

THE REPORTER

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dennis Lear

I would first of all like to wish all of our members a happy and healthy 2016. I believe the Waupaca Historical Society is ready for a great year. We did say goodbye, with sadness and appreciation, to our longtime Director Julie Hintz. We again thank her for her years of dedication to the Historical Society. We were blessed to have Tracy Behrendt, a qualified and enthusiastic former board member, as our new Director. Please make a New Year's resolution to stop at the Holly History and Genealogy Center and say ðhiö to Tracy and see everything we have to offer. Through the generosity of the Waupaca Library we received the original Carnegie Library desk. With this addition, Tracy has moved her office to the main room.

The Historical Society thanks the City of Waupaca for their continuing financial support. We rely on this support for our operating expenses. Every year we make a request from the City, and they have been very generous. I would also like to thank our members for their support. We have been blessed with several large donations, especially for the restoration of the Train Depot. Thanks to one large donation, the Depot will now be heated and will become a year-round venue.

The Program and Events Committee has met to plan events for 2016. We are very excited with the opportunities to share several interesting programs with the community. Please watch for these events in the local paper, on Facebook, in the *Reporter* and by email.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Tracy Behrendt



Winter has finally come to Waupaca and with that comes many changes. Here at the Waupaca Historical Society, we've undergone some changes, too! Julie Hintz, our director for nearly 13 years, retired in December, and I have since taken over that position. My name is Tracy Behrendt, and I have had a love for history and museums since I can remember. I received my Master's degree in museum studies and public history from UW-Milwaukee in 2005 and have worked in the museum field ever since. I have two children, age four and two, and my husband, Andy, is the youth pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waupaca.

While we haven't lived in Waupaca long, I have served on the Waupaca Historical Society board since moving here in 2010 and have a great interest in our local history. I hope to continue to grow our historical society, increasing programming and working to get out more into the Waupaca community. I am also excited to work more extensively with our collections at all three of our historic properties and develop some great local exhibits at the Holly History and Genealogy Center.

I also look forward to meeting each of you at our upcoming events—more to come on those in the next newsletter! Please be sure to stop into the Holly Center to introduce yourself and see the new desk upstairs, too!

Thank you all for your continued support of the Waupaca Historical Society, and I look forward to meeting you soon!

NEW DIGITAL PRACTICES AHEAD FOR WHS

By Ron Arthur, WHS Board member

For the past several years, the UW-Oshkosh Journalism Department has offered a semester-long course that gives students an opportunity to work as consultants with real-world non-profit organizations. The objective is to help organizations better understand the new ways that people are communicating online and through emerging digital platforms for smartphones and mobile devices (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) Each year only a handful of non-profits are selected from a waiting list of organizations that hope to benefit from this rare opportunity to engage with members of the "younger generation" who are experts in this field—both by virtue of their educations and their personal experience.

This year, the Waupaca Historical Society was chosen to receive a detailed evaluation of its current practices, as well as advice on ways improve its use of digital media. Under the supervision of Professor Sara Steffes Hansen, WHS was assigned to a student team consisting of Brenna McDermot (a graduating senior) and me (I attended the class as an auditor).

Ultimately, the team produced two written reports, which were delivered to the Board at a special two-hour workshop held on December 11th. One of the reports addressed specific and practical ways that WHS might use digital media to convey its message. The other included ways that our message itself could be revised to resonate better with younger generations who are attached to their digital devices and social media—and who constitute the future of our organization. Both reports are available at the Holly Center for viewing.

AT THE WAUPACA DEPOT

By Mike Kirk

As usual, work continues at the Depot. We now have the ceiling insulation installed in the attic. I was especially appreciative of William Trombla's help. As of Jan. 8th, we were still waiting for Torborgs to deliver the correct threshold for the replacement exterior doors. We are also waiting for Woolsey Plumbing and Heating to get the new heating system installed. The mortar work has been completed, and we started electrical work in the new part of the basement. We installed some used cabinets and built a workbench in the old part of the basement. We have four of the radiators stripped and repainted. As of this writing, I am working on the storm windows and hope to soon begin work on the baggage room floor and the new basement stairway.

Dave Johnson made a nice presentation of his donations for the heating system, a hobby shop gift certificate and the appraisal of donated railroad items. Thank you again, Dave, for your generous support of the Waupaca Depot.

HUTCHINSON HOUSE HAPPENINGS

By Barbara Fay Wiese

The Hutchinson House Museum season seems not to have ended yet! Various people have been coming and going working on projects that will enhance next year's season and also make storage much more efficient.

This past summer's visitors included a group of women who had won a tour of the Hutchinson House in a local basket drawing. We were so happy we could arrange a time to schedule it. Anyone can set up a private tour by calling 715-256-9980 we'd love to show you around!

The fix-it crew has been busy. Mike Kirk and Nancy Weasner repaired plaster damage near the front door. Nancy Weasner removed and saved research samples of the layers of wallpaper from the stairway walls. The walls are now being sanded and given a fresh paint job. The cleaned and painted walls will present a fresh welcome to next season's visitors.

We also have a backlog of items that have not been entered into our collections catalog. Tracy Behrendt, our new director, has been steadily working on this. Thanks in abundance to each worker for all of your time!

We received a wonderful donation and addition to our collection from Marge Witt, who donated a stereopticon and large supply of picture cards for our informal parlor. These stereopticons are generally the only items people may touch at the Hutchinson House Museum. Since we are happy to have four, a family or group can all look at picture cards together during a tour! A deep and broad thank you to Marge is hereby extended!

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST...

Waupaca Post
January 1, 1891

The ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps of Waupaca are preparing to erect a building for their use. It is also the aim to make it a convenient rendezvous for parties visiting the Wisconsin Veterans' home, three miles distant from the city. This feature will make the building doubly useful to the veterans and their families who occasionally visit the home. It will be made a convenient and pleasant stopping place for them without the expense of attending hotel accommodations. Oshkosh lumbermen and factory men have made handsome donations of material for the proposed building, and the Wisconsin Central Road has offered free transportation of material to Waupaca.

* * * * *

A NOTE IN HISTORY

April 1908: S.L. Hoaglin of Almond rented the first floor of the Peterson building from Enterprise Manufacturing Company to establish a garage in Waupaca. He has operated an automobile livery for past three years. Will open an agency for sale of machines as well as cater to the patronage of the lake resorters and the city.

November 15, 1853: Chester Hutchinson purchased a piece of land on the west side of the small settlement called Waupaca from Charles Bartlett for \$100. He also purchased a second parcel for \$40 from Olaf and Nelly Dreutzer.

According to local history, Chester Hutchinson was responsible for moving Main Street from its original location (where Washington Street is now) to its current site. However, when the survey was done in 1851, Dreutzer owned the land in that area. Dreutzer moved to Waupaca in March of 1850 and was sometimes referred to as "the Swedish sawmill operator," despite the fact that he had resumed his law practice upon arrival. He purchased the square that later became the Beadleston Brothers' store and the Masonic and Pinkerton Blocks from Erastus C. Sessions (the northwest corner of Main and Fulton Streets).

Records show that he built on what later became the Beadleston location (now Main Street Marketplace) in the spring of 1852. Dreutzer appears to have first built a place around Washington Street between Union and Badger Streets as later records show Jane Dieter built a place back of Lytle's Livery on the old Dreutzer place (known in 1886, as the Shumway place).

WAUPACA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS PARTNER DIRECTORY – 2015

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An Exciting Evening for the Waupaca Historical Society: Observations by Jerry Chappell, WHS member



WHS Director Julie Hintz (2003-15).

Within the midst of holiday spirits, the Board of Directors and members of the Waupaca Historical Society gathered Thursday evening December 3, 2015 for some exciting fellowship and business.

Downstairs in the Cynthia Holly Room of the Holly History and Genealogy Center, with plates filled to the brim with choice Christmas cookies from a large array of trays, there was much conversation among members about the Society activities. Then,

socially, half a dozen members shared with the group treasured Christmas artifacts from their past. However, the topic of choice was the amazing gift donation to the Society from Dave Johnson of two sets of holiday figurines. The beauty of the first set of caroling figurines on a circling stairway, representing the Twelve Days of Christmas, was closely admired by all. The second set of figurines for 11 of the characters from the Christmas Carol story, singing their hearts out, had also found a home upstairs in the Holly Center, ready to take the breath of admiration away from visitors.



Half of the Twelve Days of Christmas.



The figurines for the cast of the Christmas Carol story, singing for their donor Dave Johnson.



Left to right: Scrooge, Ghost of Christmas Past and Tiny Tim.

The business had an element of joy as well. Board members Betty Stewart, Marge Witt and J.J. Johnson consented to be considered for another term of duty, and new candidates Brian Godfrey and Jeff Weasner agreed to be on the ballot community. They were all unanimously elected. The 2016 Board members embrace the opportunity to continue keeping the history of the Waupaca area alive.

But the crowning business event of the evening was the announcement that Julie Hintz, the excellent director of the Waupaca Historical Society for the past 12 years, was stepping down. That sad news for the Society was balanced by the good news that former Board member Tracy Behrendt, bringing a host of experience and ideas, had consented to be the new Director of the Waupaca Historical Society. Fortunately, the WHS past has been great and the future is most promising as well.



New WHS Director Tracy Behrendt

LOCAL HOSPITAL RESEARCH AVAILABLE AT THE HOLLY CENTER

By Jerry Chappell

The Holly History and Genealogy Center now has several binders and files full of local hospital history and photographs. The binder, "Early Hospitals, Riverview Medical Center and ThedaCare Physicians," cover the pre-hospital Waupaca clinics of such doctors as Dr. Sam Salan, Dr. Andrews, Rev. Dr. Cutting Marsh and the Christofferson brothers; the exciting preparation for and establishment of Waupaca's Riverside Medical Center; and the union of ThedaCare with RMC. If you are at all interested in the history of medical service in Waupaca, these documents will provide much information.

Much more information on the early development of Waupaca's hospital is now available through the courtesy of Dr. Jerry Salan. He recently donated information on his parents, Dr. Sam and Isabel Salan, and on himself and his wife Nancy to the Waupaca Area Genealogy Society, which houses much of their material at the Holly Center. Not only does his collection contain wonderful documents but it includes three scrapbooks filled with pictures and some CDs, one of which has wonderful aerial photographs of Riverside Memorial Hospital, the building which was formerly the Mirror Lake hospital and other sites in the Waupaca and Chain O' Lakes area.

Besides these amazing materials, he also made a donation to the Waupaca Historical Society to purchase a long-needed file cabinet. If you've done some research at the Holly Center lately, you know how badly more storage space was needed for our growing collection of Waupaca's history. It had been getting difficult to get folders in and out of many of the file cabinets and had been on the WHS's "wish list" for some time.

Whether you are interested in your family history or just want to know more about some of the Waupaca area's residents, organizations, businesses or buildings, the Holly History and Genealogy Center holds a wealth of information and several interesting displays of artifacts.

Come visit us today during our open hours or call to make an appointment!

A NOTE IN HISTORY: TRAIN WRECKS

The *Waupaca Record* and the *Waupaca Republican Post* both carried articles on Wednesday, August 26, 1909 regarding a train wreck that occurred about a half mile west of Sheridan on the Soo Line.

At about 5:15 a.m., Engineer Perry Zimmerman received information that he needed to put his southbound freight train, No. 32, on a side track to allow another freight train, No. 29, to proceed west. According to the *Record*, "Either the air brakes failed to work or the engineer under-estimated the speed or the weight of his train," resulting in Zimmerman being unable to stop the train before it reached the switch.

When it became obvious that the train would not stop before crashing into train No. 32, the crew on train No. 29 jumped off to avoid injury. However, according to the *Record*, "One of the engineers, Zimmerman, whose home is in Fond du Lac, received a serious fracture of the left leg, in jumping from the engine into a gravel pit. Dr. P.J. Christofferson of [Waupaca] was called to attend the injured man. He was taken to the home of his wife's parents in Amherst, where he [remained] until he [was] sufficiently recovered to be moved to his home." Zimmerman was the only person injured. One of the train conductors, Amel Amenson, had been a resident of Waupaca at one time. Waupaca residents were relieved to learn of his escape from injury.

"Wrecking trains were sent from Fond du Lac and Abbotsford and crews worked until 2:45 p.m. clearing the tracks." According to the *Record*, "Both engines No. 2418 and No. 173 were badly demolished and about fourteen box cars were piled up." But the *Republican Post* reported, "the two freight engines sustained only moderate damage and about ten freight cars in the two trains were ditched."

Fourteen years earlier, in September 1895, there was a derailment between Sheridan and Waupaca, but, in this case, it had been intentional. Robbers removed a rail and waved the train to stop, but there was insufficient time and the engine jumped the track. Shots fired into the cars through the windows kept the passengers down. Ninety minutes later, 11 dynamite charges still hadn't breached the inner safe doors. A whistle from an oncoming train caused the robbers to flee into the swamp amidst gunfire. A posse was formed and Pinkerton's were hired, but no one was ever convicted of the crime. However, 42 years later, a skeleton found in the swamp with two holes in its skull was thought to possibly be one of the gang.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Dates and times are subject to change. Please check the Waupaca Historical Society website (www.waupacahistory.org) for any changes.

The Waupaca Historical Society's Board of Directors meetings are held at 5:15 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. **Meetings are open to the public.** All events will be held in the lower-level meeting room of the Holly History and Genealogy Center, 321 S. Main St., Waupaca, Wis. unless otherwise specified. \

February 4, 2016, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
March 3, 2016, Thursday Time to be announced	Quarterly Membership Meeting 5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
March 8, 2016, Tuesday 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Presentation at the Waupaca Area Public Library Lunch and Learn. Subject: Strong Women of Waupaca
April 7, 2016, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
May 5, 2016, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
May 2016 Date to be announced	Hutchinson House Museum opens for the summer season Holly History and Genealogy again opens Saturdays for the summer season
June 2, 2016, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2016, Saturday Times to be announced	Hutchinson House Museum Open during Strawberry Festival Railroad Depot Open House during Strawberry Festival
June 25, 2016, Thursday Time to be announced	Quarterly Membership Meeting
July 4, 2016, Saturday	1:00 p.m. ó 4:00 p.m. 4 th of July at the Hutchinson House Museum
July 7, 2016, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
August 4, 2016, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
August 20, 2016, Saturday	Arts on the Square, Arts at the Depot; Waupaca Area Triathlon
August 2016 Time & date to be announced	Hutchinson House Museum Open House during the Rod & Classic Car Show
September 1, 2016, Thursday Time & location to be announced	Board of Director Meeting ó Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic
September 17 2016, Saturday 9:00 a.m. ó 4:00 p.m.	Fall-O-Rama Hutchinson House Museum Open
October 6, 2016, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 2016, Thursday	5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting - review by-laws and elect officers
December 1, 2016 Thursday	Holiday gathering and Board of Directors meeting

FROM THE PAST...

ELECTIONS

With this being a major election year, you may find the results of the Waupaca elections reported in the *Waupaca Republican* on August 6, 1896 of interest.

“An election bet (the frankest thing in connection with the campaign just closed) was the laughable goldbug-popocratic parade that took place on our unique Main Street yesterday, as a result of an election between the Franks and Considine and Perrin in which the loser was to wheel the winner from the Hotel Florence to the City Hall and back. At noon Considine, wearing a grandpa’s hat with a yellow ribbon and carrying a big rooster loaned by I.B. Turnell for the occasion, stepped into a wheelbarrow decorated with the national colors and his own peculiar smile and was trundled over the designated course by the blushing Perrin amidst the smiles and cheers of the whole populace, including Cad Burbank of course, followed by a creaming and laughing concourse of Young America thumping tin pans, tooting horns, ringing sleigh bells and making all sorts of indescribable noises as only Young America can. It reminded one of the clowns in the van of a big circus parade. At the end the two Franks shook hands and smiled, then went to dinner as did everybody else.”

LOCAL BUSINESSES

The *Waupaca Republican* in May 13, 1909 announced that two new industries would be opening in the city.

“The James Music Company had obtained space at 110 Fulton Street, in the Calkins Building. A carload of pianos had been shipped to town over the railway and the company was expected to open within ten days. James Sturtevant wrote a letter of introduction in the paper to introduce E.M. James to the community, noting James was a personal friend along with being an active, reliable businessman who was “absolutely square in all his dealings.”

According to a follow-up article the following week, the *Republican Post* announced that E.M. James was the president and manager of the James

Music Company and would have direct charge of the Waupaca branch even though he and Bernard Laabs would share their time between Waupaca and their main store in Wausau.

The *Republican Post* reported on June 3, 1909 that “the store will be conducted as a first class music store with a complete line of high grade pianos, organs, string instruments, strings and supplies, sheet music and Victor Talking machines.” James had over 19 years of experience in the music field which represented “the result of years of actual testing and experience that enables us to guarantee and recommend the several makes represented (the Ivers & Pond, Starr, Krell-French, Kimball and Hamilton pianos).” James advertised, “we shall open our store with prices on popular music at 15 cents per copy and if we can sell a large enough amount will continue it at that price.”

The other business opening announced in the *Waupaca Republican Post* on May 13 was a new glove factory. “Within a short time George W. Ghoca will begin the manufacture of canvas gloves in the Gmeiner Block [106 North Main Street]. He has already advertised for an experienced seamstress to have charge of the sewing of the gloves.” How long Ghoca operated his business is not known at this time.

In the *Waupaca County Post* of September 20, 1990, Wayne Guyant listed bits of information on Waupaca businesses from between 1904 and 1909. Among those listed was a glove factory that had just opened under the management of B.H. Edmunds at 116 Water Street. Edmunds advertised the “manufacture of first-class canvas gloves and mittens.” Perhaps the most noted Waupaca factory that made gloves and mittens was Zwicker Knitting Mills. According to *Our Heritage: A Bicentennial Project* from 1976, the business first opened at 217 North Main Street in 1945 (some sources show them located at 221 N. Main St. or 108 S. Main St.). In 1957, they moved to a new building that they had erected at the northwest corner of Churchill and Columbia Streets.

LOOKNG BACK IN THE CRITERION

“WAUPACA FOREVER,” 1923, PAGES 12-13

“My dad took a trip down to Milwaukee the other day and while he was there someone asked him, ‘Say, what kind of town have you got up there anyway? First I read about a \$100,000 cow from there and now I see that the first woman to travel in the jungles of South America hails from Waupaca.’ An authority upon Indian affairs who lectured at our public library the other day further informed us that we have right here on the shores of Taylor Lake one of two or three Indian mounds of a fish formation in the U.S. Folks from Indiana say, ‘Oh, the beautiful country ó the good roads ó that system of marking!’ (A minus quantity in Indiana). Folks from the city moving here say, ‘Oh, I can never live in a little town’ but they stay and they like it. Tourists passing through in summer exclaim in delight over the beautiful little city. There are our lakes the ‘Killarney’ of Wisconsin how little do we appreciate them our wonderful facilities for sport and the healthful invigorating atmosphere. Aside from the natural advantages we are located in the midst of the dairying center of the world and right here, folks, is the champion herd of cattle in the whole world. Think of it! And do you know that now the Civic and Commerce Association is trying to put Waupaca on the map, by wide publicity campaigns, as the Potato Center of the world?”

“We also have some good beginnings at manufacturing the Acme Brass and Metal Works, located at the old Woolen Mill site, the Stewart Tractor, the Cement Block factory northeast of town, as well as a brick yard and a fine granite quarry. We have our share of famous people most recently Katherine McGregor who traveled in South America and has achieved rather sudden fame, Edward E. Brown, congressman from this district, and perhaps the most famous, Margaret Ashmun, of Rural, authoress of girls’ books.”

The Waupaca Historical Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Its mission is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Waupaca area. The Waupaca Historical Society owns and operates the Holly History and Genealogy Center located at 321 S. Main Street, the Hutchinson House Museum and King Cottage located in South Park, and the Waupaca Train Depot located at 525 Oak Street.

Thank you for your support. We hope that you will come and enjoy the displays and resources at the Holly History and Genealogy Center and visit the Hutchinson House Museum, King Cottage and Waupaca Depot with your family and friends. Please check our website for our open days and times.

WAUPACA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

(Please print your name and address clearly)

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WHS provides valuable services. I enclose this donation in support of its mission. Note: Donations are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged as appropriate.				

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Waupaca Historical Society
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