

Concord Historical Society News



Preserving Our Local History

Town of Concord - Established in 1846

Spring 2015

www.concordwihistory.org

The Concord Historical Museum Has A “New” Roof

Early in September of 2014 the Concord Historical Museum had its well-worn roof replaced. The Concord Historical has received some great cooperation from the Town of Concord. Many thanks to our Concord Town Board, Bill Ingersoll, Chairman, Lloyd Zastrow, Supervisor and Ted Mueller, Supervisor for their support through the process. The Concord Historical Society leases the museum building from the Town of Concord, and we also help to provide for the cost of it's maintenance. The CHS contributed \$4,000 for the roof replacement and the Town of Concord partnered with us to cover the balance of the cost. We also researched the historically correct shingle style for the roof replacement, and the shingle selection, was approved by a Wisconsin Historical Society, Department of Historic Preservation architect. So, many thanks to all of our CHS members, and supporters in our town who have helped us to complete this project through your donations and support to the society. **Thank you!**



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

“Concord History Hayride” Is Scheduled For July 18



Join us for some family fun!



The Town of Concord is small town with an interesting historic past. Join us for our first “Concord History Hayride,” which is scheduled for **Saturday, July 18 at 4:00 p.m.** You will learn more about our historic town as you past by sites such as the William R. Look Log Cabin, the old farms sites down Concord Center Drive. You will learn interesting facts about the old Willow Glen schoolhouse, the Charlotte Quiner Holbrook property, and the Ingalls family farm site. The cost of the hayride will be **\$10 for adults, \$8 for CHS members, and \$5 for children.** For more information please contact **Cindy** at **262-593-8099** or email us at info@concordwihistory.org

Concord Mutual Fire Insurance Company

Article by: Renee Baneck Tantala

When 28 of Concord’s most prominent citizens met on April 14, 1875, to organize the **Concord Mutual Fire Insurance Company**, they were responding to a pressing need within the community. After agreeing to a subscribing stock fund of about \$50,000, they elected officers and board members. According to the by-laws, adopted later that month, the company would insure houses, barns and other farm buildings, churches, country stores, cheese factories, and hotels. But hop houses would be covered only when not being used to dry hops (as then the fire risk would be too great). The first enrolling agent, Nathaniel Ransom, received a fee of 75 cents for writing up a policy. Austin Kellogg, the first examining agent, had to assess the risk of each policy. Other founding figures were J. D. Petrie, John Sell, Thomas McGee, Alfred Colwell, Charles Ostreich, and D. D. Capen.

The Concord Mutual Fire Insurance Company served our community and the surrounding area for 130 years, making it a vital part of our township’s history. In 1964 it was authorized by the State of Wisconsin to offer fire insurance in the counties of Jefferson, Dodge, Waukesha, and Walworth. The company was merged with the Watertown Mutual Insurance Company in December 2005.

Information about the 1875 meeting is recorded in a document, filed with the town clerk, J. T. Vandear. It is now part of our archive. Related items in our collection include a framed certificate (donated by Pat Brandt), policies issued to the German Baptist Church of Concord, and postcards sent to notify members of their assessments. There are also photocopied pages of a large ledger book, with entries from January 1920 to January 1964. They provide brief minutes of annual meetings, lists of losses incurred, and annual financial statements. For example, members received payments in 1920 and 1921 for nine head of cattle struck by lightning. Other fire-damaged or destroyed property for which claims were made during those years: a car, furniture, haystacks, and a barn with all its contents.

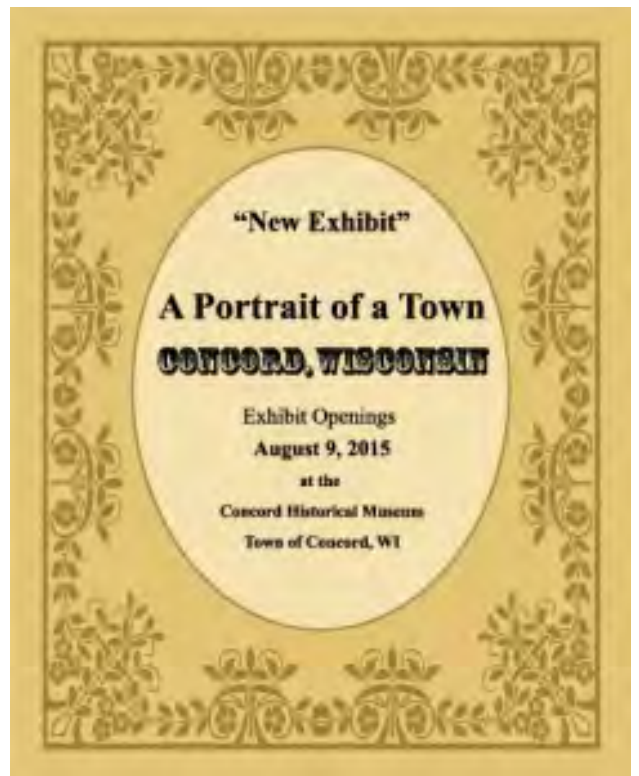
“A Portrait of a Town” The New Exhibit Opens August 9, 2015

A **Portrait of a Town: Concord, Wisconsin** exhibit will open at the Concord Historical Museum the day of the Town of Concord Picnic, **Sunday, August 9, 2015**. The exhibit will feature historic and contemporary photos of individuals, and families who have lived, or currently live in the Town of Concord, WI. We are still collecting photos from our community to feature in the exhibit. Please contact the Concord Historical Society by June 30, to include your photos in the exhibit. We are in need of purchasing some new exhibit panels for the exhibit. If you can help us we would really appreciate it. ***Donation levels are:**

Individual: \$25

Family \$50

Business: \$100



Send us your family's portrait (historic or contemporary) to include in this fun and interesting exhibit

* Please note, that you do not need to make a donation, in order to have your photo included in the exhibit.



Can you please help us?

Yes, we still need more recipes.

Send your favorite recipes to the Concord Cookbook funding project, and help us to raise money to preserve our local history



It's Easy To Participate!

Just fill out the attached "Recipe Collection Sheet" and send it to the address at the right by **August 31, 2015**. This fundraiser will help us to put a "new" roof on the Concord Historical Museum. **Your name** will also be included in the cookbook with your recipe or recipes.

Many thanks to Barb Seamandel, our Chairperson for this Cookbook Fundraiser!

Please send your recipes to:
Concord Historical Society
Cookbook Fundraiser
P.O. Box 561
Watertown, WI 53094



RECIPE COLLECTION SHEET

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| For office use only | Recipe No. |
|---------------------|------------|

Category _____

Recipe Title _____

Submitted By _____

INGREDIENTS: Use abbreviations: pt. qt. pkg. env. c. ctn. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.

DIRECTIONS: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

- Print **NEATLY IN INK, NOT PENCIL**, and place only **ONE RECIPE** per form.
- If more room is needed, use another sheet of the same size and staple together.
- Please **WRITE LEGIBLY**, as this will greatly reduce errors.
- List all ingredients in order of use in ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., 16-oz. pkg., 24-oz. can.
- Keep directions in paragraph form – not in steps.
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "Combine flour and sugar."
DO NOT use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients."
- Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
- Be consistent with the spelling of your name for each recipe you contribute.
- Any special recipe notes (anything other than ingredients, directions, contributor name, serving size, or recipe title) should be kept as a separate comment on the bottom of this form, as they may not be included unless we pay extra for it.
- Your recipes should fit into the following categories:

- Appetizers & Beverages**
- Soups & Salads**
- Vegetables & Side Dishes**
- Main Dishes**
- Breads & Rolls**
- Desserts**
- Cookies & Candy**
- This & That**

Dear Friend,

Our organization is preparing a taste-tempting custom cookbook featuring favorite recipes from our members. These cookbooks will be professionally published and contain special pages of interest, a table of contents, an index, helpful cooking hints, and recipe category dividers. It is sure to be treasured for years to come.

Please submit 3–5 of your favorite recipes so you can be represented in our group's cookbook. Follow the instructions above. Your name will be printed with each of your recipes. Your help in contributing recipes will ensure that our cookbook will be a big success.

We anticipate a great demand for our cookbooks, and we want to be certain to order enough. You can reserve one or more for yourself and your family at this time to be assured of receiving them.

Please reserve _____ cookbook(s) for me.

Name _____

P.S. Please submit your recipes to the committee within 5 days so we can meet our deadline. Thank you!

CLIP AND SAVE THIS CALENDAR!



2015 CHS Calendar of Events

- June 20**
1:00 p.m. **CHS General Membership Meeting** – At Concord Historical Museum, all are welcome
- July 18**
4:00 p.m. **Concord History Hayride** - meet at the Log Cabin. Call 262-593-8099 for reservations and details by July 11.
- August 9**
12:00 noon **Concord Town Picnic** – Town of Concord Family Heritage Award is presented. Bring a dish to pass. Opening of A Portrait of a Town exhibit.
- Sept. 27**
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. 18**
11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **CHS Pie Social Luncheon – Annual Fundraiser** – At Concord Historical Museum
- Nov. 3**
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. 14**
1:00 p.m. **CHS Board of Directors Meeting** – At Concord Historical Museum, all members are welcome

The CHS is now seeking nominations for the 2015 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 Picnic on August 9, 2015.

David and Nancy Meyer were recognized in 2014. The Meyer family has been in the Golden Lake area since the 1850s. David's grandfather, John Meyer, moved to the town of Concord in February 1920; he purchased a farm located on Highway 18, west of Golden Lake. They moved from the town of Summit, where David's great-grandfather, Asmus Meyer (who came from Germany in the 1850s), purchased a farm east of Golden Lake in 1861, which was at the beginning of the Civil War.

Asmus Meyer was one of the founders of St. John's Lutheran Church at Golden Lake in 1861. At the time, Golden Lake had its own post office.

John Meyer had six children; there were four daughters and two sons. His son, Lester (David's father), purchased a farm from Henry Vinz in 1928. This farm was eventually passed down to David and his wife, Nancy.

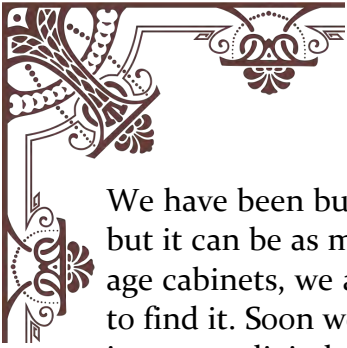
Harold Meyer inherited the farm from his father, John, at the time of John's passing in 1944. When Harold passed, the farm was left to Kenneth Meyer.

Lester farmed and also worked for Vinz and Halfon, the local plumbing and heating contractor in Sullivan.

After Jack Halfon retired, Lester started "Meyer Plumbing and Heating," doing work in the Concord, Sullivan, and Golden Lake area. Lester installed a furnace in the Concord schoolhouse, which is now the Concord Historical Society Museum. After many years of use, the furnace was eventually replaced.

David and Nancy have three children (one daughter and two sons) and four grandchildren. Both sons are residents of the Town of Concord.





Curator's Corner - by Renee Baneck Tantala

We have been busy here at the Museum during our off-season. Just “organizing” sounds boring but it can be as much fun as exploring Granny’s attic. As we sort out files and items in our storage cabinets, we are trying to put in place a better system for knowing what we have and where to find it. Soon we will have family folders and historical clippings in notebooks. I will be entering more digital content into the People and Authority files using PastPerfect. Cindy Arbiture and I are using our photo archive to create a new exhibit, “A Portrait of a Town.” Thanks, Cindy, for taking such great town picnic photos and for scanning, with Dale Konle’s help, our trove of historical photos. Sharon Christian, our secretary, has been learning PastPerfect, updating the program’s contacts section, and doing accessioning. Thanks, Sharon, for all your help.



Ice Skates wooden (left) and metal (right) donated to the CHS by Jerry Thomasen.

Thanks to everyone who has donated documents and artifacts during the past year. Here are a few highlights:

From Howard Webb we have received an important document with information about the Webster Holcomb Cemetery on Highway B. A number of prominent early settlers are buried there, including Isaac Poe, who was a casualty of the Civil War.

Jerry Thomasen has donated two pairs of ice skates--one wood and metal, the other all metal--that he found them in a building on the Thomasen farm (Section 24). In the 19th century the farm belonged to the Thovensens, Norwegian immigrants who were here as early as 1860. Since we have a child’s sled from this family (an earlier Thomasen donation), the skates add to the Norwegian side of our story.

Recently, Bonnie Wendt has donated a very special item, doll that belonged to Violet (Kleinsteiber) Wendt (1901-1996). Violet grew up in the Town of Farmington. Bonnie says that Violet, who was about ten years old when she got the doll, loved it very much. It is about 24 inches tall, with a partly original costume.

For our new exhibit, Portrait of a Town, we are still looking for family photographs. You can donate duplicates if you have them or contact us and we can scan the originals. To contact me (Renee) about donations, local history or genealogy, send email to historylynx@gmail.com. Also, Sharon and I are often at the museum on Thursdays, a good time to talk or to drop off a donation, but check first to see if we will be there.





In Remembrance



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

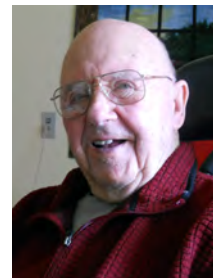
Renee Baneck Tantala



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

Jerald Ingersoll passed in June of 2014. He was 91 years of age and was a Charter Member of the CHS. Jerald was a life-long farmer in the Town of Concord, and a tremendous supporter of our society. He always had something to contribute either through his participation at meetings, or donations of sweet corn to our Pie Social fundraiser. Jerald was an amazing person, and is dearly missed by our members.



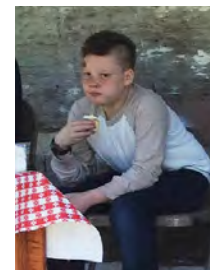
Jerald Ingersoll

Another member of the Concord Historical Society who passed in 2014 is Gerald Arbiture. Jerry was a retired carpenter and professional builder. After the log cabin was restored he wanted to make a historic reproduction of a table for the cabin interior. He is pictured to the right with his wife Edith, behind the table that he built. He also made a rustic wooden shelf for the log cabin.



Jerry Arbiture

We also lost a wonderful young CHS volunteer, Alanzo Waiswa. Alanzo was a gentle and willing volunteer at our fundraising events, and is also Renee's Baneck Tantala's grandson. Alanzo is truly missed by family, friends and all those who knew him.



Alanzo Waiswa

CHS Spring Annual Membership Drive 2015

We are currently into our 2015 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 never the less, we do appreciate your support through your membership. **Thanks so very much for your continued support!**

Please send in your 2015 membership with the convenient envelope attached to this newsletter. Please remember your donations "beyond"



JOIN THE CHS TODAY!

Not a member of the Concord Historical Society?

Concord Historical Society

P.O. Box 561

Watertown, WI 53094

www.concordwihistory.org