



## 2018 King House Restoration

The most notable accomplishment of the King House Association (KHA) in 2018 was the restoration of the House in keeping with its historic photographic record and national standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

The process began in 2016 with extensive research of historic preservation alternatives, consulting with restoration experts, and carrying out a detailed physical inspection to identify structural deficiencies. The Board also asked the County Building Department to conduct a building safety inspection to assure compliance with the relevant building code.

As a result of this research and professional advice, the KHA board decided to undertake the restoration of the core structure of the King House following national restoration standards while employing an in-place construction strategy which would avoid the need for a zoning variance.

The goal of the plan was to restore the House with the materials and features which were present during its period of occupancy from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. Using King family and historical photographs as a guide and advice from historic preservationists, the KHA Board developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) which detailed the required restoration tasks. The RFP was distributed to interested contractors and R.G. Kenel Log Builders, LLC of St. Charles, MI, was selected.

The most distinctive feature of the House is the large wall timbers, arranged in a 15'x17' crib design common to log homes of the period. The original timbers were hand-hewn yellow-birch, some of which were replaced with sawed red pine timbers in the early 1980s when King Family descendant Mathilda Marie Allison financed a partial reconstruction to prevent the House from falling into ruin.

To determine the condition of each wall timber, the contractor removed the old chinking material between



the timbers and carefully inspected each timber. All of the red pine timbers were found to be in good condition and some yellow birch timbers could be saved and restored. Unfortunately, ten of the original birch timbers were badly deteriorated and required replacement.

These distressed timbers were removed one by one and new hand-hewn timbers were inserted. Thanks to a generous in-kind contribution from former Board member Keith Lamkin (now deceased), seven of the replacements were yellow birch, the same species as the original timbers. The remaining three were red pine as was used in the 1980 reconstruction.

To give all the wall timbers a consistent physical appearance, the sawed pine timbers installed in the 1980 reconstruction were hand-hewn like the original timbers. Mother Nature will complete this job as the restored and newly installed timbers weather to a silver patina in the next several years.

Once the timber walls were restored, work turned to other important aspects of the House. Using historical pictures for guidance, restorers replaced vertical boards on the end gables with ship lap siding, reinforced the first floor ceiling, covered the ceiling

# Restoration...

with rough pine paneling, and fabricated and installed historically accurate windows, complete with period glass.

The next task was to insert backer and chinking material between the wall timbers on both exterior and interior walls. Finally, the two doors to the House were repaired and re-hung. Cross Village Roofers completed the core structure restoration by replacing the asphalt shingle roof with sawed cedar shingles. Lot clean-up by several local businesses and volunteers helped return the site to good condition.

The accompanying photographs show several of the more significant steps of this unique restoration project, most notably how the timber walls were restored.

Historic preservation experts have indicated that with the core structure of the House now carefully restored, the King House is a worthy candidate for inclusion on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Board plans to complete the application process for this recognition as a fitting conclusion to the restoration effort.

The KHA Board thanks all of the foundations, organizations, donors and volunteers who made this restoration possible. The cash cost of the restoration was \$85,000 with 58% provided by foundations and 42% from organizations and individuals. In addition the restoration benefitted from some important in-kind contributions.

We celebrated the completion of the restoration with a public Open House on October 14, 2018, and will provide other opportunities in the future for everyone with an interest to visit the House and admire the craftsmanship. It is indeed an historic treasure.

For more information, including proposed plans for a timeline display to be installed on the interior walls of the house in 2020, please visit our website: [kinghouseassociation.org](http://kinghouseassociation.org) or find us on Facebook as **The King House Association**.



King House, before restoration



Distressed timbers



East wall - timber insertion



Applying chinking material

# 2018 Donor Listing - Thank You!

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*This list reflects donations  
 received between January 1 and  
 December 31, 2018.*



King family descendant Rose Silvey (left) with daughters LeAnne and Karyn at the October open house

## King House Association

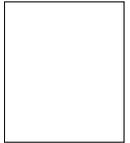
Statement of Activities  
 as of May 31, 2019

<b>Cash on Hand at January 1, 2018</b>	\$ 45,406.41
<b>Income</b>	
Cash Contributions through 05/31/19	<u>\$ 46,480.85</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 91,887.26</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Administrative & Promotion	917.15
Insurance	2,144.00
Website Development	2,328.00
King House Restoration	<u>81,463.00</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 86,852.15</b>
<b>Cash on Hand - May 31, 2019</b>	<b>\$ 5,035.11</b>



## THE KING HOUSE ASSOCIATION

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Good Hart, MI 49737-0942



kinghouseassociation.org

### King House Association Board

Jim Clarke  
Susan Sparrow Carson  
Mary Cummings  
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# 2018 Archaeology Activities at the King House

## By Dr. Dave Frurip

As in the previous several years, volunteers participated in an archaeological investigation of the King House lot. This year's dig took place over three days in October and was supervised by Professor Kerri Finlayson and Dr. David Frurip. Volunteers included trained archaeologists, experienced volunteers, and several members of the Silvey family, direct descendants of the King family who built and owned the house for some 150 years. Rose Silvey, one of our most energetic diggers, is now in her eighties and has childhood memories of visiting family there.

We opened up two adjacent square units one meter on a side. These were about 25 feet east of the cabin in an area where previous shovel testing noted a high concentration of artifacts. This type of concentration of artifacts is called a midden which basically means a trash-filled area. We removed the soil with trowels in

five levels of 10 cm depth. All soil was screened and hundreds of artifacts were found. Most were typical of items found in previous digs: bottle glass, window glass, square (pre-1900) nails, wire nails (post-1900), decorated ceramics, bones (including fish), prehistoric flaked chert from Native American stone tool making), glass beads, buttons (brass, shell, porcelain), etc.

Some particularly unique items found were clock gears, small crucifix, slate pencil tip, ceramic dog shaped dog whistle (still works!), and a metal buckle with a swastika (we are still trying to understand this!). One artifact is a so-called Our Lady of Good Counsel medal. This is about one inch in diameter and is stamped out of brass like a coin. This again shows a direct connection to the church in Middle Village and complements the previously found Immaculate Mary medal.

The group plans on additional excavations in the spring and fall of 2019.