

Concord Historical Society News



Preserving Our Local History

Town of Concord - Established in 1846

Spring 2017

www.concordwihistory.org

We Continue to Improve! Thanks to Our Generous Members

Article by: Cindy Arbiture – CHS, President

We are very concerned about properly taking care of the artifacts, documents, and photos in the CHS collection. So in 2016 we had optically clear, UV barrier film installed on the windows of our display area at the museum, to help prevent damage from sunlight coming through the windows. This great improvement was paid for by our fundraising efforts from folks like you, who make donations and support our fundraising projects. But every once in a while we get a generous individual donation from a special person like Carol Rauen. This past winter Carol donated the funds for eight new tables for the museum. These new tables are great because they are lightweight and very sturdy. The CHS also purchased 36 new folding chairs for the museum. **Thank you so much Carol, and to all of “you” who continue to support our efforts!**



Carol (Miller) Rauen stands with two of the eight, 8 foot tables that she recently purchased and generously donated to the CHS.



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

Wedding Bells

A Very Special Program

Article by: Renee Baneck Tantala

“Wedding Bells” will be a very special program, an opportunity to talk about how wedding customs and costumes have changed over the decades. This event will be held at the Concord Center Community Center on May 6th, 2017, beginning at 1 PM. The display at the Community Center will include a wedding veil from 1894 and a wedding dress from 1936. Refreshments--a three-tier wedding cake--will be served as part of the program. At 3 PM the Concord Historical Museum will open so that attendees may view an expanded exhibit (three more panels!) of wedding photos, dating from the 1860s to the 2010s.



Portrait of Caroline and Charles Ingalls who were married in the Town of Concord, on February 1, 1860.

Just as brides and grooms spend the winter months planning for spring weddings, we worked on this program for much of the winter. More than 50 donors allowed us to scan wedding photos. We scanned more than 200 photos that are now preserved in the CHS digital archive. At the program these scans will be projected in a “loop” while a presenter reads the names of each couple and date of marriage. Then we’ll mix slides and open-ended questions to get a conversation started. How have wedding ceremonies and celebrations changed? How and why did the costumes of brides and grooms change? What happened at your wedding? Do you know any stories about your parents or grandparents weddings? Please bring your family and friends--and especially your memories--to make “Wedding Bells” an afternoon of storytelling enjoyment for all of us.

We are very grateful to those who shared photos. Your generosity and enthusiasm for this project kept us going. It was great fun talking with you at the museum and we hope you will spread the news about this program and the archive that we are assembling. Thanks especially to Carol, Jerry, and Sharon for those “scanning Thursdays” and to Cindy for preparing and arranging the printing of the photos for the exhibit.

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





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— YOU ARE —
CORDIALLY INVITED

TO A PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY THE
CONCORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Wedding
Bells*

SAVE the DATE

SATURDAY MAY 6, 2017

—
CONCORD COMMUNITY CENTER
1:00 P.M.

CLIP AND SAVE THIS CALENDAR!



2017 CHS Calendar of Events

- May 6**
1:00 p.m. **Wedding Bells** - program at the Concord Community Center. Call **Renee at 414-807-8119** for more info.
- June 10**
10:00 a.m. **CHS Board of Directors Meeting** – At Concord Historical Museum, all members are welcome
- July 9**
1:00 -3:00 pm **Oral History Program** – at the Museum, call Cindy for more info 262-593-8099
- August 13**
12:00 noon **Concord Town Picnic** – Picnic that celebrates unity in our town. Town of Concord **Family Heritage Award** is presented. Bring a dish to pass.
- Sept. 24**
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. 15**
11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **CHS Pie Social Luncheon – Annual Fundraiser** – At Concord Historical Museum
- Nov. 4**
10:00 a.m. **CHS Board of Directors Meeting** – At Concord Historical Museum, all members are welcome



2017 Town of Concord Family Heritage Award

Two families have been nominated for the **2017 Town of Concord Family Heritage Award**. They are the Wegner and Gilbert families of Concord. The award will be presented at the Town of Concord's Annual Picnic, on **August 13, 2017**.

The Pagel and Zuelhke families received the awards in 2016. Both families have Town of Concord history that dates back to 1911.



Pagel family members, left to right: Eugene, John and Marsha



Zuelhke family members, left to right: Harriet, Lee Ann, Wayne, Katie, Lucas



Curator's Corner - by Renee Baneck Tantala

Yes, folks, there really is a museum in Concord. We call it the Concord Historical Museum and it is housed in the former Town Hall, at W1185 Concord Center Drive, just a hop across the road from the Concord Town Park. Once upon a time this building was a one-room school (the "old" Concord Center School).

The museum is open for special events (Concord Town picnic in August, CHS pie social in October). It is also open by appointment but don't let that deter you because we like to have visitors. Just call us up. If you can, bring a friend or two so we chat about life in Concord on the old days (when we were young!). If you are having a family get-together or reunion, we can open the museum for those who want to have a look-see. If you want to bring your children/grandchildren, a school group or Scout troop, we can arrange a visit and--since I've been a teacher--I can work up a short program with age-appropriate activities.

If you don't live in the area but your ancestors did and you want to explore your roots, contact us so we can share information. Then, if you have the opportunity, we can meet at the museum. Last summer we had a wonderful time getting to know James Kneen, who came down from Minnesota. He is a descendant of one of our earliest settlers, William Dunning. His wife shared some marvelous 19th century letters and allowed us to scan them.

Rocking the Cradle: At our annual meeting in September Lorraine (Wendt) Baneck donated a hand-crafted wooden doll cradle that had belonged to her aunt Edna (Wendt) Brandt. Edna's sister Elda (Wendt) Bankert must have rocked her dolls in it, too. And so did Lorraine and her daughters, Renee and Devonne. Members of the Brandt and Bankert families attended this event. Lorraine is happy that this heirloom is now being shared with the community. Thanks, Lorraine.

Digital Archive: The wedding photos collected for the "Wedding Bells" program are just the first installment of an ongoing project. By March we were running out of time and had to suspend our effort. We realize that many families are missing and we want to assure you that our goal is to make this project as complete and inclusive as possible. We are gathering photos of couples married in Concord churches, Concord residents past and present, including those who grew up here. Many couples were married in Concord churches (St. John's, St. Stephen's, St. Mary's, and Concord United Methodist). If you have photos, let us know and we'll put you on our list.

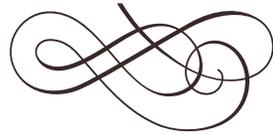
In addition to lots of time spent making contacts, Carol Rauen has created a database for the wedding photo archive. For each scan there is a label, name of bride and groom, date and place of marriage, names of the couple's parents and the witnesses. She visited the Jefferson County Courthouse to verify information and also did research at the Dodge Jefferson County Genealogical Society. Jerry Thomasen did the scanning, checked the quality, and transferred the scans to the Town of Concord server. Sharon Christian and I helped out. Sharon has donated three scrapbooks, assembled by Violet (Koeppler) Gauwerke, which have oodles of clippings of wedding announcements, providing a trove of complementary information.

We intend to keep expanding both our photographic archive of actual (donated originals) and scanned photos. Since Concord has a rich rural heritage, we could have a section devoted to life on the farm: barns and out-buildings, tractors and machinery, milking cows, fathering eggs, making hay, filling threshing and silo-filling, etc. We are especially interested in aerial photos of farmsteads. If you have photos to share or want to help us expand our digital archive, please contact any board member. (Though we won't have much time for scanning until next winter, we can do some planning over the summer.)

Donations - Here are a few photos of donated items from 2016



CHS members try out the player piano that was donated to the CHS, by Ms. Kelly Forbes of Brookfield, WI. The piano belonged to her family. It was donated with many authentic player piano rolls.



Bonnie (Hemke) Wendt donated two framed portraits. The portrait she is holding is John Theodore Kleinsteiber, born May 13, 1842. An explanation of his local family tree is hand written on the back of the portrait.



Bill Ingersoll, Concord Town Chairman (center), accepts the donation of the Joseph L. Thamke memorial American flag, and a photo donated to the CHS, at the Concord Town Picnic in August of 2016. **Left to right:** Gary Thamke, Gale (Thamke) Murphy, Bill Ingersoll, Cindy Arbiture, Jan (Thamke) Kreiwaldt. Joe Thamke was a World War II Army veteran, and served as a military police guard at the Sugamo prison in Japan.

Concord Historical Society

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Concord Historical Society Officers:

Cindy Arbiture, President,

Board Member

Jerry Thomsen, Vice President,

Board Member

Sharon Christian, Secretary,

Board Member

Carol Rauen, Treasurer and

Membership Chair, Board Member

Renee Baneck Tantala, Curator,

Board Member

Dale Konle, Board Member

Barb Siemandel, 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 Always 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!

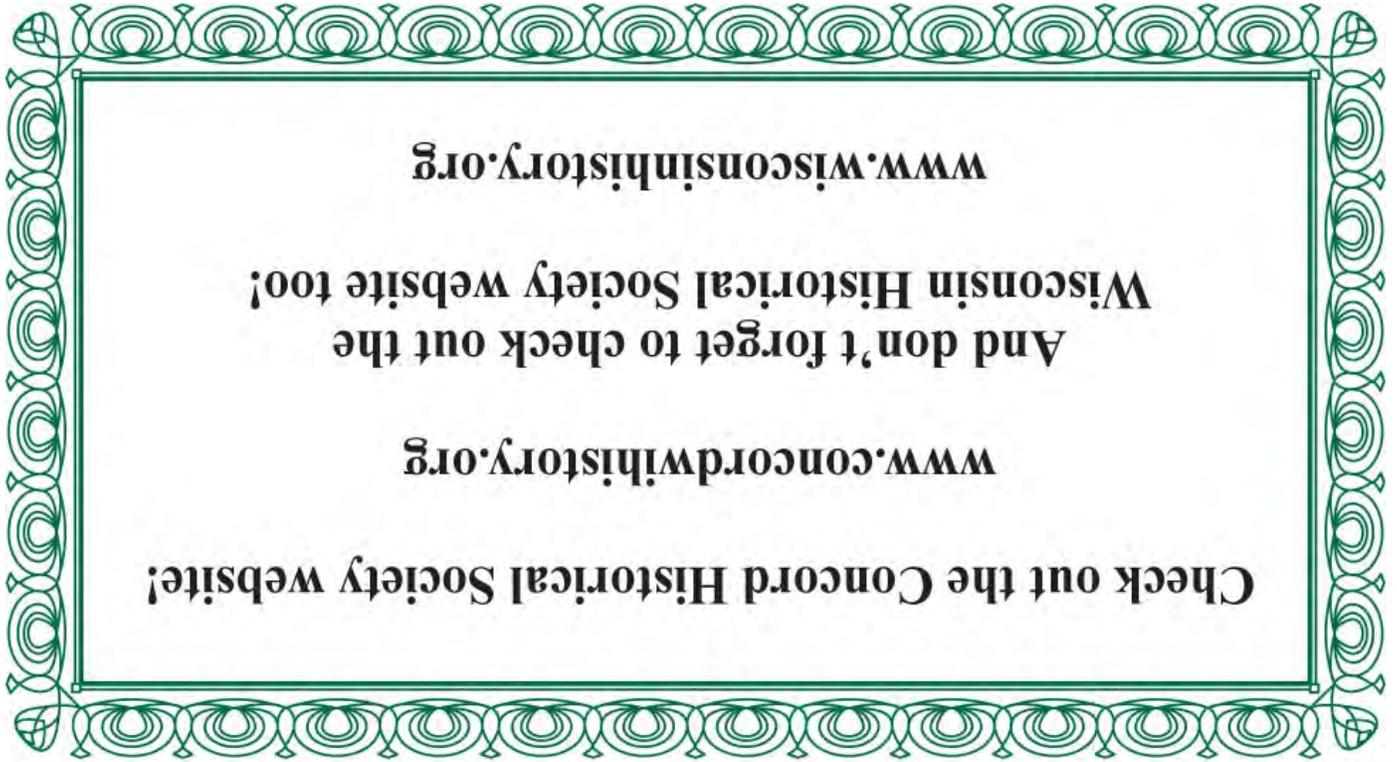
Thank you, to all of our Concord Historical Society Board Members, and other volunteers who have given their time to help make our organization great. Thank you to those who baked for our Election Day Bake Sale, and those who baked or prepared food for our Annual Pie Social last season. Also, thank you 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 2017

We are currently into our 2017 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 2017 membership with the convenient envelope attached to this newsletter. Please remember your donations "beyond" membership are tax-deductible and are put to good use.



Concord Historical Society
P.O. Box 154
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Not a member of the Concord Historical Society?

JOIN THE CHS TODAY!

