

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2024



www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

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Jacob Leinenkugel, seated on the steps, was more than the brewer of Leinenkugel's beer. He served two terms as Chippewa Falls Mayor. During his term in 1881, the streetlights in the city were switched from gas to electric.

Leinenkugel Brewing: from the Rhineland to Duncan Creek.

FRANK SMOOT

November ushered itself in with the awful news that Molson Coors would shutter the Chippewa Falls Leinenkugel brewing plant this coming January. Leinenkugel Brewing Co. is the oldest business in Chippewa Falls, and the seventh oldest brewery in the United States. It not only has been with us for most of the city's history, but it serves as a part of our identity to the nation beyond the city limits.

Quite a few folks know the more recent history of Leinie's, written as the company survived many different eras in the American brewing story. Perhaps fewer know the deep roots that Leinenkugel beer sprang from.

As signs everywhere remind us, Leinie's has been brewed in Chippewa Falls since 1867 — but you could get a glass of beer brewed by a Leinenkugel long before then and far from Duncan Creek.

In the late 1500s, Kirstigan Leinenkugel, a tenant farmer near Rheinbach (in what's now west-central Germany), farmed for the benefit of a local monastery. Many

Continued on page 2



Shop Really Local for Christmas

Our Museum Store offers a variety of local history related and locally made gift items. See pages 6 & 7 for more info.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE / ZIP

TELEPHONE

Type of Membership:

☐ Individual / Student \$25/year

☐ Family/Household \$50/year

☐ Iron Business or Household \$125/year

☐ Copper Business or Household \$250/year

☐ Silver Business or Household... \$500/year

☐ Gold Business or Household... \$1,000/year

☐ Lifetime Membership

Household \$5,000

MAIL TO:

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

Leinenkugels *continued*

monks, perhaps even most, were master brewers. In fact, monks revolutionized the brewing of beer into the modern era. Did Kirstigan learn brewing at the monastery? Plausibly. Even likely.

The family's first documented brewer was Chrysant (Christian) Leinenkugel, who brewed beer in the 1810s for his tavern on the main street of the village of Meckenheim, just a little over five miles from Rheinbach where his ancestor Kirstigan lived a couple of centuries before.

Records show that in 1819, Chrysant brewed nearly 1,000 liters of beer and more than 1,100 liters of brandy. You could only get the beer at Chrysant's tavern, but he sold a good share of his brandy to carry out — off-sale, you might call it today.

Chrysant and his wife Anna Margaretha had ten children. Mathias, born in 1809, grew up to be an innkeeper, brewer, and distiller, following in his father's footsteps. In the 1840s, the region suffered a drought so severe it caused famine. Mathias and Maria Christina Schneider, his bride since 1834, decided to leave their homeland for America. The young couple arrived on these shores in 1845 with a deep knowledge of brewing and with their four boys — Joseph Mathias, Heinrich, three-year-old Jacob, and baby Johann Peter. (Daughter Anna Maria had died in Adendorf before they traveled.) The family shortly made it to Sauk City, Wisconsin, where another son, Frank, was born.

At the time, immigrants were flooding into the Midwest from the region we now call Germany. This brought brewing to Wisconsin in a big way: the forerunners of several storied brands trace their beginnings to the five years from 1844 and 1849, including Schlitz, Blatz, Miller, and Pabst.

Mathias opened a brewery in Sauk City, and he taught his boys the craft. In the years that followed, Heinrich took over the Sauk City brewery and, Joseph Mathias, established Eagle Brewery in Eau Claire. It's thought that perhaps Johann Peter established a brewery in Baraboo.

Jacob followed his older brother Joseph Mathias to Eau Claire but shortly formed a partnership in Chippewa Falls with his friend John Miller, who had grown up in Koblenz, nearby Jacob's father's birthplace of Meckenheim, and whom Jacob had met years before when they both lived in Sauk City.

Thirty-year-old Miller and 25-year-old Jacob bought a 40-acre parcel on the banks of Duncan Creek and built a 24x50 wood-frame building for a brewery, at first officially called Spring Brewery but often called Leinenkugel & Miller. In 1867 they brewed and delivered 400 barrels around town in a two-wheel carriage pulled by their horse, Kate. The Leinenkugel and Miller families lived on that same parcel and also provided dormitory housing for their first workers there.

In a town of thirsty loggers, good beer was a huge hit. An 1871 account in the Chippewa Herald noted the Spring Brewery's speedy growth. "This brewery was first started some four years ago, and since that time, its enterprising proprietors have been adding to it constantly. By fair dealing, and manufacturing good stock, they have built up a large trade."

Miller sold his stake in the company in 1884, but — with the exception of the 13 years of Prohibition (January 1920 to December 1933) — Leinenkugel family members pursued the beer-brewing craft on that very site through six generations. (During Prohibition, the plant produced a nonalcoholic malt beverage, not very successfully, and soda pop, fairly successfully.)

The closing of Leinenkugel's Chippewa Falls plant will most directly be a hardship for local workers and their families, and will also cost the city a notable part of its identity. But perhaps it helps to remember how remarkable it is that a family and a community kept a legendary business alive for more than a century and a half. ♣



FAR LEFT: Thomas Grill Sr. with stone silo
July 22, 1971

LEFT: Thomas and Anna Grill children in
front of the stone house.

FRONT THREE (L TO R): Art, Tom, Frank

MIDDLE THREE (L TO R): Marcella, Herman,
Margaret

BACK FIVE (L TO R): Helen, Irvin(Pat),
Roman, Ambrose (AP), Gilbert (Gib)

CELEBRATING CENTURY FARMS

The Michael and Rosanne (Grill) Zwiefelhofer Sesquicentennial Farm

WENDY SULLIVAN

In 2024, the farm of Rosanne and Michael Zwiefelhofer was recognized as a Sesquicentennial Farm by the Wisconsin State Fair. Located in Woodmohr Township on Hwy C about five miles south of Bloomer, the farm has been continuously owned by members of Rosanne's family for 150 years; below is a list of ownership. For more information on the family, visit the Chippewa County Genealogy Library and read the book Josef Grill Family History Book and Tree, July 2006.

11/30/1874 to 07/02/1894: Brothers Leonard and Jacob Borofka: Leonard (1849–1932) and Jacob Borofka (1851–1927) were born in Bohemia and came to Chippewa County in 1870. In 1874 the brothers purchased adjoining 80 acres in Section 32 of Township 30N, Range 9W; this can first be seen in the 1888 plat book. Leonard married Mary Sicora and they farmed the property until 1920 when they moved to Chippewa Falls.

07/02/1894 to 04/15/1920: Jacob and Caroline (Roessel) Borofka: On April 13, 1880 Jacob married Caroline Roessel (1864–1940) at St. Peter's Church in Tilden. Their married life began on the farm that Jacob purchased in 1874. Six children were born to them; two daughters: Anna and Clara and four sons: Paul, Peter, Frank, and one son who died in infancy. In 1920 their daughter Anna and her husband, Thomas Grill Sr., purchased the home farm. Jacob and Caroline moved to a farm in Cook's Valley and lived there for most of the remainder of their lives.

04/15/1920 to 11/17/1944: Anna (Borofka) and Thomas Grill, Sr: Anna (1884–1944) married Thomas Grill (1879–1975) on June 28, 1904 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Bloomer. Eleven children were born to them; eight sons: Frank, Arthur, Herman, Roman, Thomas Jr., Ambrose, Irvin, Gilbert and three daughters: Margaret, Helen, Marcella. In 1924, Thomas Sr. built a silo from rocks collected on the farm and in 1940 he built a stone house.

Celebrating Century Farms *continued*

11/17/1944 to 01/27/1978: Thomas Grill, Jr. and Helen (Bresina): Thomas Grill, Jr. (1911–1997) married Helen Bresina (1916–2002) on April 23, 1941 at St. Peter's Church in Tilden. Five children were born to them; four daughters: Annette, Mary, Kathy, Rosanne, and one son: John. Their son John died in 1962 at age 20 due to kidney problems. Tom Jr. and Helen took over running the home farm after marrying and purchased it on November 17, 1944, just 13 days after Tom's mother, Anna (Borofka) Grill died. Tom, Sr. continued to live on the farm until his death on June 13, 1975 at nearly 96 years of age.

01/27/1978 to 10/15/1984: Barry and Josephine Grill: Barry Grill, the nephew of Tom Grill, Jr., son of Helen Clara Grill (sister of Tom Grill, Jr.), and his wife Josephine owned the farm from 1978 to 1984.

10/15/1984 to present: Michael and Rosanne (Grill) Zwiefelhofer: Rosanne Grill, daughter of Helen and Tom Grill, Jr., married Michael Zwiefelhofer on April 15, 1978 in Bloomer. In October 1984 Rosanne and Michael purchased the family farm that she grew up on from her cousin Barry Grill. Four children were born to Rosanne and Michael; three daughters: Laura, Alexandra, Maria and one son: Luke.

CALENDAR



Join us on Dec. 4 at 11:30 am for our Lunch and Learning, titled **"Under the Christmas Tree of Yesteryear: An Exploration of Antique and Vintage Christmas Toys."**

The program will be given by Sally Young, and will cover the history of Christmas toys, using many examples from the museum's artifact collection. Attendees are encouraged to bring a Christmas toy from their own past to the program if they wish. A repeat program on Dec. 7 at 1 pm will cover the same topic.

We look forward to continue our Lunch and Learning program into 2025. Look forward to programs about schools, state parks, trains and so much more! Contact Jarrod Showalter if there is a topic you'd like to hear more about, or if you'd like to give a presentation.

CCHS Museum and Store is open to the public Wed.-Sun. 11 am-5 pm
(Closed on Christmas, Dec. 25)

CCGS Library open to the public
Fri. Sat.-Sun. Noon - 4 pm (Closed on Christmas, Dec. 25)

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Message from the President



DAVE GORDON

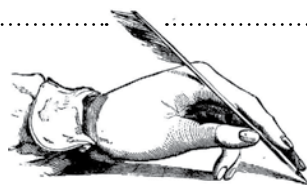
Well, the colorful leaves of fall are gone and, last night the temperature went below freezing, so winter is approaching. I had the opportunity to help the Chippewa County Historical Society meet one of its objectives to communicate the character and history of Chippewa County. I was invited to talk about the Northern Center, located in Chippewa Falls, at a Senior Moments program in Onalaska. Never having been there, I took the opportunity to visit and share the Northern Center story at the library. I talked to forty interested people and showed pictures that told of the difference the Northern Center and Chippewa Falls made in the lives of the residents. The Onalaska History Museum is in the library so I had a chance to go through their well-done museum.

For those of you who did not attend the September membership meeting, the revised bylaws were approved and the following directors were elected: Gail Bensen, Donna Bourget, Jayne Bowe, Mary Erickson, Dave Gordon, Keith Jones, Jim Lindberg, David Raihle, Kip Rubenzer, Jim Schuh, Diane Smith, Diane Hopkins Whelan, and Sally Young. There is one remaining vacancy. According to the new bylaws, the new directors will meet to elect officers.

All the changes make me realize this will be my last Message from the President. It seems only yesterday that I, as Vice President, received the sad phone call telling me our President, Jim Schumacher, had passed away in 2006. Now I know why our Vice President, Dave Raihle, asks about my health frequently. I guess the old saying, "Time flies when you're having fun," is true. A lot has happened in 18 years. A special "Thank You" to those active members who have worked tirelessly for 18 years, and everyone involved in getting us to our dream of the Chippewa Area History Center.

Look for me in the archives trying to get our 24,000 artifacts entered into *Past Perfect*.

Dave



Donations

Donations in Support of CAHC operations

- Northwestern Bank
- Jim and Janice Docksey
- Diana Germain
- Bob Hogseth
- Ray and Carol Peterson
- Nancy Sweet
- Scott and Wendy Sullivan

Donations to Exhibit Expenses

- Northwestern Bank
- Lorraine Pontius
- Nancy Sweet



Our fearless leader for the last 18 years, Dave Gordon, has drawn upon his many years of corporate work experience to adapt those business development and management skills and talents to help us achieve our goal of building an outstanding Chippewa Area History Center. Thank you Dave for your tireless efforts to help us realize our incredible dream come true!



CHIPPEWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Seeking Sustaining Partners

BOB HOGSETH, CAHC BOARD TREASURER

The charitable support that resulted in the construction of the new Chippewa Area History Center was remarkable. The individuals, families and organizations who combined to raise \$4,850,000 during the Capital Campaign will be forever remembered and appreciated. Since the History Centers' grand opening in 2023, many of you have continued to support the Center by volunteering and/or sending financial gifts to support operational costs. THANK YOU! We have also been able to welcome many new members and supporters to our "history family."

The Chippewa Area History Center Board of Directors has continually discussed ways to better balance income and expenses. Thanks to many donations, ranging from \$10 to \$5,000 or more, we've been able to balance the budget. All gift amounts are very appreciated. Going forward, to help better predict budget income, we are announcing the new "Sustaining Partners" program. We've had a few dozen donations of \$1,000 or more in the past 18 months, and have chosen that base amount to begin the Sustaining Partners recognition program to thank these individuals and organizations and to hopefully encourage many others to become Partners. They will be thanked in various publications and in the lobby area of the History Center. Initially, a Sustaining Partner will be a donor who has expressed their intent to make an annual gift of \$1,000 or more for the foreseeable future (typically for three or more years). This is not considered a pledge. It is only your sincere intention that you can discontinue or modify as you choose.

We have just begun to contact a few people in October, but the following donors have agreed to become 2024 Sustaining Partners:

Skip and Rose August	Northwestern Bank
Jim and Jan Docksey	Dave and Rita Raihle
Diana Germain	Jim Schuh
Dave and Ann Gordon	Scott and Wendy Sullivan
Bob Hogseth	Dick and Mary Rose Willi
Kevin and Lynda Koehn	

Thank you to the above donors! Our hope is to expand the above list before the end of the year and to add many more Partners in 2025. If you would like to become a Sustaining Partner, please send a check payable to "Chippewa Area History Center" (Sustaining Partner Gift on memo line), or a note of your intention to become a Partner. Thanks very much for your consideration. ♡

GENEALOGY CORNER

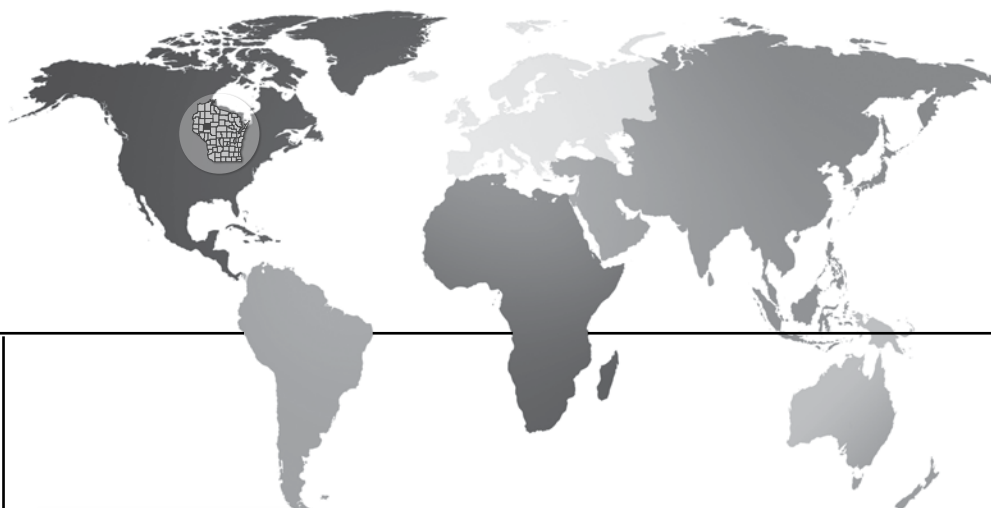
WENDY SULLIVAN, CCGS PRESIDENT

2024 is nearly over and it's been a busy year in the CCGS Genealogy and History Research Library. Each month we track the number of visitors and volunteer hours at the library and we're pleased to report the following numbers for January through October 2024. Library visitors: 438 people. CCGS member volunteer hours: 2138.50 hours. Pretty great numbers considering the library is only open to the public twelve hours per week (four hours each day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) and Tuesday is a "volunteers only workday." Many thanks to those of you who have visited the library, those who volunteer in the library, and those of you who volunteer at and staff the Chippewa Area History Center.

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS:

- **Jan. 25, 2025:** Martin Treptow will present about the Treptow family
- **Feb 22, 2025:** John Fassbender will give his insights on the Family Tree Maker software

LIBRARY HOURS: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12 noon- 4 pm.



Shop Really Local!

Time again to think of that gift for your favorite Chippewa County fan (and who isn't one?).

The Chippewa Area History Center Museum Store has branded hats, T-shirts, and travel tumblers. These are not only excellent quality, but intrigues anyone who sees them and advertises your favorite history center to boot. And, they go with any outfit.

Beyond those wearables, the Museum Store concentrates on items that celebrate the culture and character of Chippewa County. Even better, much of the merchandise is from local artisans and makers. Just a few among the many are:

- ☐ Beeswax candles from Kaiserson Bee Company, a product of bees raised in the Chippewa Valley. Don't forget to pair those candles with a jar of local honey.
- ☐ Sweet treats from Cadott including Sugar John's Pure Maple Syrup and Pure Maple Cream from Roth's Sugar Bush.
- ☐ Handcrafted wooden toys including a wooden train piggy bank, a log wagon complete with logs, and a charming wooden tile game called "Shut the Box" suitable for any number of players or as a solitaire game.
- ☐ Things for train enthusiasts young and old, including classic blue-and-white striped hats and red bandanas, train whistles, and flawlessly researched books by Arlyn Colby on the Cornell Line and the Chippewa Line.



Finding Chippewa County's World Influence

A Sister St. Joseph's

JARROD SHOWALTER CAHC EDUCATOR

St. Joseph's Hospital, founded and operated for decades by the Hospital Sisters of Saint Francis, has fascinating global connections. One leg of these connections is back across the Atlantic Ocean to Germany, where the order began. Another leg, however, is across the Pacific Ocean, where for several decades the Hospital Sisters joined the Catholic Church's mission to China.

In the 1920s, the Catholic Church reinvested in missionary work for the fledgling Republic of China. The Fathers of the Sacred Heart Province, a German order that had conducted missionary work among the Native Americans in Wisconsin, invited the Hospital Sisters to join them. There, the Sisters built a new hospital, also named St. Joseph's, in Jinan (then known as Tshinan). The hospital would hold 75 beds and became a modern institution with Western techniques and equipment.

Several Sisters were reassigned to direct the effort, including Sister Euphrosine Fischer, the chief cook of the Chippewa Falls St. Joseph's. Sister Clementia Dasenbrock left her post in the hospital dressing room to work amongst the poor in China. Several native Chinese women came to the United States for medical training with Hospital Sisters, an extreme rarity under the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882-1943).

The missionary efforts were disrupted in the 1930s and 1940s by the Chinese Civil War and invasion by the Japanese. Several Hospital Sisters were held in Japanese prisoner camps, with the American-born and German-born Sisters separated. Some Sisters returned to the United States, while others still found new areas to pursue mission work. Sister Clementia began new hospitals in postwar Japan, including rebuilding one near the epicenter of the atomic explosion in Nagasaki.

Communist China was an unfriendly environment for missionary work, and Catholic missions that remained were suppressed after China broke off diplomatic relations with the Holy See in 1951. ▀



Dave Paukner and his wife Roxanne attended the award recognition event. As a member of the exhibit committee, Roxanne teamed up with Dave Gordon to create the Northern Center exhibit.



WI Award, American Council of Engineering Companies

DAVID PAUKNER, SENIOR ARCHITECT, CBS SQUARED, INC.

Each year the American Council of Engineering Companies holds an award ceremony to recognize projects and associated professionals for their work in improving the environment. In April 2024, I along with CBS Squared was recognized as a State Finalist for having been involved with the planning and architectural work for the Chippewa Area History Center project. It was quite an honor to receive recognition for our years of labor in bringing the project from vision to reality. It was (and still is) humbling to have been selected by a jury of my peers for a State Finalist Award. In the award notification, it stated that after the judges met, they thought my work on the Chippewa Area History Center exemplified the skill and creativity of the engineering profession. A remarkable statement from a panel comprised of some of the highest achieving professionals in the field of engineering.

Having first been entrusted by the Chippewa Area Historical and Genealogical Societies, and then to have been able to receive an award from an impressive collection of industry leaders at the American Club in Kohler, Wisconsin, has been immeasurably rewarding.

I again want to thank all of those movers and drivers on the History Center Team for allowing me to collaborate and work with all of you in creating a place to tell all of our stories well. 🍷

Shop Really Local!

- ☐ A variety of locally made bird houses and bird feeders.
- ☐ Fascinating books by Chippewa's own John Kinville: *The Grey Eagles of Chippewa Falls: A Hidden History of a Women's Ku Klux Klan in Wisconsin*, and *Chippewa Falls World War II Hero Harry W. Kramer*.
- ☐ The very last copies of David Tank's *Postcards from the Past, Chippewa Falls*, an amazing then-and-now photography project. This book will not be in print again.
- ☐ Two books with different perspectives on the life of farming: *Farm Crossing*, a delightful tale for those nine years and older by Eau Claire children's author Jack Bushnell, and *Farm Life: A Century of Change for Farm Families and Their Neighbors* by Frank Smoot, winner of a Book Award of Merit from the Wisconsin Historical Society.
- ☐ A darling Chippewa County history coloring book by Bob Hogseth and his grandchildren.
- ☐ And, for those among your friends and neighbors who don't already have them, three books published by our very own historical society about the Wisconsin Dam, Irvine Park, and the Northern Wisconsin Fair by Donna Bourget, Anne Keller, and Jim Schuh.

These items, and many others in the store, are three times local: mostly crafted by locals, exploring our local life in various ways, and benefiting our local history program. 🍷

COUNTY NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, PRESIDENT

Our museum is officially closed for the winter. Our volunteers work most Tuesdays and thus, one can access the museum by chance that day. Otherwise, arrangements can be made to visit by calling 715-644-5880 for an appointment.

Our newest publication, "Vintage Views of Stanley Wisconsin Brought to Life with Color," has been selling well. As of this writing more than half of the copies have been sold. The 160 page, full color book remains on sale at the museum for \$35 a softcover book and \$45 for hardcover. Shipping is an additional \$11 for either.

This past summer we were blessed with Landon Wilson, an outstanding UW-Eau Claire student intern. He is continuing on with us through the end of the year as our Digitization Team has temporarily taken a big hit with the passing of one member and the other key person needing to take a break because of the residuals of Long-Term COVID. Landon has been able to keep up with digitizing new additions to our collections while still gaining experience in exhibiting and all the other areas involved in running a museum.

On Sunday, September 22, an open house was held, with current and former residents of West Maple Street invited to share the history of their homes and local businesses. Those who came shared considerable insights.

At the Society's recent Quarterly Meeting, we voted to replace the heating and air conditioning systems in the original 1906 museum building. We're also exploring costs associated with closing a basement exit is no longer used in that building.

On November 2nd, we hosted the ten historical societies that make up the Clark County Historical Society, for their semi-annual meeting. ♣



If you were born prior to 1975 at the old St. Joseph's Hospital, which was built in 1988, you would most likely have been weighed on this baby scale. The original three story hospital was closed for the opening of the new \$10 million hospital in 1975. The scale was donated this fall by former St. Joseph's Hospital employee, Greg Sleight.

Artifact Donations

ELIZABETH PETERSON, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Dear Readers,

It has been a very busy time here at Chippewa County Historical Society since moving to our new locale. I have enjoyed meeting with people whether that was in person, over the phone, or by email. Thank you for reaching out to donate artifacts to the Society. Since 2022, we have received 1721 artifacts and 3389 documents. A most significant donation was a collection of letters written by Charles Mower and his family. He was an Army sergeant who died in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Another was the Nyhus family donation of a variety of items, which included several fishing lures and a Victorian highchair that converts to a stroller. Also, the Society received a small collection of H and H bottles from Mary Hatleberg. Another was a large collection of letters from Arthur McLeod to his family in Chippewa, donated by Nancy Scobie. McLeod was a local gentleman who went on to have a career in Madison, Wisconsin. This year we received a large collection of Mason Shoe Catalogs from Leanne Flynn. Our major donation for the Society came when St. Joseph's Hospital closed earlier this year. We were fortunate to receive many fine artifacts from the Hospital and a few items from the community so far. Some we received are the Statue of St. Joseph, the cornerstone from the old hospital, and stained-glass windows. We have also shared items with the Genealogy Library. A huge thank you to all who were involved in moving St. Joseph's artifacts. We received many more items this year and I wish there was more space to showcase in this article. Lastly, we really appreciate all the inquiries and donations from the community. I look forward to seeing what comes in the next year. ♣

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THE EAGLE SPEAKS



MISSION: COLLECT, PRESERVE, INTERPRET AND
SHARE THE RICH HISTORY OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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.

Mail any comments or future articles to: Chippewa County Historical Society, 12 Bridgewater Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI

DECEMBER 2024

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