

Concord Historical Society News



Preserving Our Local History

Town of Concord - Established in 1846

Spring 2020

www.concordwihistory.org

We Are Here For You, Preserving Concord History

Navigating Through These Challenging Times

The Concord Historical Society is still working behind the scenes to preserve our local history. Our board of directors has decided to cancel our 2020 events in the best interest and safety of our volunteers and members. This was a very difficult decision for us, but we feel that it was a good one. There will be time for getting together again, and we look forward to those days. We will still hold our board of directors meetings via teleconference and our Annual Meeting in September will also be a teleconference meeting; please let us know if you would like to participate in any of these meetings? Volunteers will be working at the museum and following CDC guidelines to sanitize surfaces and do social distancing while completing our work.

We received some interesting donations that you will read about in this newsletter, and we continue to invest in archival and storage improvements for our collection. We are living through a new historic health pandemic, which is not unlike the Flu Pandemic of 1918. These are challenging times for all not-for profit organizations including ours, as we will not be able to hold our annual in person fundraising events. We really do appreciate your membership and your donations beyond your membership as they would be especially helpful at this time. Thank you so very much for your continued support! Please remember we are here for you, preserving our past for our future. Best to you and your family, please be well, and we will see you soon! -- Cindy Arbiture, President



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

Man from Concord, MA Plans to Visit All Concords in U.S.A.

by: Cindy Arbiture

We had some special visitors from out East last summer and they stopped in at our Concord Historical Museum and Log Cabin and attended the Town of Concord Annual Picnic. Rob Morrison and his brother Bill are from Concord, Massachusetts. Rob is a history teacher in Concord, MA and he is on a mission to visit all of the 85 Concords in America, often Rob travels with another family member.

“There are approximately 85 Concords in America, including 13 in East Texas and 7 in Ohio.” - Rob Morrison

Here is an excerpt from Rob Morrison’s blog **In Search of Concord** at: <https://concordrob.weebly.com> which explains how he got started with his Concord travel quest: “I’ve had thoughts of this project/trip brewing for that past three years. It started one day when I Googled “Concord” and was amazed at the number of places that share my home town’s name. There are Concords everywhere! The largest is Concord California, followed by Concord North Carolina and Concord New Hampshire. I started wondering what all these Concords have in common? Was there some connection to the original Concord: Concord Mass? Were the first settlers looking to find a bit of peace and quiet? Does the name fit today? My curiosity built as I continued to learn about my own town’s history. I became a licensed town guide. I read as much as I could about our local history, but still all those other Concords, those Concords with a population of 21, those Concords that no one had ever heard of, enchanted me.”

Some of our CHS board members Sharon, Carol, myself and my husband Bill got a chance to have dinner with Rob and Bill and learn more about their journey to our Town of Concord and other Concords. As it turns out Rob and Bill have family from Wisconsin so they were able to connect with them as well. I mentioned to them that when my husband Bill and I were out East a few years ago we also visited Concord, Massachusetts and the historical museum there. Concord, MA was also home to Louisa May Alcott author of Little Women (1868) and of course is the location where the beginning of the American Revolution started with the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775.



Left to right: Bill and Rob Morrison from Concord Massachusetts at the Concord, WI Town Annual Picnic - Photo by: Dale Konle



The 1918 Pandemic in Wisconsin

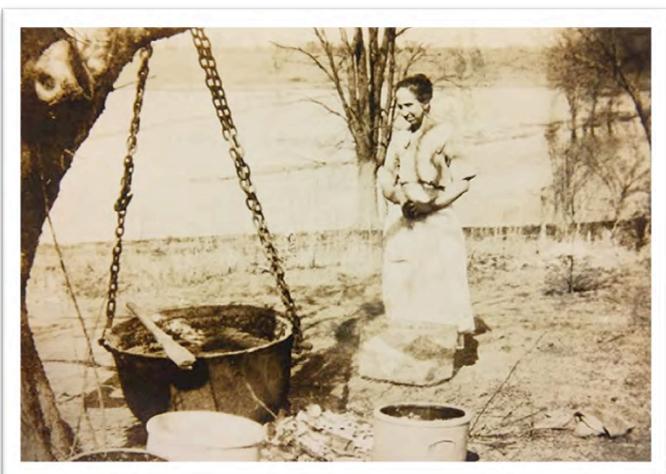
- by Renee Baneck Tantala

Journalists, pundits, and historians have been busy comparing today's pandemic and our responses to it with the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. There are many (sometimes striking) similarities—as well as important differences. Curious about what happened in Wisconsin in 1918? For Wisconsin's experience, the best account is Steven B. Burg's 2000 article, "Wisconsin and the Great Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918," in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. You can read it online: <http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/wmh/id/43606>. If you know someone who'd be interested in reading it but doesn't have internet access, please print and share it. Also, for a brief summary go to the Wisconsin State Historical Society page (<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2479>). It links to Burg's article and you can click on "Disease in Wisconsin" for a broader set of resources.

(FYI: Steven Burg, who got his Ph.D from UW-Madison, now teaches at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, where his special field is public history: <https://www.ship.edu/history/faculty/berg/>).

Got Soap? – An Old Local Recipe

We have heard it over and over again during this COVID-19 pandemic: "Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds." But what if you also had to make your own soap? This was the case for many rural folks 100 years ago. The photo below is of **Ina Buske making her own soap in 1923**. This photo along with her recipe was recently donated to the CHS by Gretchen Buske Bruins, and transcribed by Marianne Kollath Schmidt Smith.



In Remembrance

We lost some wonderful and supportive Concord Historical Society members and some local residents over the past year. Please keep these good people in your thoughts.

Beatrice Hemke Coulter
Richard Reinders
Sharon Schultz Schultz
Donald Stendel
Alfred Schlender
Virginia Schlender
Dennis Edward Zastrow
Mary Ellen Christiansen
Steven H. Hoene
Wayne Nero
Arline Radke Ruhs

To Make Soap – begin in the morning

Need – an iron kettle over a fire outdoors

Ingredients:

5 lbs. Lard – melted and lukewarm

1 can of lye

1 quart cold water

½ cup Borax

1 tsp. salt

2 Tbs. sugar

½ cup cold water

¼ cup of ammonia

1 small bottle of citronella oil

Stir until it has the consistency of honey.

Take a wooden box and line with cloth

Pour the soap into the box and cover with an old rug

Cut the soap into pieces in the evening before it gets too hard

Remove the soap from the box the next morning

2019 Town of Concord Family Heritage was awarded to the Loppnow Family

The Loppow family came from a village in Pomerania (part of Prussia then, now Poland). In 1856 Friedrich Wilhelm Loppnow, with his wife Karolina and infant son Johann Gotthilf, arrived in Galveston, Texas. They traveled on to Wisconsin, settling in the Town of Ixonia. Within a short number of years Johann (John G.) had six siblings.

John G. grew up on the family homestead in Ixonia. In 1883 he married Albertina Degner of Ixonia and the newlyweds soon moved to John's farm in Concord (Section 12), where their daughter Helene was born in 1884. He bought adjacent land from Albertina Hartman in 1888, and then another parcel (later given to his daughter Adele and her husband Arnold Saeger).

John G. and Albertina had six children. By the late 1920s their youngest son Arnold was the owner of the 100-acre homestead. He had married Linda Woltman in 1927. They had three sons and three daughters. Arnold's parents, lived with them for many years. Arnold was a dairy farmer. After he died in 1977, the farm was sold.

Arnold's daughter Grace and her husband Duane Olson, who had been living in Washington State, returned to Wisconsin and in 1970 they built a house on land that had been part of the Loppnow homestead. Arnold's son John married Beatrice Schilberg and they lived on the Schilberg farm on Woody Lane. Today their sons, Dennis and Dean, are residents of Concord. Arnold's daughter Florence married William Kroll and she still lives in Concord, too.



Front row from left to right: Tammy (Olson) Frazier, Grace (Loppnow) Olson; **Back row from left to right:** Cassie (Kroll) Moreno and Randy Kroll - photo by: Bill Arbiture

Continued from newsletter back: 12 Cemetery Locations

Concord Methodist Cemetery, Concord Center Drive
 Saint Mary's Help of Christians Cemetery, Hwy 18 & Hwy F
 Saint Johns Lutheran Cemetery, Hwy 18
 Saint Stephens Cemetery, Highmound Road
 Norwegian Cemetery, Hwy F
 Bakertown Baptist Cemetery, Bakertown Road
 Pioneer Cemetery, Bakertown Road
 Lot (Lost) Cemetery, Concord Center Drive
 Concord Center Cemetery, Hwy E
 Concord-Farmington Cemetery, Hwy B & Stone Wood Drive
 Holcomb Cemetery, Hwy B
 Thayer Cemetery, Hwy B

Please Save Your Store Receipts!

Can you help us? We are starting a fundraising effort for the CHS by collecting grocery cash register receipts from:

Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly Stores

Please mail your receipts to our PO Box:

Concord Historical Society
P.O. Box 154
Sullivan, WI 53178

Thanks so very much!



Curator's Corner - by Renee Baneck Tantala



Storage, storage, and more storage. That's what we've been up to at the museum this year. We now have a variety of archival boxes, new metal shelving units, and an additional metal cabinet. All of these are a great boost to our efforts to care for our collection. We are now making decisions about rotating items from display cases and what items currently in the back room could be moved into exhibits in the museum's main room.

(photo left) Dale Konle Board Member and volunteer assembled the new metal shelving units for us.

Thanks to a donation from Norine Degner Peardon we now have a gently used computer desk and two 2-drawer file cabinets. Norine's grandmother was Angie Ingersoll, making her gift another instance of the Ingersoll's legacy in the Town of Concord. The locked drawers will contain our growing number of family history files. We also received a beautiful pump organ from Grace Loppnow Olson, she also donated a family portrait of the Johannes and Albertina Loppnow family.

Recently we received an exciting collection of documents and photographs from Gretchen Buske Bruins. Among the most fascinating items are ledger books, dating from the early twentieth century, when the Buske brothers owned the Concord General Store. These ledgers reveal what you could buy, the price of various goods, and the names of regular customers. It is like getting a snapshot of a thriving business. Almost from its earliest days Concord had general store—with ownership passing through the hands of several families. Gretchen also donated a Carl Oestreich family photograph, dating from the late 19th or early 20th century.

This year at the Baneck Family Reunion Bonnie (Schildbach) Soto donated a child's table and chairs and a doll cradle that her uncle Albert Baneck had made for her and her sister Nancy. Albert was the son of Johann Frederick Baneck, whose homestead in Concord appears on the 1862 Plat Map. The same map indicates that T[heresa] Look owned the property that would later become Albert's farm.

As always we wish to thank all those who have donated items (artifacts, photos, and documents) during the past year. We greatly appreciate our donors and volunteers. Special thanks to Sharon Christian for her assistance, she's kept us up-to-date on the accessioning front. Connor Baneck's enthusiasm, research skills, plus his "young man muscles," have been real assets. Thanks to Cindy Arbiture for her advice and involvement in museum work.

Open Hours: Last year's open hours were a successful experiment so we wanted to continue them this year. As curator, of course, I do want to offer thanks to Sharon, Connor, Carol, and others who helped out. It was a pleasure to welcome visitors and members and to talk about local and family history. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we've decided that there will be no open hours this year. We do look forward very much to resuming them next year if that is practical.

If you have questions or information to share you can contact me Renee at (414) 807-8119 or mail me at historylynx@gmail.com or contact any board member.



Recent Donations:

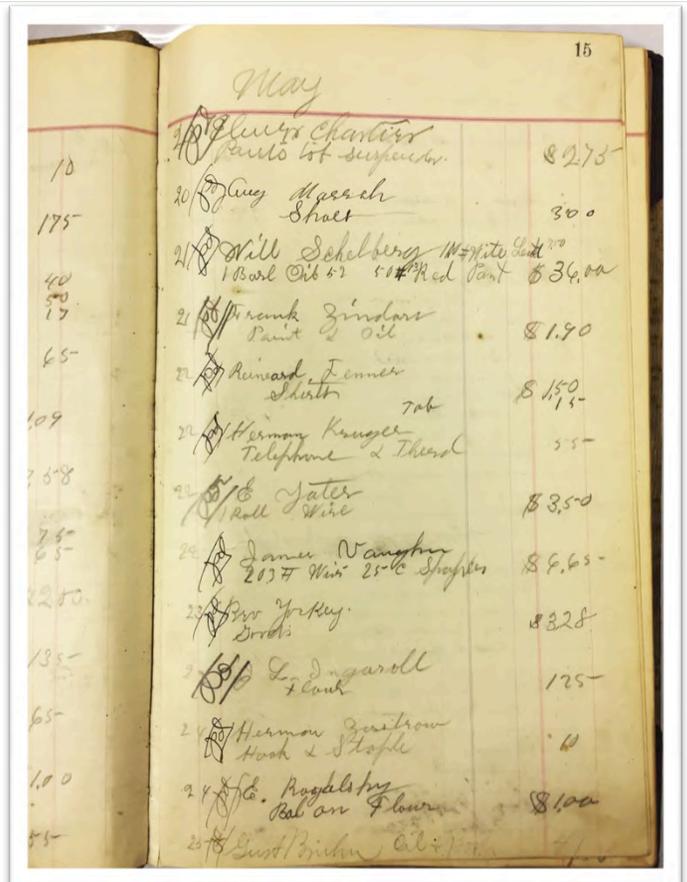
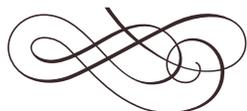
Here are some interesting artifacts that were recently donated to the CHS



Buske Brothers Concord General Store ledger dated 1905 corner of cover (above), and page interior (right) - Donated Gretchen Buske Bruins



Carl Oestreich family portrait - Donated by Gretchen Buske Bruins



Pump Organ - Donated by Grace Loppnow Olson and the late Duane Ole Olson.



Concord Historical Society

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Concord Historical Society Officers:

Cindy Arbiture, President,
Board Member

Barb Seamandel, 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

Connor Baneck, Board Member

Cindy Arbiture

Newsletter Editor

with

contributing articles by

Renee Baneck Tantala



Concord Historical Society
Town of Concord, Wisconsin

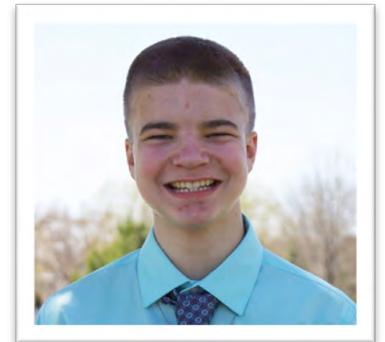


Many Thanks To Our CHS Volunteers!

We would like to thank Jerry Thomasen for his past service on our board of directors; and all of our volunteers for their help and support over the past year. **Are you interested in volunteering? Please give us a call.**

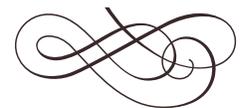


Sharon Christian and her granddaughter Meriel Christian serve ice cream during our visit to the Concord Farms honey farm. Sharon is also a board member and our CHS Secretary.



Connor Baneck (right) is now a member of our CHS board of directors. Connor is busy and also volunteers with other historic organizations such as the Dodge-Jefferson Genealogical Society and the Town of Sullivan Historical Society.

CHS Spring Annual Membership Drive 2020



We are currently into our 2020 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.

This is an especially important year to support us, as we are unable to hold our annual fundraisers, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. **Thank you so very much for your continued support!**

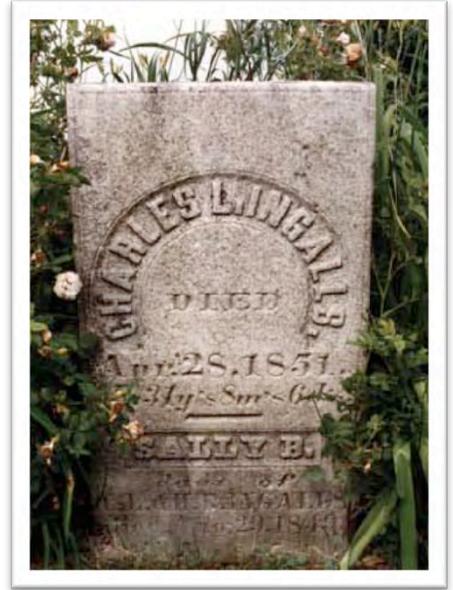
Please send in your 2020 membership with the convenient envelope attached to this newsletter. Please remember, your donations "beyond" membership are tax-deductible and are always put to good use.



Did You Know? That there are 12 cemeteries in the Town of Concord

Jerry Thomasen, past CHS Board member and retired Surveyor, has mapped three of the cemeteries and then presented the paper maps to the Town, shared the information to the "Find A Grave" web site, and maintains the PDF files. The three cemeteries are the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery on Hwy F, Lot (Lost) Cemetery on Concord Center Drive, and Concord Center Cemetery on Hwy E.

Do you know where the other nine are? – **See the answers inside this newsletter.** There is at least one private cemetery on private property. Do you know of others?



Charles L. and Sally B. Ingalls headstone at Concord Center Cemetery



JOIN THE CHS TODAY!

Not a member of the Concord Historical Society?

www.concordwithhistory.org

1993 to 2018



Sullivan, WI 53178

P.O. Box 154

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