

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2019



"OLD ABE"

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

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The FUTURE Chippewa Area History Center

WENDY SULLIVAN

It's been a long winter and it's nice to see spring making an appearance in the Chippewa Valley. The nice weather has brought noticeable changes in our surroundings and optimism for the future. Spring has also brought noticeable changes in the progress of the future Chippewa Area History Center and we are optimistic for the future.

During the long winter, Bob Hogseth and Dave Raihle have met with many area groups and individuals to discuss the Capital Campaign. They've encouraged people to think about their role, and their families or businesses role, in the history of Chippewa County. They ask for support in preserving local history so that we as a group can ensure that history will not be forgotten and can be shared with the public. While donations of any size are greatly appreciated, large donations are important and will enable us to begin to build sooner. A recent donation of \$101,845 was received from the Steve and Karen Rooney family and is greatly appreciated. Other recent meetings were also had with the Leinenkugel Brewery, the Casper-Rutledge Foundation, and the Dwight and Linda Davis Foundation. Through the hard work and dedication of Bob, Dave and the Capital Campaign committee, we have reached approximately the \$2.1 million-dollar mark in donations, pledges and gifts, with others hopefully to being added soon. Construction is scheduled to begin once we reach \$2.6 million and it is exciting to be nearing that goal!



Look for us at the
**Northern Wisconsin
State Fair**
July 10-14, 2019



A Message From Your President

CALENDAR

History Center Open
every Tuesday | 9 am-4 pm

June 18

9:00 a.m. | Finance Committee
9:30 a.m. | CCHS Board Meeting
Noon | Area History Center
Birthday Lunch

June 19

4:30 p.m. | Building Committee CAHC

June 25

9 am | Capital Campaign
Executive Committee

July 3

4:30 p.m. | Capital Campaign
Building Committee

July 9

1:30 p.m. | Collections & Artifacts
Committee Meeting

July 16

9:00 a.m. | Finance Committee
9:30 a.m. | CCHS Board Meeting
Noon | Area History Center
Birthday Lunch

July 23

9 am | Capital Campaign
Executive Committee

August 7

4:30 p.m. | Capital Campaign
Building Committee

August 20

9:00 a.m. | Finance Committee
9:30 a.m. | CCHS Board Meeting
Noon | Area History Center
Birthday Lunch

August 23

9 am | Capital Campaign
Executive Committee

A lot has occurred since I last wrote to you. The saddest was the passing of Nancy Schuh. Her dedication to the Society will be missed. Her birthday lunches were the social event of the month. She loved research and discovered many significant things about Chippewa County. Nancy was always there to help visitors get questions answered.

Bob Hogseth continues to lead the Capital Campaign. His presentations and meetings with donors keep the total growing. We are now at \$2,075,000. The Building Committee continues to work on getting approval on site decisions. On the east site, abandoning the alley is to City Council for approval. In a property exchange, the Society gets the abandoned alley property and neighbor gets back an adjacent piece of property. The Society has also approached the City about use of the Irvine Park property to the west of our site. We are awaiting approval.

The semi annual membership meeting elected three new members to the Hall of Fame. Wendy Sullivan, Bob Hogseth and David Raihle Jr. All three of them are playing a significant role in the capital campaign as well as other contributions to the Society. The guest speaker was Dr. Bill Hopkins who talked about his involvement with the Mayflower Society.

Marge Hebring with the help of Jim Lindberg has completed a new Native American exhibit. It provides information on the tribes that inhabited the Chippewa area. It also provides information on some of their life styles.

Our Mobile Lumberjack trailer was on display at this year's Springfest. It was a good opportunity to share with attendees Chippewa's important lumbering era. Arley Engel's trailer that was remodeled by Jacob Jacobson and his crew continues to share our rich history.

Unfortunately the weather had a major impact on The Past Passed Here in May. Xcel Energy's warning of potential flooding Thursday night closed TPPH. On the positive side half of the fourth-grade students did experience Allen Park as it was in 1700's, with re-enactors sharing their stories. Thanks to some generous donations we limited our financial losses.

The Chippewa County Historical Society continues to "Collect, Preserve, Interpret, Share the rich history of Chippewa County". Can't wait to do that in the new Chippewa Area History Center. *Dave* 🍷

THE FUTURE CHIPPEWA AREA HISTORY CENTER CONTINUED FROM COVER

Other noticeable changes in the future Chippewa Area History Center are being seen at the building site. Through many meetings this past fall and winter, the Building Committee has negotiated some exciting changes for our new building site. The alley, that currently runs between our main building site and the additional lot that was purchased, has been approved for closure by the city of Chippewa Falls. Xcel Energy has agreed to move the utilities that are in the alley area and will do so as an in-kind donation. No Mercy Excavating has removed the house that was on the second lot and will be removing the retaining wall and alley blacktop and re-grading the lot in the near future. The white storage shed on the main site will also soon be removed. All the behind-the-scenes hard work is paying off and progress is being seen.

We are excited to be nearing our "construction begins" goal of \$2.6 million. We ask that you share our progress with your friends and acquaintances and continue to encourage them to support local history preservation and education. Let's keep the momentum going! 🍷



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

Hillcrest Second Graders Visit the CVHC

MARY ERICKSON

On Wednesday, May 29, 72 bright eyed, eager second graders from Hillcrest Elementary School had a fun and informative trip to the Chippewa Area History and Genealogy Center to learn more about their town, Chippewa Falls.

The students gathered in the Genealogy library and were greeted by friendly volunteers dressed in period attire. They were told a bit about the museum and shown some interesting artifacts such as old roller skates, a leather football helmet, old bug sprayer and a carved wooden cow bell. Given some questions to be discussed after the tour, the classes were then broken into smaller groups to tour five rooms relating to Chippewa Falls.

Volunteers gave presentations in the fur trading room, logging and lumber room, train depot, grandma's kitchen and the genealogy library. After having the opportunity to see many items up close, the students asked some very good questions.

When the tour was finished, everyone gathered again in the library to recap and answer the questions given. The students did a super job here and had been good listeners. As a thank you to the volunteers, they eagerly sang an action song accompanied by Grandma Mary on the ukulele...very fun for all. Next, we gave them handouts telling about the field trip and a family tree chart to share with their families. And finally, they were encouraged to bring their families to the museum to see these and many other rooms. We think they will! ✨

No Spring Chicken

Meaning: Someone who is past his prime

History: New England chicken farmers generally sold chickens in the spring, so the chickens born in the springtime yielded better earnings than the chickens that survived the winter. Sometimes, farmers tried to sell old birds for the price of a new spring chicken. Clever buyers complained that the fowl was "no spring chicken," and the term came to represent anyone past their prime.





Nancy

JIM ERICKSON

We have lost our good friend, and the special friend to the Chippewa County Historical Society, Nancy Schuh. She was such an important part of the Society and played a role in so many of its endeavors. Generously volunteering her time, she was an archivist as well as being involved in much of the day to day operations of the History Center. She loved research and was a helpful resource for names, events, local historical items, myriads of scattered information, and so much more. Always interested in those contacting the Center for all kinds of matters, she kept in touch with the community and made others feel welcome to be with things historical.

Nancy served on the Society's Board of Directors from 2010 to 2019, and in 2013 was inducted into the History Center Hall of Fame. She was always active and willing to help on various committees, completing projects, creating exhibits, and all the functions of a busy historical menu of outreach. And, she was serious about improving the direction of the Center, but with the necessary good humor to make for a smoother, ongoing program.

She will be remembered as a real treasure to the Society, a fountain of information, and one who gave much to preserving the important past of Chippewa County. ♣



A Time Capsule in Chippewa County

WENDY SULLIVAN



What do you get when you combine an amazing historic photograph archive with historic newspapers/book and volunteers who enjoy researching the history of Chippewa County? A Time Capsule. Nearly two years ago, as the Chippewa Area History Center Capital Campaign began, discussion was had on what we could do to promote, in a way not currently being done, the great History Center collections to the public and also raise awareness of the Capital Campaign. Bob Hogseth, chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, suggested a weekly historic photo in the Chippewa Herald. Beginning on September 16, 2017 and now in week eighty-nine, the Time Capsule is succeeding in promoting local history preservation and education.

A variety of historic topics have been explored with a goal of representing all areas of Chippewa County. Weekly photos are coordinated, if possible, to the current season, a past event that happened on a current date, a current event that can be related to an historic event, seasonal sports, historic landmarks, historic businesses and industries, founding peoples, inspiring citizens, etc. The topics are really limitless. If you have an interesting historic photo and some basic information on it, please contact us and we will consider it for a future Time Capsule.

Once the photos have been printed in the Chippewa Herald, they are later posted on the Facebook pages of our groups (CCHS, CAHC, and CCGS) as a way to get this information out to even more people. Through analyzing feedback on these pages, we are able to see which posts are liked most by the public. The data shows that people respond most to disasters, hardships, well known landmarks, and inspiring citizens. The top five Time Capsules to date are as follows:

1. Week 68 – Loggers like the cold weather (Facebook reach = 8033)
2. Week 33 – Remembering the Ice House on Glen Loch (Facebook reach = 7775)
3. Week 81 – The 1914 Cadott Fire (Facebook reach = 7311)
4. Week 80 – Angeline DeMarie – early citizen of Chippewa Falls (Facebook reach = 7270)
5. Week 64 – Joseph Kelly, sledding accident on Pine Street hill (Facebook reach = 6360) ♣

ABOVE PHOTO: A group of Ojibwe families gathered on Spring Street in Chippewa Falls, 1863. The 1854 Treaty of La Pointe created reservations in Northern Wisconsin at Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Bad River, and Red Cliff. But Ojibwe people didn't immediately retreat to the reservations, and in fact, many young men worked in the logging crews and especially on the Chippewa River log drives. It wouldn't be until the 1870s that the majority of Wisconsin's Lake Superior Ojibwe were living on Northern Wisconsin reservations.

Each Saturday, the Chippewa Area History Center showcases a piece of local history in the Herald. Visit www.ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter.org to learn more about the future Chippewa Area History Center and how you can help support local history preservation and education.



NEWS FROM 100 YEARS AGO

\$100,000 FIRE AT CADOTT—Large Section of the Village is Destroyed Yesterday Afternoon

CHIPPEWA HERALD | APRIL 9, 1914

The village of Cadott was visited by a disastrous fire yesterday afternoon that left in its wake the ruins of nine buildings and their contents, aggregating a loss of \$100,000. Following are the buildings burned:

- Ed Walter's hardware store, building owned by S.R. Kaiser.
- Post Office, building owned by S. R. Kaiser.
- George Miller's drug store, building owned by Dr. Dunningham.
- Byron Sherman's barber shop, building owned by H. W. Frasl.
- "Red Front" saloon conducted by Charles Remstadt, building owned by Dr. Cunningham.
- Saloon, conducted by Henry Ramberg, building owned by Alex Lintz.
- Dr. Cunningham's building used as a garage.
- S.R. Kaiser's hardware store.
- Commercial hotel and saloon, building owned by Walters Brewing Co. of Eau Claire.
- Dr. Bailey's dental office, up stairs.
- Mrs. Frasl's millinery store, up stairs.
- A barn in the rear of the destroyed property was consumed.
- The fire put a large number of telephones out of commission.

While the origin is not, and probably never will be known, the fire is supposed to have started in Odd Fellow's hall over Mr. Walter's hardware store, where a church society of ladies gave a supper on Tuesday evening. It is believed that some gasoline used for cooking purposes was spilled on the floor and in some manner became ignited. At 12:30 yesterday noon the fire was discovered in the hall.

Aided by a stiff west wind, the fire fed on the frame structure and spread rapidly to the frame buildings adjoining. The fire department was prompt and active but the flames got beyond control, traveling north and south with great rapidity. The worst thing to fear was that the water supply would give out. A call was sent to this city for apparatus and the two wheeled cart "the goose neck of antiquity" with 500 feet of hose was rushed to the Soo depot. Eau Claire was also asked for help and at 2 o'clock a special train made up of engine, flat car and baggage came along from that city and picked up the "goose." On the flat car was a nice shining steamer from Eau Claire. At one time Chippewa Falls could lend a helping hand to its sister towns, and was proud of the opportunity. We had two fire engines that rendered service at Marshfield and Rice Lake in the hour of danger, but they are gone – one was given away and the other traded in for a "comical" apparatus, an ornament at the city hall, and used but once with bad effect. Chief Meuli sent the best equipment he had on hand, that could be of service. Chippewa Falls will beg for help if the time ever comes when the water system is crippled.

Across the street from the fire at Cadott yesterday the buildings were badly scorched and windows broken out by the intense heat, which was carried by the wind. This row of buildings required the departments' attention and used considerable water which began to lower in the tank in spite of the fact that the pumps were kept

in operation. In these buildings heavy damage was done to the stocks by smoke and water.

Cadott people say it seemed like ages between the time help was asked for and it arrived. There was some question as to whether it was needed, and the apparatus was not unloaded immediately upon its arrival. It was finally rushed to the scene, the "goose" rushing up street toward the fire with the pride of an officer in battle shouting "let me get here."

The steamer was pulled up to the Commercial hotel corner and kept in readiness in the event that fire should cross the street but was not put into use. The fire was checked at the corner.

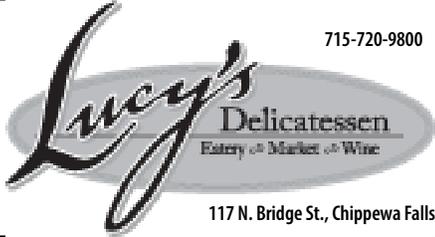
The "goose" was standing by ready for business in case it was needed and was admired by the people of Cadott.

The fire department fought the fire and continued it to the district between the Commercial house corner and the Citizens' Bank of Cadott, a stone building, against which steel sheeting had been placed to keep away the heat. If that building was of wood construction no doubt the fire would have extended north along the line of business buildings and there is no telling what the result would have been.

Citizens turned out and lent a helping hand in removing the stocks and a great deal of damage was prevented. The goods were carried to other stores.

Another danger confronted the department, that of flying cinders slighting in dry places and starting fires. A close watch was kept by citizens and so far as known only one fire was started from cinders, that in the yard at the Filitz mill. The fire was promptly extinguished.

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We have started sorting, assessing and packing the collection!



Frank Smoot

Packing all the precious things

CATE MURPHY

As fundraising continues for the new facility, the other work to get ready is steaming right along. Over the years, volunteers and board members have filled every corner of the Allen Street museum — every closet, every shelf, every nook — with artifacts, documents, photographs, and scrapbooks. We've now been sorting, assessing, and packing the collection, pulling it apart and starting to put it in boxes.

This has several benefits.

Because space has been at such a premium, it's been hard to keep similar things together, and now they're slowly clumping-up into interpretive groups again.

And, it's helping us take a gander again at our most interesting and unusual artifacts and see what stories we can easily tell in the new museum.

But it's also helping the present museum. In order to clear out spaces so we have staging areas for packing and moving, we've moved several exhibits around, and also consolidated content in tighter thematic groups, so it's easier to find a "founder's" story or a story of agriculture among the collections.

As we've been working, we've been putting documents in "Mylar" or polypropylene sleeves. Those are inert materials, so they won't degrade sensitive paper and ink. They also encapsulate the documents so that handling them won't leave oils, dirt, or skin from our hands as we gather and sort them.

As we go forward, we want to make sure the documentation stays associated with the objects and documents. Objects are inherently interesting, of course, but they gain much more resonance when they're associated with documented stories of who owned them or where or how they were used.

"This is a fantastic process," says museum developer Frank Smoot. "It's complex, but it feeds so many things at once. This is helping us preserve the collection, understand it, organize it, and figure out how we're going to interpret it. This single process serves just about every part of our operation."

Volunteer Debbie Smith has done heroic work so far in sorting a very substantial sub-collection given by the Nicolai family. But we need more volunteers for various tasks. A lot of the work is interesting and simple, so if any museum members have the time, the society sure needs the help.

Transition Director Hired

CATE MURPHY

The seemingly overwhelming job of moving Chippewa County Historical Society museum from its current location and into a brand-new building is a huge challenge. The Society has approved the hire of a professional Museum Developer for this task, Frank Smoot, to formally begin the full-time position as of August 1st. In the interim, Frank is working part-time accessing, sorting and re-arranging our massive current collection of artifacts and consulting with the Board of Directors and the numerous committees to assure a smooth and timely transition in all aspects.

Frank's education and experience in partnering with communities, volunteers, and professional staff for this task is well documented and fills the immediate and future needs for the Society's exciting vision moving forward.

His extensive responsibilities are seemingly endless and are reported to the Executive Board of Directors. Ranging from current operations with oversight of volunteers or interns and creating or updating exhibits and budgets, to packing and cataloging the artifact collection and arranging for retail sales in the future gift shop, to coordinating with local educators and the community for our mission to "Collect, Preserve, Interpret and Share the Rich History of Chippewa County".

Please feel free to visit your History Center at 123 Allen Street in Chippewa Falls, make Franks' acquaintance, and welcome him personally to our Society!



COUNTY NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, PRESIDENT

The Stanley Area Historical Society will again be open on Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm, beginning the weekend of June 1-2 and running through September 28-29. This is possible because of over 50 docents who volunteer one or two times during our open season. Some of these same volunteers have also vacuumed and dusted every square inch of our exhibits and even washed some of the floors.

Our usual work force of loyal volunteers have been working on Tuesday's since late last fall. The Digitization Team is finishing up on our extensive picture collection and will next move to digitizing our collection of letters written by soldiers during WW I.

We held our annual meeting on Saturday, January 26. A recap of our 2018 activities again revealed how supportive our membership continues to be. Unfortunately, we are also experiencing the loss of many of those individuals as time takes them to their just reward. Among our major accomplishments in 2018 were funding having the State Historical Society digitize our local newspaper, The Stanley Republican, from 1896 through 2004, placing a new metal roof on our Farming and Logging Building and opening a new major exhibit on the Northwestern Lumber Company, which is the reason Stanley became a city. Our major 2019 goals include having LED lighting installed throughout our museum complex, purchasing additional electronics and having all of our computers linked together.

Our volunteers have added a number of new exhibits for 2019. Among them are the 100th Anniversary of having a hospital in Stanley, a display of some interesting pieces of "Carnival Glass," recently donated to the museum and a pottery display including early Red Wing storage vessels and later dinnerware and decorative items.

We invite you to visit us this summer. 🍷



The Past Passed Here

JIM SWENSON

The 2019 Past Passed Here was a damp event. We set up on very wet ground. Set up went very smoothly. Our first day was cold and rainy. The second day was nicer. But unfortunately, the water started to rise and after conferring with the engineers with Excel Energy, who control the flow of the entire Chippewa River, it was decided to abandon camp in the dark. Everyone pitched in and helped each other in the rapid pack up.

Also contributed, Cate Murphy:

The 'Past' Passed Here is always a tremendous amount of work and I'm always amazed how well organized the volunteers present this event for the benefit of Chippewa area 4th graders. We had just over 20 stations for the students to rotate through in about 20-minute intervals. The impressionable students were wowed with a variety of demonstrations, from cast iron cooking and beaded medallion making to atlatl and hatchet throwing, as well as the lumber jack display of tools of the period to fur trading posts.

In the two days, almost 400 students participated in these exhibits, and only 207 missed Friday's voyageur encampments. Although we missed the revenue from our food booth sales and general gate admissions, our losses were small. We so much appreciate those that made specific donations to help us recover! A special 'thank you' to Ken McIntyre of Lake States Timber, LLC, Cornell who specifically covered the balance of our event losses and wrote at our Facebook page "A check should arrive at CCHS soon. ...my wife and kids love the event and are very appreciative of the effort you guys put forth (as I think the whole community is)."

Lastly, a very important notice! Our next years' event will be held at Marshall Park! Our hopes are that this change of location should prevent us from being 'flooded out' and is directly across the street from our new Chippewa Area History Center being built at Bridgewater Avenue! The fenced-in ballfield will enclose our demonstrator's campsites, we will then have on-site public restrooms, ample parking for school buses and visitors, and Duncan Creek will allow for our canoeing voyageurs to re-enact the morning greeting of students at its shore to start each days' teaching event. We look forward to seeing you there in 2020! 🍷



GENEALOGY CORNER

ANNE KELLER, CCGS VICE-PRESIDENT

The Chippewa County Genealogical Society continues to fulfill its "mission" by answering requests for information about family history. These requests are called "queries" and each week several are received from members (and non-members) with addresses across the country. These "queries" currently include requests from those who have reached us from Norway and Canada!

The Society continues to reach out to those who are interested in family research by offering once-a-month programs on each fourth Saturday (except June and July) that relate to some aspect of family history. Recent programs have included Jackie Boos, the Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director. She shared her expertise about how to plan for and carry out a trip to an unknown area.

A "Walk through the Cemetery" was the May meeting theme when those present walked through Hope Cemetery and followed Thomas McBean's 1906 writing about his own walk through the cemetery while noticing gravesites of early Chippewa Falls' settlers.

The Annual Meeting pot-luck on August 26 will feature Judith Rubenzer, who will share her travel and research experiences in Sweden. During September's meeting, Mary Klawiter will tell attendees how she went about publishing her family's history book.

Each program is different but emphasizes an aspect of family-tree research. It can be enjoyed by any age person who wants to "know more" about their family's involvement in Chippewa County specifically but anywhere it might have settled. ♣

(If we have missed anyone please let us know)



Donations

In Memory of Kathleen Bjork Landsem by:

Ron & Mary Keezer Marjorie & Brad Bjork Del & Donna Bourget Anonymous

In Memory of Charles Beecher by: Carol Kraemer

In Memory of Margie Metzenbauer by: Larry & Sharon Metzenbauer

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Lea Dirks	Cultural Association	Mel & Katherine Bollum	Ken McIntyre

Let Your Hair Down

Meaning: To relax or be at ease

History: Parisian nobles risked condemnation from their peers if they appeared in public without an elaborate hairdo. Some of the more intricate styles required hours of work, so of course it was a relaxing ritual for these aristocrats to come home at the end of a long day and let their hair down.



Chippewa County Historical Society

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THE EAGLE SPEAKS



JUNE 2019

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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.

Mail any comments or future articles to:
Chippewa County Historical Society,
123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI | 715-723-4399



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