Property of the State of Michigan, 2006

Text authored by Laura Ashlee

AERIAL VIEW OF HISTORICAL MARKER SITE
DNR FISHING ACCESS SITE, THOMPSON, MICHIGAN
TAKEN BY JODY WNUK



**FUTURE LOCATION OF MARKER
DNR FISHING ACCESS SITE
THOMPSON, MICHIGAN**





**MAY 20TH, 2006 - FIRST WORK-BEE
TO PREPARE SITE FOR MARKER
JODY & MEG WNUK
DON & PAM ZORN
ALAN & BEVERLY ASP
LAURIE JASMIN**

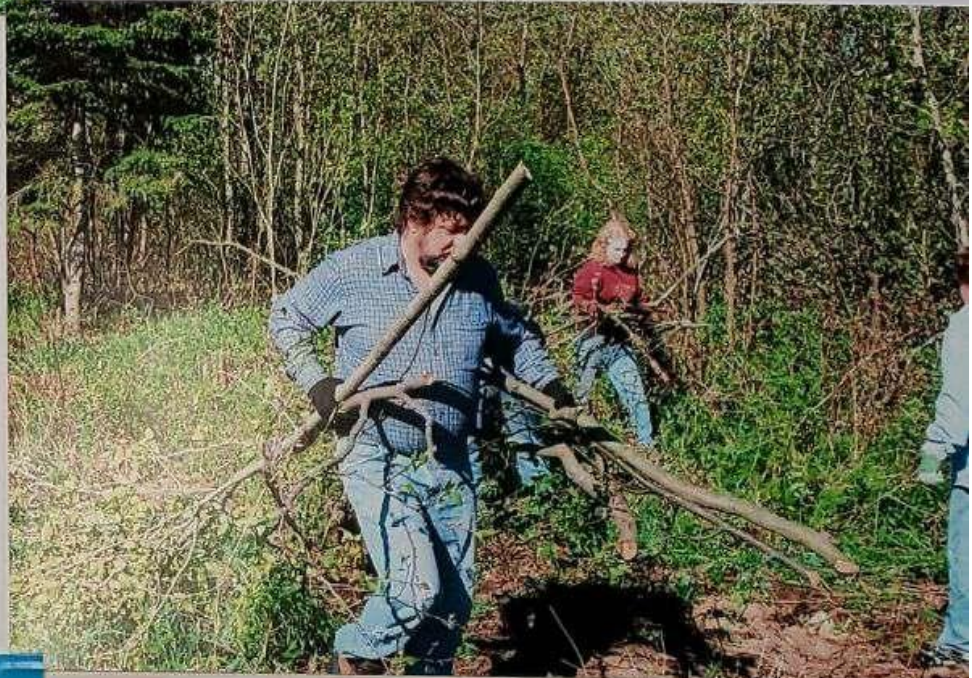
It was an incredible day to start working on the site preparations. The weather was perfect and we had the good fortune to have Jody Wnuk show up with his big "Tonka"! What we thought was going to be an all day event, turned into only a couple of hours of brush hauling. Before we knew it, the site was cleared and the brush was hauled away.

Picture top: Jody Wnuk, Meg, Alan & Beverly Asp
Right: Jody, Pam & Don Zorn
Bottom: Jody, Bev, Alan, Meg, Pam & Don





Top: Meg, Don, Pam & Alan.
(Alan thankfully brought along his chainsaw)
Right: Don, Pam & Bev
Bottom: Meg, Bev & Alan take a break





Having the trailer available for brush hauling was really nice and we had a few good chuckles when it came time to back it up for the next load (I won't say who was driving the van!).

Top: The "crew" hauls brush while Jody runs the backhoe

Middle: Meg & Don

Bottom: Bev





Top Left: Pam Zorn
Top Right: Don Zorn (Looks like he is watching Pam)
Middle: The "Crew"
Bottom: Admiring Our Work

The first workbee was completed and we were pleased with the results. The site was taking shape but we still had a ways to go.



Left: Pam takes a break. What a beautiful background.

Bottom: At the end of the first workbee, the major clearing was completed. How fortunate and appropriate it was to have a pine tree growing right behind where we wanted the marker to be located. I think everyone was satisfied with what we had accomplished.





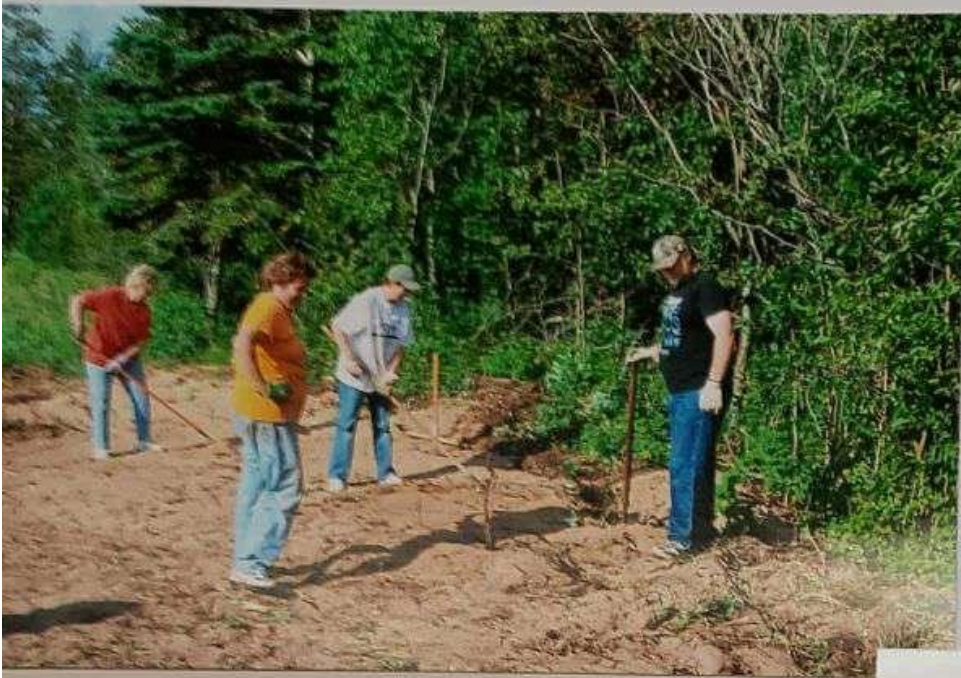
July 22nd, 2006—Workbee #2
Same Dedicated Crew: Jody & Meg Wnuk, Don & Pam Zorn,
Beverly & Alan Asp, Charlene Crosby & Laurie Jasmin

Top: Leveling out the site as Jody moves some dirt around

Middle: Jody takes out some stubborn stumps & we keep raking

Bottom: Lots of raking, bending, shoveling, etc.





Top: Char & Meg continue to rake as Bev & Alan start laying out the stakes.

Middle (L to R): Don, Char, Meg, Bev, Jody & Pam.

Bottom: Jody, Alan & Char spread out the tarp while Pam & Don rake.

(Has anyone noticed that I am not in any of these pictures yet? It appears like I may be avoiding the work in order to take the photos)



Top: Alan begins to lay out the frame work for the pad

Middle: Jody

Bottom: The whole crew





Top: The frame is finished and almost ready to set in place.
Don, as usual, keeps us all laughing

Middle & Bottom: The rebar will hold the frame in place and
Char shovels the sand along the outside edge to stabilize it.





Top: The final adjustments are made on the frame, the tarp is in place and we are ready to start filling.

Middle: Jody starts hauling in the gravel to lay the foundation

Bottom: Our first load of trail mix is delivered by the DNR





The work is done and we can stand back and admire the finished product. Now all we have to do is wait for the marker to arrive and finish cleaning up the rest of the site.
Work saved for another day!



October 14th, 2006 Setting The Marker!

9:00 a.m. on a crisp Saturday morning, with an absolutely gorgeous view on the horizon, we gathered one more time at the DNR Fishing Access Site in Thompson to set the final stage of Phase 1 in motion.

Present:

Don & Pam Zorn

Char Crosby

Jody & Meg Wnuk

Wayne Stanley

Dale & Laurie Jasmin





Top Left: Dale, Don & Jody carefully load the marker in the back of the truck.

Middle Right: Don volunteered to be in charge of keeping the sign in while we drive to the site.

Bottom Right: Jody & Don get the holes started and cut through the tarp so Dale & Wayne can start drilling the holes with the auger.

Bottom Left: Wayne & Meg supervise!



Top Left: (LtoR) Pam, Jody, Dale, Don, Wayne

Middle Right: Wayne & Dale start the auger

Bottom Left: The marker is laid out and ready to be installed

Bottom Right: Jody & Don make sure the posts are going to stay in place during the installation





Top Left: Jody, Dale & Don

Top Right: Dale & Jody get the rope tied on the marker

Bottom Left: Once again, Jody comes to the rescue and easily lifts the marker into place

Bottom Right: It was so exciting to finally see the marker standing and installed at the site.

Top Left: The final load of trail mix is leveled out after the marker had been installed.

Middle Right: Make sure the marker is level

Bottom Left: Jody raises the cover so we can all take a peek

Bottom Right: The cover is put back on until the big day





Top Left: Notice the "red hat" person just to the right of the sign? That was Char & we were forbidden to take her picture but she got caught in this one!

Top Right: (LtoR) Wayne, Jody, & Don finish leveling out the trailmix

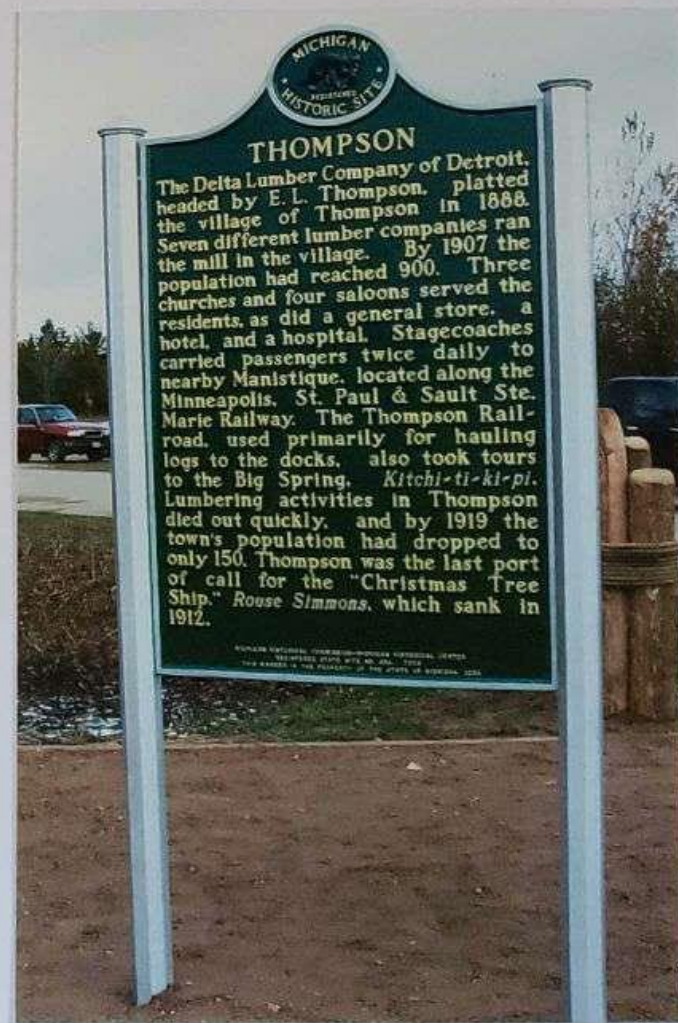
Bottom : The pilings that were built by Wayne were hauled from his house to the site by Jody (saved again) and carefully set into place.



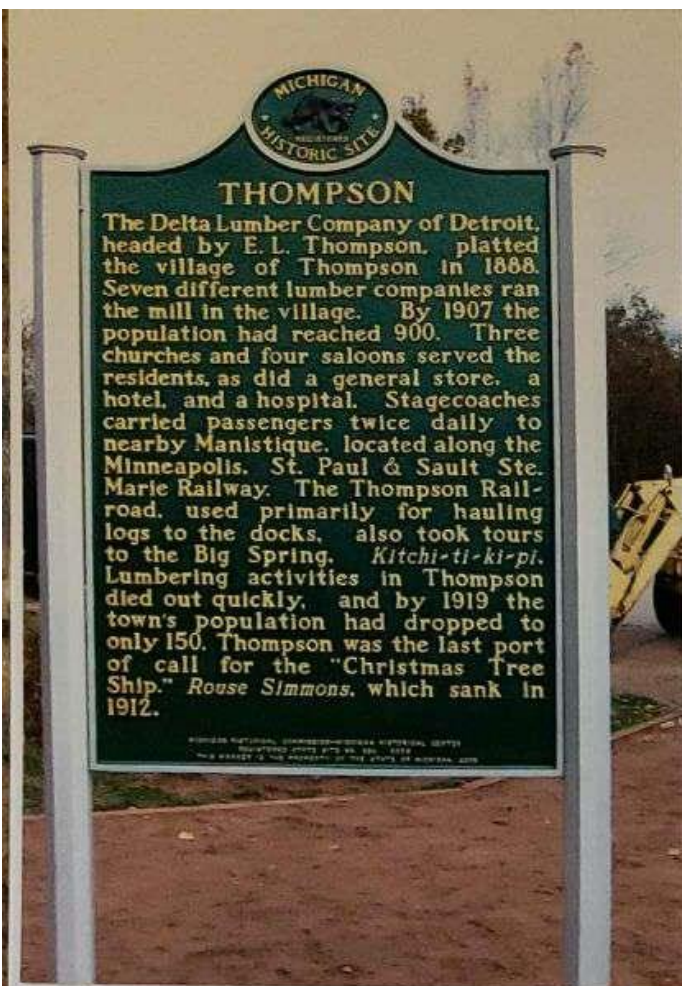
Top Left: Wayne, the person who brought this project to life.



Top Right: Wayne's dog, Gus and our newly installed marker







October 14th, 2006

After setting the marker & pilings, Meg Wnuk uncorked a bottle of Christmas Tree Ship 1st Annual Commemorative Wine to celebrate our accomplishment. This wine is made in Algoma, Wisconsin at the von Stiehl Winery. It is a Cherry Blossom Blush made with natural Door County Montmorency Cherries. Algoma was the home of Captain Herman Schuenemann. "Old days, Old times, Old friends!"

