

# THE REPORTER

Waupaca Historical Society, 321 South Main Street, Waupaca, WI 54981

Open Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VOLUME 26 – NUMBER 4

Fall/Winter 2022

## Tins Available for Waupaca's 4th Annual Yuletide Trail

The 4th Annual Yuletide Trail returns this year and will take place on Sat., December 3, in downtown Waupaca. The Waupaca Area Arts & Culture Network, comprised of businesses and local organizations—including the Waupaca Historical Society—created the Christmas event to bring a unique holiday celebration to Waupaca. The main activities of the Yuletide Trail will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with many shops and restaurants being open later.

The Waupaca Historical Society is again selling commemorative holiday tins featuring a historic Waupaca photo! Tins will include a cookie walk map and special holiday coupon book. On December 3, participants can visit downtown stops for pre-packaged treats to add to their cookie tin. All proceeds from the tin sales support the Waupaca Historical Society, thanks to a generous sponsorship from Community First Credit Union. Quantities are limited.

Tins are \$20 and available for purchase starting Nov. 7 at the Holly History and Genealogy Center, Northern Home, Community First Credit Union and the Waupaca Chamber of Commerce/CVB.

On December 3 during Yuletide Trail, shops and restaurants will be open to welcome holiday shoppers, with many offering specials through out the day.

The City Square (outside the Waupaca Area Public Library and City Hall) will be the center of activity during the event. Visitors can warm up beside the fire, enjoy free smores and cider, and make a craft. Items will also be available at the winter farmers' market. Tins will also be available outside, along with items from the Waupaca Historical Society gift shop, if still available.



*The Yuletide Trail tins go on sale on Monday, November 7 at four locations around Waupaca. Tins are \$20 and benefit the Waupaca Historical Society.*

Families can join the holiday storytime in the library at 10 a.m. and then enjoy holiday folk singer David Drake at 11 a.m.. The Waupaca High School Madrigal Singers will perform outside by the fire circles at 12 p.m. The Waupaca Community Choir will perform at 1 p.m. and then stroll downtown singing carols.

The Danes Hall on North Main Street will also have an open house from 12 to 4 p.m. with Santa, games, prizes, stories, cookies and hot chocolate. The Danes Hall is also collecting toys for Toys for Tots on December 3.

And don't forget the Friday night move on the eve of Yuletide Trail! Join us at the Waupaca Area Public Library at 6 p.m. for a holiday movie with popcorn on Friday, December 2.

For more information on Yuletide Trail, check out the Facebook event or call (715) 256-9980.

# Capital Campaign: Holly Center Meeting Room Getting a Facelift

The second project funded by the Capital Campaign is just about to begin at the Holly History and Genealogy Center. Thanks to generous community support, the Waupaca Historical Society will begin renovations of the Cynthia Holly meeting room in the lower level of the Holly Center. The renovations include installing a hearing loop, new flooring, painting and updating the sound system and technology, upgrading the electric, and new tables and chairs.

The project was made possible by both a grant from the Waupaca Area Community Foundation and donations toward the Capital Campaign. The grant supports the installation of the hearing loop, which will assist hearing impaired visitors and renters at the Holly Center.

Work is set to begin on November 15 and will be completed by early January.

## What is the Capital Campaign?

Since 1953, the Waupaca Historical Society has worked to preserve the rich history of Waupaca and the Chain O'Lakes. What began as efforts to preserve one of the oldest buildings in the City of Waupaca has grown to include the preservation of four sites and four buildings, an ever-growing artifact and archival collection, and monthly programs and community outreach. WHS has become a community partner with the City of Waupaca, the Waupaca School District, library, local businesses, and numerous arts and cultural organizations. We serve as a historical resource for our community and researchers and are an advocate for preserving our local history and stories for future generations.

This year, the Waupaca Historical Society embarks on

its first Capital Campaign. Our fundraising goal of \$400,000 will help us preserve and enhance our four buildings—the Holly History and Genealogy Center, the Hutchinson House Museum and King Cottage, and the Railroad Depot.

So far, the Waupaca Historical Society has raised more than \$100,000. Thank you to all of our generous donors!



*The Cynthia Holly meeting room at the Holly Center will undergo renovations this month.*

## How can you help?

We invite you to be a part of the Waupaca Historical Society's expanding preservation efforts and educational outreach. In its nearly 70 years, the WHS collection has grown to four sites, four historic buildings and more than 10,000 objects.

This campaign is about more than the buildings and collections we preserve—it is about the stories, the connections,

our role in the community and building for our future. Your support—no matter how much—will make a difference and help WHS grow in the ways we preserve local history, educate the public, and reach and serve the community.

## Have questions?

Please feel free to stop in at the Holly Center during open hours or give us a call! We are all passionate about the projects and the Waupaca Historical Society's growing role in the community.

## How do I donate to the Campaign?

Donations can be made on our website at [www.waupacahistoricalsociety.org/capitalcampaign](http://www.waupacahistoricalsociety.org/capitalcampaign) or by mailing a check to: WHS, c/o Capital Campaign, 321 S. Main Street, Waupaca, WI 54981. Thank you for helping us honor our community's past by embracing the future!

## Lost Arts Folk School Offers Winter Classes

After a successful fall, the Waupaca Historical Society's new Lost Arts Folk School will offer folk art classes in early 2023 to take the chill off the winter months.

This fall, the LAFS offered pumpkin carving classes with local pumpkin-carving expert Jim Miller and Norwegian dragon carving with Mitch Vesaas. The classes were held at the Depot and were well-attended.

This winter, the LAFS will offer four classes. "Making a Field Journal" will take place on Thurs., January 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. Students will make a unique leather-bound journal that is a one-of-a-kind piece of functional art. Teacher Susan Kennon will lead this class. The cost is \$30, which includes all materials.

On Sat., January 21, Barbara Johnson will help participants weave a special Valentine's Day basket. This class is suitable for beginners and experienced weavers, and costs \$35, which includes all materials.

Participants can make a hearth broom on Sat., February 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class costs \$45 and is limited to 6 participants.

Again in March, Barbara Johnson will also lead a basket-weaving class on Thurs., March 16 from 5 to 9 p.m. Participants will make a gardener's basket, perfect for using in your garden to harvest vegetables and flowers. The cost is \$35.

The Lost Arts Folk School was formed in 2022 as a committee of the Waupaca Historical Society. The mission of the Lost Arts Folk School is bring multicultural participants together to develop and practice hands-on learning in a nurturing environment. We encourage skill-based learning of traditional arts and crafts in the same way our ancestors did. The Lost Arts Folk School's and the Waupaca Historical Society's missions both exist to "preserve the history of the Waupaca area and to share that history with others."

If interested in signing up for a class, please call the Waupaca Historical Society at (715) 256-9980 or email [director@waupacahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:director@waupacahistoricalsociety.org).



## WHS Welcomes New Board President



My name is Ashlie Buck, and I am honored and proud to be stepping into the role of the president of the Waupaca Historical Society. I am blessed to say that I was born and raised in Waupaca. My lineage spans back to some of the first families to appear on

the census rolls for Waupaca, including the Bucks in 1860. I grew up surrounded by some of Waupaca's iconic historical sites including: the granite quarry, the Depot, the Fisher-Fallgatter Flour Mill, and the Central Lumber Company Planing Mill. I realized at a young age that these sites were once thriving but were long since abandoned. That's when I first fell in love with Waupaca's history and became passionate about being a part of preserving our historic buildings one day.

That day came in 2010, when I began volunteering for the Waupaca Historical Society at the Depot. Shortly after, I enrolled in classes at Fox Valley Technical College for Interior Design (AAS), and I started my internship at the WHS in 2016. I assisted with research and exhibit creation, cataloging artifacts, and making flyers for our programs and events. I became a WHS Board Member

during my internship and then became Treasurer in 2020. As President, I plan to work closely with our Director, Tracy Behrendt, to focus on our Capital Campaign's goal of honoring the past and embracing the future. I also look forward to working closely with the Board and committee members, volunteers, and the community to focus on our mission of preserving our history and sharing it for generations to come.

I am also proud to serve on the Waupaca Historic Preservation Commission. Our purpose is to recognize, preserve and enhance Waupaca's unique and distinctive environment. I continued my education with FVTC and completed a technical diploma in Office Assistant with a certificate in Marketing. It's my pleasure to also be working for FVTC as an Administrative Assistant in the Counseling and Advising office. My passion for learning and being a student translated into helping others achieve their goals through higher education. In my free time, I like to kayak, read and collect vinyl, and recently I started taking drum lessons.

I look forward to my new responsibilities as part of our growing organization. Thank you to all of those who support our mission and are a part of this remarkable community. This town is very dear to my heart, and it has helped shape who I am today.

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## At the Depot: Enjoying Waupaca and the Quarry

by Mike Kirk, Depot Volunteer

We have had some beautiful fall days recently. I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy them—the colors have been great, no mosquitoes, and nice autumn weather.

Waupaca is fortunate to have some beautiful scenery with hills and lakes created by the glaciers that once covered the land. Long before the time of the glaciers, a volcanic event changed the face of the land. Waupaca is located right at the edge of this large granite intrusion known as the Wolf River Batholith. Waupaca Falls is the result of the river plunging over the edge of this rock and is the reason the first white settlers moved here.

The first granite was dug from the Waupaca stone quarry in early 1900. The operation did not last long

because the crusher tower collapsed under the weight of tons of rock. The quarry was reopened in 1905. Granite paving stones produced there were shipped around the country, particularly Chicago. The operation lasted until 1915 when the crushing tower burned. Today you can walk around the quarry located behind the depot in Shambau Park and read about the granite rock and quarrying operation.

WHS recently had an interpretive walk around the quarry. Following the walk, we presented a slide program about the quarry. If you are interested, WHS has a large collection of historic Waupaca pictures, including a number of quarry pictures from the Henry Estberg photo albums at the Holly Center.

## Looking Back: Waupaca's First Newspaper

Local newspapers give a glimpse at daily life in a small community, and Waupaca's newspapers are no different. Newspapers tell stories of local businesses, government, events and people. This type of information is also helpful for researchers, teachers and genealogists.

With this in mind, the Waupaca Historical Society has partnered with the Waupaca Area Public Library to digitize Waupaca's newspapers from the 1850s to today. And, thanks to a grant and community donations, the first phase of the digitization project is underway. The first 90 reels of microfilm will be digitized through the Wisconsin Historical Society and eventually made available online.

In anticipation of the digitization project, we are taking a look back at the history of Waupaca's first newspaper, the *Spirit*. This article appeared in the *Waupaca Post* on March 29, 1894 and was titled, "Pioneer Life in Waupaca/ The Birth of the First Newspaper." It was submitted by Charles Brainerd:

"It was during the first week in November, 1853, that there came into Waupaca, at that time a small village in the enjoyment of intensely cold weather, two brothers, Charles and Joseph Redfield...

"The brothers brought with them a Washington press, new—the one now in use in the office of the Waupaca Republican—a few cases and a small quantity of type. An office was secured in the second story of Captain David Scott's store, which also contained the post office. The Captain was a genial gentleman on the sunny side of 70, who had determined to make his home on the Indian lands and grow up with the country, and he was doing it.

"Into that dingy up-stairs room the paraphernalia of the first printing office in the county was deposited, and the place was soon filled with a typical crowd of frontiersmen, all eager to 'lend a willing hand and see the preparation an' printin' of the new paper.'

"Men greeted each other on the street with: ... 'We're going to have a paper,' and—presto change—in a few



*Captain David Scott was among the second group of white settlers to arrive at the "falls of Waupaca." He built a home on top of the hill above today's Rasmussen Park at the end of North Main Street. His business, along with the early newspaper office, may have been in his residence.*

days the press was up and the type was under manipulation.

"In those days the mail came only once a week, and then by the way of Berlin. It always came on Monday night, and its coming was the signal for filling the post office with a motley crowd. There were lumbermen, prospectors, corner lot buyers, resident merchants, traders, trappers, gamblers, loafers, men with pistols, and some with big knives; teachers and lawyers, with a sprinkling of an et cetera population that Waupaca has not seen in many a day.

"They gathered about the little stove to keep it warm, and naturally discussed the prospects of the paper about to be born, while Captain Scott distributed the mail. Many were the guesses and suggestions as to the name. The Redfield Brothers were of the number of those who went to get warm and to wait for the mail. They were very quiet, and the greater part of the group did not know them. The remarks heard and the criticisms made were unique. Some were complimentary, and some were warning the young men to avoid a losing enterprise."

*Continued on page 6*

## Looking Back: Waupaca's First Newspaper (continued from page 5)

(Continued from an article in the *Waupaca Post* on March 29, 1894 titled, "Pioneer Life in Waupaca/ The Birth of the First Newspaper:")

"One man who is still living, but who shall be nameless, for he was a good friend to the paper afterward, said: 'I tell you, Captain, if them young men's got a dollar, they'd better keep it. They can't sell fifty papers here a year. There don't nobody want to advertise, 'cause we all know what everybody's got, an' what's the use of advertisin' jest to give them fellers money? Ef I knowed 'em I'd tell 'em to go to some bigger place an' lose their last dollar.'"

"Charlie Redfield heard the remark but maintained the stoical demeanor so characteristic of his nature, and he also heard John M. Vaughan's reply: 'I

say, Blank, if those young fellows have come out here to start a paper, it shows they've got grit. I'm going to put down \$3 for two papers, and if I knew the young men I'd give it to them now. They've got enterprise, and that's what we want.'

"What ye goin' to do with the second paper, John?' asked Blank, and began to laugh in a comical way.

"But the answer came quick: 'Send it to my friends down East, just what every man in Waupaca ought to do,' and John M. —he was a little, bustling man—strutted up and said: 'Here, Captain Scott, take this \$3 and give it to those newspaper men, and when I come up here next week again I'll bring some more names and money too.'

"The effect was electric. 'Bully for John,' 'give the boys a lift,' 'Where are they?' 'Let's hunt 'em up,' 'hurrah for the new paper,' and similar expressions showed a growing enthusiasm.

Captain Scott beckoned to the two brothers and presented them to the warming up crowd. They were called upon for a speech: 'Yes, gentlemen, we have come into the new country and propose to try out

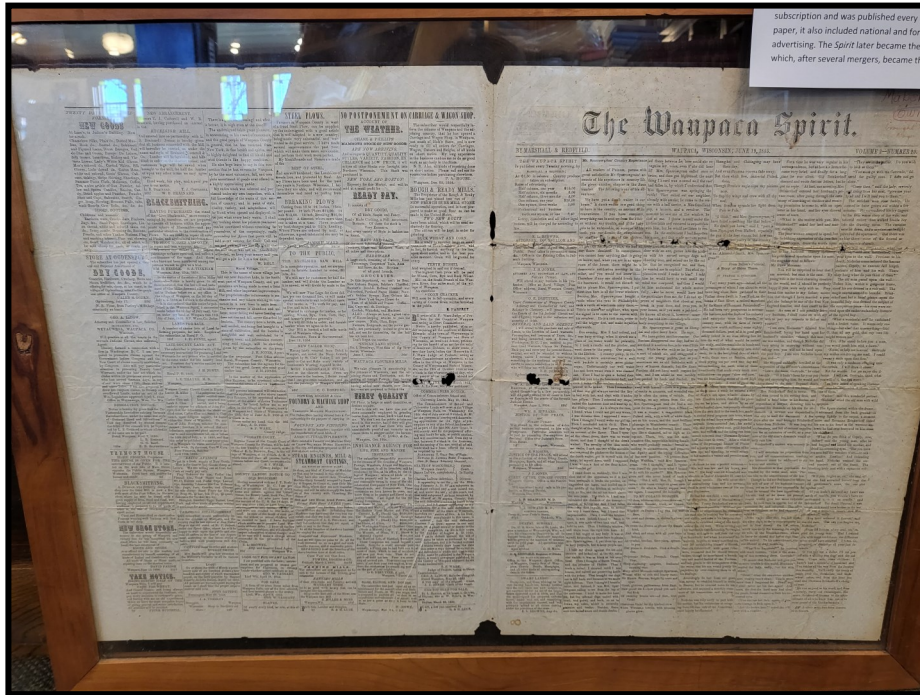
chances. We have the dollar that was mentioned, and we have the grit too. We will put both into the paper.'

"Twenty subscriptions were received then and there, and nearly all were cash down. But to John M. Vaughan was reserved the credit of paying the first cash down subscription for the new paper.

"Thus was the

Waupaca Spirit greeted on its advent into the Indian land. It afterward went the way of all the earth, and became spiritualized, nothing remaining at this late day but its historic press.

"An article was published not long since to show that the Spirit was not issued until January, 1854. A copy of the paper bearing the date December 19, 1854, and the legend, "Vol. 2, No. 2", is now preserved in the Republican office in this city. It was sent to the office by Charley Redfield a short time before his death. This would make No. 1 of the same volume to have been published Tuesday, December 12, and one year earlier would be Tuesday, December 13, 1853, thus fixing the date of the first publication of the first paper printed in Waupaca county as Tuesday, December 13, 1853."



An 1855 issue of the *Waupaca Spirit*—Volume 2, Issue 22—is on display at the *Holly History and Genealogy Center*.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*(all programs are at the Holly History & Genealogy Center unless otherwise noted)*

**Sat., December 4:** 4th Annual Yuletide Trail—purchase your cookie tin today! (Downtown Waupaca)

**Thurs., February 23, 6 p.m.:** “Building the Waupaca Foundry” with Sara Timm, Waupaca Foundry

**Thurs., March 30, 6 p.m.:** “A Creative Place: The History of Wisconsin Art” with Annemarie Sawkins

**Thurs., April 20, 6 p.m.:** “The Story of Seagrave and Four Wheel Drive in Clintonville ” with Barbara Koster, FWD Museum

**Thurs., May 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.:** Family Fun Day at the Depot with the Waupaca Area Public Library  
(at the Depot)

### Staff:

**Director:** Tracy Behrendt

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**President:** Ashlie Buck; **Vice President/Depot Volunteer:** Mike Kirk; **Secretary:** Betty Stewart; **Treasurer:** Dennis Lear  
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