

# THE REPORTER

Waupaca Historical Society, 321 South Main Street, Waupaca, WI 54981  
Open Wednesdays, 12-4, Thursdays, 10-2, Fridays, 12-4, Saturdays 9-12

VOLUME 23 – NUMBER 3

Summer 2019

## **“Dawn of the Red Arrow” Film Remembers 32<sup>nd</sup> Division**



***Waupaca's Company C walks to the Depot along North Main Street to Water Street on August 10, 1917. Once at the Depot, the soldiers of Waupaca's National Guard unit left for Camp Douglas and then for Europe to serve in World War I with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division.***

On July 30, members of the Wisconsin National Guard visited the Waupaca Historical Society to show, “Dawn of the Red Arrow,” its recent documentary about the famed 32<sup>nd</sup> Division.

The 84-minute documentary was the result of the Wisconsin National Guard's multi-year effort to commemorate the centennial of the 32<sup>nd</sup> "Red Arrow" Division, of which Waupaca's National Guard unit, Company C, was a part. “Dawn of the Red Arrow,” which will soon be available for viewing on YouTube, follows the stories of 15,000 Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and 8,000 Michigan National Guard Soldiers that joined forces to become the 32nd Division. The division went

on to forge a name for itself on the battlefields of France, and was a part of one of the most iconic American victories of the war.

Though Waupaca's part in the film is small, the men from Waupaca played an important role in the success of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Company C left Waupaca for Camp Douglas in Juneau County on August 10, 1917. The soldiers walked down Main Street, all the way to the Waupaca Depot on Oak Street, greeted by hundreds of well-wishers along the way. These soldiers would eventually find their way to Waco, Texas and then Europe, fighting some of the toughest battles of World War I.

**Continued on p. 5**



## Hutchinson House Welcomes More Visitors and Changes

By Tracy Behrendt

The summer weather this season hasn't always cooperated with many local residents' outdoor plans. But that hasn't stopped visitors from making a trip out to the Hutchinson House! Despite losing one weekend due to the July storm, attendance has been up at our Victorian home in South Park. We've had visitors from all parts of the county, country and even world this summer! And, with the help of our wonderful volunteers, we've been able to give these many visitors an idea of what life was like more than 100 years ago in Waupaca.

The summer started out with a big change, as Katharine McArthur stepped down as curator in May. With little time to find someone else to fill the position, the WHS Board decided to continue this summer without a curator and handed the duties over to me as director. It's been a lot of fun (and hard work!) coordinating volunteers and tours this summer, and I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the building and volunteers even more!



***A tree fell onto the fence of the Hutchinson House on Saturday, July 20, just missing the house.***

We've also begun working in the gardens, which will continue to be a project in the coming year. Thank you to Nancy and Jeff Weasner for your work in the garden and with the after-storm clean-up in July. A large tree fell on the front fence at the Hutchinson House on Saturday, July

20, just missing the home. We will work in the coming months to come up with a plan for a new fence to welcome visitors to the Hutchinson House. If you would like to contribute to the repair or replacement of the fence in any way, please contact me!

We've had a wonderful core of volunteer this summer, and I am so thankful for all of their help. Thank you to Betty Stewart, Marge Witt, Art Bolen, Pam Sannes, Jan Hanke, Nancy Weasner, Barb Laedtke, Deb Ostrander, Julie Hintz, Katharine McArthur and Dennis and Laurie Lear. Thank you for your time!

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## Annual Meeting to Be Held September 12 at Depot

The Waupaca Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on September 12 at 5 p.m. at the historic Waupaca Depot. Members and their guests are encouraged to attend and bring a dish to pass for the potluck meal. Hamburgers and brats, along with beverages, will be provided. A meeting detailing the last year's activities and finances will follow the meal.

Absentee ballots for the WHS board election are available at the Holly Center.

The Depot is located at 525 Oak Street and offers both rails on the front and a wheelchair ramp in the rear for easy accessibility.



***The WHS annual meeting will take place on Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. at the Depot.***

## Holly Family and Town of Dayton in the Spotlight in Upcoming Programs

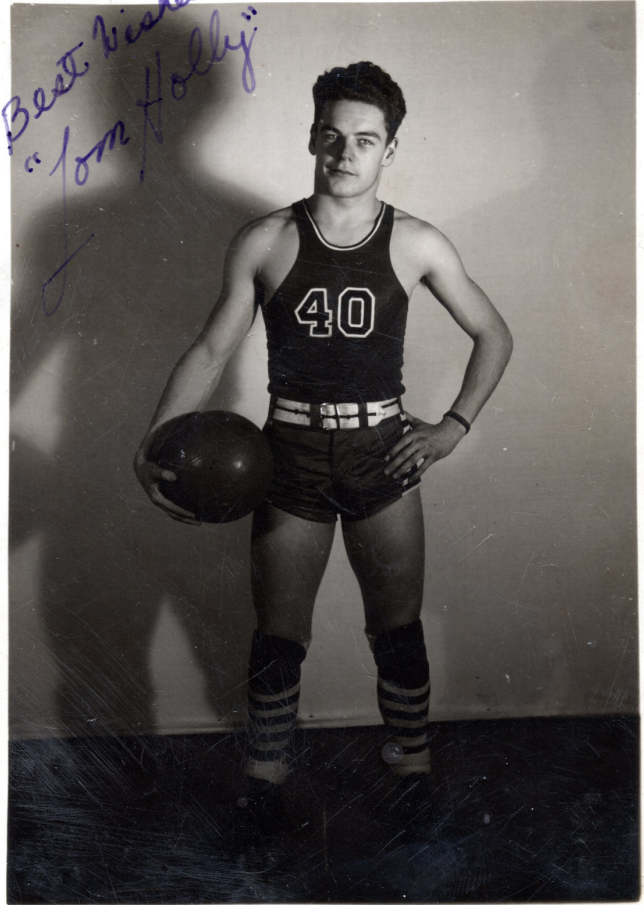
In the remaining months of summer, the Waupaca Historical Society will highlight local history topics at its monthly programs at the Holly History and Genealogy Center.

On Thursday, August 15 at 6 p.m., Steve Johnson from A.J. Holly & Sons, Ltd. will present, "The Holly Family and the Holly Funeral Home." Johnson will tell the history of the Holly Funeral Home, from its start in 1865 through its location and building changes over the years. He will also tell the story of the Holly family, their impact on the funeral business in our community and how the family legacy still lives on today. The program is sponsored by A.J. Holly & Sons, Ltd. and Neuville Motors.

Next month, WHS will focus on the history of the Town of Dayton, with "The Building of the Town of Dayton," on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. Diane Pinkalla will present the history of the township, its early settlers and its life today as part of the Chain O'Lakes. This program is sponsored by Paula Botan.

As the season changes to fall, WHS will turn its focus to local recreation and present, "On the Hunt: The History of Deer Hunting" with author Bill Willging on Thursday, October 24 at 6 p.m. Willging, an outdoor writer, will tell the story of deer-hunting in Wisconsin, from the spear-throwing Paleo-Indians to the sportsmen of today. He will also cover subsistence and sport hunting, deer camps, changing deer management policies, and recent developments and controversies, from human encroachment on deer habitat to CWD.

There is currently no sponsor for this program. If you are interested in sponsoring this program, please contact WHS today!



***Tom Holly, A.J. Holly's grandson, joined the family business in 1946 and became owner of the firm in 1960. Tom is pictured above in 1940 on the Waupaca High School basketball team.***

All programs are held in the lower level of the Holly Center. Refreshments are also served.

If you have missed past programs, visit our website at [www.waupacahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.waupacahistoricalsociety.org) and click on "Videos and Programs" on the left. The City of Waupaca records most of our programs and then offers them both online and on the local cable access channel in Waupaca.

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## Waupaca Historical Society Wish List

The Waupaca Historical Society is thankful for in-kind donations of new or gently used items. If you can donate or sponsor a Wish List item, contact WHS today. Thank you!

Laptop for office/collections use at the Holly Center (\$400)

Slate chalkboards for children (\$30)

Legos (\$50-\$100)

Mesh plastic canvas (\$40)

Steel shelving with powder finish for storage (\$140)

Plastic needles and yarn (\$25)



## At the Depot: Web Cams and More Lights!

By Mike Kirk

We finally have our web cams up and running. Mike Tippins of Virtual Railfan came to the Depot and set up two cameras and the related equipment for us. One is a fixed camera mounted just outside of the office, pointing down the track to the east. The other is a PTZ cam (Pan, Tilt, Zoom) mounted above the roof on the east chimney. It normally points down the track to the west. But as the name says, it is capable of being turned to best watch the trains as they go by or switch to watching the Waupaca Foundry. Both cameras have sound. They are easy to find on YouTube. Just go to the YouTube.com and type in Virtual Railfan Waupaca. Choose the one that has the word Live in a red box. People especially enjoy watching the local train switch cars at the Foundry nearly every afternoon. There are about 25 trains passing throughout the day or night. Some people like to watch the weather. The recent storms could easily be seen as they came in. Spectacular sunsets can be seen to the west in the evenings.

Along with watching the cameras, viewers can join in the chat and visit with people from around the world. Some people leave the camera turned on on their home computers and



**Jan Rademacher (above, black shirt) and Sue Abrahamson (below, black shirt) from the Waupaca Area Public Library partnered with WHS for its third annual Family Fun Day at the Depot. The library offered crafts in the Depot and stomp rockets outside.**



Peterson helped pour concrete bases and Gary Otterson brought a tractor to help erect the heavy cast iron posts. They should be complete soon.

Come out to the Depot this summer still and check out the web cams (we have it running on a screen in the Depot) and see the other additions to the building and grounds! We are open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays through Labor Day, 12-5 p.m. We will also be open on Saturday, August 17 (Arts on the Square in downtown Waupaca) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

listen for the sound of approaching trains blowing their horns.

We have also been working on a few projects at the Depot. A number of years ago, Elsie Mae Yohr donated two street lights. They had been on Main Street for many years until the current lights were installed—long-time Waupaca residents may remember them. As with many changes, it was controversial when the new ones were installed. With all the Depot projects that need to get done, I kept delaying the decision of where to erect the lights. Now with the web cams, there is added incentive to light up the trains as they pass at night. Brett

## Waupaca's Men Play Role in Red Arrow Division

(Continued from p. 1)

On June 5, 1919, just seven days before a homecoming parade for Waupaca's soldiers, the *Waupaca County Post* published an article about Waupaca's connection to the "Red Arrow" Division. The article tells the story of how the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division received their nickname and their great success overseas during World War I.

From the *Waupaca County Post*:

"Marshal Petain Tells How Thirty Second Division Got Name, Les Terribles.

"How Wisconsin's famous fighting division, the Thirty-second, achieved the name "Les Terribles" is contained in an official announcement received by Gen. Charles King, through Gen. Winans, from Marshal Petain himself, hero of Verdun and commander-in-chief of the armies of France in the east.

"In a letter, Gen. King calls attention to the heroic work of this fighting division, formerly the Wisconsin National Guard. It was one of the five commands, he pointed out, officially designated as "shock divisions" by Gen. Pershing's order...

"Gen. King's communication including the official announcement received from Marshal Petain, follows:

"Again your dispatches refer to the arriving soldier in New York as "Wisconsin guardsmen," whereas they were selected draft men and not the volunteers of the guard.

"'Good men and true' they are and well drilled soldiers, as all who saw them on parade here last year (Maj. Bradley's battalion from Camp Custer) can testify, but our guardsmen won a distinction peculiarly their own and they should not be, as they frequently are, made to share it with other commands.



***After departing from Waupaca, Company C traveled to Camp Douglas in Juneau County for training. This image shows the living areas for many soldiers at the camp.***

"With the exception of companies E, F, and G (Fond du Lac, Oshkosh and Appleton) of our Second Infantry, Wisconsin National Guard, which were taken from us to make up the machine gun battalion of the Rainbow (Forty-second) division, the entire Wisconsin guard, 6,000 strong, (six regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, one of field artillery, a battalion of engineers, a battalion of signal troops and certain ambulance companies) went into the Thirty-second division. And the 32<sup>nd</sup> division after magnificent fighting in France was one of the five commands officially designated as 'shock divisions' by Gen. Pershing's order. It is significant that of these five two came from the regulars and three from the National Guard.

"And now comes the interesting point. The overseas divisions chose their own names as a rule, but the Thirty-second—made up exclusively of Wisconsin and Michigan guardsmen—took the name from the designation given by the French themselves to its exclusively Wisconsin brigade—the Sixty-fourth—and as success always develops envy, this flattering fact has of late been slightly referred to, if not openly questioned by envious rivals.

**Continued on p. 6**



## French Military Gives Honorable Name to 32<sup>nd</sup> Division (Continued from p. 5)

“Fortunately, I have here the official announcement received only three days ago from France. And who is to question the citation of Marshal Petain himself – Petain, the hero of Verdun and commander-in-chief of the armies of France in the east?”

“Order No. 13976 D. Extract. With the approval of the Commander in Chief, American Expeditionary Forces in France, the Marshal of France, Commander in Chief of the French armies of the east, cites in army orders:

“The 64<sup>th</sup> U.S. Brigade (32<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Division of Infantry). Magnificent Brigade to which the French soldiers fighting by its side have rendered the most beautiful homage in calling it the ‘Brigade des Terribles.’ Composed of the 127<sup>th</sup> and 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments (and the 121<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Battalion) it took in a brilliant and irresistible attack, the village of Juvicny, the 30<sup>th</sup> August and the 1<sup>st</sup> September, donating constantly the enemy, in spite of heavy losses, sustaining without faltering the most violent enemy counter attacks, fighting for three days without stopping, without rest and almost without food.”



***Waupaca celebrated the return of its soldiers on June 12, 1919 with a parade down Main Street.***

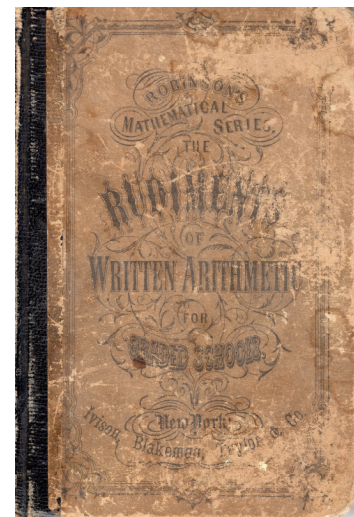
“At Great Headquarters, March, 1919...The Marshal, Commander in Chief of the French Armies of the East, PETAIN...

“Of the 16,000 originally sent to Texas – (every man of our guard as it stood on Sept. 1, 1917 – there are now only about 5,000 left in the ranks of the Thirty-second division, nearly 1,500 having died in action or as the result of wounds, some 2,000 having been transferred early in the game to fill up the regulars, and upwards of 2,000 having come home invalided by reason of wounds, shell shock or gas. Very any more are in French hospitals or recuperating in France.”

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### Collections Corner

The Waupaca Historical Society receives hundreds of artifact donations each year. These collections tell the story of the city of Waupaca and the surrounding townships. This book (right) was donated by Cordell Marie Affeldt in Harrisburg, Penn. The book, “Robinson’s Mathematical Series/ The Rudiments of Written Arithmetic for Graded Schools,” was printed in 1877 and was used as an arithmetic book at a rural school in Caledonia Township.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All programs are held at the Holly History and Genealogy Center, 321 S. Main St., unless otherwise noted.

**Thursday, August 15, 6 p.m.** “The Holly Family and the Holly Funeral Home” with Steve Johnson

**Friday, August 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** Brat Fry at Fleet Farm

**Friday, August 23, at dusk** Selling refreshments in South Park for Waupaca Park & Rec Movie in the Park, “Ralph Breaks the Internet”

**Thursday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m.** “The Building of the Town of Dayton” with Diane Pinkalla

**Saturday, Sept. 21** Cemetery Walk and Hutchinson House Open  
Fall-0-Rama in South Park

**Thursday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m.** “The History of Deer Hunting” with Bill Willging

### Staff:

**Director:** Tracy Behrendt **Hutchinson House Curator:** Katharine McArthur

### Board of Directors:

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