

The Reporter

Volume 17 Issue 1 The Newsletter of the Waupaca Historical Society Winter 2013

WHS Board of Directors: Dennis Lear, President; Mike Kirk, Vice President; Betty Stewart, Secretary; Bob Kessler, Treasurer, Tracy Behrendt, Gerald Chappell, Glenda Rhodes, Deb Fenske, Jerry Salan, David Trombla, Joyce Woldt, Don Witt, and Marge Witt

WHS Director: Julie Hintz **Hutchinson House Curator:** Barbara Fay Wiese
Collection Committee: Joyce Woldt, Tracy Behrendt, Dennis Lear, Gerald Chappell
Membership Committee: Barbara Wiese, Julie Hintz, Bob Kessler
Program & Event Committee: Dennis Lear, Julie Hintz, Gerald Chappell, Barbara Wiese, Nancy Weasner, Marge Witt

Clues in the Cloth: a Look at Quilts and Quilting Fabrics from 1850-1950

Notice of a Forthcoming program by WHS Director Julie Hintz,

The Waupaca Historical Society will be hosting guest speaker, Gerald Johnson of Iola, on Thursday March 7, 2013. Mr. Johnson will speak about dyes, fabrics, and techniques used in making vintage quilts during the Victorian era and early 1900s. Mr. Johnson will bring many vintage quilt samples that he will display and discuss during his presentation. This special program will be held at the Holly History and Genealogy Center in Waupaca on Thursday, March 7 at 4:00 p. m. in the Cynthia Holly Meeting Room (in the lower level). Mr. Johnson will NOT be doing any quilt appraisals, however, and attendees should not bring quilts from home to the program. All Waupaca Historical Society Members, guests, and the public are invited to attend this special presentation.

Waupaca Historical Society Celebrates Preserving History for 60 Years

A history article by WHS Director Julie Hintz

The Waupaca Historical Society was organized on April 27, 1953 by residents who sought to preserve Waupaca's history and stories of the early settlers.

Tom A. Browne, a Waupaca attorney, was elected the first president of the new group. Miss Sophelia Kurkowski, a teacher in the Waupaca High School, was appointed as vice president and program chairman. One of the oldest members of the new society, Jennie Browne Truesdell, was voted to be an honorary permanent member of the new Board of Directors. The purpose of the new Waupaca Historical Society was to preserve historical material of interest and value to the people of Waupaca and the surrounding area.



In September of 1955 the society affiliated itself with the Wisconsin Historical Society. The society’s first major project was to purchase and preserve the historic Hutchinson House. After much diligence and bartering with the Sunray – DX Oil Company, and an offer from the city of Waupaca, the society was given permission to move the historic Hutchinson House from its location on Fulton Street to its new location in South Park in September of 1956.

The Hutchinson House was opened as a public museum during the summer of 1957, just in time for Waupaca’s city centennial celebration.

In 2001, the Waupaca Historical Society purchased Waupaca’s historic 1914 Carnegie Library Building. The building became the headquarters for the society and was renamed the Holly History & Genealogy Center. The Holly Center provides the community and surrounding area with a history library, genealogy and history research center, and a community meeting room and lecture hall.



In 2004, the society purchased the Waupaca Railroad Depot Building from the Canadian National Railway. Depot restoration began immediately and is ongoing. In 2010, the Depot Building received a new roof, thanks to generous support of the Waupaca Community Foundation and many private donors.

The ongoing mission of the Waupaca Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Waupaca area. We invite you to visit our facilities and explore some of Waupaca’s past.

The above history events along with numerous other events and projects will be featured in a special exhibit at the Holly Center during the spring and summer of 2013. During February and March there will be an exhibit on vintage valentines, along with a collection of glass paper weights and music boxes.

The next exhibit, running throughout the summer, will feature photos, events, and people who were prominent in our organization and helped fulfill our mission.

Stop down to the Holly Center during the forthcoming months to take a look back at our 60 years of “Keeping History Alive”.

Announcements by WHS Director Julie Hintz

The 2013 Yellowstone Trail Passport for Wisconsin

The Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce, along with 16 other businesses or tourist bureaus, has combined to publish a very special map and passport of the historic Yellowstone Trail highway as it traverses the state of Wisconsin. The 3.5” x 5” passport unfolds to show a complete map of the Yellowstone Trail route from Kenosha, WI, to Hudson, WI, and includes information about the historic automobile route. History enthusiasts who drive the historic highway are encouraged to visit some of the businesses or tourist

information centers along the route, including “The Coffee Pot & Garden of Eatin” in Kenosha, WI, all the way to “Knoke’s Chocolates” in Hudson, WI.

You can get your passport stamped at the specified locations along the trail. After visiting 12 of the 17 participating locations, you may return your stamped passport by mail to the Chippewa Area Visitors Center to receive a free gift. The new Yellowstone Trail Passports are available at the Holly History & Genealogy Center in Waupaca and at the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce office in Waupaca. When dropping in to pick up this new passport, also ask for a copy of the booklet “Driving the Yellowstone Trail”, which offers a mile by mile guide to the historic buildings and unique businesses that can be found along the trail in Wisconsin. (Note: This passport is not to be confused with the “Passport to History” which features the historical societies of Waupaca County.)

New Computer Needed for Holly History Center – Help Raise Matching Funds

The Waupaca Historical Society’s Desktop Computer is on its “last legs”.

The computer, which was purchased in early 2006, needs to be replaced due to outdated software and maxing out the available memory/storage capacity. The computer is used for administration and record keeping for the society, but also holds our “Historical database”, which is an online database of transcribed newspaper and history articles and digitized historic photos. In this “digital age”, we are finding that more and more information is being scanned and saved to computer files. We are also encountering problems with opening files that are sent to us from newer computers with newer software. Most grant applications need to be submitted online and we are finding that our older software is no longer compatible with the online application forms. Our records and the Historical database have been copied to a backup drive to ensure that information is not lost in the event of a computer crash, but it is prudent to replace our outdated computer in the very near future. The Board of Directors has decided to apply for a Mini-Grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society to help offset the cost of replacing the computer. The Mini-Grant program is a “matching funds” program, however, so we are seeking additional donations to help match the amount requested through the Mini-Grant. The Mini-Grant deadline is June 1, 2013. Donations can be sent to “Waupaca Historical Society, 321 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI 54981”. Please mark “computer fund” in the memo area of your check and make your check payable to “Waupaca Historical Society”. Your donation will be acknowledged as a contribution.

Waupaca Historical Society Launches Business Partner Program

For 60 years the Waupaca Historical Society has been working with residents and local officials to protect and preserve Waupaca’s history. The Society has now offered the Waupaca Business Community an opportunity to help us preserve Waupaca’s history and fulfill our mission. Letters were sent to all Waupaca area businesses in early January asking them to consider partnering with us and offering them three levels of sponsorship. By becoming a business Partner, these businesses can take pride in knowing they helped preserve and celebrate our heritage. The society will be posting the names of our business partners at each of our historic buildings and referring our members and patrons to the services that these businesses offer.

Each business will receive a complimentary copy of the book, "Waupaca and Its Railroads", and the Birds-Eye View Map of "Waupaca, Wis. 1871." Those businesses that partnered with us at the "Gold Level" will be sponsoring one of our historic buildings during the summer of 2013. Special banners will be displayed during the summer stating that each "Gold Level" business proudly supports Waupaca's history. We thank each of the following businesses for becoming our Business Partners in 2013:

First National Bank – Gold Level – sponsoring the Waupaca Railroad Depot.

Wisconsin Public Service – Gold Level – sponsoring the Hutchinson House Museum.

Crystal River Inn Bed and Breakfast – Gold Level - sponsoring the Holly History Center.

Riverhill Dental Associates – Gold Level – sponsoring the Holly History Center.

Waupaca Foundry, Inc. – Silver Level

Culligan Water Conditioning of Waupaca – Bronze Level

Woolsey Plumbing & Heating – Silver Level

Waupaca Railroad Depot Update (1-23-2013)

By Mike Kirk, Vice President of the WHS Board of Directors

The past year has seen much work done at the depot. So many things happened that it is hard to remember everything and everyone involved. Everyone that has helped is greatly appreciated, whether it is labor, financial, or materials and other items. In addition to work done, seven events were held there last year.

*We got plaster wall and ceiling repairs finished up completing work in the restrooms and the men's smoking room. Thanks to Jan Schroeder for all her help with the painting.

*Mark Wolverton of Rural Furniture Recyclers refinished the last three interior doors.

*The large project of relaying the hardwood floors is getting close to completion. All the major rotted and buckled areas are fixed. Cap Services Fresh Start helped with the women's waiting room. We will have extra maple flooring from the armory that we can offer for sale.

Woolsey Plumbing and the city of Waupaca got old leaky pipe from the street replaced and got the sewer line flushed, with Pauls Concrete doing the excavating work. Woolsey installed new toilets in the restrooms and plans to come back in the spring to finish up the work.

James Taylor is donating a caboose and the cost of moving it to the depot Pauls Concrete donated the site fill, the Canadian National Railroad donated the rail and Faulks Brothers donated the stone ballast. The track is already and plans are to move the caboose in the spring. Woolsey installed water and sewer lines to the caboose site while they were doing the depot work.

Gary and John Otterson put up a telegraph pole in front of the depot complete with 30 glass insulators.

About 30 high school students did various yard work projects on their annual community service day.

The Waupaca Historical Society extends sincere appreciation to all individuals and groups who gave a monetary contribution to the Society during 2012. Your donations help us fulfill our mission of preserving and keeping history alive!

Alfsen, Lois & George
Bauer, Dennis & Jennifer
Brown, Gerald
Brown, Jeffrey
Burington, Chris & Peg
Chaffee, Clifford & Lucille
Christie, Scott & Shelly
Churchill, Guerdon & Diane
Eisenhauer, David
Faulks, Robert & Christine
Fico, James & Mary
Frihart, Tom & Margaret
Godfrey, Tom & Eloise
Goerman, Charles
Gruer, Albert & Gloria
Hanke, Jan & LaVern
Hathaway, Dr. David
Hebbring, John & Karen
Heschke, Sharon
Hintz, Julie & John
Hitselberger, Mary
Hollenbeck, Patricia
Holly, Tom
Holmes, Kathy
Kessler, Bob & Betty
Koch, Carl
Larson, Charles
Lear, Dennis & Laurie
Leiskau, Patricia
McHenry, Wendell & Emily
Mendyke, Donald & Barbara
Nell, Arline
Nelson, Kenneth
Nelson, Richard
Niemic, Richard & Joan
Nispel, Mary Jane
Olfson, John
Patterson, Charles & Joan
Piggly Wiggly
Pope, Dr. Rex & Linda
Reynolds, Ron & Rose Marie
Rolefson, Jerome & Carol
Rupnow, Roger
Salan, Dr. Jerry
Schrader, Kurt
Schwamb, Harold
Shambeau, Thomas
Sheldon, Barb
Staeden, Lawrence
Trombla, David
Wasserberg, Gene & Joan
Waupaca Area Genealogical Society
Waupaca Community Art Center
Waupaca Duplicate Bridge Club
Wiese, Barbara Fay
Ziebell, Lillian

**SPECIAL GRANTS RECEIVED
DURING 2012 FROM:**

City of Waupaca
Farmington Township

**DONATIONS OF ARTIFACTS, GOODS,
OR SERVICES:**

Bob Abbott
Lewis L. Anderson
Bub Bonnell
Dick Bidwell
Chappell, Chris & Jerry
Mary Danielson
Vera Duesterbeck
Faulks Brothers Construction
Richard Gay
Al Gruer
Jan Hanke
Lewis Hansen
Nancy Hook
Ray Johnson
Anna Kirk
Bev Kirk
Linda Kirk Cleaning Services
Mike Kirk
Carlyle & Flo Kottke
Dennis & Laurie Lear
Gary Otterson
John Otterson
Paul's Concrete Construction & Excavating, Inc.
Jan Schroeder
Shaw, Barry & Ruby
Betty Stewart
Dave Trombla
Waupaca Area Public Library
Waupaca Fresh Start Program
Waupaca Kiwanis Club
Waupaca School District
Nancy Wendtland
Betty Wetherbee
Weyauwega Public Library
Barbara Fay Wiese
Martha Ekstrom Wilhelm
Mark Wolverton Refinishing
Don & Marge Writt
Lillian Ziebell

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE WAUPACA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY!**

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

Keeping History Alive and Making History



Dec. 6, 2012 Gathering of Waupaca Historical Society Members to share stories and mementos of Christmas Past.

