

THE REPORTER

Waupaca Historical Society, 321 South Main Street, Waupaca, WI 54981
Open Wednesdays, 12-3, Thursdays, 10-2, Fridays, 12-3

VOLUME 24 – NUMBER 1

Winter 2020

2020 Brings Slate of New Programs for Historical Society

In 2019, the Waupaca Historical Society welcomed more than 1,100 people to its 19 programs. Program topics ranged from the Civilian Conservation Corp and Wisconsin Veterans Home to the Chain Skiers and history of beer making. And, though most of the programs took place at the Holly Center, WHS also hosted programs at the Depot, Danes Hall and Trinity Lutheran Church, truly making these community events!

Again, in 2020, the Historical Society will host a variety of programs on both local history and historical topics. All programs are at 6 p.m. at the Holly Center, unless otherwise noted. The 2020 program schedule includes:

- February 27: “Growing Turners Fresh Market” with Ross Turner
- March 26: “The Making of Pioneer Wisconsin: Voices of Early Settlers” with author Michael Stevens
- April 16.: “Waupaca’s Masonic Lodge”
- May 14: “Whispering Pines Park: Memories of How It Was (1929-1974)”
- June 11: “Waupaca County’s Poor Farm” with Michelle Grabner
- July 4: 4th of July Fundraiser at Holly Center
- July 23: “In All the World, No Lakes Like These: Images of the Waupaca Chain O’Lakes” with author Zachary Bishop



Zachary Bishop will present a program on the history of the Chain O’Lakes on July 23. Bishop has written a book on the Chain O’Lakes, which will be available this spring.

- August 13: “One Room Schools: Stories from the Days of 1 Room, 1 Teacher, 8 Grades” with author Susan Apps-Bodilly
- September 10: “Waupaca’s Granite Quarry” (at the Depot)
- October 3: Lakeside Cemetery Walk (1 and 3 pm)
- October 22: “Women’s Suffrage: How the Great Battle to Win the Vote Was Won” with Bob Kann
- November 12: “The Legend of Chief Waupaca” with Ray Reser
- December 5: 2nd annual Yuletide Trail

Also look for brat fries, beginning in May! These brat fries provide funds for our programs, events and collections supplies. Brat fries are held both at the Holly Center and at Fleet Farm.

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At the Depot: Winter Work Still Going On to Ready for Spring

By Mike Kirk

Now that the holiday season has passed, the Depot will not have regular open hours until spring. We did open the Depot the weekend after Thanksgiving and Saturdays in December. With the successful Yuletide Trail event downtown Waupaca the weekend before, we had fewer visitors this year for Santa at the Depot on December 21. But we still had about 30 visitors.

But just because the Depot is not open during the winter does not mean there is nothing happening there. The Waupaca Area Model Railroad Club had their semi-annual potluck lunch and business meeting at the Depot in January. They plan to hold all their semi-annual meetings there in the future. We are looking forward to hosting them!

The big project at the Depot right now is installing a hardwood floor in the lower level. We have a lot of maple flooring salvaged from the former Waupaca Armory gymnasium. We first put down a layer of DRIcore basement subflooring. On top of that, we laid the floor boards. They are small pieces that we first have to clean up by removing the accumulated varnish and dirt from the edges. It will take thousands of pieces to complete the job. We started working on it around Thanksgiving and hope to be done by this spring. I have had a few helpers throughout the process, with Brian Godfrey doing by far the most.

I also wanted to give you an update on two historic Waupaca buildings. A couple who have an antique and salvage art studio and shop in Wisconsin Rapids purchased the automotive garage on Jefferson Street from Harold Stiebs. They are working with the City of Waupaca on how to proceed with their ideas for the building. These include the possibility of



Above, volunteers are putting in a hardwood floor in the lower level of the Depot. Work will likely be completed by spring.

Below, Santa stopped at the Depot on December 21.



placing it on the National Register of Historic Places, possibly along with Doran Hardware next door. The histories of both buildings are tied very closely together. The couple wants to keep the garage historically correct. Harold Stiebs has a renter for the Mead Bank building located north of the garage and did not offer it for sale at this time. We are excited to hear about this development and happy to know that the building, which has been an automotive garage for its entire existence, will be preserved.

Thank You for Your Support in 2019!

In November, the Waupaca Historical Society mailed its annual fundraising letter—and we are so thankful for your support! Thanks to your generous donations, WHS raised more than \$5,700! We are incredibly grateful for all of your support. This money will go toward several projects in 2020:

- Offering our free monthly programming at the Holly Center
- Launch a new Chain O'Lakes history website for public use
- Complete the comprehensive Waupaca exhibit
- Purchase archival storage supplies to properly preserve Waupaca's history
- Add to the exhibit in the King Cottage

We want to thank each and every one of you for your generous donations! With the help of donors like you, we maintain our four historic buildings and work to preserve the Waupaca area's history through collecting, programming and research.

Donations for Annual Fundraising Appeal

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Rick Winters
Robert Wubben
Lillian Ziebell (In Memory of Edward Ziebell)

Remember When...
Tom Browne Heads Historical Society
Waupaca County Post, May 28, 1953



The Waupaca Historical Society held its first official meeting in May 1953 in the lower level of the Waupaca Public Library. Today, the former library is the home of the historical society.

“About 50 persons were present Monday evening when the Waupaca Historical Society held its first official meeting in the library clubrooms.

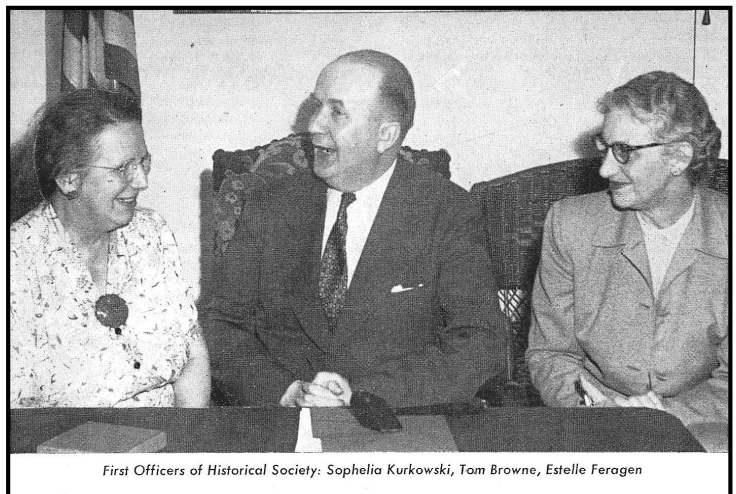
“Miss Sophia Kurkowski, chairman of the program committee, and several students of her American history class presented several skits depicting life in early Waupaca.

“Following the program, permanent organization of the society was formed and officers were elected. They are Tom Browne, president; Miss Sophelia Kurkowski, vice president and program chairman, and Mrs. Les Feragen, secretary-treasurer. MRS. O.A. SMITH, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the directors of the organization.

“Those elected unanimously at the meeting were D.F. Burnham, Phil Truesdell, Truman Potts, Reuben Danielsen, Ralph Hoffmann, Allen Scott, Mrs. Robert Holly, Miss Carrie Pinkerton, Miss Mary Benlick, Miss Jeanette

Housman, Mrs. William Milius, Mrs. Anna Holman. Mrs. Maurice Freiburger was elected publicity chairman.

“The committee appointed by the president to prepare the articles of incorporation and constitution were Dr. N.J. Jardine, Allen Scott, Gaylord Roberts, D.P. Burnham and Leo Martin, Jr.”



First Officers of Historical Society: Sophelia Kurkowski, Tom Browne, Estelle Feragen

A Look Back: Streets of Waupaca Part I

At the Holly History and Genealogy Center, staff and volunteers receive two to three research requests per day. Researchers often inquire about the history of Waupaca's street names, ranging from numbers to trees and animals. A large number of the streets are also named after former prominent citizens.

In 1961, the World History Class at the Waupaca High School researched the city's street names, putting together a small book. This book, along with several other high school history projects, can be found at the Holly Center today.

The book, entitled "Streets of Waupaca," tells the history behind numerous streets, and even the old foot bridge across the Waupaca River downtown:

"FRANKLIN STREET

"By Jerry Murphy

"Franklin Street was one of the earlier streets in Waupaca and was named after the famed Ben Franklin of the early days of the American colonies. People who came to Waupaca in the eighteen hundreds were for the most part from the East and so they wished to give some form of respect to their hero, so they named a street after him. In the eighteen seventies, Franklin received its sidewalks and so the street is now a respectful street in all sense of the word and has been since. It is a fitting memorial to a great American.

"GRANITE STREET

"By Joyce Pope

"This street was so named because of the massive pieces of granite on it and it also leads out towards the Granite Quarry which is four miles north of the city on the line of the Waupaca Green Bay R.R. The value of this granite was not discovered until 1885 and a quarry was opened in the fall of 1886.



Students at the Waupaca High School assembled a history of the city's streets in 1961. The high school above, now the location of the Waupaca Rec Center, sat on the aptly named School Street.

"In color, durability and beauty, the granite from here is considered the finest in Wisconsin and in some respects cannot be duplicated anywhere in the world. The colors are red, green, pink and gray, more or less mixed with black.

"Large blocks of this granite were used in the construction of the Omaha Bee Building in Nebraska some were used in the gateway leading into Lakewood Cemetery and the Gateway Chapel, both of which are in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"Large drills are used in order to break the granite loose and with the aid of derricks the stone is lifted out. It is cut into stone slabs by a stonecutter or by hand. To get the gloss the granite is rubbed with felt.

"One of the pleasing features of columns built out of this granite is that not two faces have exactly the same details of texture or color.

"THE FOOT BRIDGE

"By Marilyn Sherman

"On October 31, 1874, Christian Johnson, T.M. Paine, and H. Nordvi presented a motion to build a foot bridge across the Waupaca River near the Foundry.

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Waupaca's Street Names Tell History of City (Continued from p. 5)

"These three men were appointed as a committee to examine and report the cost of such a project.

"The village board met on November 6, 1874, and by motion appropriated the sum of \$25 to build the bridge across near Division Street. It was to be four feet wide with a strong railing. Today there is still a foot bridge at the same site. There was a Poll Tax in 1874, but there was an exemption for the people too poor to pay.

"STEWART STREET

By Kathy Reetz

"Stewart Street is so called because of the Stewart Tractor Company which was organized in that part of town.

"The Stewart Tractor Company was located by Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Streets as well as the present Stewart Street. This company came to Waupaca after 1875. The company built one tractor and folded."

Programs, Fundraisers Planned for 2020 (Continued from p. 1)

We are also looking for sponsors for our 2020 programs! We still need program sponsors (\$150) for programs on February 27 and October 22 and refreshment sponsors (\$50) for February, March, May, June, July and August. These sponsorships make these programs possible each year and allow the Waupaca Historical Society to serve delicious

refreshments at each one as well! If you would like to sponsor a program or refreshments, please contact the Waupaca Historical Society at (715) 256-9980.

Thank you for your support of these programs, and we look forward to seeing you in 2020!

Shop, Save and Donate to WHS Throughout the Year

If you shop on Amazon.com or have a Thrivent account, you have access to new ways to donate to the Waupaca Historical Society!

Amazon.com operates AmazonSmile, a website with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. All you have to do is visit [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choose the Waupaca Historical Society!

Thrivent policy or account holders can also direct their Thrivent Choice dollars to WHS. Members are eligible for Thrivent Choice dollars based on insurance premiums and contract values. Members then obtain Choice dollars that they can direct to certain

organizations. Those interested should contact their Thrivent representatives or log in to their accounts and visit <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>.

Thrivent members can also apply for Thrivent Action Team grants. Members can apply for either one or two Action Team grants per calendar year. These grants provide \$250 gift cards for you and your organization of choice to

put on a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event. Last year, WHS was able to hold its 4th of July Fundraiser and December program with Laura Ingalls Wilder with the help of Thrivent Action Teams!

If you have Action Team grants available to you and would like to work with the Waupaca Historical Society on an upcoming program, please let us know!



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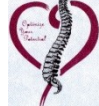
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321 S. Main Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thurs., Feb. 27, 6 p.m.	“Growing Turners Fresh Market” with Ross Turner
Thurs., March 26, 6 p.m.	“The Making of Pioneer Wisconsin: Voices of Early Settlers” with author Michael Stevens
Thurs., April 16 , 6 p.m.	“Waupaca’s Masonic Lodge”
Thurs., May 14, 6 p.m.	“Whispering Pines Park: Memories of How It Was (1929-1974)” with Jeff and Joel Jenswold
Thurs., June 11, 6 p.m.	“Waupaca County’s Poor Farm” with Michelle Grabner

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