

The Reporter

Volume 15, Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Waupaca Historical Society

Spring 2011

WHS Board of Directors: Dick Bidwell, President; Mike Kirk, Vice President; Betty Stewart, Secretary; Bob Kessler, Treasurer; Tracy Behrendt, Jim Boyer, Gerald Chappell, Vera Duesterbeck, Dennis Lear, Glenda Rhodes, David Trombla, Joyce Woldt, Don Writt, Marge Writt

WHS Director: Julie Hintz

Hutchinson House Museum Curator: Barbara Fay Wiese

An Application for A Wisconsin Historical Society & Wisconsin Council for Local History Affiliate Mini-Grant

The Collection Policy Committee (Joyce Woldt, Dennis Lear, Tracy Behrendt, and Jerry Chappell) on behalf of the Waupaca Historical Society is applying to the Affiliate Mini-Grant Program for funds to upgrade the WHS collection cataloging software.

Description of the Project: Even in the face of an economic recession, WHS has considered it high priority to maintain an effective cataloging process, has acquired Past Perfect Version 2.5 to accession historic materials, and has funded the training of two members in the use of the software program. The WHS Board of Directors wish to improve the accessioning, cataloging and research processes by updating its current PastPerfect software by adding Version 3.5 (\$99), then Version 4.0 (\$199), and finally the Multimedia and Imaging Upgrade (\$370, totaling \$678 with \$10 for shipping costs).

An updating to Version 4.0 would mean greater ease in entering accession records; the ability to link artifacts to donors, locations, and exhibits; and the future use of PastPerfect for contact and member records. The capabilities of the PastPerfect Multimedia and Imaging Upgrade will allow "for displaying images, audio, video, and Microsoft Word documents, PDF formats, and URL links to each catalog record." The Multimedia and Imaging Upgrade will allow WHS greater intellectual control over its collections within its three buildings through the attachment of photos to artifact records. The ability to attach multimedia links will also help WHS in both its object research and historical research requests, which WHS staff receives throughout the year.

To follow through and become the most effective cataloging society WHS can be (in these difficult financial times) via acquisition of the specified trio of PastPerfect update software, **the Society seeks from its membership contributions toward gathering a matching sum of \$339, equaling the \$339 sought from the Affiliate Mini-grant Program. The chance of being awarded will increase if WHS can show an endeavor to generate new matching funds rather than take money from its current budget. Mail contributions to Julie Hintz at the Holly Center.**

A Change of Policy and a Request

The Piggly Wiggly Supermarket is continuing to credit WHS shoppers' grocery receipts in their Piggy Bank Program, but the store will no longer manage the collection (in boxes located in the cart lobby) after April 24, 2011. Thereafter WHS will have to organize the collection of their receipts, a member dropping them off at the Store's Service Desk once a month. WHS Members will need to save receipts at home, then mail them in to Julie Hintz at the Holly Center or slide them through the book drop box on the front door of the Holly Center. Do not leave them in the front mailbox.

If you wish to receive your newsletters by email, please forward your email address to Julie Hintz. By emailing, WHS saves 44 cents for each copy of an issue.

Dr. Linus Bidwell Brainard and Brainerd's Bridge Park

A history article by Julie Hintz

Dr. Linus Bidwell Brainard was born on Oct. 30, 1805 in Ohio, the eldest of eleven children. His father came from Connecticut and was a pioneer to the Ohio wilds. Linus father died after being crushed under a log while helping a fellow pioneer erect his cabin. Linus then became the head of the family at a young age. He helped his family by teaching school when yet in his teens. He later studied theology and medicine. In 1839 he moved to Cleveland and practiced medicine there until 1844, when he was seized with "Western Fever", and migrated to the Wisconsin territory in the then "Far West", with his family joining him the following year. He purchased a tract of land (1,040 acres) in Sheboygan County and erected a sawmill. But the title proved imperfect and the whole of the land was lost. In 1849, he moved to Green Bay and served as deputy collector for the port of Green Bay. In June of 1853, he went on horseback to the then newly opened "Indian Lands" in Waupaca County. [The lands were finally available to settlers after a treaty settlement with the Menominee Indians in 1852.] He claimed 280 acres of land on the northwest side of the village of Waupaca and moved his family there in Nov. of 1853. [The first white settlers came in the summer of 1849, so Waupaca was just beginning to grow as a village.] At the age of 48 he began again as a settler on virgin land. He began to clear the forest and plow the land. He opened a sawmill along the Waupaca River (he owned land on both the north and south side of the river), but the demand on his time as a physician and surgeon caused him to leave the sawmill to be managed by others. The sawmill did not prove a lasting success and a few years later burned and was not rebuilt.

Dr. Brainard was instrumental in establishing Waupaca's Masonic Lodge. His services as a doctor were in high demand and he traveled by horseback to points 70 and 80 miles from Waupaca to care for the sick and injured. In 1862, he received a surgeon's commission in the U. S. Army and served with the 7th Wisconsin Infantry until the close of the Civil War. He returned to Waupaca after the war and continued with his medical practice until his death on November 14, 1885. Dr. Brainard's wife, Huldah (born July 25, 1820), continued to live on their land until her death on March 12, 1893. Dr. Brainard and his wife were

survived by three children: Charles Rollin Brainard (a noted lawyer), L. Henry Brainard, and Alice Brainard. The spelling of Brainard became changed sometime in the 1900s, perhaps because of a misspelling on one of the plat maps.

Dr. Brainard had erected a pole bridge on his land and the bridge was called "Brainard's Bridge" and the bridge was used by many of the early settlers. Much of the land was sold to Charles Churchill after 1893, but Alice Brainard continued to own 21 acres of land bordering the north and south sides of the Waupaca River in the current location of Brainard's Bridge Park. The 1923 Plat Map of Waupaca Township shows the land still being owned by A. Brainard, with an improved township road and bridge crossing the Waupaca River on the east boundary of her property. The city of Waupaca annexed the land that surrounds Brainard's Bridge Park sometime in the mid-1900s.



The Waupaca River and the to-the-island walkway at Brainerd's Bridge Park. The bridge can be seen in the distance behind the walkway. Photo courtesy of Jerry Chappell.

The Waupaca Chapter [of the Waupaca Jaycees] developed Brainard's Bridge Park over the years between 1964 and 1976. On page 66 of "Our Heritage", it states that the Waupaca Jaycettes "assisted [clearing brush and painting picnic tables] at Brainard's Park while the Jaycees worked on the bridge." Many improvements have been added to Brainerd's Bridge Park since 1976, including the new shelter building and playground equipment.

Hang on to Your Hats and Everything Else – its Hurricane Time

Reserve Thursday evening May 19, 2011, to attend a 6:30 presentation on hurricanes in the 321 Main Street Holly History and Genealogical Center. The content of the program ("Gulf Coast Hurricanes and Their Aftermath") is still being negotiated, but will likely include information on the devastating wind and water storms that accompanied Katrina, Rita, and Ike. Following coffee and cookies, the speaker, Hans Oppe, will offer a power-point presentation on the cause and nature of those savage storms.

Members of the WHS Planning and Steering Committee (Joyce Woldt, Tracy Behendt, Marge Witt, Dennis Lear, and Jerry Chappell) are also identifying Waupaca area groups and individuals who have gone south to aid the hurricane victims. The plan is to recognize and commend those people for their good deeds. Representatives of the various groups will be in attendance that Thursday evening to share trip displays and experiences following the speaker's presentation.



GULF COAST HURRICANES AND THEIR AFTERMATH

*A Special Program presented by
the Waupaca Historical Society
and Guest Speaker*

Mr. Hans Oppe

*Thursday Evening, May 19th, at 6:30 p.m.
at the Holly History & Genealogy Center
321 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI*



*Special Exhibits by Local Organizations
that assisted with Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts!*

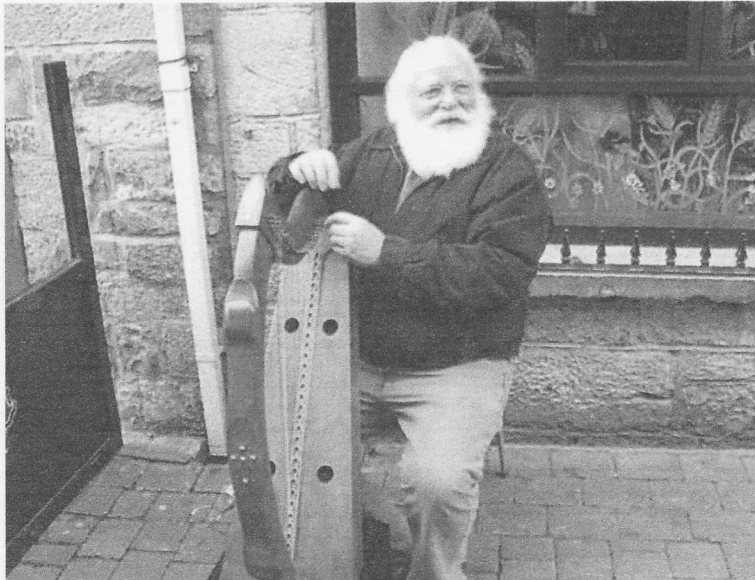
*Plus a special exhibit on
"Historic Natural Disasters of Waupaca County"!*

Refreshments will be served.

*This program is FREE and open to the public!
For more information, please call 715-256-9980!*

The Waupaca Historical Society
321 South Main Street
Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981 - 1745

Keeping History Alive and Making New History



The March 17th WHS sponsored St. Patrick's Day Concert with Gaelic Harpist Jeff Pockat turned out to be most successful. The Cynthia Phillips Holly room was filled to capacity and a crowd lingered for some time after the presentation.