

Concord Historical Society News



Preserving Our Local History

Town of Concord - Established in 1846

Spring 2016

www.concordwihistory.org

We Are All About Preserving Concord Local History

Article by: Cindy Arbiture – CHS, President

My husband Bill and I love history, and enjoy shopping at antique stores. We are always on the lookout for items that may be related to the Town of Concord. We have found a number of items over the years, and have donated them to the CHS. One of the sad things, that we do see at antique stores are portraits and photographs that are unidentified. Some portraits are in beautiful antique frames. It is a shame to think that someone may purchase that beautiful frame; and possibly remove the portrait and dispose of it, because it has no meaning to them. I also see boxes of unidentified photos, and I think to myself, it's really too bad that the owner, or relative of the owner, didn't identify the photos and consider donating those photos to their local historical society to be preserved, for many generations to come. Please consider writing the names of your family members on the backside of your photographs. It is recommended that you mark the photos in pencil. Share your photographs with us, make an appointment with us to make digital scans for the CHS collection, and future generations. You can also donate your original photographs to us.

We will take very good care of them!



Above: Two framed portraits of sisters, Elizabeth Yates (left) and Eliza Yates (right), who lived in Concord, were recently donated to the CHS by the Foley Family, in memory of Ruth Foley.



William R. Look Log Cabin - circa 1850

Originally located in the south-west area of the Town of Concord
Restored at Concord Park in 2003, by the Concord Historical Society

Fourth Concord All Schools Reunion 2016

Article by: Renee Baneck Tantala

Mark your calendars and spread the word. We are hosting the **Fourth All Schools Reunion on Saturday, July 23rd, 2016**. Anyone, of any age, who attended any of the schools in the Town of Concord, is invited to join us. At one time there were several public, grades 1 through 8, schools in the township (Concord Center, Lincoln, Pioneer, Willow Glen, East Side, Lake Side, Golden Lake, Bakertown, High Mount) and one parochial school (St. Stephen's Lutheran School). The four-room Concord Center School opened in 1957 and closed in 2004. If you lived in a neighboring township but went to a Town of Concord school (for example, Bakertown, Golden Lake), we want you to come, too. This reunion will bring together "Concord Kids" from many generations, including the old-timers and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Can we fill the Concord Community Center? We sure hope so.

To get your memory motors revved up we have decided on a broad theme: "Kids, Teachers, Parents, and Projects." When teachers think that hands-on learning is the way to go, they teach with projects big and small throughout the school year. For Concord kids, project-learning unlocked many talents, encouraged curiosity and critical thinking, and nurtured teamwork. Projects were fun and created lasting memories. Here are just a few examples: a school play in 1929, a school newspaper in the late 1950s, the prairie restoration in the late 1990s, and "The ABC's of Concord School" in 2002-2003.

Of course, project-learning was work intensive—for both teachers and students—and it often required the efforts of parents, too. Over the years the Concord Center Community Club (the parent-teacher organization) and the Concord PTO, supported a variety of projects. If you know a teacher, parent, or other participant in a project that excited you, invite them to the reunion.

Please encourage students from the boomer and post-boomer generations to join us. The teachers, students, and parents of the 1970s/80s/90s and early 2000s carried forward much of the school spirit of earlier generations. But they also benefitted from the "best practices" of an era of innovative teaching and we'd like to hear more about their experiences.

After the potluck meal there will be a short presentation focused on the reunion theme, followed by an open mike sharing session. We'll try to keep the program short so you will have plenty of time to chat with classmates and teachers. If you have memorabilia (photos and artifacts) to display, we will provide space for them.

VOLUNTEER: If you can, please help us make this reunion a great event. We need volunteers help us update our database and to contact and urge classmates to attend. We need people to set up and/or clean up and to arrange the potluck tables.

DETAILS: The reunion will be held at the Concord Community Center (the former four-room school) on Concord Center Drive. Registration is at 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck dinner at 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. We will supply beverages and paper plates, cups, and cutlery. We are suggesting a \$5 donation per person, to cover our expenses.

CONTACT: If you have questions or information to share, contact **Renee Baneck Tantala at 414-807-8119** (or email historylynx@gmail.com) OR contact any CHS board member.



“A Portrait of a Town” Exhibit Is Well Received

A Portrait of a Town: Concord, Wisconsin exhibit is now on display at the Concord Historical Museum. The exhibit features historic and contemporary photos of individuals, and families who have lived, or currently live in the Town of Concord, WI. The exhibit opened at the Town picnic last August. Make an appointment to stop in and see it.



**CLIP AND SAVE THIS
CALENDAR!**



2016 CHS Calendar of Events

July 23
12:00 p.m. **Fourth All Schools Reunion** - at the Concord Community Center. Call Renee at 414-807-8119 for more info.

August 14
12:00 noon **Concord Town Picnic** – Town of Concord Family Heritage Award is presented. Bring a dish to pass.

Sept. 25
12:00 p.m. **CHS Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Pot Luck Lunch** – at Concord Historical Museum. Bring a dish to pass! Program to follow

Oct. 16
11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **CHS Pie Social Luncheon – Annual Fundraiser** – At Concord Historical Museum

Nov. 8 **Election Day Bake Sale** – at the Concord Community Center. Bring your baked goods by 8:00 a.m., call for more info 262-593-8099

Nov. 12
1:00 p.m. **CHS Board of Directors Meeting** – At Concord Historical Museum, all members are welcome



2016 Town of Concord Family Heritage Award

The CHS is now seeking nominations for the **2016 Town of Concord Family Heritage Award**. Please contact a CHS officer to make a nomination for this year's award. The award will be presented at the Town of Concord's Annual Picnic, on **August 14, 2016**.

The Kroll family of the Town of Concord was awarded the Town Heritage Award in 2015. This year 2016, the Kroll family will celebrate 150 years in America. Randy Kroll is the 5th generation of the family to live in Concord and he resides on the farm where his ancestors settled. Karl Kroll came to America in 1866 with his wife, son Edward, Edward's wife, and a daughter. They were German-speaking immigrants from Pomerania in northern Germany. Two brothers (Edward's sons), William F. and Edward, are the forefathers of two lines of the Kroll family. William F. Kroll married Martha Zastrow (from another heritage family). Among their children were two sons, were William H. (called Bill) and Carl. William F. Kroll served as town chairman for three terms. Ward C. Kroll married Louise Sheels. Their son Edward Junior married Dorothy Sukow and they had three daughters, who grew up in Concord but now live elsewhere. Bill, a dairy farmer, married Florence Loppnow. They had three children: Susan, Randy, and David. Randy farmed until 1994. He still lives on the farm and enjoys the company of his mother, and his sister Susan who lives next door.



Above: Florence Kroll in center, with son Randy (on right) and his daughter Cassandra (left), and her children Neveah, Jahir, and Jaylah.



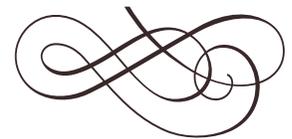
Curator's Corner - by Renee Baneck Tantala

The good news is, that our collection is expanding. The less good news is, that we wish we had more time to do research and create exhibits. We would like invite you to help us, and please keep those donations coming. We cherish every item and whatever information you can share about it. Though I can mention only a few items in this column, many thanks to all those who have donated items to the CHS during the past year.

We now have in our collection a well-preserved carriage or sleigh blanket, delivered to the CHS by Bea Coulter and Jean Mouldenhauer, and donated on behalf of the family of Ruth (Koeppler) Foley. It's a large, heavy woolen blanket with a vivid rose colored border around two dashing horses. What makes it extra-special are the initials E.Y. in one corner, confirming its link to the Yates family. In 1850 George Yates purchased land in Concord, where he grew hops until his death in 1887. He and his wife Elizabeth had emigrated from England. Their three sons left Concord, but their daughters, Elizabeth and Eliza, stayed on the farm and never married. The blanket could have belonged to either daughter or even to their mother. Many thanks, to the Foley family, for this exquisite artifact.



Bea Coulter and Jean Mouldenhauer delivered an antique wool Carriage Blanket that has been donated to the CHS by the Ruth Foley Family in her memory.



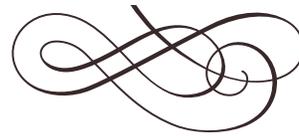
We do have a string of sleigh bells to add to a future exhibit featuring this blanket. Do you have stories or photos that would tell us more about how people traveled during winters long ago? Perhaps an account of going through the snow to church on Christmas Eve? Please let us know.

Curator's Conner continues on next page...

Another new item fits into what is slowly becoming a collection of toys and children's books that evoke memories of growing up in Concord. We now have a wooden swing, suited to a doll about eighteen inches high (it needs a dolly). This special toy was tucked away in Grandpa August Glamm's attic for decades until retrieved by his granddaughter, Sharon (Koeppler) Christian. The swing had belonged to Alice (Glamm) Koeppler, Sharon's mother. Thanks Sharon for donating and sharing family history



This wooden doll swing or glider was donated to the CHS by Sharon (Koeppler) Christian. It belonged to her mother Alice (Glamm) Koeppler.



James Gilbert has donated several items, among them a Zenith tube radio (it still works!). Farmers often had radios in their barns or shop areas and radios were important links to the wider world in yesterday's one-room schools. Jim also gave us a thermos bottle, a coffee tin, and a candy tin with logos tying them to the Monarch Food Products Company; an enamel teapot, and a wooden toolbox with a socket set. And there's a much-used softball, a reminder of the schoolyard and neighborhood games of the past. Thanks, Jim, for these items. We really need artifacts relating to daily life.

To prepare for the All Schools Reunion I've sorted through our collection to find school-related items. We have one eighth grade diploma—with an amazing date—1897! There are school photo albums and yearbooks, dating from the 1970s, but a few years are missing. Also we have some newspaper clippings about school events and projects—though unfortunately a few of these are undated. If you have school-related photos or clippings to share, please contact us. (We can scan photos and scan/copy clippings so you can keep the originals).

For 2017 we are planning a program with a wedding theme. Our 2015 exhibit, "A Portrait of a Town," included a panel of wedding photo but we would like more photos for our archive. Last summer when I showed visitors from Oregon (researching the Forncrook family) the Clara Buske wedding veil, a good question came up: what was it made of? We are interested in such details and in changing wedding costumes and customs (the attendants, gowns, suits, flowers, rings, music, receptions). If you are interested in exploring this wedding theme, please contact us.

Perhaps, like me, you are discovering that your family can't easily store all the stuff you'd like to keep. While it is often hard to part with family artifacts, remember us when you reach that point. As a historical society in a rural area of family farms and businesses, we can use a wide variety of items to convey local history. Whatever you donate can help to preserve the history of a whole generation.

Remember, too, that the Concord Historical Museum is open by appointment and I and other board members are ready to show you the museum and log cabin and talk with you about family and local history. I'll try to answer your questions--and those I can't answer will be valuable, too--as research prompts!

Concord Historical Society

c/o N5863 Hickory Hill Dr.

Sullivan, WI 53178

(262) 593-8099

info@concordwihistory.org

www.concordwihistory.org

Concord Historical Society Officers:

Cindy Arbiture, President,

Board Member

Jerry Thomasen, Vice President,

Board Member

Sharon Christian, Secretary,

Board Member

Barb Siemandel, Treasurer and

Membership Chair, Board Member

Renee Baneck Tantala, Curator,

Board Member

Dale Konle, Board Member

Cindy Arbiture

Newsletter Editor

with

Contributing Articles by

Renee Baneck Tantala



Groups are Welcome!

The Concord Historical Museum and Wm. R Look Log Cabin are open by appointment. We also offer tours to school groups and scout troops.

Please contact (262) 593-8099 for more information.

Volunteers are Needed

Can you Help Us?

Do you have a few hours a month, or a few hours every other month, to work with us to preserve our community history? We need you, and the skills you have to help the CHS. We can use volunteers to focus on the Log Cabin or Museum maintenance. We always have small things to fix and maintain, and your help would be so welcome. We have a great small group of people who currently volunteer, but we always need new faces and extra hands. Please consider volunteering, I can guarantee, that it will be gratifying, and **very much appreciated** by our members. If you can help, please call **Cindy at 262-593-8099**.

Many, Many Thanks!

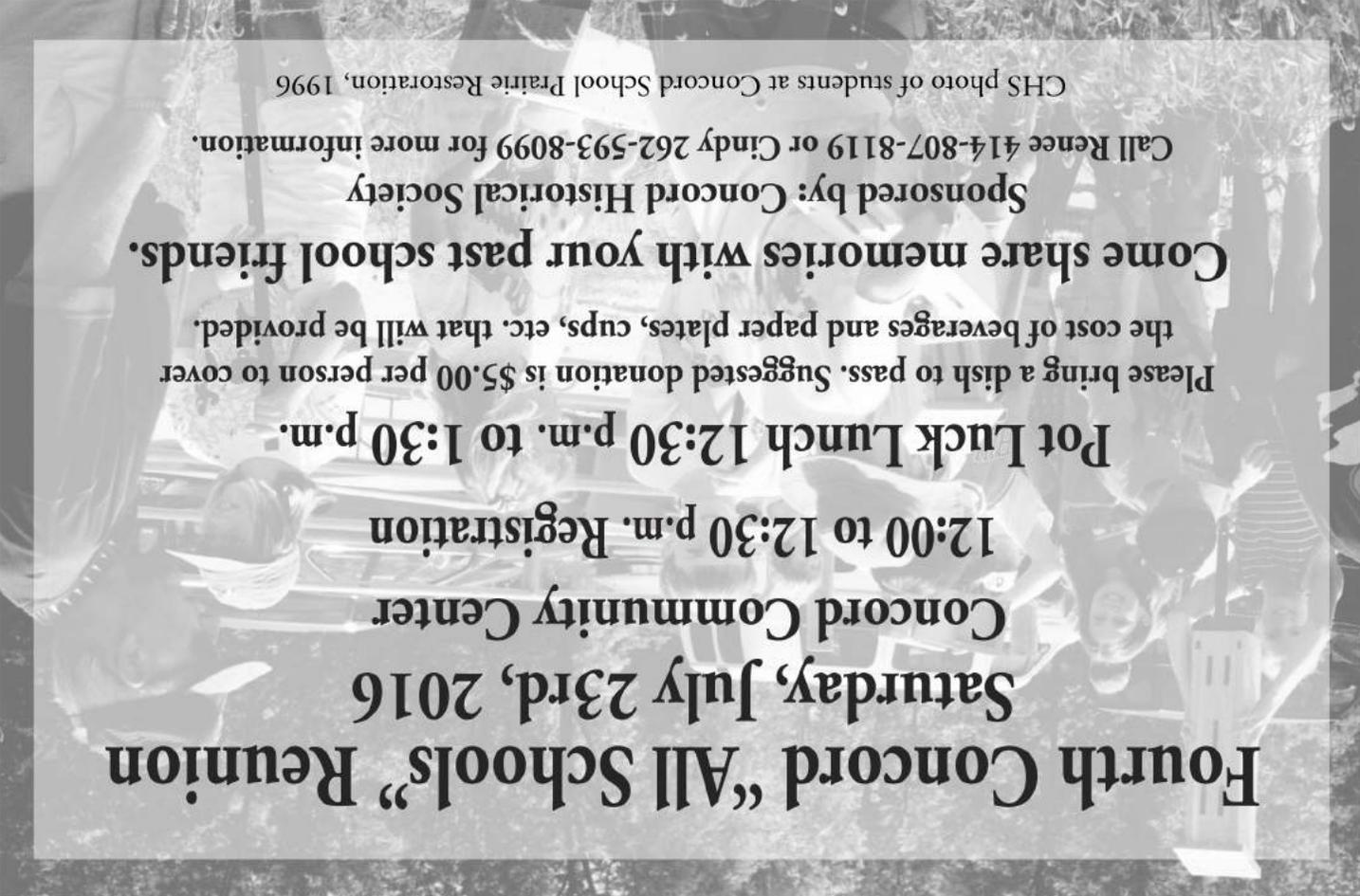
Thank you, to all of our Concord Historical Society Board Members, and other volunteers who have given their time to help make our organization great. Thank you to those who baked for our Election Day Bake Sale, and those who baked or prepared food for our Annual Pie Social last season. Also, thank you to those who work on programs and attend our meetings. You are all great people, and we are so fortunate, to have your support!

CHS Spring Annual Membership Drive 2016

We are currently into our 2016 annual membership drive. You will find a convenient membership renewal envelope that accompanies this newsletter. Please return it to us with your membership check. Every CHS member is very important to us; please continue your support to preserve our local history. Please do note, that our membership fee continues to be very affordable, at only \$5.00 for an individual and \$10.00 per family.

Dear folks, we understand that life gets busy, and you may not have the free time to attend our meetings or special events, but nevertheless, we do appreciate your support through your membership. **Thanks so very much for your continued support!**

Please send in your 2016 membership with the convenient envelope attached to this newsletter. Please remember your donations "beyond" membership are tax deductible and are put to good use.



Fourth Concord "All Schools" Reunion
Saturday, July 23rd, 2016
Concord Community Center
12:00 to 12:30 p.m. Registration
Pot Luck Lunch 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Please bring a dish to pass. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person to cover the cost of beverages and paper plates, cups, etc. that will be provided.

Come share memories with your past school friends.

Sponsored by: Concord Historical Society

Call Renee 414-807-8119 or Cindy 262-593-8099 for more information.

CHS photo of students at Concord School Prairie Restorator, 1996

Concord Historical Society
P.O. Box 561
Watertown, WI 53094

www.concordwihistory.org

Not a member of the Concord Historical Society?

JOIN THE CHS TODAY!

