

# The Reporter

Volume 18 Issue 4 The Newsletter of the Waupaca Historical Society Fall 2014

**WHS Board of Directors:** Dennis Lear, President; Mike Kirk, Vice President; Betty Stewart, Secretary; Bob Kessler, Treasurer, Ron Arthur, Tracy Behrendt, J. J. Johnson, Deb Fenske, David Trombla, Don Witt, and Marge Witt. **Director:** Julie Hintz. **HHM Curator:** Barbara Fay Wiese.

## Celebrating 100 Years - Where were you?

Turning over in his grave in dismay, Andrew Carnegie cried out “Where were you. . . where were my thousands of past patrons of a hundred years? At the invitation (*County Post West*, July 17 , ‘Carnegie building turns 100’) of the Waupaca Historical Society, why did you not come in to our historic building - today’s Holly History and Genealogy Center - to help celebrate our century old library? Did you not remember that back in the early 1900’s your ancestors of the Waupaca women’s clubs fought tooth and nails with the city council and then with myself to establish The Waupaca Carnegie Free Library? I know many of you often visited our library to self- learn – to become the most knowledgeable you could be in your vocations – to be well read in fiction and nonfiction – and to bring your kids in for Story Time. I know many of your lives were influenced by the librarians over time – Winefred Baily, Mary Benlick, Nina Smith, Helen Brooks, Ruth Ann Strassburg, and Gerald Brown, to name a few. Why did you not come in?” Disappointed, Andrew probably muttered to himself “I guess I can answer my own question. Namely, today’s marvelous Waupaca Area Public Library is such a great free resource it was easy for you to forget how much and well our comparatively little free library served you for ten decades and still serves you as a rich source of historical documents and artifacts. Yes I know, the internet of modern technology (Lap Top and PC computers, Smart Phones, I



**Panoramic view of the inside of the upstairs of the Holly History and Genealogy Center. Photo courtesy of Jerry Chappell, July 20, 2014.**

phones, I pads, and Kindles) erases or sets aside memory of all the merits that our little library offered you decade-after-decade as it served generation-after-generation.”

Andrew’s fretting undoubtedly turned into a smile as he reckoned, “Praise the Lord, Ms. Marie App (author of *History of the Waupaca Area Public Library*, 2000 who was on hand as speaker Sunday evening July 20) for presenting this evening such a humorous, informative, and comprehensive review of the history of our Waupaca Carnegie Free Library, doing so for the small group who showed up to celebrate one of Waupaca’s century-long mainstay establishments.” Stirred with gratitude on the other side of the grass, Andrew remarked, “Thanks Marie, you made my lonely night.” All in attendance would agree, “Yes, thanks Marie, and the cake and punch were good too.” Recap and photos by Jerry Chappell



**Marie App presenting with Carnegie’s portrait overhead as well as App’s painting of the building. Photo courtesy of Jerry Chappell.**

## **New Upper South Park Shelter Passes WHS Test.**



*Pot Luck Picnic at the new South Park Shelter during the annual meeting of the Waupaca Historical Society. Photo courtesy of Jerry Chappell.*

Thursday August 4, 2014, with downpours coming every half hour outside the sheltered aroma of President Dennis Lear's skillful grilling of brats and hamburgers, about 30 members of the Waupaca Historical Society socialized in keeping the history of Waupaca alive at the annual meeting of the society.

A most satisfying pot luck picnic was followed by recognition of the members of the Board of Directors (including new members Ron Arthur and J. J. Johnson, and retiring members Glenda Rhodes and Jerry Chappell), and of the volunteer helpers at the Holly History and Genealogy Center, Hutchinson House Museum and Railroad Depot. Secretary Betty Stewart presented last year's minutes of the

annual meeting and treasurer Bob Kessler gave a financial report and account of a multitude of improvements made upon the four society buildings.

The highlight of the evening was a highly informative presentation on the History of Waupaca's South Park by Waupaca historian J. J. Johnson.

The new shelter passed the usability test in that the WHS annual meeting progressed without downpour interruption as the attending members could also occasionally gaze upon the nearby south side of the Hutchison House Museum and the Heritage House. Needless to say, a great time was had by all! Recap and photo by Jerry Chappell

## **June Melby Delights Audience with Whimsical Lecture.**



*June Melby.*

The Waupaca Historical Society was host to author June Melby on Thursday evening, August 7<sup>th</sup>. June gave a very entertaining and insightful lecture about the "history of miniature golf". June's parents, Jean and George Melby, were the owners of the Tom Thumb miniature Golf Course, which is located on Waupaca's Chain O' Lakes, from 1973 to 2003.

June's presentation included information about Garnet Carter who was instrumental in the 'birth' of miniature golf in 1927. Over the years he sold over 3,000 franchises/pre-fabricated miniature golf courses and the popularity of the sport spread across the U. S. and is still a popular family sport today.

June also shared anecdotes about her experiences while working at the Melby family's "Tom Thumb Golf Course." To learn more about miniature golf and the Melby family, we recommend reading June Melby's book, "My Family and Other Hazards", which can be purchased at Waupaca's Book Cellar, or at Amazon.com. Photo and recap by Julie Hintz.

## Fall-O-Rama Brings in Over 100 Visitors



*Pre-Fall-O-Rama photo in the Waupaca County Post, September 11, 2014.*

Hundreds of people showed up for Waupaca's 2014 Fall-O-Rama to check out South Park full of tent vendors displaying all kinds of crafts, music, food, and fall vegetables. With Dr. Dobbe, Rod Frankovis and the Dixieland Band providing music in the background, the Waupaca fire truck offering Jaws of Life demonstrations, the Senior Center displaying dance routines, and the FFA covering a petting zoo, among other events, The Hutchinson House Museum opened its doors to over one hundred of the attendees at the Fall-O-Rama. Docents Julie

Hintz, Barbara Fay Wiese, Jerry Chappell and Betty Stewart found pleasure in answering questions about the Hutchinson family and house, and the many special artifacts that furnish the grand old first clapboard home of Waupaca. Recap by Jerry Chappell.

## Waupaca Fourth Grades Visit the Hutchinson House Museum

During the last week in September and the 1st week in October, six classes of Waupaca fourth graders, along with teachers and three or four helping parents, visited the one time home of Chester and Susannah Hutchinson, and later Julia and Uncle Denison. Each class spent two and a quarter hour touring the various rooms under the guidance of a team of docents. Most classes divided up into 5- student subgroups that rotated from room to room and docent to docent. So in that length of time, led by HHM Curator Barbara Fay Wiese, the kids were loaded with knowledge of Victorian artifacts and Hutchinson family history. On October 1, Mrs. Doray's class engaged in the Hutchinson House Museum adventure, moving through the building with alert minds and bushy tailed excitement. Every docent, who that day happened to be Amanda Durfee, Dennis Lear, Jerry Chappell, Barbara Fay Wiese, and Barry and Ruby Shaw, were challenged with a barrage of questions.



*The HHM docent team ready to guide – for better or worse.*



*Curator Wiese telling the story of the Godfrey hitching post.*



*Curator Wiese introducing the 'greeting room'.*



*Just before parting, a silly class photo.*



## Thank You Staff and Volunteers!

The Waupaca Historical Society sincerely appreciates all the help we get from our volunteers and staff who put in many hours assisting us with projects, grounds keeping, maintaining our buildings, giving tours of our facilities, and keeping our society running smoothly.

### Our staff and their commitments:

**Julie Hintz** (WHS Director: Manager, Guide, Correspondent, and Special Exhibits of Holly History and Genealogy Center, Chairman of Program and Events Committee, Grant Writer, Facilities Maintenance, Hutchinson House Museum Docent, Researcher) .

**Barbara Fay Wiese** (Hutchinson House Museum Curator and Docent, Program and Events Committee, Grant Writer).



*Dennis Lear, WHS President.*

### Members of the Board of Directors: Ron Arthur

(Researcher); **Tracy Behrendt** (Collections and Accessions Chairman);

**Jerry Chappell** (Newsletter editor, Program & Events Committee, Collections Committee, Hutchinson House Museum Docent,

Researcher); **Deb Fenske** (City Council Representative); **J. J. Johnson** (Forthcoming newsletter editor, Historian, and Genealogy Volunteer);

**Robert Kessler** (Treasurer, Executive Committee, Membership Chairman, Grant Writer, Facilities Maintenance); **Mike Kirk** (Vice

President, Executive Committee, Depot Restoration Manager, Facilities Maintenance); **Dennis Lear** (President, Executive Committee, Program

and Events Committee, Collections Committee, Facilities Maintenance, Hutchinson House Museum Docent, Depot Volunteer); **Glenda Rhodes**

(WAGS Liaison); **Betty Stewart** (Secretary, Executive Committee, Hutchinson House Museum Docent); **Dave Trombla** (Depot Volunteer,

Depot Lawn Mowing); **Don Writt** (Executive Committee, Facilities Maintenance, Hutchinson House Museum Docent); **Marge Writt**

(Program and Events Committee, Hutchinson House Museum Docent).

Other Hutchinson House Museum Docents: Chris Chappell, Amanda Durfee, Jan Hanke, Laurie Lear, Barry and Ruby Shaw.

Other Depot Volunteers: Ein Christie, Cory M., Cameron M., Larry Behm, Shane Olson, Jan Schroeder, Six veterans from the Veterans Assistance Program and Eight Students from Waupaca High School with the Community Service Special Work Day.

Other Holly Center Volunteers: Kathy Kuehl and Laurie Lear (documents), Linda Kirk (cleaning services), Nancy and Jeff Weasner (grounds keeping and floral gardens as well as at Hutchinson House Museum).

Other Volunteers: Joyce Woldt (Collections Committee).

**Thank You from the Waupaca Historical Society Director, Curator and Board of Directors**

## WAUPACA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS PARTNER DIRECTORY – 2014

As a member of the Waupaca Historical Society, you are encouraged to patronize the following businesses which are enrolled as “Business Partner Member” supporters of our society:

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Waupaca, WI 54981  
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Waupaca, WI 54981  
www.knightbarry.com

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Waupaca, WI 54981  
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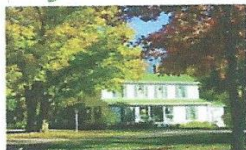
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## Annual Appeal to the Membership of the Waupaca Historical Society for Funds

This last year, the Waupaca Historical Society has had several capital outlays for various projects. The Green trim was painted on the Holly History and Genealogy Center for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Carnegie Building. Work was continued on the restoration of the train depot, including fascia being installed and the floor refinished. A computer was installed to monitor the train traffic and a caboose was moved to the depot property.

Some of the projects of the Waupaca Historical Society are the construction of a storage building behind the Holly History and Genealogy Center, the continued renovation of the train depot and the opening of the Heritage House as a Veterans Cottage, located behind the Hutchinson House Museum, to the public as a memorial to the Wisconsin Veterans Home. The City of Waupaca has been very generous in providing funds for our operating expenses but we could use your financial help with these capital projects.

Please consider a gift to the Waupaca Historical Society to aid with these capital improvements and the upkeep of our properties.

**Please detach and return with your donation. Thank you for your support.**

WHS Annual Fund Drive, 321 S. Main Street, Waupaca, WI, 54981

Please help support your local Waupaca Historical Society:

Amount: \$10.00 _____	Project: Holly History & Genealogy Center _____
\$20.00 _____	Hutchinson House Museum _____
\$50.00 _____	Train Depot _____
Other _____	Heritage House _____
	Undesignated _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you want a receipt for tax purposes. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you, Dennis Lear, WHS President

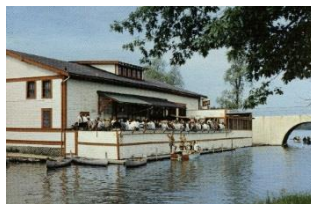
## Members of the Society to Meet in Early December

The Waupaca Historical Society will host a special Membership Meeting to be held on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Holly History and Genealogy Center at 4 p. m. Julie Hintz, our Director, will give an informative presentation on “Some Mysteries of the Hutchinson Family and Their Journey to the Indian Land”. This presentation will answer some of the questions about the Hutchinson Family that our visitors, members, and even our docents, often ask, such as:

- When did the Hutchinson family first come to Wisconsin? Are the Hutchinson, Session, and Parish families related? Did oldest son Deloss Hutchinson have his own farm?
- Who were Hannah and Mary Parish and why did they come to Waupaca?
- How and why was Deloss Hutchinson Murdered? What happened to Deloss’s second wife Adaline and his four children? Did George and Denison Hutchinson also have farms?
- Where did Suzanna Hutchinson live after Chester’s death? Who was Henry Chester Hutchinson and what happened to him? When did Julia Hutchinson move into the Hutchinson House?

To find out answers to these questions and more, please join us at the Holly Center on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, Members are encouraged to attend and are welcome to invite a guest. The presentation will begin promptly at 4 p. m. Mark your calendar.

**What are these buildings? How many/which ones belong to the Waupaca Historical Society?**



*Most photos courtesy of Jerry Chappell.*

**Waupaca Historical Society**  
**321 South Main Street**  
**Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981**

### **Keeping History Alive**

#### **Come see the 'Waupaca History Guide' during a Display, Disburse, and Sign Session**

Jerry Chappell will visit the Holly History and Genealogy Center from 1 p. m to 3 p. m. on Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 21<sup>st</sup> to show off, provide 'perk' copies for the pickup of interested WHS members (at only the cost of printing and binding), and autograph his 'An Annotated Bibliography of History Books about Waupaca, Wisconsin'.

Jerry has compiled the book to be a guide for research and a study of information about six aspects of the City of Waupaca - a guide that belongs in every Waupaca household.

The book reviews and reports the content of 31 books, that, in Jerry's opinion, best tell the story of Waupaca's history. The bibliography guides the finding of significant historical information for six categories, namely, 1) Waupaca History, Departments, and Systems (e. g. The Fire Department and Waupaca Area Public Library, 2) Churches (e. g., St. Mark's Episcopal and St Mary Magdalene Catholic), 3) Clubs, Organizations, Societies, and Cultural Groups (e. g., Waupaca Curling Club and Monday Night Club), 4) Prominent People( e. g., Dr. Cutting Marsh and Gerald Brown), 5) Industry, Businesses, Companies, Places and Buildings (e. g., The Mead Bank and Simpson Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge), and 6) Photos (e. g., The Indian Crossing Casino and Danes Home). As a Waupaca historian, come in and see what the book offers. It is a guide toward becoming more knowledgeable about the history of your city.



