



Museum Hits 60 Year Mark

On Saturday, September 17th, the Bernard Historical Society & Museum will celebrate its six decades of preserving the local history of southern Barry County with a Diamond Jubilee Celebration. Festivities will begin at 1 pm and run until 4 pm and will include tours of the Museum and refreshments. A scavenger hunt for children will be offered and demonstrations of fiber arts spinning, rope making and corn shucking will be offered.

What started as an idea in Dr. & Mrs. Bernard's living room in 1962, blossomed soon after into a full-blown museum and a society of like-minded residents dedicated to the idea that local history was worth preserving for future generations. Dr. Bernard donated his former hospital for the purpose of displaying the artifacts that the community so generously donated for the cause and it soon filled up. An addition was added to the building and other buildings were either moved to or built upon additional land Dr. Bernard gifted to the organization.

Today the Society is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of ten buildings (eleven if you count the old outhouse!) and the preservation and display of well over 40,000 artifacts. It would not have possible to continue this legacy for over a half-century without the help of several generations of local citizens pitching in, volunteering, and donating items and money to the cause.

We invite you to join us on September 17th for a celebration of this landmark community achievement. Or, should you not be able to attend, stop by on Saturdays from now until the end of September from 1 to 5 to peruse the grounds. As we are still shorthanded on volunteer docents there may be some Saturdays we will not be able to open, so please be patient.

For an expanded version of this newsletter please visit our website and download the file. Or visit the Delton District Library where we will have a limited number of hardcopies available.

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BERNARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Our Times

Is it time for you to renew your membership? If so, or if you are just interested in making a donation, take a moment to fill out this form and return it with your payment to: **Bernard Museum, PO Box 307, Delton, MI 49046**

You can also go to our website at: www.bernardmuseum.org and register/pay online.

Annual Family/Individual Membership (\$20)

Make check payable to: **Bernard Museum**

Lifetime Membership (\$200)

Your Name: _____

Donation (You decide amount)

Address: _____

Can we email you our newsletter to save us money?

Email address: _____

Prosper G. Bernard

. The firstborn in a small family in Marshall, Minnesota, Prosper began life on the small family farm. His father, Robert, had moved to Marshall from Serena, Illinois in 1901 and soon after married Emily Greenwood. Prosper was born in 1902 in Marshall but his only sibling, Donna (9 years younger) was born in Winnipeg, Canada in 1911 after the family had moved to land his father had purchased near the rail line where he eventually worked.

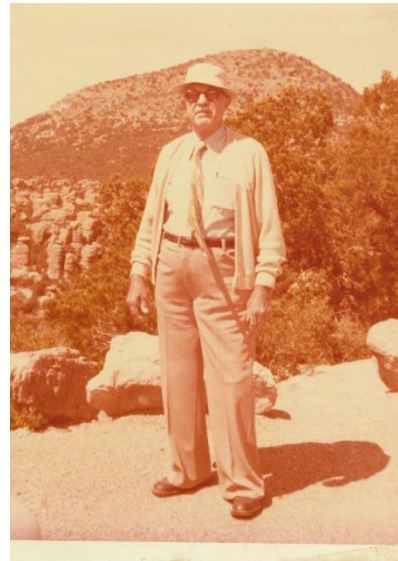


Robert & Emily Bernard and young Prosper at age 4

Prosper lived at various stages of his life in Marshall, Minnesota; Winnipeg, Canada; Bozeman, Montana; Valparaiso, Indiana; Elk River, Minnesota; and Delton, Michigan. He worked as a carpenter's helper while attending to his studies and pursuing an interest in chemistry which later led to a medical degree from Indiana University. He began practicing medicine in Delton in 1928 and built his house and hospital on Crooked Lake in the 1930's. In 1942 he entered active military service and after the war received his radiology training at University of Michigan.

The hospital continued operation until 1950 when Dr. Bernard began specializing in radiology working through Pennock Hospital in Hastings. He retired from his medical practice in the late 1950's.

After the war, he divorced his first wife and married Esther Pelkey, his longtime nurse. Esther helped raise his two children, Prosper Rush and Venice. In retirement, Esther and Prosper traveled widely.

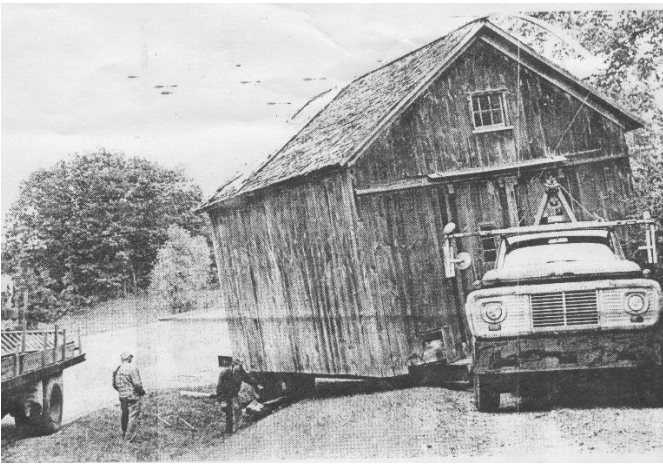


Dr. Bernard (retired) in 1978 at Saguaro National Monument in Arizona.

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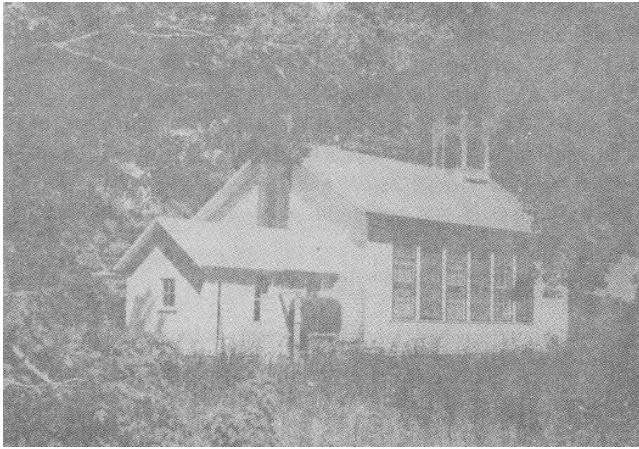


Dr. and Mrs. Bernard in his later years



Built in the 1860's, the Seamstress Cottage was moved from the farm of Karl and Cecile Palmatier in 1987 to the museum grounds where it was restored.

Today the building houses a loom, spinning wheel, sewing machines and various other items associated with the life of a seamstress.



The Brown, or North Pine Lake School, was named for the family on whose property it was originally erected located near the corner of Pine Lake and Lindsey Roads.

The school was operational into the 1950's. It was moved in 1963, after much preparation, to the Museum grounds.

The inside is set to display what a schoolhouse at the turn of the 20th century would have looked like.

Today the museum grounds is home to nearly a dozen buildings, most open to the public during our hours of operation or by appointment. The displays range from local farming and lifestyle artifacts to antique toys, native American finds and geological collections. Visitors come from all over the country and are surprised by the intimate nature of the museum which allows viewers to get up close to the various artifacts.

The museum is constantly on the lookout for local residents willing to pitch in and help us with our mission to preserve and display our collection. Volunteers willing to help with the variety of projects and leading small groups through the museum are especially needed. If you are interested, please contact us!



This dugout canoe found in Wall Lake in the 1970's is likely one of our oldest artifacts. Estimated at 300 years old, it was used by the local tribes of Pottawatomi Indians.

100 Years Ago.....

The Teapot Dome Scandal: U.S. Secretary of State, Albert Fall, is accused of bribery involving leasing Wyoming oil reserves to private companies and receiving kickbacks.

Radio: President Harding introduces radio into the White House.

Bears: California Grizzly Bear officially hunted into extinction.

Women: Illinois gives women the right to hold public office. Supreme court reaffirms the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.

Space: 20-ton meteorite crashes into Virginia.

Michigan: Henry Ford purchases the bankrupt Lincoln Motor Company. U of M football team defeats MSU (Michigan Agricultural) 63-0. Alex Groesbeck elected governor of Michigan. Dick Martin (of Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In fame) is born in Battle Creek.



The Jarvis Lord circa 1872

SEEKING THE LORD,

THE SEARCH FOR THE JARVIS LORD SHIPWRECK



Ross Richardson, famed shipwreck hunter, author, and publisher of the Michigan Mysteries website.

Join us on September 8, 2022 for Ross Richardson's lecture about his discovery of the Jarvis Lord shipwreck. A joint presentation of the Delton District Library and the Bernard Historical Society & Museum.

Time: 6 pm

Where: Delton District Library, 330 N. Grove St., Delton, MI