

# THE BRIDGE

## Winneconne Historical Society Newsletter

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History's Crossing Place

OCTOBER 2014

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### Fall Newsletter

#### Summer Attendance

Attendance for the Museum Complex started out very slowly but finally gained momentum toward the end of the season. The month of June was not very well attended. Once July hit attendance was much stronger.

Over the course of the summer the Museum hosted more than 700 visitors. Sovereign State Days accounted for 196 visitors. Sunday's total attendance was 346. Average attendance per week for the summer was 23.

The Museum hosted 6 Tours over the course of the summer which included the Menasha Historical Society, Winneconne 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades, Village brat fry, and (2) Loving Garden for a total of 357 visitors.

Each Sunday the Museum is open, it takes approximately 17 ½ hours of manpower to operate which totals 344 hours for the entire summer. (Not including tours).

#### Marge Eid Memorials

Memorial monies have been received for Marge Eid. As to date, \$820.00 have been deposited in Marge's behalf into the general checking account. The money will remain there until the membership makes a decision on how to proceed forward. There are many possibilities that are being bantered about.

#### Monthly Meeting

OCT. 28 MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY 6:30 PM

COMMUNITY RM -VILLAGE HALL



#### Upcoming Events

NOV. 4 ELECTION DAY BAKE  
TUESDAY  
7:00 AM

DEC. 6 HOLIDAY FAIRE  
SATURDAY  
8:00 A

## Museum Landscaping

The Schoolhouse, Little Country Home & the Doll Cottage are in need of some landscaping. Over the years, the buildings have been overcome with groundcover. There has been some progress in knocking back some of the overgrowth but it appears it needs considerable more attention. It was decided at the last meeting to have BJ's Nursery take a look at the project and submit a bid.

The plan for the Schoolhouse is to temporarily set aside the current hosta, bring in dirt to back fill, install weed barrier & edging, lay down decorative stone, and replant the hosta. The hand water pump will be moved in the process.

The plan for the Doll Cottage is to pull out the overgrown & half dead junipers, remove the dead lilac bush in the rear of the building. The junipers will be replaced by some low maintenance ornamental shrub. Matching river rock will be brought in to fill the low spots.

Finally, the plan for the Little Country House is to remove all the creeping groundcover & the some shrubs that are beyond salvation. Dirt will be backfilled and weed barrier & rock edging installed. Bark chips will be laid down. The decision to add low maintenance annuals will be dependent on what plants can be saved or moved. No additional plants will be planted until next spring to avoid a cold winter kill.

The estimated cost of the entire landscaping is around \$3200.00. Given the equipment, material & labor involved, the estimate is quite reasonable.

## Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

Arline Hoenecke & Joe Hoenecke met with Karlene Grabner of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation in October to discuss the performance of the Geraldine Driscoll Fund, potential investment and the long term financial strategy of the Historical Society. The historical society currently maintains the "Gerldine Driscoll" Endowment Fund, which supports the long term and capital maintenance to the Museum complex. Mrs. Driscoll was gracious, generous and very smart when she donated these funds to the Historical Society. Since 2003, these funds have been managed by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and the fund has grown 53%.

The Historical Society currently has a Certificate of Deposit account coming due and some funds in a Money Market account that are earning very poor interest.

Winneconne now has it's own local area community foundation which is managed by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. An opportunity exists to investigate the advantages that the foundation can provide. Karlene Grabner of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation will be at the meeting to answer any questions that the membership are concerned. No decisions will be made until details are discussed with the general membership.



## Election Day Bake Sale

Just a reminder to all. There will be a bake sale on Tuesday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> election day. Turnout is expected to be high. You may drop off your baked goods in the Chamber office on Monday afternoon or early Tuesday morning.

## Holiday Faire

The Historical Society will take part in the Annual Holiday Faire with the Friends of the Library. The event will take place Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The historical society will have a table for baked goods & display some of the organization's publications that are available for purchase.

## Grant Opportunity

Just for everyone's benefit, the historical society submitted a grant application to the Winneconne Area Community Foundation. We submitted a request for storage containers for historic archival materials, documents, maps, photographs, clothing etc. One of the qualifying factors for receiving the grant is to be a 501 (c) Non-profit organization. Since we are one of the only non-profit organizations left in the Winneconne area—we may receive some funds.

## Pencil Museum

The Historical Society welcomed John & Karen Schmitz to the meeting. They have a significant collection of pencils on display in their home. Their daughter, Andrea, is the curator for the student operated Pencil Museum, Inc.

## Hat Exhibit Ended

The hat exhibit that was on display in the Steamboat House has been put away. Thanks to Marlene O'Connell & Rosemary Kunde for arranging the display and dismantling it in a nice organized manner. We thank them for their contribution and also recognize Darlene Kairis.

Jean Wouters and her mother, Helen Sandvige have cared for some of the antique clothes and military uniforms. The clothes are now stored in proper storage containers and neatly stacked on shelves in the Steamboat House closets.

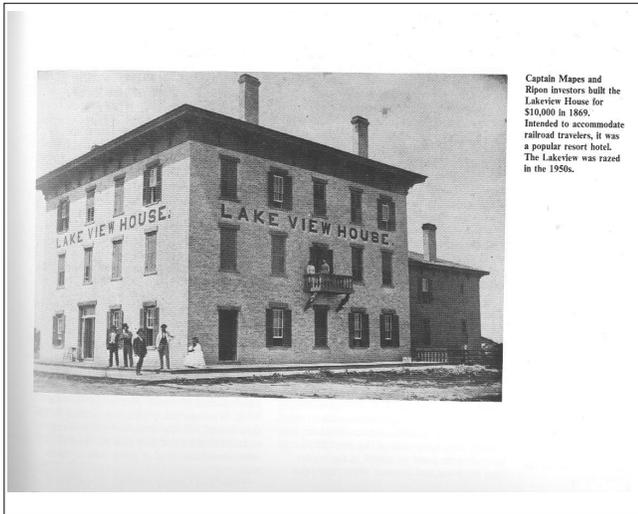
## Postal Office Sign

While sorting through the depot, Lee Hanson & Joe Hoenecke came upon a double sided porcelain Postal Telegraph sign. The sign is navy blue with white lettering and trim and is fairly nice shape. A sign of this kind would have hung under the eaves of the post office over the boardwalk. This sign should really be displayed. Without objection, Lee & Joe would like to hang it outside the depot underneath the eave and over the boardwalk.



## The Lakeview Hotel

The topic of the Lakeview Hotel came up in last months meeting. Doris Esch now has a photograph of the hotel hanging up at Leo's Service. Here's some information on the subject

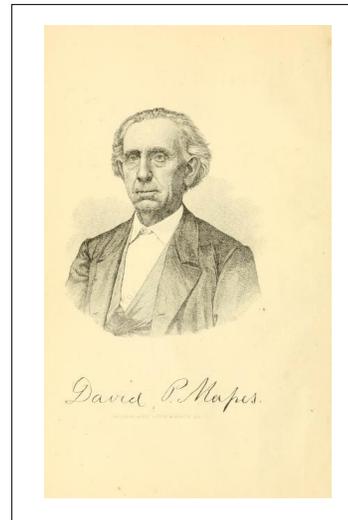


The Lakeview house was built by an investment group from Ripon headed up by David P. Mapes in 1869. Mapes was the founder of Ripon and was responsible for heading up the effort to bring the railroad to Winneconne. In 1868, the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad (most commonly referred to as the Milwaukee Road) came to Winneconne and the hotel was built to help support the railroad.

The hotel would go through a series of owner/operators. A woman by the name of Mrs. Culloch would be the hotel's first landlady. In 1872 the hotel was sold to John Mitchell, son of Alexander Mitchell. Alexander Mitchell was a successful banker, investor, politician and the owner of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway. Mitchell in turned sold the hotel to another investor which was short lived. Eventually, the hotel fell into the hands of the Continental Life Insurance Company.

In 1880, a Mrs. Schrieber and her mother, Mrs. Sherburn, successfully operated the hotel until 1895.

Again, the hotel would go through another series of owner/operators. Fred Teela would be the last to own the Lake View House. In 1950, the building was to be condemned by the village council and was eventually razed.



## Trivia Question

Andrew Jackson was the first President to ride

- a) Steamboat
- b) Horse
- c) Train
- d) Camel
- e) Bicycle

Answer: To be revealed at the meeting.

## Election of Officers

The organization will need to hold elections of officers (4) and trustees (3) for the upcoming year's board of directors. It was decided at last meeting not to appoint a nominating committee and nominations will be taken from the floor.

Current Officers are President - A. Hoenecke, Vice-President - Jean Wouters, Secretary - Mary Harper, Treasurer -(Open). Rosemary Race, Beatrice Richardson & Ann Burr are the current trustees.

With the passing of Marge Eid, Historical Society treasurer for many years, there are some huge holes to fill. (To be quite frank, there is no possibility that one person will be able to duplicate Marge's footprint.) Marge not only handled the treasurer's duties, she also was also editor, historian, librarian, marketing coordinator, corresponding secretary and promoter.

Even though the Historical Society and the village of Winneconne will miss her very much, there is always opportunities to adapt. There are good members who have talents and ability to carry out these duties. The organization needs to spread these duties out amongst the membership and share the burden.