

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2023



"OLD ABE"

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

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Scott Sullivan and Clancy Hatleberg
in front of the photo of Trepteau. ►



New Chippewa Area History Center Open

Wednesday - Sunday

11 am - 5 pm

Daily Admission: Adults \$6

Children \$3, Family \$15



History Center Project Update

FRANK SMOOT

Probably the only important project update since the last newsletter is that ... we're open!

The Chippewa Area History Center, which houses the Chippewa County Genealogical Society and the Chippewa County Historical Society, opened its doors February 3 to an enthusiastic crowd of maybe 150 people (in our excitement, we forgot to get an exact count).

Clancy Hatleberg, originally from Chippewa Falls, traveled from the state of Washington to attend our soft opening. He is pictured above with Scott Sullivan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



CALENDAR

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

March 21

9:30 am | CCHS Board
11 am | CCGS Board

March 23

Noon | Chippewa Area History Center Board

April 6

Noon | Chippewa Area History Center Board

April 11

11 am | Historic Marker Committee

April 18

9:30 am | CCHS Board

May 4

Noon | Chippewa Area History Center Board

May 12-14

The Past Passed Past Here is open to the public in Marshall Park

May 16

9:30 am | CCHS Board | CAHC

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Jim Schuh.....Author/ Editor
Anne Keller..... Author / Proofreader
Jim Erickson.... Author / Proofreader
David JankoskiAuthor
Dave Gordon.....Author
Marge Hebring.....Author
Frank SmootAuthor
Mary Andress Rouleau..Guest Author
Mary Kleusch..... Guest Author
Elly Rochester Design / Layout

A Message From Your President



DAVE GORDON

It has happened! After six years of effort by CCHS, CCGS, and the whole community, the Chippewa Area History Center opened February 3rd. As I write this message, we have been open for three weeks. The Center's open schedule is Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hundreds of visitors have been very excited and complementary about the building, Museum and Research Library. To add to this, we can say that the Capital Campaign has paid for this great addition to the Chippewa Area.

Of course, as with any project of this size, we haven't thought of everything and are quickly making changes. Little things, like our visitors asking the first day "How do I get to the third floor?" Frank quickly solved that with signs to guide them. We now have three months to complete several new exhibits and finish many exhibits that are now under construction. Our Grand Opening is planned for June 3rd.

Recovering from our six-year journey, a new, exciting phase of sharing Chippewa's rich history has begun. We hope to see you at the Chippewa Area History Center soon. *Dave* ♡



Happy Helpers!

JIM SCHUH

In preparation for the History Center's opening, several of the "Wednesday Lunch Bunch" women came armed with dust rags, brooms and glass cleaner and used their cleaning skills to help get ready for opening to the public. Ryan and Mike Metzenbauer

also spent many hours doing heavy lifting, hanging signs, pictures, lights and much more. These efforts were and are much appreciated and the center reflects their efforts.

Shown from left to right: Ann Gordon, Marge Bjork, Nancy Hebert, Ida Simonson, Mary Erickson, Collections Manager Elizabeth Peterson, Mike and Ryan Metzenbauer, Director Frank Smoot and Treasurer Diane Hopkins Whelan.

We love our volunteers! If you would like to volunteer please contact us at 715-723-4399 to request a volunteer application form. ♡



◀ Frank Smoot chats with Jeff Carlsten, the first visitor during our February 3 soft opening.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

History Center Project Update

who created the Military exhibit. During the Apollo 11 recovery mission in 1969, Clancy was the UDT Team Leader and also the decontamination swimmer. As such he was responsible for providing the first line of defense in preventing potential contamination of the earth by lunar pathogens that may have been brought back by the astronauts.

During our first two weeks, we took in about \$3,000 in admissions and \$7,000 in memberships — which seems awfully nice for the dead of winter.

A committee, with its efforts led by Marge Hebbring and Larry Annett, assembled a solid volunteer corps to staff the museum two shifts a day, five days a week — not a small task.

Still, quite a few things are "in the works".

For example, several building projects remain in process. The windows in the Phillips lookout at the very top of the building will have to be re-installed; we'll have to add more "snow guards" to the front part of the roof and "heat tape" to the down spouts; and, we'll be adding a shed-style roof over the large access door in the back of the exhibit hall. Most of that work is to keep ice and snow away from access paths, or keep water out of the building, or both.

And, while we've heard many kind words about the look of the exhibits, and the robust content they offer even now, we consider them really about half installed.

Even when the first group of exhibits fills the hall, each exhibit will have much room for improvement. As the Chippewa Area History Center board switches modes from raising funds for the building to raising funds to sustain the place, one of its tasks will be to fund new exhibit components that will make each exhibit more fun and fulfilling, especially for kids.

Seemingly small additions, such as games or other interactives, can take an exhibit from "nice" to "wow!" and can help make the stories we tell more meaningful.

As soon as we get the whole first version of the history center ready, it'll be exactly the right time to start thinking about the second version. The fun never ends! ♡

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2022-23

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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David Raihle
Vice President

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Debbie Smith
Recording Secretary

Jayne Bowe,
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Donna Bourget

Mary Erickson

Marge Hebbring

Jim Lindberg

Jim Schuh

Teri Stahr



Martin Family Photo: Seated Left to Right: Myron, Tryphena, Edward, Frank, Sophie (LaRush). Back Row Left to Right: Susan, Winfield, Milo, Mable, Ira

COUNTY NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, PRESIDENT

Our major project for 2022 began Nov. 14, when we started our floor restoration project. The oak flooring in our 2002 addition was showing signs of wear. The project was done in three segments to reduce the time volunteers were not able to work. Although our volunteers did most of the moving of items off the floors being restored, we were fortunate to also have had help from a high school class. I am happy to report everything is now back in place in all the areas worked on. Most of the room furnishings now have floor protectors on them, in order to prevent scratching the floors when moving tables, chairs, etc.

Work has begun on a major new exhibit that will feature businesses that were located on the southside (south of the railroad tracks) of Stanley in the 1950's. This project, including research, has been taking place for several years now. Hopefully, up and available for viewing early in June.

Our Digitization Team has reorganized after the death of Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, who had been the early leader of these efforts at SAHS. Not only have they been busy at our museum but have found time to provide consultation on digitization and use of PastPerfect to the Rusk County Historical Society and the Grantsburg Area Historical Society. Both groups have made visits to our museum for training and, in the case of Rusk County, one training session was provided at their museum.

Congratulations to the Chippewa County Historical Society on the opening of its new museum on Friday, Feb. 3. It has been a long journey but one that has ended successfully with a beautiful new museum thanks to generous donors and many volunteers who have contributed their time and talent. ♡



Chippewa Falls Lumberjack Francis (Frank) Martin

MARGE HEBBRING

Frank Martin was born in Drywood, Wisconsin, to Myron and Sophie (LaRush) Martin on February 24, 1873. Myron was English and Sophie, Ojibwe. Frank had seven siblings: Ira, Winfield, Mable, Tryphena, Edward, Susie and Milo.

Edward and Frank worked as loggers. One time, while breaking up a log jam at Holcomb, Wisconsin, several loggers drowned, but Edward survived the tragedy.

Frank was a big man who carried an axe wherever he went. He married Mary Hoyer (Hoyer) on May 18, 1904. John Hoyer, Mary's father, was one of the first three employees of Leinenkugel's Brewery. Frank and Mary lived at 1 Madison St. in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin (just two blocks from the new Chippewa Area History Center).

They had eight children: Roy, Francis (Chick), Jerome (Ogie), Marion, Mabel, Rose, Caroline and Henry. In 1911 when there were no more trees to cut down, "The Largest Sawmill in the World Under One Roof" closed. Frank, Mary and their children moved to Winter, Wisconsin, where Frank continued to work in the logging business.

While Frank cut timber in the Hayward and Winter areas, his son Roy established the Sawyer County Gazette which is still published today. His son Ogie had ten children and worked at the Winter Co-op for over 50 years. Francis worked as an accountant for the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe and Henry was a postal carrier. Daughters Caroline and Rose worked in the Winter Post Office for 11 years and were at work the day Louie Sprague brought in his famous musky catch to be weighed on the postal scale. For many years, that fish held the record as the largest musky in the world.

Frank's parents moved out west sometime before the old sawmill in Chippewa Falls closed. Their daughter Phena married a Blackfoot man in Montana and became a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Give a membership
as a gift!

Celebrating 150 Years at the Cook-Rutledge Mansion

MARY KLEUSCH, COOK RUTLEDGE MANSION BOARD MEMBER

2023 marks the 150th year of the Cook-Rutledge Mansion. To celebrate we have number of events planned to support Mansion preservation, here are a few. Follow us on Facebook for details.

April 14 | Gin Tasting Night

6:30 p.m. | Sample 4 unique gin cocktails served with snacks as well as Prosecco and dessert. \$45/person. Reservations required.

May 13 | Victorian High Tea

1-3 p.m. | Dress in your finest and experience the sweet delights of a Victorian High Tea at the Mansion. Reservations required.

Mansion tours at Noon and 3 p.m.

June 15, 16 & 17 | Annual Thrift Sale

June 15, 16 | 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
June 17 | 7:30 a.m.-Noon
Hunt for treasures galore at our annual thrift sale! You may also call the Mansion any time to donate sale items. 715-723-7181.

July 8 | Daniel Maltz Fortepiano Concert

7 p.m. | Enjoy period music in the lovely mansion setting. Reservations required. 🎵

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Chippewa Falls Lumberjack

teacher. Frank's brother Ira worked as the police chief of Spokane, Washington for 11 years before retiring in 1944.

In 1911, Frank's brother, Milo, age 33 at the time, was the engineer who died in a train accident in Superior, Wisconsin. It was an instant death. Another Chippewa Falls native, J. Wilmont, also died. However, L.A. Harling, the brakeman from Chippewa Falls, jumped when he saw the accident was about to happen and landed 25 feet down in the river below.

Frank died from pneumonia in 1947.

Note from the author, Marge Hebring: Frank and Mary Martin are my grandparents. My mother, Caroline Martin (Benson), told me that after her parents moved "out west," she never saw them again. Caroline and her family moved to Chippewa Falls in 1965 and have many descendants living in the Chippewa Valley area. 🍷

MEMBERSHIP FORM

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE / ZIP

TELEPHONE

Type of Membership:

- ☐ Individual / Student \$25/year
- ☐ Family..... \$50/year
- ☐ Iron Business or Household..... \$125/year
- ☐ Copper Business or Household \$250/year
- ☐ Silver Business or Household... \$500/year
- ☐ Gold Business or Household.. \$1000/year
- ☐ Lifetime Membership
- Household \$5000/year

MAIL TO:

Chippewa County Historical Society
12 Bridgewater Ave.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



20th Annual The Past Passed Here

Open to the Public:
May 12-14, 2023

Friday | 3-6 p.m.
Saturday | 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission:
Per Person \$5
Family \$15
Age 5 and under free

Marshall Park
1 Bridgewater Ave.
Chippewa Falls



The Return of a Local Favorite

JIM SCHUH

The Chippewa County Historical Society will bring back a local tradition this spring. The Past Passed Here, the society's popular fur-trade and logging-era re-enactment is back on the calendar for the public, May 12-14, at Marshall Park in Chippewa Falls.

Experience a wide variety of demonstrators including blacksmiths, cast-iron cooking, fiber art making, fur traders and wood carvers. Hands-on activities include archery, atlatl, cat and mouse balance game, canoe paddle race, flint and steel fire starting, lacrosse and tomahawk throwing. Enjoy live old-time music, old-fashioned food and shop for fur trade-era treasures. Visitors to this event will have access to the new Chippewa Area History Center library and museum across the street at a discounted additional admission fee.

For the 20th year, since 2003, the event will include coordinated school system activities. Students from Chippewa and Eau Claire county schools will attend the living history re-enactment. Over the last 19 years more than 9,600 grade school students studying Wisconsin history have spent a day in camp. They explored dozens of French fur trade camps and learned about the various jobs lumberjacks did while harvesting huge white pine forests. Students met knowledgeable re-enactors from many Midwestern states, played hands-on games, enjoyed period food and shopped for trader's wares while experiencing living Chippewa County history. Although the camps are closed to the public during school hours, the public is encouraged and welcome to attend Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Tilden Lions Club volunteers will staff the food booth and will sell buffalo burgers, brats, hotdogs, Old Dutch Potato Chips, Olson's Ice Cream, pickles on a stick, Micon Cinema Movie Popcorn, bottled Chippewa Spring water, Point Root Beer, root beer floats and rock candy.

For more information please contact CCHS and CAHC board member and TPPH Publicity Coordinator, Jim Schuh, at 715-726-2376. 📞

▲ Photo above: In 2022, Rob Gant coordinated the canoe paddle races for the 19th year. Participants must travel over an obstacle course without spilling a tin cup of water and come in first to win.



Railway Express Agency – Chippewa Falls

MARY ANDRESS ROULEAU

The Railway Express Agency (“REA”) was a great American institution and household name. Operated from 1918-1975, it shipped express parcels worldwide by air and rail. Two who served as REA agents in Chippewa Falls were Clarence “Butch” Hub (1899-1959) and Raymond (Ray) Andress.

Butch worked for REA about 40 years beginning in high school. He was the Express Agent when Ray began work in 1950 as a driver and when Butch moved on in 1963, Ray replaced him and, served 25 years until REA ended business in 1975.

Ray had fond memories of working with Butch and listening to some of his funny stories. One was about Butch playing high school football for the Cardinals and kicking a football 60 yards against a 20 mile per hour wind. Another was Butch boasting he could kick as high as the ceiling globe light fixture. Then, he did!

REA was known for guaranteed prompt delivery of anything, including animals. Ray remembered one time a monkey was ordered as a joke but was refused upon arrival. In the freight room, confusion reigned when the monkey got loose. Ray’s daughter, Mary (age seven), had a banana when she came to see this fun animal at the depot. Spotting the banana, the hungry monkey leapt down, grabbed the fruit, and scurried away. “Scared the bejesus out of me,” said Mary.

For REA, many factors led to its decline in the 1970s and, sadly, operations ended after filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 1975. When it closed, Ray bought an old REA desk, safe, and some other liquidated items which he has donated to the History Center.

Dr. James Windeck also obtained at least one item from REA – a passenger bench. Help was needed in moving the bench and Ray offered to get that help a bit later. But the doctor wanted to move it right away. He left and shortly returned with help of his own. To Ray’s surprise, Dr. Windeck’s helper was Seymour Cray Jr.! Together, with some difficulty, they maneuvered the bench out of the building.

The old REA safe and some original depot items are among the many great things you may see when you next visit the new History Center in Chippewa Falls. 🍷

CAHC Room Rentals

JIM SCHUH

Room Rentals refer to the following rooms:

- ❶ **Meeting Room (A117):** capacity 12-15
- ❷ **Rutledge Auditorium (A106):**
capacity 50 (as presently configured with one exit)
- ❸ **Third-floor Classroom (A303):**
capacity 50-60+
- ❹ **Cupola / Crow’s Nest (M301):**
capacity 12-15

Fee schedule, during business hours:

- ♦ A117: \$25/hr, min 1 hour.
Free to non-profits and affinity groups as the schedule allows.
- ♦ A106: \$50/hr, min 2 hours
- ♦ A303: \$50/hr, min 2 hours
- ♦ M301: \$40/hr, min 1 hour

Fee schedule, after hours:

- ♦ A117: \$30/hr, min 2 hours
- ♦ A106: \$75/hr, min 2 hours
- ♦ A303: \$75/hr, min 2 hours
- ♦ M301: \$60/hr, min 1 hour

Full facility: all rental rooms and exhibit areas: \$150/hr, min 2 hours; special, \$500 for 4 hours.

Rental rooms are available for meetings, retreats, family and class reunions, wedding ceremonies, funerals, town halls, and similar events but are not available for wedding receptions.

Fees include tech, chairs, tables. Some serving dishes are available, but not linens or place settings. Prohibitions: No open flames except Sterno, no potted plants (only cut flowers), no glitter ever. 🍷



CHIPPEWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY CORNER

ANNE KELLER, CCGS PRESIDENT

I am writing this to introduce to you the newly-elected Board of Directors and other "job titles" of the Chippewa County Genealogical Society.

These are people who are dedicated genealogists as well as leaders in the organization. The board is made up of President Wendy Sullivan, Past President Anne Keller, Vice President Nancy Nerdrum (she is also the Newsletter Editor), Treasurer Ken Koss and Secretary Cathy Turner. Sue Dole and Dennis Brain are also board members. In addition to being on the board, Cathy represents CCGS at the Chippewa County Historical Society board meetings. Diana Germain and Wendy Sullivan are part of the newly-formed Chippewa Area History Center board which has been created for management of the building by representatives of CCGS and the CCHS. Darlene Brain and Past President, Gary Swartz, are not currently on the board, but both are involved with several projects. Darlene Hebert continues to be responsible for maintaining the obituary files and queries are answered by several members.

On March 25 and 26, the Gene-a-Rama, a state-wide event, will be held at the Lismore Hotel in Eau Claire. Our CCGS plans to have a table there with brochures and items relating to research in Chippewa County.

The genealogy library, staffed by volunteers, is now open to the public on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. It is staffed by volunteers who are happy to help you with your research. Stop in and do some project! (If the schools are closed because of weather, the CCGS library will also be closed that day.)

Donations



The Past Passed Here Sponsorships

- Pederson-Volker Funeral Home
- Horan Funeral Home
- Edward & Hannah Rutledge Charities
- Spring Street Sports
- Harold D. "Mac" MacDonald Endowment Fund through Community Foundation of Chippewa County

Exhibit Donations

- Bill and Mary Lou Leinenkugel Endowment Fund through the Community Foundation of Chippewa County

Donation to Chippewa Area History Center

- Delores (Schindler) Hebert History and Genealogy Fund for Area History through the Community Foundation of Chippewa County

Donations Toward Operating Costs

- Nancy Sweet
- Joseph W. Joas designated Endowment Fund through the Community Foundation of Chippewa County
- Dennis and Carole Mickesh Fund through the Community Foundation of Chippewa County
- Arlene and Gene A. Lopez Environmental and Historical Fund through the Community Foundation of Chippewa County
- Mary and David Spooner

Welcome to our New Lifetime Members

- Donna and Greg Krause
- Donna Martin
- Donovan and Ruth Olson



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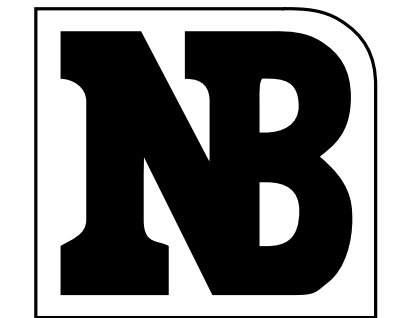
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Chippewa County Historical Society

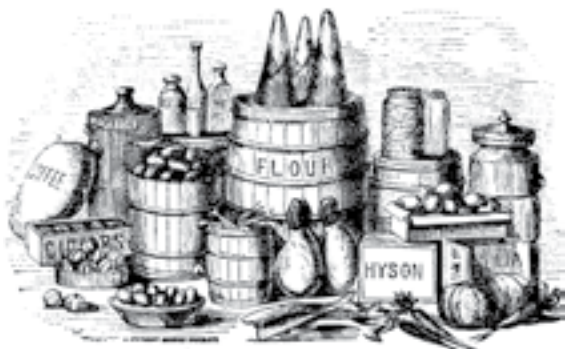
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MARCH 2023

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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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Chippewa County Historical Society,
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