

Concord Historical Society News



Preserving Our Local History

Town of Concord - Established in 1846

Spring 2021

www.concordwihistory.org

A Historic Year For All Of Us

Looking Forward To Seeing You Again

What a historic year! We are looking forward to getting back to a new post-pandemic normal for our organization. The Concord Historical Society has continued to safely work on projects behind the scenes to preserve our local history. It has been disappointing to not hold our regular meetings and fundraisers, but we will find our way through these times with your help. Thank you so much for your continued support! We have continued to invest in archival and storage improvements for our collection, and I would like to thank Sharon Christian and Renee Baneck Tantala for their dedication to making these improvements. Sharon has been especially helpful working at the museum on a regular basis through the pandemic, and Renee has been getting back to her old schedule as well. We are also thankful to have a new Secretary and board member by the name of Roxanne Butler, who has been a great addition to our organization. Roxanne really enjoys genealogy research and has historic family roots in the Town of Concord. We would like to thank Carol Miller Rauen for her past dedication and service on the board as our Treasurer and Membership Chair, which has now been assumed by Sharon Christian. Also many thanks go to Dale Konle and Bill Arbiture for their help with moving cabinets and other maintenance issues. We are really grateful for all of our great volunteers during these challenging times.

Our museum will be opened to the public for the first time on Sunday, August 8. We are working on an exhibit called "Farming in Concord" and the farming exhibit theme will change with a different focus. We will first focus on tractors with photographs of local farmers. If you have some photos to share with us please let us know. -- 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

Concord Center School History in a Time Capsule

by: Cindy Arbiture

Due to budget constraints the Watertown School District, Wisconsin closed Concord Center Elementary School in 2004, which was also the 150th anniversary of the school. Concord Center was a beloved local elementary school with many years of community involvement. In the millennial year 2000 the students, teachers and staff at Concord Center School created and filled a Concord Time Capsule with memorabilia items known only to them. The Time Capsule has an inscription: **“Concord Time Capsule, Sealed on April 7, 2000, To be opened on April 5, 2020, Built by Jim and Marc Stern”** Unfortunately on April 5, 2020 our country was three months into the COVID-19 pandemic, so the plans to open the time capsule at a public event were impossible. The Concord Historical Society does have a new plan though, and the Time Capsule is now planned to be opened at the **2021 Town of Concord Annual Picnic on Sunday, August 8** at Concord/Dahnert Park. The picnic starts at 12 noon we hope that you will join us for this historic event.

Concord Center School’s oldest records go back to an annual school meeting held on September 25, 1854. At that time the school was constructed of logs and occupied a half-acre of land. It was furnished with one blackboard, one table and recitation benches for the students. The log school had a value of \$100. There were two terms of four months each winter and summer. A male teacher was hired for the winter term for \$22.50, and a woman teacher was hired for the summer term and received a salary of \$12.00. Years later in 1861 a new one room frame building was constructed for Concord Center School; this frame structure still stands today and is currently used as the Concord Historical Museum which preserves and displays Concord’s Local History. (*Excerpts are from the Centennial Review of Jefferson County Rural & State Graded Schools, 1948.*)

Concord Center School was a unique place for community bonding. Over the years parents and the local community would help to support this local school with fundraising efforts for educational enhancements. The Town of Concord originally had eleven local elementary schools, Sunny View, Lincoln, High Mount, Bakertown, Pioneer, Golden Lake, Willow Glen, Concord Center, Lakeside, East Side and St. Stephan’s - a private school.



**Inscription on Concord Center School Time Capsule to be opened on
August 8, 2021 at the Town of Concord Annual Picnic**



Photos of Concord Center School Over The Years



Concord Center School students and teacher in 1945.



Concord Center School students, with teacher Ida Baneck in May 8, 1953.



Photos of Concord Center School Over The Years



Concord Center School students, teachers and staff circa 1991-92.



In 1996 Concord Center School students, teachers and parents partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Resources, the Concord Historical Society and the Oconomowoc Sportsman Club to restore a local Oak Savannah Prairie.



Unfortunately due to budget constraints the Watertown School District closed Concord Center Elementary School in 2004.

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

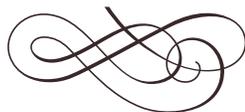
Please mail your receipts to our PO Box:

Concord Historical Society

P.O. Box 154

Sullivan, WI 53178

Thanks so very much!



In Remembrance

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

- Nora Lee Ingersoll Buss Bennett
 - Edward Earl Hemke
- Eldonna Bankert Gennerman
 - Harvey Buske
- Lucille Bankert Potenberg
- Mary Ellen Berkholtz Behm
 - Charles Holzhueter
 - Richard Fosso
 - Russell H. Sell

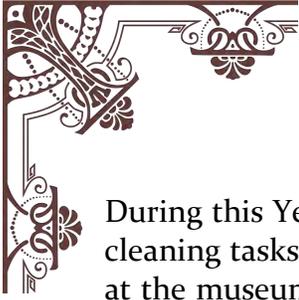
Cholera in Concord

- by Renee Baneck Tantala

Perhaps you've heard that victims of a cholera epidemic are buried in the Pioneer Cemetery on Baker-town Road. But did you know that William Dunning, one our township's founding fathers, was a victim of cholera? This cause of death is recorded in the Death Schedule of the 1850 Federal Census. When he died on July 23, 1849, William was only about 35 years old. An accomplished carpenter, he is credited with having built many of the town's structures before his untimely death.

William had come to our area in the late 1830s with his brother Charles Dunning (who settled in Farmington), and William Sacia (the first Yankee settler in Concord). William's wife was Lucinda Sacia (William Sacia's sister). With the death of her husband, Lucinda became a widow with four young children: Jane, Miles, Charles, and Clinton.

Cholera was a new disease in North America, arriving in the East in the early 1830s and spreading along the nation's network of lake and river transport. New Orleans had its first outbreak in 1848. By 1849 it had reached Chicago. The first reported death in Milwaukee was in early July of that year. From communities along the Lake Michigan shoreline, cholera very quickly spread inland. The Watertown Chronicle attests that it appeared in the city in 1849, with more cases in 1850 and 1851. There was another outbreak in southeastern Wisconsin in 1854. Then the disease seems to have died out (temporarily) until another, less severe outbreak, in 1865.



Curator's Corner - by Renee Baneck Tantala

During this Year of the Pandemic, while the museum was closed, we've kept busy with house-cleaning tasks. Since I preferred to stay put in Milwaukee, Sharon and Cindy worked regularly at the museum and Sharon emptied the artifact cases. More archival supplies were purchased and many artifacts were placed in acid-free boxes. Accession records were checked and items were then arranged on our shelving units or tucked into archival boxes. Now the fun begins: deciding what items should refill those museum cases. A big job, for sure.

The Board of Directors has decided to put more effort into telling the history of farming in "our very rural township." A new exhibit called "Farming in Concord" will focus on the multi-dimensional story that ranges from an early emphasis on growing crops, such as wheat and hops (later also tobacco) to a major transition to dairy farming. Other agricultural enterprises that were/are vital parts of Concord's history include bee-keeping, truck farming, orchards and vineyards--raising beef cattle, swine, and sheep--growing corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. So we are issuing a call-out for farming artifacts and photos to illustrate the agricultural productivity of our land and people.

We now have two colorful seed bags in our collection: one held seed corn (from the Dougan company), the other held alfalfa. That got me thinking about what companies were selling seed to local farmers and who were the salesmen. If you have information, please contact me.

A charming item that has been in storage is an old fashioned icebox. We'd like to display it in the museum alongside our vintage refrigerator but it needs some repairs. If you can help us out, please contact Cindy.

We have also recently received items related to the service of community members in the armed forces: Victor Michel, who served in the Coast Guard during World War II, and Gary Thamke, who served in the US Army in Vietnam. We greatly appreciate these donations.

Many thanks to members, donors, and well-wishers who have supported us during such an unusual time. Special thanks to Sharon Christian, whose postings on Facebook have done so much to keep us connected and to cultivate interest in local history. The response to the Concord Center School Roadrunner T-shirt was amazing.

Finally, Sharon and I have missed chatting with visitors who would drop in on our work days. We are often here on Thursdays but our schedule is irregular. If you want to stop in or bring a donation, please contact either of us. We can arrange a day and time that works for you. The museum will be opened to the public for the first time on Sunday, August 8th for the opening of the "**Farming in Concord**" exhibit.

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.



Concord Historical Society

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Sullivan, WI 53178
(262) 593-8099

info@concordwihistory.org

www.concordwihistory.org

Concord Historical Society Officers:

Cindy Arbiture, President,
Board Member

Barb Seamandel, Vice President,
Board Member

Roxanne Butler, Secretary,
Board Member

Sharon Christian, 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



Volunteers Are Needed

We are always in need of volunteers, as we are an all-volunteer organization. This summer we would like to make some repairs to the William R. Look log cabin, such as chinking repairs and some woodworking. The museum needs to have some painting done on the outside. We also have a wooden icebox that needs some repairs. If you have some time to help us out, we would really appreciate it. If you are interested in volunteering then please give us a call at 262-593-8099 or email us at info@concordwihistory.org

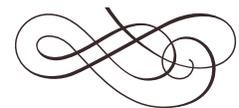
Dates to Remember 2021

**Sunday, August 8 at 12 noon: Concord Town Annual Picnic
Concord Historical Museum Farming Exhibit Open**

**Saturday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m.
CHS Annual Membership Meeting at the Museum**



CHS Spring Annual Membership Drive 2021



We are currently into our 2021 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 COVID-19 pandemic. **Thank you so very much for your continued support!**

Please send in your 2021 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.



Wisconsin Historical Society News

Recently the historic **Wittnebel's Tavern**, an early 1900s rural Wisconsin bar, was relocated from its original home in Old Ashippun, Dodge County to a new site at Old World Wisconsin in Eagle, WI. The tavern will be a new feature building at Old World offering a "Brewing Experience" that allows guests to learn more about Wisconsin's brewing heritage through demonstrations, workshops, tastings, and other activities. To learn more please visit their website.

Old World Wisconsin:

<https://oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org>



JOIN THE CHS TODAY!

Not a member of the Concord Historical Society?

www.concordhistory.org



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