

THE EAGLE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPEAKS

JUNE 2014

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

“OLD ABE”

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Kitty pile! 
Photo by Rachael Butek



The Area History Center is open Tuesdays 9 am - 4 pm
Plan a tour while children are on vacation or when company visits this summer.

Springtime on the Farm

ARLEY ENGEL

Having been raised on a farm, we enjoyed all the new animals that joined us in the spring. Some of the first were the new baby piglets. We would know something was about to take place when dad would say it’s time to move the fanning mill out of its storage area in an alley in the barn. This spot is where 2 of our bred sows would be housed for the next 3 to 4 weeks.

The gestation period for sow pigs is 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days—this figures out to 114 days. About 3 to 4 days before farrowing, these sows would be moved into this area plus 3 more sows would be put in an alley behind our calf pens. They were all separated into 5 individual pens so they would not interfere with each other. It seems each sow would have their pigs only 2-3 days apart, and each sow would have 8-10 little pigs each so our 5 pigs would grow from 5 to 55 within 1 week.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 



GENEALOGY CORNER

ANNE KELLER

A Letter from the Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the completion of the details for the Community Foundation of Chippewa County CCGS Endowment Fund. The Board of Directors agreed to match Judy Loiselle Rubenzer's initial contribution to honor all past and present members of CCGS. This money has been deposited in the fund, along with other personal contributions from individuals, so the fund is growing. We encourage everyone to consider a gift in any amount to ensure our viability in the future.

The By-Laws were updated to reflect the terminology needed to protect the funds in the future, changes needed for student membership and other minor changes in wording.

A revised CCGS brochure was designed and submitted to the board for approval. The new design, printed on card stock, is being distributed to various locations in Chippewa County.

We have some interesting speakers lined up for future meetings. Refer to our website for further information at <http://ccgswi.wikifoundry.com>. We hope to see you there. We need and encourage your active participation to help guide the Society into the future.

From Your CCGS Board of Directors 🐾



Can I hold 'em
now Dad?
Photo by Rachael Butek

Springtime *continued from cover*

About this time of the year we would have 8-10 cows that would freshen, thus we would have maybe 10 new calves to play with and feed. It was fun getting the calves to learn how to drink from a pail by letting them suck on our fingers that we dipped into the pail filled half full of the cows new milk. This milk is extra rich to spur good growth in the calves for the first couple of weeks of their life. About the same time the mother cat would be having kittens, and her favorite nest was in the wall of a divider where the little pigs were born. We had to wait 1-1/2 weeks until the kittens eyes would be open before dad would let us take the kittens out of their nest and play with them.

As all of this was going on we would have 2 "cluck" chickens setting on 8-10 duck eggs each, we had to remove her from the nest each day and wet and turn the eggs. This made it easier for the hatching process as the mother duck in nature whet through this process each day. We usually had 100% hatches.

Speaking of hatches, this is the time of year that we would get 250-300 baby chicks from the hatchery. We had a brooder house that was freshly cleaned and new sand would be put on the floor, brooder lights would be hung about 6 inches above this sand, then feeders would be placed at different spots around the floor along with 2 waters. It was fun to lay in the fresh sand within the range of the heat from the brooder lights and let the chicks hop up on our hands and stare at us. This was the "Good Old Days" of spring on the farm. *That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie* 🐾

The article below was published in the May-July 2014 Wisconsin Historical Society newsletter *Columns*.

History In Your Back Yard

Chippewa County Historical Society Expands, Exhibits, Educates and Entertains

VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT INTERNS pitched in this past year to help the Chippewa County Historical Society in Chippewa Falls expand and improve its exhibits documenting the county's history. A pair of University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire student interns, Isaiah Frater and Trenton Sobeck, applied their energies toward creating or revamping two exhibits. Frater created a music exhibit that showcases some of Chippewa Falls' most exciting contributions to the field of music, including the world-famous Helland brothers Hardanger violins; country music duo, Maggie and Scottie, who played at festivals and fairs throughout Wisconsin and neighboring states; and Chippewa Falls native,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 🐾



Committees in sync!



Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 100 YEARS AGO AT THIS TIME ...

Lake Wissota Developers had a Vision

JIM SCHUH

During the next few years each issue of our newsletter will feature an article on the 1913-1917 formation of Lake Wissota. Xcel Energy has provided the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Assn. with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of dam construction in Chippewa Falls. We greatly appreciate their support of sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations. *(The following information was taken from The 7-9-96 Determination of Eligibility for National Register of Historic Places, for the Wissota Dam Historic District, Chippewa County, WI.)*

Continued from February's *The Eagle Speaks*:

... "Immediately after forming the Wisconsin-Minnesota company Kelsey-Brewer began intensive development of the existing electric properties while proceeding with a program of rapid expansion, in order to facilitate their larger plan of developing hydroelectric power sites on the Chippewa River."

"The Wisconsin- Minnesota Light and Power Company began its development of the Chippewa River with a large undertaking near the rapids at Paint Creek on the Chippewa River, two and a half miles above Chippewa Falls, with a view toward building a dam large enough to consolidate several rapids into a single fifty-seven foot head with potential power of more than 30,000 kilowatts. To stabilize the erratic stream's flow, they created a 6,377-acre lake – named, like the dam, Wissota – as a storage reservoir."

"Since the power produced at Wissota was far more than the Wisconsin-Minnesota system was able to use, the company contracted to deliver a large part of it to the Consumers Power Company, a rapidly growing utility serving the Twin Cities area." ❖

- * **Collection & Artifacts:**
 - * Nancy Schuh, Arley Engel, Lucyann LeCleur, Terri Stahr,
- Photography Sub Committee:**
 - * Lucyann LeCleur, Donna Bourget
- * **Building & Grounds:**
 - * Skip August
- Space Utilization Sub Committee**
 - * Steve Rasmus
- * **Education:**
 - * Marge Hebbing, Catherine Lea, Evalyn Fransch, Ann Gordon
- Docent Subcommittee:**
 - Pat Ahneman, Marge Hebbing
- * **Exhibits:**
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- Historic Markers Sub Committee:**
 - * Tom Larson, Jim Schuh, Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber
- * **Finances:**
 - * Skip August, Kathy Forsgren
- * **Membership:**
 - * Donna Bourget, Mary McKenna
- Telephone Subcommittee:**
 - * Mary McKenna
- * **Publicity:**
 - * Jim Schuh
- * **Newsletter:**
 - * Jim Schuh, author & editor
 - Elly Rochester, layout & design
 - Nancy Schuh, author & proofreader
- Column Authors: Arley Engel, Kathy Forsgren, Dave Gordon and Mary McKenna
- * *Chairperson*



Developers who had a vision.
Charles Kelsey (left)
Joseph Henry Brewer (right)

Photo by: Public Library, Grand Rapids, MI





CALENDAR

June 10

10:30 a.m. Historic Marker
Committee

June 17

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting
Noon Area History Center Birthday
Lunch

July 15

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting
Noon Area History Center Birthday
Lunch

Aug. 19:

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting
Noon Area History Center Birthday
Lunch

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, Wisconsin.

Mail any comments or future articles to 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. 715-723-4399.

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This trailer, donated by Arley and June Engel, is packed with lumbering and pioneer tools, artifacts and hundreds of historic photos.

Photo by Nancy Schuh

The Past is Passed Again!

JIM SCHUH

For the 11th year The Past Passed Here transported visitors from Allen Park back to the French fur trade and lumbering days. The park was once the site of Native American, French fur trade camps and the big sawmill. More than 600 students spent a full day field trip visiting 16 educational stations, engaging in hands-on activities and competing in camp skill competitions. For the second year Bob Jagodzinski traveled from Minnesota to teach the Native American game lacrosse. Many students said this was their favorite activity. Lacrosse is a team sport and has its origins in a tribal game played by eastern woodlands Native Americans and by some plains Indians. Luckily the students always seem to enjoy the event no matter what the weather is like. Our longest distance voyageur, porcupine quill artist, Margie, traveled nearly 700 miles from Rapid City South Dakota. One of our oldest re-enactors, Fry Bread Mary, at age 84 said "I have no plans to retire. People who participate in these rendezvous that I attend are just like family to me." Eight local musicians strolled the grounds and played music from the period, or sang about local history, which added to the festive atmosphere.

This event would not be possible without the dedication and efforts of our wonderful volunteers and financial support from sponsors. Thanks also to the City of Chippewa Falls, Parks & Recreation Dept. and to the community work crew from the Chippewa Valley Correction and Treatment Facility. Of course the efforts of Catherine Lea and support from the Chippewa Falls School District are crucial. Luckily we have attracted some new volunteers this year that enjoyed helping out. Sharing our history is contagious! Numerous participants have been involved since the event's inception in 2003. Unfortunately some founding members were unable to attend due to health reasons. Arley Engel delivered the "museum on wheels" that he created including his famous buffalo. Thank you so much to Arley and June Engel for donating these treasures to the event and for helping share Chippewa County history! This trailer is packed with lumbering and pioneer tools, artifacts and hundreds of historic photos.

Mother Nature provided a mixed bag of weather. Rain greeted the students Wednesday morning upon their arrival and "the greatest canoe man ever", Rod Gant, got drenched standing outside the tent while welcoming them. We closed early Thursday evening due to light rain. A steady strong cold wind blew Friday. The heavy rain missed us, thank goodness, but precipitation to the north caused the Chippewa River and Duncan Creek to rise substantially. Eight camps had to breakdown and move Friday night. Most of them set up again Saturday morning and we enjoyed sunny weather Saturday. Then Saturday evening the creek rose even more and many camps had to pack up and leave. Because of the rising water and fewer camps we decided to close the event to the public Sunday. Hopefully next year will be a bit calmer... "Lord willing and the creek don't rise!"

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013-2014

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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- ✧ Marge Hebbring, 7361 203rd St.,
Chippewa Falls 723-5278
- ✧ Donna Bourget, 1420 Miles St.,
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Frybread Mary prepares frybread dusted with cinnamon and sugar.
Photo by Nancy Schuh

Peter Lea and Bruce Sorenson performed Civil War era songs Thursday evening just prior to the rainstorm.
Photo by Nancy Schuh



Robert Jagodzinski explains the game of lacrosse to students prior to their game.
Leader Telegram photo by Steve Kinderman

The Historical Society food booth served up Chuck's buffalo burgers, Emmet's Voyageur Stew, Ursula's pretzels, Olson's ice cream and many other treats. Allen (Jake) Jacobson, Roger Kees and Chuck Card kept busy satisfying our customers.
Photo by Nancy Schuh



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Donations



COUNTY NEWS

Donations in Memory of:

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Judith R. Anderson.....	Arley & June Engel
Alice McDonald.....	Arley & June Engel
Alice McDonald.....	Kathy Forsgren
Delores A. Beaudette.....	anonymous
Dolphus S. Smith	anonymous
Delores A. Beaudette.....	anonymous
Delores A. Beaudette.....	Kathy Forsgren
Caroline Martin Benson	from her children
Delores Beaudette	Don & Delores Bichner

Donations in Honor of:

	From:
Greg Devine.....	Arley & June Engel

Other Donations:

Visitors	\$97.00
Arthur & Mary Jane Weiss toward Woolen Mill Marker	100.00

Contributing Membership:

Michael and Sue Berry Family	\$50.00
------------------------------------	---------

Lifetime Membership:

Julie Gingras.....	125.00
Eugene & Carmen Mower.....	175.00

History *continued from page 2*

Judy Henske, who enjoyed national success as a singer and songwriter during the 1960s folk movement.

Sobeck revamped the local society's lumbering exhibit and added new signage to allow for self-guided tours. Retired county surveyor, Dennis Mickesh, created a new surveying exhibit, and new volunteers, Jim and Mary Erickson created an exhibit they called Granny's Kitchen.

This year the Chippewa County Historical Society will begin its second decade of presenting a popular annual living-history event called The Past Passed Here, May 8-11 in Chippewa Falls' historic Allen Park, once the site of Native American and French fur trade camps. Adults and children alike explore authentic French fur trade era re-enactor camps and participate in hands-on camp activities. Many re-enactors travel from surrounding states to share their knowledge and demonstrate their skills, and food vendors feature fare typical of the 1800's. Annually 650 fourth-grade students participate in day-long, hands-on activities. This event is a past winner of the Wisconsin Main Street Program's Best Cultural Preservation Projects Award. ♣

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, REPORTER

Just as we eagerly waited for spring we are now waiting for summer at the Stanley Area Historical Society. We have another great lineup of new exhibits that will greet visitors. Included will be a beginning WW I time line, 1914 fashions, the Stanley Airport, the Country Salesmen, Stanley Public Library, and an exhibit of dishes with the popular rose flower. Stanley businesses operating in the 1950's and 1960's from 4th Avenue to 8th Avenue will be featured in our large north room exhibit area. To compliment the exhibits we are planning several special programs this season. On June 7, a local artisan will do a program on Rug Hooking. On July 12, a local quilter will present a program entitled "Quilts – A Work In Progress." In August, we hope to have a presentation on Working at the Stanley Corporation but it remains unscheduled as the potential presenter is currently undergoing chemotherapy. On October 4, we hold an open house for those attending the all school reunion.

On January 25, we held our Annual Meeting. Our guest speaker spoke about "Digitizing A Collection." As a result we immediately formed a committee with the intent of getting started. Since then the committee has visited the Chippewa Valley Museum and had a distant learning session presented by the Wisconsin Historical Society. We have also applied for a state grant. So the groundwork is being laid and we have five very enthused members who will be taking on this project. We are also exploring obtaining a student intern this summer from UW-Eau Claire.

We invite you all to come by for a visit this summer. We are open on Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. during the months of June, July, August and September. Hope to see you. Enjoy the summer. ♣



A Message From Your President

HEARD ABOUT TOWN

Feedback...

"Dear volunteers of the History Center. On behalf of Chapter AB P.E.O., I wish to thank you for your very interesting and informative tour of the History Center. Many of us had not been there, and had our eyes opened as to the vast array of information available there! You have all worked so hard to make this a destination..."

ELLEN YINDRA

"Dear Mr. Schuh; I enthusiastically read your article regarding the Chippewa Woolen Mill. My dad, Jacob Weiss took the position of designer for the mill in early 1925... My dad had the idea for a reversible jacket with plaid wool on one side gabardine on the other, which he called the Bergen. However, he needed a reversible zipper to complete the garment, which was not available at the time. Falon Zipper Co. took on the task to invent one and they did and the Bergen became a huge success. He was first in putting zippers in children's snowsuits, much to a mother's delight. There were other such innovations... I am proud of my dad's accomplishments and am proud of Chippewa Falls..."

MR. & MRS. ARTHUR R. WEISS,
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

(The Weiss family sponsored the cost of the soon to be created Woolen Mill historic marker!)

I know it is spring, even though the weather may make you wonder, because The Past Passed Here just had another successful year. Thank you to the many volunteers who make it possible. This was the eleventh year and as in every year there are challenges to making it a success. The traffic round about that was put in last year left some of Allen Park with areas that were still trying to grow grass so we roped those off. I have a new appreciation for the phrase "Good Lord willin' and the creek don't rise". Duncan Creek did rise Friday during the festival and caused eight of the re-enactors to move their camps that evening. Three camps were relocated to higher ground, two camps came down and the re-enactors moved in with other re-enactors, and one camp packed up and left. Quite a dedication to what they do. The only evidence of the Friday night move on Saturday morning was a stack of firewood out in the creek.

Arley Engel was missing this year for health reasons and the kids missed his many stories about his mobile history trailer. The challenge without Arley was opening up the trailer and setting up all the displays including the ever-popular buffalo. Jim, Jake and I had an interesting time figuring out how everything went together. If we thought set up was a challenge you should have been there Saturday evening when we got everything back in the trailer.

It is with mixed emotion that we learned this year is the last year for Mary and Dennis Brown to be the lead coordinators of TPPH. This became a reality when Chippewa County Historical Society bought their tent. They have been responsible a large share of the coordination required for a great event like this to happen. Besides monthly meetings, correspondence, phone calls and arrangements they start set up the Friday before the event and make sure everything is ready by Wednesday when the first fourth graders arrive. Mary and Dennis stepped up when Chippewa Falls Main Street turned over TPPH it to the Chippewa County Historical Society. Dennis and Mary's gift of \$2,500 in 2010 assured the needed funds to take over running the festival. Since their involvement with TPPH, Mary and Dennis have become re-enactors themselves. We hope they will continue as re-enactors with TPPH but with a sign out front that says "No TPPH business discussed here". We thank them for continuing to make TPPH the significant educational event it has become for the fourth graders in Chippewa. Marge, Teri and Jim have big shoes to fill.

Don't miss the Wisconsin Historical Society's newsletter "Columns" Vol. 35, No. 2 May-July 2014 edition. Thanks to Jim Schuh under "Local History" is an article titled "History in your back yard. Chippewa County Historical Society Expands Exhibits, Educates and Entertains". You can find it on page 2 and on the Wisconsin Historical Societies web site.

The Society hosted members of PEO Chapter AB on a tour of the museum. To show our versatility we also hosted a Cub Scout den on a tour of the museum. I was invited to share our slide show "Tour of the History Center Museum" with the residents of Wissota Springs. The attendees included Lorraine and John Pontius who donated the beautiful doll house featured in the Children's Room. The Society has a number of slide presentations that can be used to share our rich history with various groups in the area.

As you can see the Society has a lot going on. Looking forward to seeing you at the History Center on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 4:00 and the fourth Saturday of the month except in June, July, August and December from 9:00 to 1:00. Don't be a stranger we love visitors. *Dave* ♣



Jim Erickson
and
Mary
(Dinkel)
Erickson

MEMBERSHIP FORM

A VOLUNTEER PROFILE
MARY MCKENNA

Jim & Mary

When Fred Dinkel, the Historical Society's first president, helped obtain the Cook Rutledge Mansion and establish the Society in Chippewa Falls, he probably never envisioned his daughter Mary, and her husband Jim Erickson, continuing his legacy.

The couple met in their freshman year at Macalester College where Mary was pursuing a Liberal Arts Degree in Elementary Education. Jim studied at Macalester College for two years and continued his education at the University of Minnesota receiving a Liberal Arts Degree with a Major in History in 1962. He then attended the University of Minnesota Law School and received a Juris Doctor degree in 1965.

After Mary's graduation, the couple married on July 22, 1961, at the First Methodist Church in Chippewa Falls. Mary secured her first job as a Kindergarten teacher in Roseville, Minnesota, while Jim continued his education. After graduation, Jim's first job as an attorney was with Control Data in Minneapolis. They have two children, Chuck and Sarah (DiFrancesco). And four grandchildren: Charlie and Dylan, Anna and Andrew.

When at their cabin in Chippewa Falls, they are involved with not only the Chippewa County Historical Society but also the Cook Rutledge Mansion and the Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association (LWIPA). Back home in Minnetonka, Minnesota, Mary is a co-leader of the Second Halfers seniors group at church, and women's organizations. Jim is a member of the Minneapolis Commodores Barbershop Harmony Chorus, Barbershop quartets and co-leader of Second Halfers.

While helping at an LWIPA event, Mary struck up a conversation with Nancy Schuh. Discussing interests soon led Nancy to ask Mary to consider creating an early kitchen display recreating many facets of kitchens in days gone by. Mary and Jim set about coming up with ideas for the display room and then started finding, collecting and donating many items in addition to those already at the History Center. They also helped create and set up the laundry exhibit at the Oktoberfest in 2013 and participated in the recent "The Past Passed Here" event held in Allen Park.

Mary has a particular interest in relating to the History Center due to the connection of her father's history as its president. Fred Dinkel recently posthumously received a Hall of Fame award for his work while he served as the first president of the Society. Without a doubt, he would be one proud papa!

We at the Center acclaim that Mary and Jim are wonderful assets to our center and we thank them for creating our "Granny's Kitchen" exhibit and their intention to update the Children's Toy Exhibit. The exhibits are drawing new visitors and attention and speak volumes of the contributions of our new volunteers. Some of their future goals are to raise awareness of the History Center, lead tours at the Center, and lend a hand where and when needed. Their enthusiasm is refreshing and we are eager to see where else they will be involved. ♣



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Dan Meyer, AKA Frozen Toes, oversees, Sienna Haley, a fourth grade student at the hawk throwing competition at the 2014 The Past Passed Here event. See page 4 for details. *Leader Telegram photo by Steve Kinderman*

THE EAGLE SPEAKS



JUNE 2014

Preserving Your Past — For Future Generations

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