

THE REPORTER

Waupaca Historical Society, 321 South Main Street, Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981
715-256-9980 Web: www.waupacahistory.org E-mail: wauphistsoc@waupacaonline.net

VOLUME 19 – NUMBER 1

WINTER 2015

Board of Directors:

President: Dennis Lear
Vice President: Mike Kirk
Secretary: Betty Stewart
Treasurer: Bob Kessler
City Council Rep: Deb Fenske
Dave Trombla
Marge Witt
Don Witt
Deb Fenske
Tracy Berendt
Ron Arthur
JJ Johnson
Nancy Weasner
Kent Pegorsch
Emeritus: Cynthia Holly
Emeritus: Jerry Chappell

Building Directors:

Holly History & Genealogy Center: Julie Hintz
Hutchinson House Museum: Barbara Fay Wiese
Waupaca Depot: Mike Kirk
Heritage Hall: Ron Arthur

Executive Committee:

Dennis Lear, President
Mike Kirk, Vice President
Bob Kessler, Treasurer
Betty Stewart, Secretary
Don Witt

Events Committee:

Julie Hintz, Chairperson
Dennis Lear
Marge Witt
Barbara Fay Wiese

Collections Committee:

Tracy Behrendt, Chairperson
Dennis Lear
Jerry Chappell
Joyce Woldt

Refreshment Committee:

Betty Stewart, Marge Witt, Nancy Weasner

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As president of the WHS I would first like to thank the members of the society for their support. I feel that it is important to keep the history of our Waupaca area and especially to instill a knowledge of our history in the youth of our community.

As president of WHS I conduct monthly board meetings and try to help our director with any questions she may have. I am a member of the executive committee that determines the budget and salaries for the year. I am also involved with programing events at our buildings and with composing the annual request of funding from the City of Waupaca and the hotel/motel tax.

Most of the work of WHS is done with the help of our board members. We have people on our board who are talented in a variety of areas, such as docents, carpenters, bookkeepers, writers, and many other areas of expertise.

I enjoy working with all these people and hope more people will visit our three locations: Hutchinson House, Holly History and Genealogy Center, and the Train Depot.

Dennis Lear

Editor's Note: Keep an eye out for changes being made to allow us to make better use of Heritage Hall, the cottage building saved many years ago from the Wisconsin Veteran's Home at King.

Waupaca Republican
January 2, 1885

From 60 above to 16 below zero in 24 hours was the way the thermometer ushered 1884 out and 1885 in.

The cold snap on Sunday turned to rain and a regular break-up set in Monday and Tuesday. Tuesday night the rain froze as fast as it fell and Wednesday the trees were literally coated with ice. In the sunlight the shade trees and forests looked as though they were bedecked with sparkling diamonds. No artist could paint such a picture.

MESSAGE FROM THE
HOLLY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY CENTER

From Building Director: Julie Hintz

Hi, I'm Julie Hintz, and I am the Director for the Waupaca Historical Society. I was hired in 2003 to help staff the Holly History & Genealogy Center and to assist with administrative duties for our Society.

So what exactly does a "Director" do? Well, I definitely need to be a multi-tasker. I work approximately 15 hours each week and have many "irons on the fire" so to say. Here is a list of some of things that I do: handle all mail and correspondence for the Society (including responding to all incoming phone and email messages), assist in writing grants, assist visitors to our buildings, order all office and archival supplies, develop and set up special exhibits, assist with accessioning and inventorying of our collection, give tours at the Hutchinson House Museum, assist with school tours and group tours, serve on several committees (including the Event Planning Cmt., the Membership Cmt., and the Website Development Cmt.), give special lectures, work closely with our volunteers, maintain contact with other historical societies and Waupaca's Chamber of Commerce, and occasionally attend special meetings and conferences.

I try my best to represent the Waupaca Historical Society and raise awareness about our society's mission and Waupaca's history.

Here are some of the projects that I will be working on in 2015: 1) continuing our Business Partner Membership Program 2) assisting in catching up on a backlog of items that need processing and accessioning into our collection 3) Applying for a Mini-Grant to assist with the purchase of new dress forms for the Hutchinson House Museum 4) assisting with the redesign and development of our website, and 5) helping to plan our Quarterly Membership Meetings and other special lectures and events.

Items on my current "To-Do List" include filing an annual report with the Wisconsin Historical Society and putting up a special exhibit of commemorative ribbons and buttons in the meeting room display case.

Yes, I'm pretty busy, but never too busy to talk to you, our members, or to the visitors to our buildings, and enjoy the opportunity to share Waupaca's history!

Of all of my job duties, the most important one is

"Keeping History Alive"!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU ALSO TO OUR
2014 VOLUNTEERS

Behrendt, Tracy	Pegorsch, Charles
Chappell, Chris	Schroeder, Jan
Chappell, Jerry	Shaw, Barry
Durfee, Amanda	Shaw, Ruby
Hanke, Jan	Stewart, Betty
Homolka, Mike	Trombla, Dave
Kessler, Bob	Waupaca High
Kirk, Mike	School Students
Kuehl, Cathy	Woldt, Joyce
Lear, Dennis	Writt, Don
Lear, Laurie	Writt, Marge

DONATION UPDATE

By Tracy Behrendt

After implementing a hold on collecting in late 2014, the Waupaca Historical Society is busy catching up on years of cataloguing artifacts and entering data. The collections hold, which stops active collecting for a undetermined amount of time, was put into place by the Board of Directors to give staff and volunteers time to catch up on the work. The Collections Committee can, however, make exceptions and choose to accept unique objects into the collections.

In the last several months, director Julie Hintz, along with collections committee chair Tracy Behrendt and volunteer Laurie Lear have been busy accessioning previously donated artifacts, from a sheriff's badge and a family Bible to an old ship's log written in Danish. These items were donated in past years and had never been accessioned or entered into the computer.

The collections hold will likely be lifted once staff and volunteers have caught up on accessioning and data entry.

Thank you to all who have donated items in the past. With this collection hold, the Waupaca Historical Society is working to better preserve the items currently housed in our buildings through inventory, data entry and proper storage. Thank you for your patience!

At the December meeting of the Waupaca Historical Society, Julie Hintz gave an excellent presentation about the Hutchinson family; their relationship to some of Waupaca's other pioneer settlers and some of their influences on the early beginnings of this community. We'll take this opportunity to tell you a condensed version of what Paul Harvey would call "The Rest Of The Story".

When Delos Hutchinson was murdered on his way home O.E. Dreutzer was among the men who went out to check out the situation and actually helped remove Delos' body from the creek in which it lay. It was learned that a German settler had been seen in the area and later a newspaper printed in German was found near the scene. A warrant was issued to arrest the German man even though no motive could be found for him to have committed the murder. It turned out the man spoke no English so when the sheriff went out with George Severance and his father to arrest the man he had no idea what was going on. Emotions were high and there was a lot of talk about lynching the suspect. Dreutzer spoke some German, was a lawyer, and thus was appointed to represent the accused man who was taken to the jail at Plover before any lynching could be accomplished.

The next day Dreutzer began his investigation. It was then that he found the club that had been used by the murderer. A Mrs. Perkins had told the original search team that as she stood at the door of her home she saw the German man turn Delos' team around and head it back towards town, thus placing him and only him at the scene of the murder. It was apparently the driverless team which alerted the community that something was wrong. Dreutzer found, however, that there was a hill which would have prevented Mrs. Perkins from seeing anything that happened along that section of the creek. Further inquiries repeatedly pointed at the younger George Severance and upon learning of some of the evidence collected, Severance confessed to having kill Delos and took the German man's place in jail.

Severance was only in jail a short time when he escaped and was never heard from in the community again. Whatever the circumstances, there was no attempt to recapture him.

HUTCHINSON HOUSE HAPPENINGS From Building Director Barbara Fay Wiese

This year we have especially noted how inspiring and expanding it is to remember that Hutchinson House is so much more than "The Hutchinson's House" -- it is home to the treasures and stories of MANY of Waupaca's early settlers.

This says a lot about our community:

It says that there were people of moderate means and wealthy people who settled our fair city. It recognizes the value of working together to provide a good place to live, work, and raise a family.

It demonstrates the generosity of our residents in the generations following our city's settlement, to establish a permanent, physical reminder of our shared history through this home as a museum.

It testifies to the similarities of development of communities across the United States, and

It beautifully testifies to what is unique in our community.

We will report more about this as the year progresses. Meanwhile, if you are interested in becoming a tour guide for this Victorian Treasure Trove next summer season -- winter is a good time to become familiar with the museum through various reports, descriptions, photos, and the WIN-TV video.

Please call the Holly History Center and ask the Director to point you in the right direction!

Past Print Tidbit

Waupaca County Post
January 15, 1891

The new stained glass chancel window for St. Mark's church arrived on Wednesday and has been placed in position. It is of very attractive design, and is a great improvement to the church

THE WAUPACA DEPOT UP-DATE From Building Director Mike Kirk

The biggest project last year was the repair and painting of the soffits and the bay window area. We cut out and removed rotted wood and put up over 2000 feet of custom milled new material. It really improved the outside of the building. We were fortunate to have the donated help of several men from the Veterans Assistance program. It helped us and provided some work for vets who were a little down on their luck for various reasons. Other projects included refinishing woodwork and painting the two side waiting rooms. We got the eight tables rebuilt including cleaning up and painting the legs and making new tops that match the woodwork in the depot. We completed relaying the bad area in the mens smoking room floor and hired Hardwood Specialist Craftmen to sand and refinish the maple floors. They got all the side rooms done late in the fall and will do the general waiting room in the spring. They did a really nice job and gave us a great price. We finally got the water and drain hooked up in the womens waiting room sink. We got the mens waiting room cleaned up where we stored our tools and supplies. It is now an office with the Tom Holly desk. The Soo Line had used the room as the agent's office for many years. Several groups used the depot. All of them said using it made their events a huge success.



Prints of the depot, pictured above, were made by Russ Lowe and have been generously donated to the Waupaca Historical Society. They are available for \$25 and all proceeds from their sale go to the depot fund. A great gift of Waupaca history.



Smoking room at the depot as it was being worked on.



Smoking room floor completed with the Tom Holly desk and the old library book shelf.

A letter was recently received from Fred Pope reflecting on one of his high school teachers, Sophelia Kurkowski, our own “Miss K”. To quote a line from his letter: “Her approach to history was that it all mattered, that while the actions of the famous were to be studied, the day-to-day happenings in little Waupaca were also important to the growth of the nation.” The Waupaca Historical Society extends its thanks to those who have not forgotten the foundation our ancestors provided to create the community we enjoy today and remember that every day we are creating the history our future generations will build upon.

Thanks to all of you
our community is
KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE !!



Julie Hintz presenting information on the Hutchinson family at the annual membership meeting while attendees enjoy the papers she created to enhance the learning experience through photos and historical information

Continuing the rest of the story on the murder of Delos Hutchinson and the arrest of George Severance for the act is the following article that touches on Severance's escape from the jail at Plover, Portage County, Wisconsin.

WAUPACA REPUBLICAN POST
September 11, 1913

THE FIRST TRAMP. By John Een. Amherst, Wis., Aug. 10, 1913

Oliver Erickson, "Whiskey Ola" as he was usually called, came from Sweden to Waupaca in Dec. 1852. Worked at odd jobs for a couple of years, then started tramping, being the first tramp that I can get any record of. He got the idea from a story told by John Dolbrink of the travels related by the wandering Jew or Jerusalem shoemaker that Mr. Dolbrink said had made a visit to Geffle, Sweden, in 1861.

Not long afterwards Ola worked for father a couple of days cutting rails and I helped trim the limbs with a hatchet. At the end of the second day he said that he could travel the world over without money and soon after he commenced his travels. The winters were spent in Waupaca or with friends in Farmington.

Being a good storyteller he got his board for being good company. In the winter of 1855-56, he made a trip to Stevens Point and made a contract with some merchants to deliver 6,000 grubs used by lumbermen for rafting lumber to be floated down the Wisconsin River. Although he was a total stranger, they were so impressed by his representations of what he had, that they trusted him with \$45.00 worth of ladies dress goods. After leaving Stevens Point he stopped to warm himself at John Ogden's (I think he was a brother of the late C. S. Ogden of Waupaca) when he got thawed out he asked Miss Cloe Ogden to pick out a dress, hood, stockings and mittens, which he made her a present of. The next few days were spent among his friends in Waupaca and what is now Sheridan, giving away his stock of goods which he never intended to pay for as he never had or owned a grub to sell. In the spring of 1856 he was placed in jail at Plover for getting goods under false pretenses. Soon after G. Severson was placed in the Plover jail for the murder of D. Hutchinson and two other men for burning a schoolhouse south of Waupaca were also put in the same jail. But they only stayed there a short time as Ola got tired of being shut up and he cut off two of the iron bars and all four walked out. As they parted Ola told Severson that he ought to stay in the jail.

Ola's next place of enforced rest was Portage city jail. But he soon tired of staying there and cut his way out. The next few years were one continuous travel and jail breaking.

After the war of the rebellion broke out he took up the business of County jumping. Was brought to Madison three times to be shot for bounty jumping, but each time he escaped from the bull pen the night before. Soon after he left for Australia, but was shipwrecked in the Gulf of Mexico, and was picked up by a passing ship and next heard of was in Sweden, where he cut a wide swath, representing that he owned several large estates and Hans Olfson was general over-seer. He prevailed on J. Hulstrom to loan him money enough to pay for a ticket from Geffle, Sweden, to Waupaca. Mr. Hulstrom came with him, but when three days out from Liverpool the ship was wrecked, but the passengers were all saved and taken back to England, except Ola, he was missing.

Mr. Hulstrom came direct to Amherst and told the news of the death of Wonderful Ola, as he was generally called. Just three days later Ola came also. When the ship was wrecked he lashed himself to a spar and floated three days before he was picked up. But we have not room for any more, his adventures and jail breakings were too numerous for this article. About the year 1871 he died from exposure, eight miles west of Plover, Wis.

During his career he broke out of two State prisons and twenty-three jails. He would slip out of handcuffs and ball and chains as easy as he would take his coat off.

The Waupaca Historical Society extends sincere appreciation to all individuals and groups who gave monetary contribution to the Society during 2014. Your donations help us fulfill our mission of preserving and keeping history alive!

DONATIONS

Bird, John
Brown, Gerald
Buetow, Janet
Debolt, Kristy
Fico, James & Mary
Godfrey, Tom
Hintz, Julie
Holly, Tom
Johnson, David
Johnson, Jacki & Stephen
Kile, Dr. Patti
King, Suzanne
Koon, Carole
Larson, Charles
Mathwig, Mary
Mendyke, Barbara & Donald
Nell, Arline
Nelson, Craig
Nelson, Richard
Niemiec, Richard & Joan
Nispel, Mary Jane
Olfson, John
Olson, Bob & Marilyn
Polt, Walter
Pope, Linda & Rex
Rhodes, Glenda
Sachs, Rev. Jonathan
Scheller, Arthur
Schwamb, Franklin
Soo Line Historical & Technical Society
Spiegelberg, Jean
Stewart, Tim
Taylor, James
Tom Holly Memorial
Town of Farmington
Waupaca Area Genealogical Society
Waupaca Community Arts Board
Waupaca Duplicate Bridge Club
Ziebell, Lillian

DONATIONS OF ARTIFACTS, GOODS, OR SERVICES:

Arthur, Ron
Barden, Arlin
Barnhart, Jan
Braun, Dale
Chappell, Jerry
City of Waupaca
Duesterbeck, Vera
Faulks Bros. Construction
Gardner, James
Hardwood Flooring Specialists
Johnson-Doran, Susan
Mattern, Kathleen
Miller, Delores
Neuschafer, Greg
Oregon Area Historical Society
Lear, Dennis
Paulson, Barb
Rasmussen, David
Robbins, Mark
Roland, Luella
Spangler, Shirley
Stamm, Diane
Stiebs, Dale
Vaughn, Paula
Writt, Don

2014 BUSINESS PARTNERS:

Brooks Family Chiropractic
Crystal River Inn Bed & Breakfast
Holly Funeral Home
Johnson Insurance Agency
JR's Sportsmans Bar & Game Farm
Knight Barry Title Company
Niemuth's Steak & Chop Shop
Riverhill Dental Associates
Waupaca Foundry
Woolsey Plumbing & Heating

SPECIAL GRANTS RECEIVED DURING 2014 FROM: City of Waupaca

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE WAUPACA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

SPECIAL SPEAKER FOR QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON MARCH 5TH

Waupaca native Jim Nicewander, now of Plover, will be presenting a program on "One-Room Country Schools in Waupaca County – from Community Pillars to Extinction" on Thursday, March 5, at 4:00 p.m. at the Holly History & Genealogy Center. This program is being offered to our membership and to the public. The hour-long presentation will look at the one-room country schools that were the centers of their communities throughout the countryside of Waupaca County (and all of rural Wisconsin) for generations. The program will consider how there were 123 one-room country schools in Waupaca County in 1940, but by 1965, there were none. By the mid-1960s, in Waupaca County, the one-room country school had become extinct! This presentation will examine that extinction and how and why it happened.

Program presenter, Jim Nicewander, was born and raised on his family's small farm about eight miles south of Waupaca, in the Township of Lind. He attended school at Lynwood School, the neighborhood's one-room elementary school, and also at the Waupaca High School where he graduated in 1966. Nicewander was employed for 30 years as an administrator in the Stevens Point public schools, retiring in 2007. After retirement, he established the Rural Heritage Reading Project, a non-profit endeavor that provides Wisconsin history presentations and distributes books to fourth graders in schools across central Wisconsin. Since the Rural Heritage Reading Project started in 2007, it has provided programs and books to over 3500 students, all at no charge to the students or to the schools.

In 2001, Nicewander authored a book under the pen name of "Jim Pope". Titled *"Everyday Adventures of a Farm Boy in the '50s"*, the book is a collection of stories documenting the author's time growing up on the family farm, and it is the first in a series of three such books being written primarily for kids. Volume two of the three-book series will continue the adventures begun in the first book. It is a work in progress and includes stories of Nicewander's attending his neighborhood's one-room school. During the writing of this second book, Wisconsin's rural school consolidation became a matter of relevance and interest to Nicewander, who conducted considerable background research on the topic. This special presentation on March 5th for the Waupaca Historical Society is an outgrowth of his study on this topic.

There is no charge to attend the March 5th presentation, but Nicewander is bringing copies of *"Everyday Adventures of a Farm Boy in the '50s"* to the meeting, where he will gladly sign them. For a donation of \$15 to the *RURAL HERITAGE READING PROJECT* (the book normally sells for \$20 in bookstores) those in attendance will be given a signed book, with \$5 from the sale of each book being given back to the Waupaca Historical Society.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special presentation! For more information about this program, please contact the Waupaca Historical Society at 715-256-9980. For more information about the Rural Heritage Reading Project, please contact Jim Nicewander at 715-341-5452

The Waupaca Historical Society is a tax-exempt organization as per the requisites of Section 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Waupaca area. The Waupaca Historical Society owns and operates The Holly History and Genealogy Center located at 321 S. Main St., Waupaca; The Hutchinson House Museum and Heritage Hall located in South Park, Waupaca, and the Waupaca Train Depot located at 525 Oak Street, Waupaca.

Thank you for your support. We hope that you will come and enjoy the displays and resources at the Holly History and Genealogy Center and visit the Hutchinson House Museum, Waupaca Depot and Heritage Hall with your family and friends. Please check our website for the days and times that these buildings are open.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Dates and times may be subject to change due to conflicting schedules so please check the Waupaca Historical Society website (www.waupacahistory.org) for any changes.

The Waupaca Historical Society's board of director meetings are held at 5:15 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. All events will be held in the lower level meeting room of the Holly History and Genealogy Center, 321 S. Main St., Waupaca, Wis. unless otherwise specified. Meetings are open to the public.

January 8, 2015, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
January 17, 2015, Saturday	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Railroad Depot Open House commemorating the 50 th Anniversary of the Last Train that stopped at the Depot
February 5, 2015, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
March 5, 2015, Thursday	4:00 p.m. Quarterly Membership Meeting – with special guest speaker Jim Nicewander who will speak about “One Room Country Schools” 5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
April 2, 2015, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
April 8, 2015, Saturday	Waupaca Book Festival
May 7, 2015, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
May 23, 2015, Saturday	Hutchinson House Museum opens for the summer season
June 4, 2015, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
June 20, 2015, Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hutchinson House Museum Open during Strawberry Festival 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Railroad Depot Open House during Strawberry Festival
July 2, 2015, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
July 4, 2015, Saturday	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 4 th of July at the Hutchinson House Museum
August 5, 2015, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
August 15, 2015, Saturday	Arts on the Square, Arts at the Depot (tentative) Waupaca Area Triathlon
August 22, 2015, Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hutchinson House Museum Open House during the Rod & Classic Car Show
September 3, 2015, Thursday	5:00 p.m. Board of Director Meeting – Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic (Tentative, Location to be determined)
September 19, 2015, Saturday	Fall-O-Rama in South Park, Hutchinson House Museum Open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
October 1, 2015, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Director Meeting
November 5, 2015, Thursday	Board of Director Meeting
December 3, 2015, Thursday	Board of Director Meeting

Waupaca Historical Society
321 S. Main Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

