

The Reporter

Volume 17 Issue 3 The Newsletter of the Waupaca Historical Society Fall 2013

WHS Board of Directors: Dennis Lear, President; Mike Kirk, Vice President; Betty Stewart, Secretary; Bob Kessler, Treasurer, Tracy Behrendt, Gerald Chappell, Deb Fenske, Glenda Rhodes, Jerry Salan, David Trombla, Joyce Woldt, Don Witt, and Marge Witt

WHS Director: Julie Hintz **Hutchinson House Museum Curator:** Barbara Fay Wiese
Collection Committee: Joyce Woldt, Tracy Behrendt, Dennis Lear, Gerald Chappell
Membership Committee: Barbara Wiese, Julie Hintz, Bob Kessler
Program & Event Committee: Dennis Lear, Julie Hintz, Gerald Chappell, Barbara Wiese, Marge Witt

The Field Trip to the Yawkey House Museum and Woodson History Center was a Rewarding Experience

Seven WHS members made the trip in two vehicles on June 4, 2013. Following Director Julie Hintz' meticulous travel directions, the ensemble arrived in time for an excellent hour and a half tour of the breathtaking Yawkey House Museum. Our docent answered our barrage of questions without flinching, providing us with mind filling new information about the Victorian era. The Yawkey home was built and furnished for \$35,000 in 1901 and renovated in 1909 by the millionaire family. The WHS crew also found the architecture and exhibits in the Woodson History Center to be eye-opening as well as the artifact storage warehouse. The talk with the Marathon County History Center's accessions team was most enlightening. The group's luncheon at the Wausau Mine Company's Mother Load Eatery put a final cap on a great morning of learning, fun, and camaraderie. Then in the afternoon half the group visited the marvels of the Leigh Yawley Art Museum.



Seven WHS docents arrive to capture knowledge of the riches of yesteryear.



Captivated, three docents study the woodwork and features of the kitchen.



Spellbound, the WHS group hear about and see the heir looms of yesteryear.

Announcements and opportunities For WHS Members

Annual Membership Meeting



Come see the latest steps in restoration that Mike Kirk and his helpers have accomplished.

The Waupaca Historical Society will hold its annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 5th, at 5:00 p. m. at the Waupaca Railroad Depot. The meeting will feature a brat and burger fry, a potluck meal, an update on the state of the Society, and a special presentation to honor Vera Duesterbeck for her years of service to the Hutchinson House Museum and the

Waupaca Historical Society. Plates, utensils, brats, hamburgers, buns, and beverages will be provided. Members are asked to please bring fruit, fruit or pasta salads, casseroles, or bars/dessert to share for the potluck. All members are invited to attend. The new 'caboose' will be open and available for viewing immediately before or after the meeting.

The Hutchinson House Museum will have an 'Open House' During Fall-O-Rama

If you are a member of WHS who is planning on attending the reinstatement of the autumn Fall-O-Rama on Saturday September 21st at South Park, you certainly are cordially invited to drop into the Hutchinson House 'open house' to visit with the docents on duty; refresh your memory on some of the features of the Museum; observe the craftsmanship of some of the artists who will be displaying pioneer tools, activity, and creations of yesteryear; and, of course, pick up a delicious item from the bake sale.

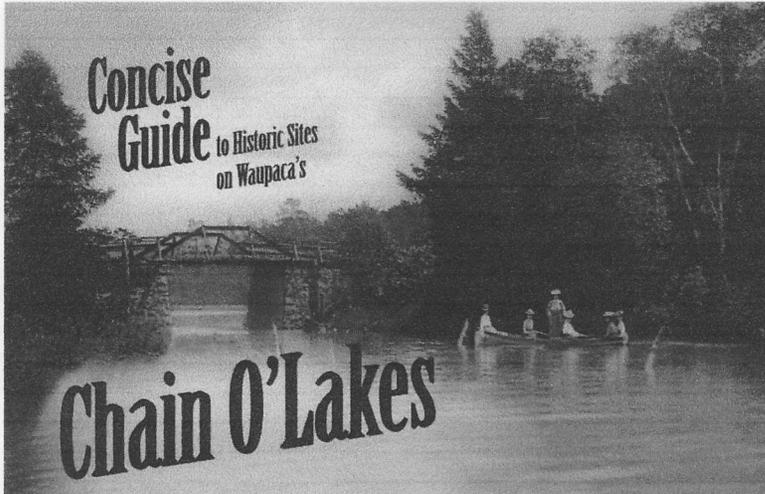
Members, please donate baked goods for the bake sale. Bring your pre-priced items to the Holly Center on Friday Sept. 20th from noon to 3 p. m. or to the H. H. Sat. Morning between 9 and 9:30.



Come see what Hutchinson House Museum Curator Barbara Fay Wiese has planned for the open house during Fall-O-Rama.

An Invitation to Learn about Historic Sites on Waupaca's Chain O' Lakes

Ron Arthur, Captain of the Chief Waupaca sternwheeler, has authored and published a new book entitled "Concise Guide to Historic Sites on Waupaca's Chain O' Lakes". The new guide book gives insights into the early settlement and use of the Chain O' lakes, and advancing from lake to lake, high-



Here it is.- an interesting, highly informative new guide to the fabulous Chain.

lights many of the early resorts and camps that sprang up on the Chain. The new book is available at the Holly History Center and area bookstores and retails for \$14.95. Members of the Waupaca Historical Society qualify for a 10% discount if purchasing the book at the Holly Center (\$13.50).

In addition, the Waupaca Historical Society, author Ron Arthur, the Clear Water Harbor, and the Historic Sights Press invite WHS members to join us on a very

special 'Cruise into History on Waupaca's Chain O'Lakes'. This one time only sunset cruise will take place aboard the **Chief Waupaca Sternwheeler** on Saturday evening September 14th at 5:30. This cruise is being offered as a fundraising event. The \$25 cost for the cruise includes a 2-hour "history cruise" narration by author and Captain Ron Arthur along with a signed copy of the new book. If a person already has a copy, the cost will be \$15 for the cruise. (\$30 for a couple who already have a copy of the book).

Tickets can be purchased at the Holly History Center between 12 and 3 p. m. Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday, can be reserved by calling 715-256-9980 during those hours, or they may be purchased at the Annual Membership Meeting at the Waupaca Railroad Depot on Thursday, September 5th. Only 40 tickets are available for this exclusive cruise on the Chain and the registration deadline is September 5th or until the tickets are sold out. Purchase your tickets early to reserve your spot for what happens to be the 50th anniversary of the Chief Waupaca cruises. In the event of rain, the history cruise will be postponed until Sunday, September 15th at 5:30.



Captain and author Ron Arthur on the Chief Waupaca.

The Waupaca Historical Society- 1996-2006

History article by Jerry Chappell, 2013

The records are fairly sparse for the years 1996 through 1998 in that no minutes of the Waupaca Historical Society (WHS) meetings were found, nor scrapbooks, nor copies of the first two years of the newsletter (i. e., Volume I and Volume II). However we do know that Susan Porfilio continued her presidency ('96, '97, and '98) and Jim Johnson ('96, '97) and Nyma Larkee ('98) were the vice presidents. In turn, Don Duesterbeck continued his remarkable run as secretary ('96, '97, '98') while Vera Duesterbeck continued her outstanding run as treasurer (96, '97, '98).

The sources for the WHS history of this 10 year period, the fifth decade of WHS, are the Newsletter (1999-2006 *Reporter*) and the minutes of meetings (2000-2006) of the WHS Board of Directors (BOD, established in 1999). Led by an Executive Committee, the BOD meetings consisted of a call to order and report of the president, an approval of the secretary's report of the minutes of the last meeting, the treasurer's report, a curator's report in the earlier years, a director's report and depot report in the latter years, and in the business portion an attention to issues on an agenda of old business, new business, etc.. Issues were resolved through formal motions and voting.

Each year there was an annual meeting that served to update the full membership; it also served as a social event, which was often a pot luck dinner held in South Park, Brainard Park, or the Holly History and Genealogy Center.

The Hutchinson House Museum (HHM) opened Memorial Day Weekend and closed Labor Day weekend. And almost every year WHS participated in the Waupaca Strawberry Fest in June, Fourth of July Parade and Hometown Celebration in July, and the Fall O Rama in September.



Between 1996 & 2003 the Heritage Hall was the WHS Heritage House Research and Genealogy Center. Photo courtesy of WHS.



The south side of the Chester and Susannah Hutchinson home on Fulton Street about 1906 with sons George and Dennison and granddaughter Julia. WHS purchased the house in 1957, moved it to south park, and renovated it into a museum. Photo courtesy of Waupaca Historical Society.

In the earlier years, thanks to the curators, and over the latter years, mostly due to the insightful direction of Director Julie Hintz, WHS gave the community the opportunity to visit many exciting history exhibits as well as complete research projects in the always growing WHS library, first in the Heritage House, and

then the Holly History and Genealogy Center (the Old Carnegie Library). Linda Pope and Marion Snyder made excellent contributions as curators. Then, as Director responsible for managing the operation of all the BOD buildings, Julie Hintz with a smile on her face and remarkable knowledge of the history of the Waupaca area, attended to a countless, seemingly endless, number of duties. Each year there were generous donations to the WHS library and buildings that had to be accessioned, including family histories, photos, books, magazines, newspapers, clothing and furniture, and artifacts of all kinds.

Each year, The Hutchinson House Museum, dormant during fall, winter, and spring, was always turned into a vibrant facility to visit in the summer for a major history lesson. There was always the needed spring cleaning, repair work and repainting, upkeep of the flower gardens, and preparation for exhibits and special events. Each year, a small, but loyal team of docents guided the young and old (visitors to Waupaca, fourth grade history tours, special groups, attendees at special events) through the seven rooms that display the Victorian days of long past.

The Executive Committee and Other Positions

Executive Director: Roy Holly '01, '02.

Director: Julie Hintz '03, '04, '05, '06.

Presidents: Susan Porfilo '96, '97, '98;

Don Duesterbeck '99, '00, '01;

Dick Bidwell '02;

Mark Ebner '03, '04, '05, '06.

Vice Presidents: Jim Johnson '96, '97;

Nyma Larkee '98, '00; J. J. Johnson '99;

Roy Holly '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06.

Secretary: Don Duesterbeck '96, '97, '98; Barbara Schuler '99, '00, '01, '02;

Betty Stewart '03, '04, '05, '06.

Treasurer: Vera Duesterbeck '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05;

Bob Kessler '06.

Curator: Linda Pope and Marion Snyder '97, '98, '99, '00; Marion Snyder '01, '02.

Newsletter Editor: Roy Holly '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, Julie Hintz '04, '05, '06.

Highlight Writer: Susan Porfolia '96; Marge Witt '97, '98, '99; '00, '01, '02.

The WHS Board of Directors

Scott Christie '99,

Don Duesterbeck '99, '00, '01,

Vera Duesterbeck '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06,

Roy Holly '99, '00, '01, '02, '03,

J. J. Johnson '99, '00,

Mike Kirk '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06,

Nyma Larkee '99, '00,

Linda Pope '99, '00,

Barbara Schuler '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06,

Marion Snyder '99, '00, '01, '02,

Joyce Woldt '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06,

Marge Witt '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06,

Cindy Kelm '00,

Richard Dick Bidwell '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06,

Joan Laab '01, '02'

Mark Ebner: '03, '04, '05, '06,

Jack Rhodes: '03, '04, '05, '06,

Betty Stewart '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06,

Robert Kessler '03, '04, '05, '06,

Chris Burrington '03, '04, '05,

Steve Hackett '05, '06,

Cynthia Holly '05, '06,

David Hathaway '06.

WHS Presentations, Exhibits, and Other Activities

1999 Presentations: "100th Anniversary of the Waupaca Electric Railway," "Intensive Architectural & History Survey of Waupaca," "Industrial Archaeology," and "Haunted Wisconsin," **Other Activities:** WHS established a Board of Directors. *The Reporter* commenced to include history articles. The Articles of Incorporation and By Laws were revised. WHS acquired a cottage for a married veteran from the Veterans Home and turned it into the Heritage House Research and Genealogy Center. Ceiling insulation and a heating and air conditioning unit were attained along with a computer, scanner, and software.



Boarding with Miss Julie.
Photo courtesy of the
Waupaca Historical
Society.

2000 Exhibits: "Genealogy of the Hutchinson Family," and "A Victorian Wedding Reception." **Presentations:** "Victorian Playthings," "Early Architectural Features of Buildings," "Portrayal of Early Waupaca People," "Cemetery walk," and "Boarding with Miss Julia Hutchinson." **Other Activities:** 70 new members joined WHS. WHS held a Victorian Christmas at HHM. Marge Writt wrote "The Hutchinson House Highlights" for the *Waupaca County Post* (also '01). WHS took a bus trip to the Galloway House and Village in Fond du Lac. WHS purchased the Carnegie Library from Mary Gordon that was made possible by a generous donation from the Holly family.

2001 Presentations: "Mead Murder Mystery," "Quilt History Day," "The Story of Waupaca and Its Railroads," "Indian Settlement and Life in Central Wisconsin," "Barns in Wisconsin," "Eighth Wisconsin and Old Abe," "Iron Brigade at Gettysburg," "'Unveiled' Mary Todd Lincoln," "Canada and the American Civil War," "Civil War Sites," and "Early Waupaca History." **Other Activities:** The Holly

History and Genealogy Center was dedicated in the upstairs of the former Carnegie Library and WHS and WAGS moved in. The downstairs restaurant was transformed into an assembly room. Boys from the Rawhide Ranch did some repair work on the HHM.

2002 Presentations: "Christmas during the Civil War," "Presidential Anecdotes," "Conversion of the Carnegie Library Building," "The Granite Quarry," "Wisconsin Veterans Home," and "Waupaca History," **Other Activities:** WHS revised the bylaws and approved a

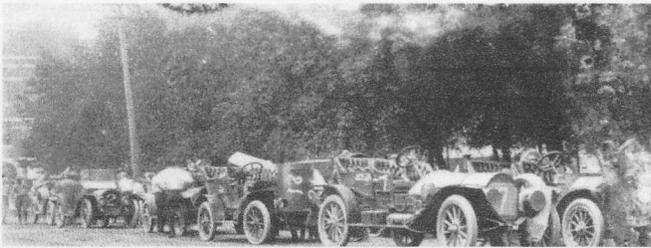


Waupaca Free Public (Carnegie) Library.
Photo courtesy of the Waupaca Historical
Society.

Building Use

Protocol. The "3 holer" outhouse was gifted to WHS. Heritage House and HHM were painted.

2003 Presentations: "Yellowstone Trail," and "Feed Sacks and Clothing." **Exhibits:** *Family Farm Life, Quilt Day, Vintage and Antique Jewelry, Barns Again-an American Icon, Antique and Vintage Toys, Valentine Greetings and Hearts, The*



Lining up to tour the Yellowstone Trail. Photo courtesy of the
Waupaca Historical Society.

Sport of Curling, Jewelry of the Southwest and the Royal Doulton Character Jugs. Other Activities: WHS acquired the Royal Doulton Character Jug Collection from Lorraine Evensan. WHS rejected an offer to accept the Pipe School.

2004 Presentations: "Armistice – Coming Home from War." Exhibits: *Transportation in the Early Waupaca 1900s, Living Waupaca History Celebration, Yellowstone Trail, Antique Cameras and a Look at Early Photography, Song Birds, Owls, and Eagles, Women's Club of Waupaca, Circus Train Replica, Antique Fibers and Dress, Hoops and Bustles – Victorian Women's Fashion, and Dolls and Hats.*

Other Activities: WHS celebrated the 150th anniversary of HHM and purchased the Soo Line Train Depot. WHS also made a field trip to Madison and established an Endowment Future Fund.

2005 Presentations: "House Calls to Helicopters-150-years of Medicine in Waupaca." Exhibits: *Rabbit and Bunny Figurines, History on Deck-Salt and Pepper shakers, Doctors and Medicine - a Look Back (medical artifacts and physician's photos), A Vintage Christmas, and The Love of Lace.* Other Activities: WHS installed a new air conditioning unit in the Holly Center. The Roy Holly Memorial Fund was initiated.

2006 Presentations: "Civil War Reenactment." Exhibits: *Ladies Walking Suits, G. I. Joe and Military, Remembering Whispering Pines (Memorabilia Collection), and Angels All Around.* Other Activities: Chet Krause donated \$2500 for the elevator fund. Robert and Christine Faulks donated \$2500 for the depot restoration. Boys from the Rawhide Ranch worked on the HH, repairing porch floors and windows and scraping peeling paint. Jeff and Nancy Weasner took care on the HHM lawn and gardens. WHS held a recognition party for Mr. and Mrs. Gordon for the renovations they did earlier to turn the Holly Center into a restaurant.



Maybe with some financial help and a lot of physical sweat the abandoned old depot can be fixed up. Photo courtesy of the Waupaca Historical Society.



Yes, through the possession and preservation of three historic buildings, the Waupaca Historical Society kept history alive. Through tours, presentations, exhibits, social events, and other activities within the Holly History and Genealogy Center, The Hutchinson House Museum, and the Railroad Depot the past remained in everyone's thoughts. Presentations about such aspects of Waupaca as the 1900 trolleys of the Waupaca Electric Light and Railway Company kept the once important role of that railway system in mind. Photo courtesy of the Waupaca Historical Society.

Waupaca Historical Society
321 South Main Street
Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981

Keeping History Alive – and Making History

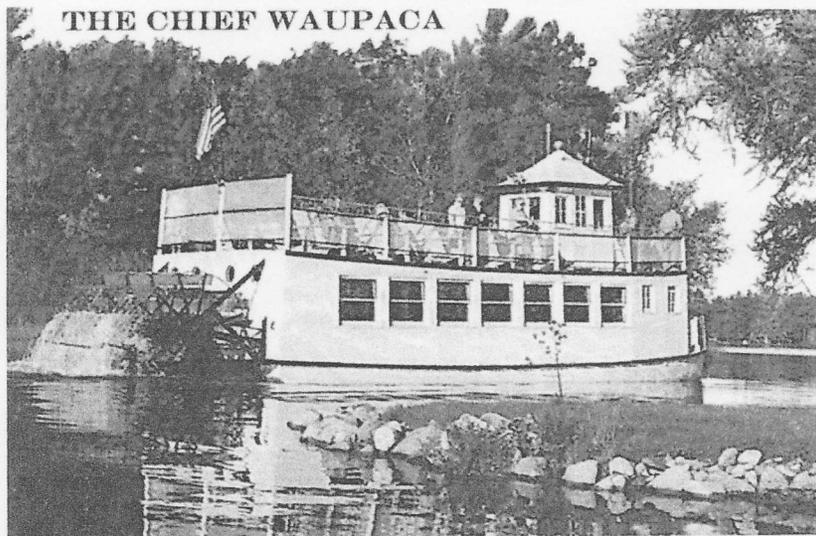


Photo courtesy of Ron Arthur.