

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2022



"OLD ABE"

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

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2 • 3 • 2023

Chippewa Area History Center
Opens to the Public
Friday, February 3
10 am-6 pm!



A logging sled that was donated in 2013 is displayed in front of a historic painting of a logging sled and lumber camp.

Chippewa Area History Center Project Update

FRANK SMOOT

Chippewa County separated from Crawford County on Feb 3, 1845 — a little more than three years before Wisconsin became a state — and started its journey toward the present. Exactly 177 years later, the Chippewa Area History Center will open its doors to tell that story and many more.

So the big news — the bottom line — is that the new History Center will open to the public Friday, February 3. It's a date too important to the county to miss. We'll plan a whiz-bang community welcome grand opening this spring or early summer.

It's taken many hands to get the building — and the stories it will tell inside — ready for this moment. Volunteer Bob Hogseth and an able executive committee raised some \$4.3 million dollars and counting (in case you're curious, yes, we're still looking for more generous supporters: that might be you!).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



CALENDAR

Meetings will be held at the new Chippewa Area History Center unless listed elsewhere.

Dec. 1 | Noon | Chippewa Area History Center Board

Dec. 15 | Noon | Chippewa Area History Center Board

Jan. 12 | Noon | Chippewa Area History Center Board

Jan. 17 | 9:30 am | CCHS Board

Jan. 17 | 11 am | Historic Marker Committee

Jan. 17 | 1:30 pm | The Past Passed Here Committee

Feb. 3 | 10 am-6 pm | Chippewa Area History Center Soft Opening

Feb. 9 | Noon | Chippewa Area History Center Board

Feb. 13 | 6:30 pm | CCHS Semi Annual Membership Meeting

Feb. 21 | 1:30 pm | The Past Passed Here

Feb. 23 | Noon | Chippewa Area History Center Board

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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Anne Keller..... Author / Proofreader
Jim Erickson.... Author / Proofreader
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Tiffany Wogahn Guest Author
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A Message From Your President

DAVE GORDON

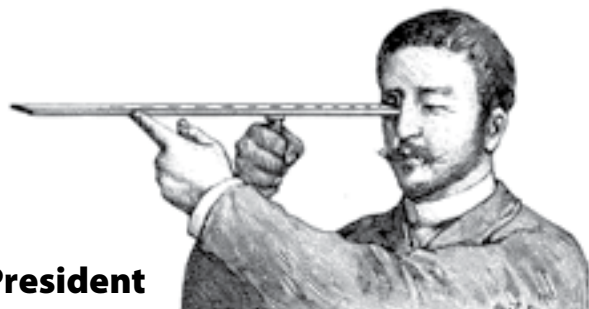
79 days before we open, but who's counting? Chippewa County Historical Society is counting. The Chippewa Area History Center will open February 3, 2023, housing the CCHS Museum and CCHS Research Library. A lot has been accomplished since our last newsletter. Site grading with grass and crushed rock is complete and the driveway to the back overhead door is done. Pedestrian crossing and curb cuts for handicapped access are promised yet this year and the roof over the overhead door has been designed and can be installed this year.

Inside, work continues on nine exhibits including Military, Agriculture, Northern Center, Fur Trading, Lumbering, Fire Fighting and Early Inhabitants. Exhibit Cabinets are on order and moving the remainder of artifacts and furniture is scheduled shortly. The CCHS Board of Directors meeting this week spent time talking about the future since we no longer have building responsibilities. With the new facility, we can focus on the museum exhibits including having traveling exhibits as well as frequent on-going educational programs.

I am very excited about the future and sharing the stories about our very interesting history. An important part of the future is our community volunteers. We are fortunate to have had Larry Annett agree to be our volunteer coordinator. We will need more volunteers when the facility is open and to maintain our collection of artifacts and to change, design and build exhibits.

Looking forward to seeing you in February and hope that you enjoy your visit.

Dave 🍷



Bridge Street Commercial Historic District Sign

Mary Kleush

The Marker Committee recently installed a National Register of Historic Places marker on the lawn of the Chippewa Falls Post Office. The marker denotes the Bridge Street Commercial Historic District that was placed on the National Registry in 1994. Funding for the marker was obtained through a grant

from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation in Syracuse, New York. Earlier in the year a similar marker was installed on the lawn of the Cook-Rutledge Mansion denoting the West Hill Historic Residential District. 🍷



Outside shot of CAHC 11-15-22, by Kipp Rubenzer.

HISTORY CENTER UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Dave Raihle led a tenacious building committee, which didn't relent through a global pandemic and a long series of supply-chain disruptions added to the typical challenges of construction.

Wiry volunteers like Scott Sullivan and Jim Lindberg moved a lot of heavy things. Skip August cleverly created collections storage out of thin air. And all three of them drove beyond the boondocks to retrieve one-of-a-kind artifacts.

Creative folks like Dave Gordon, Jim and Mary Erickson, Jim Lindberg and Roxanne Paukner developed interesting exhibit sections and tolerated the limitations they had to work with.

A new Chippewa Area History Center board sprang up and brought new people — Jim Docksey, Karen Rooney and Diana Germain — together with familiar faces Wendy Sullivan and Jim Schuh.

The public brought in more stuff, and brought in more stuff, and keeps bringing in their treasures to donate.

And through it all, calm and abiding collections volunteer Elizabeth Peterson sorted precious things, repaired old photographs, managed and created records, and maintained her good humor.

You'd think we'd be ready for a nap right around February 3. But, for the History Center, that's not the finish line—that's the starting line.

Come join us. We'd love to see you. And we need your help. 🐾



CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2022-23

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Gordon
President

David Raihle
Vice President

Diane Hopkins-Whelan
Acting Treasurer

Debbie Smith
Recording Secretary

Jayne Bowe,
Corresponding Secretary

Donna Bourget

Mary Erickson

Marge Hebbring

Jim Lindberg

Jim Schuh

Teri Stahr

◀The new Chippewa Area History Center is modeled after the original Chippewa Falls sawmill owned by the Chippewa Lumber & Boom Company.



Northern WI State Fair Will Celebrate Its 125th Anniversary, July 12-16, 2023

Anne Keller

A fair that is specifically named the Northern Wisconsin State Fair and not just the Chippewa County Fair has to have a reason for its title. That reason is its history, which is part of the location and the tradition of the event.

The first annual event, which was then called an "Exhibition," was organized by Colonel George Ginty in 1879 and sponsored by the Chippewa County Agricultural Society. Its purpose was to showcase the abundant agricultural products of the area and was held for one day. Until 1895, this group sponsored what became a three-day event.

A meeting of delegates, which became known as the Northwestern Agricultural and Industrial Society, felt that "the people of the great northwest had friendly feelings for the state fair in Milwaukee, but they benefited little by its location." The chairman of this society, James Agen, of Superior, was in favor of the fair being in Chippewa Falls because the city was easily accessible and it was surrounded by a rich agricultural community that would guarantee its success and, by 1896, "all of the gentlemen expressed their delight and satisfaction with the location and beautiful surroundings of the fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls."

A new organization was formed which would be called the Northern Wisconsin State Fair Association. It included twenty-eight of Wisconsin's northern counties. A ten-year lease was secured by this group, and improvements were made to what was then still the Chippewa County fairgrounds.

The preceding information was taken from our most recent book: *Northern Wisconsin State Fair—A Fair To Remember*. The book is available for \$20 at the new Chippewa Area History Center gift shop and other local retail stores.



1991



2023

CCHS Included in the List of 10 Best Historical Societies in Wisconsin

JIM SCHUH

Wisconsin has almost 400 local historical societies spread out across the state. All have similar goals and interests. On September 6, 2022, the Chippewa County Historical Society was included in a list of the Top Ten in our state, by Best Things Wisconsin! Our mission statement reads: To collect, preserve, interpret and share the rich history of Chippewa County.

For the last 31 years, The Chippewa County Historical Society was located in the Notre Dame Church convent in Chippewa Falls. About two-dozen exhibits were displayed in the former convent and all were dedicated to presenting the surrounding area's history and artifacts. With four floors, there were 50 rooms including a meeting room and library for researching and investigating the long line of history. The facility was a beautiful historic building but lacked handicap accessibility and climate control for artifact preservation.

Our efforts to fundraise and build the new Chippewa Area History Center have gained the attention of county residents and history lovers throughout the state. All of our capital campaign efforts to fund the new building have been done completely by volunteers. All funds came from private individual, family and corporate donors and no government monies were provided. This latest recognition is much appreciated and makes our volunteers glad that we have been so successful in our efforts and vision since buying the property December 31, 2015. 🎉





Genevieve Cadott LaRush



Give a membership
as a gift!

Meet Genevieve Cadott LaRush and Family

Marge Hebbring

Born on August 7, 1824, to Michael Cadott Jr. and his wife, Ester, (Ossinahjeeunqua), their eldest daughter received the Indian name, Wabajeeb. Later, at her baptism on Mackinac Island on June 20, 1829, she was given the name, Genevieve. As the granddaughter of Michael Cadott Sr. and his wife, Madeline, Genevieve was raised on Madeline Island where her father worked in the fur trade and may have accompanied Lyman and Mary Warren when they moved to Chippewa City and eventually to Chippewa Falls.

When Genevieve married Francis LaRush on October 28, 1841, her uncle, Lyman Warren, a justice of the peace, performed the ceremony. In 1842, they were married again by a Catholic priest.

The couple's first child, son Francis LaRush Jr., was born in 1846 and was followed by seven more children. The family lived on 80 acres of land along O'Neil Creek in Eagleton, not far from the original sawmill established by Jean Brunet and Lyman Warren.

In 1862, the US Government offered a twenty-five-dollar bounty to anyone who joined the military so Frances enlisted in Company K of the 30th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment on the fifteenth of August of that year. While on duty at Camp Randall in Madison, Wisconsin, Frances contracted chronic hepatitis and, in 1864, could no longer perform his duties. He was discharged on June 3rd in Milwaukee. That summer, his 18 year old son, Frances Jr., joined the infantry to fight in the Civil War.

In November of that year, Frances Jr. was captured by the Confederates near Stone Mountain, Georgia. He remained a prisoner of war until 1865 when he took advantage of a Confederate offer to release him if he agreed to desert the Union Army, leave the area, and not return to fight. Family stories recite that he went to California, never returned to Chippewa Falls, and was never heard from again.

Francis LaRush Sr. died in 1865 and was buried at the O'Neil Creek Cemetery. Genevieve died in 1884. ■

MEMBERSHIP FORM

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE / ZIP

TELEPHONE

Type of Membership:

Individual

☐ \$25 (1-year)

☐ \$70 (3-year)

Family

☐ \$35 (1-year)

☐ \$100 (3-year)

Contributing Member

☐ \$60 (1-year)

☐ \$170 (3-year)

Life Membership

☐ \$500 (individual)

☐ \$750 (couple)

I would like to make an additional donation

\$ _____

MAIL TO:

Chippewa County Historical Society
123 Allen Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



COUNTY NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, PRESIDENT

The Stanley Area Historical has had a normal year. We were open 1-4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays during June, July, August and September. Masks were optional for docents and visitors. We had two successful summer programs. One was by a member of the Chippewa Valley Gem/Mineral Society and entitled, "Get to Know Rocks, Fossils and More." The presenter, Richard Cance, shared his collecting experiences and adventures that took place in Western States, Alaska and Canada. Our Museum Director, Betty Plombon, also put on a very educational program on the local Ku Klux Klan. Her searching, over many years, has revealed only tidbits of information on this secretive organization. Our museum has no memorabilia from this local organization.

The fall work of trimming back the plantings and bushes that surround our museum has been accomplished for another year. For the past several years, the deer population in the area has devastated our arborvitae plantings. The city council is allowing a local hunter to hopefully reduce the deer population in town, so maybe these plantings can rejuvenate themselves.

Beginning November 14, we will be undertaking a floor restoration project. Our 2012 addition is now 20 years old and the oak flooring is showing signs of wear. The project is being done in three segments: 1.) meeting and cloak Rooms, 2.) library and kitchen, 3.) entrance and stairways.

This plan should reduce the time volunteers will not be able to work on Tuesdays and, if all goes well, the work should be completed by Christmas. We are fortunate to have a good working relationship with a group from our local high school who helped move many of the furnishings and artifacts in order to facilitate this endeavor. They have promised their return when the next move has to occur. 🍷



CCHS Trunk or Treat

Tiffany Wogahn

On Halloween this year, The Chippewa County Historical Society took part in a trunk-or-treat event held in the parking lot behind the historical First Presbyterian Church.

During the hours for the downtown trick-or-treating event, Diane Hopkins-Whelan and Wendy Sullivan gave out candy and information about the History Center. It was included in the Old Chippewa Falls Facebook page.

There were hundreds of little superheroes, unicorns, and witches running around who were able to vote for their favorite trunk. Despite it being our first time at this event we managed to win third place!

Diane and Wendy were pleasantly surprised to receive a mini tombstone shaped award for all their hard work. Some might say it was the pirate skeleton that the kids loved but we think it was our fun and knowledgeable keepers of the chest of candy.

A huge thank you to Diane and Wendy for decorating the trunk and going out into the community to share a good time, lots of candy, and information on the history center with everyone at the event!

Well done! 🍷



Jayne Bowe



Common Sayings with Historic Origins

WHITE ELEPHANT: White elephants were once considered highly sacred creatures in Thailand—the animal even graced the national flag until 1917—but they were also wielded as a subtle form of punishment. According to legend, if an underling or rival angered a Siamese king, the royal might present the unfortunate man with the gift of a white elephant. While ostensibly a reward, the creatures were tremendously expensive to feed and house, and caring for one often drove the recipient into financial ruin. Whether any specific rulers actually bestowed such a passive-aggressive gift is uncertain, but the term has since come to refer to any burdensome possession—pachyderm or otherwise.

TURN A BLIND EYE: The phrase is often used to refer to a willful refusal to acknowledge a particular reality — dates back to a legendary chapter in the career of the British naval hero Horatio Nelson. During 1801's Battle of Copenhagen, Nelson's ships were pitted against a large Danish-Norwegian fleet. When his more conservative superior officer flagged for him to withdraw, the one-eyed Nelson supposedly brought his telescope to his bad eye and blithely proclaimed, "I really do not see the signal." He went on to score a decisive victory. Some historians have since dismissed Nelson's famous quip as merely a battlefield myth, but the phrase "turn a blind eye" persists to this day.

FROM HISTORY.COM

Introducing New Board Member, Jayne Bowe

Jim Schuh

Jayne Stoffel Bowe is a long-time resident of the Chippewa area, growing up on the Stoffel family farm in Tilden. A graduate of McDonell High School and Chippewa Valley Technical College, Jayne used her computer skills at a medical clinic in Chippewa Falls in the insurance area doing data entry. She and her husband, Tony, live in Eagle point and are the parents of three grown children and grandparents of three "wonderful" grandkids!

Jayne's curiosity in history comes from her grandma, Irma Stoffel, who worked with Donna Bourget mapping out names of families in area cemeteries. History and genealogy are great interests of hers. Other interests include playing with her three grandchildren, doing crafts (some of which are in our Museum Store), hosting family events such as sauerkraut making, travel and taking motorcycle trips with her husband.

The Stoffel family farm received an honorary award from the state of Wisconsin, The Sesquicentennial Farm Award. Jayne's parents still live on the farm and there is a sign on their property acknowledging this tribute.

Use of her computer and organizational skills have been much appreciated at the History Center, along with her great sense of humor. Jayne is now the Corresponding Secretary for the Chippewa Area Board of Directors. Welcome Jayne. We are happy to have you with us! ♡



CHIPPEWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Donations



GENEALOGY CORNER

ANNE KELLER, CCGS PRESIDENT

It is rewarding to write this paragraph to people who are interested in the area's historical events as well as to those who are interested in their family members, specific family events, and family experiences. The two – events and individuals – really cannot be separated, which means that researchers must look at both of these subjects to write either a family history or an event history.

These two approaches can be researched in the enlarged genealogical library, situated in the "new" Chippewa Area History Center at 12 Bridgewater. Included in the library are yearbooks, phonebooks, family history books, courthouse records, newspapers, diaries, directories ... and so many more. I hope you'll stop in soon to research your own family – and/or event. Genealogical Society researchers will be there to help you. ❄️



Donations Toward Operating Costs

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Historic Marker Donation

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1915 Model T Ford Donation

Thanks to Sally Baker of Lake Hallie in honor of her late husband Bob, and with the encouragement of their sons, including Pat Baker of Green Bay, we received one of the coolest artifacts — a 1915 Model T truly in car-show condition.

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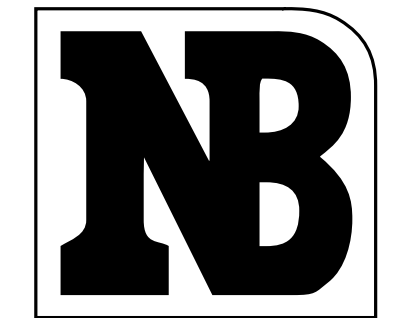
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The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County.

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