

Concord Historical Society News



Preserving Our Local History

Town of Concord - Established in 1846

Spring 2022

www.concordwihistory.org

The Winds of Change

The Concord Tornado on July 29, 2021

The Town of Concord found itself in the path of an EF1 tornado last summer. Fortunately there were no deaths, but our town sustained some significant damage. The Lloyd & Karen Zastrow family at Valley View Farm on Highway E lost their historic wooden barn; and Jim and Mary Zastrow had significant damage to their home and it became uninhabitable. Their home was recently razed and it will be rebuilt. Other Zastrow family members and their neighbors had serious damage to their homes as well. Businesses at the intersection of Highway F and I-94 also saw serious damage and Dahnert/Concord Park lost many mature trees and also sustained significant damage. Amazingly we were rather lucky at the museum and log cabin as we only had damage to our sign in front at the log cabin and some minor damage to the buildings. Thank you for your continued support as this has been a difficult year in our small town, but...

“We are Concord Strong!”

Best to you and your family and we hope to see you soon!
Cindy Arbiture, President



Tree destroyed in front of Concord Historical Museum



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

“Finally” the Opening of Concord Center School Time Capsule

by: Cindy Arbiture

In the millennial year of 2000 the students, teachers and staff sealed a time capsule with student cultural treasures inside. The inscription on the box says: “Concord Time Capsule, Sealed on April 7, 2000, To be opened on April 5, 2020, Built by Jim and Marc Stern.” Due to COVID-19 restrictions the capsule opening had to be postponed until the Town of Concord Annual Picnic on Sunday, August 8, 2021 at Concord/Dahnert Park. Former students were able to see their preserved elementary school treasures. A VHS video was found in the capsule, and a DVD was made of the video that was recorded by teachers and staff at Concord School as the time capsule was being filled with memories. That DVD is now available for viewing and the time capsule contents are being preserved at the Concord Historical Museum. It can be viewed when the museum is open or by appointment.



The Concord Center School Time Capsule was opened on August 8, 2021 at the Town of Concord Annual Picnic. Students who originally placed items in the capsule were able to see some of their old treasured books, toys, CD's, and photo albums and other items.



The Concord Historical Museum Will Be Open in 2022

Museum hours are June through September, on the second Sunday (1 to 3 pm) and the second Thursday (10 am to 2 pm) of each month. The dates are: June 9, June 12, July 10, July 14, August 11, August 14, September 8, September 11. And the museum is always open by appointment for our members.

Field Trip To Garman Nature Preserve

By Renee Banack Tantala

Our field trip to the Garman Nature Preserve, a 40 acre parcel in Waterloo, will be an exciting experience because it is both a place of natural beauty and one of Jefferson County, Wisconsin's unique historical sites. Within the Preserve there are 22 mounds, mostly conical, situated along a ridge in a serpentine formation. The mounds were constructed by Native Americans during the Late Woodland Period—their shapes pointing to a date from about 550 AD to 800 AD. The people at that time moved around in the area as they sought seasonally available food resources. In addition to hunting, fishing, and gathering wild plants, they grew crops such as sunflowers and squash.

Today's Ho-Chunk tell us that these people were their ancestors. So visitors must treat this place as a sacred landscape, keeping in mind that the mounds probably contain human burials. To explain the life ways of the ancestors, Christopher Sweet, a Ho-Chunk artist, has created a set of 18 colorful panels. Bill Quackenbush, a Ho-Chunk heritage expert, worked with Sweet to develop the content of the panels.

The Garman Nature Preserve is located at 701 Fox Lane, Waterloo, Wisconsin. It was donated to Jefferson County in 2003 by Theo Garman, wife of the late Dr. John S. Garman, to honor his memory and to protect the mounds. Joni Crave, a member of the committee that created the Preserve, will join us to talk about the site and describe how volunteers are working to improve and maintain it. The tour will last about an hour. Stay longer to hike, bird watch, or just to meditate (see map at <http://www.wisconsinmounds.com/GarmanPreserveMounds.html>).

Participants should gather at the Preserve (carpool if you can) at 10 AM on Saturday, October 1. The path to the mounds is a bit steep so be prepared to walk slowly and wear sturdy shoes. This site is not handicap accessible. If the weather is mild, you might want to pack a picnic lunch. In addition to the shelter and restrooms within the Preserve, there are facilities at the Waterloo Regional Trailhead next to it.

If you are interested in attending this event, please contact us by email at info@concordwihistory.org or call Cindy (262-593-8099) or Renee (414-807-8119). Please confirm your plans to join us with an RSVP by September 23.

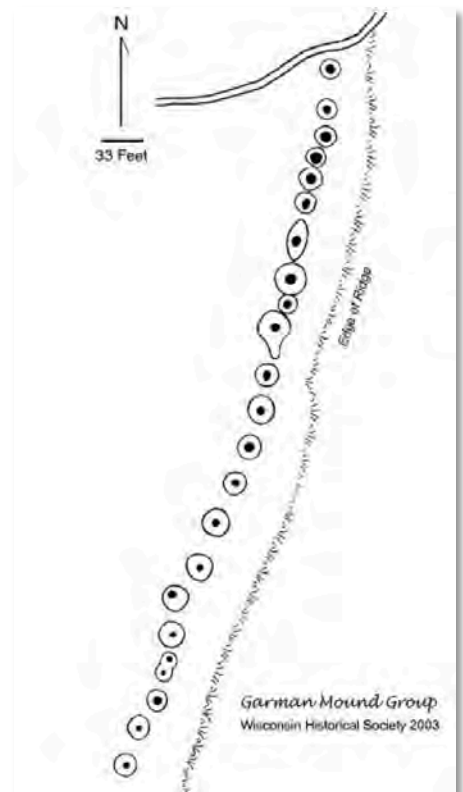


Images courtesy of:

<http://www.wisconsinmounds.com/GarmanPreserveMounds>

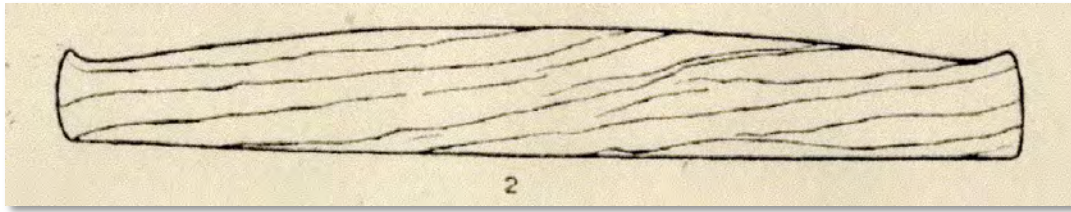
and the Wisconsin Historical Society

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org>



The Concord Birdstone

By Renee Banack Tantala



Source: Illustration Figure 2 from The Wisconsin Archeologist (1909). Full citation: Brown, Chas. E. "The Birdstone Ceremonials of Wisconsin." The Wisconsin Archeologist. Vol. 8 (January to March 1909).

More than a century ago a rare artifact, called a "bar birdstone," was found in Concord. It had been carved and polished by a Native American during the period that archaeologists refer to as the Archaic Period. This means that it is at least 2500 years old but could be much older (dating as far back as 5000 years ago). The carver would have belonged to a band of mobile hunters and gatherers. During the Archaic Period in southern Wisconsin people were hunting with spears and spear-throwers (atlatls). They had not (yet) adopted bow-and-arrow technology.

Archaeologists sort birdstones into two types: the more abstract bar form and those that are more obviously bird-like. The Concord birdstone, carved from gray ribbon slate, is about six inches long. With its upturned ends and perforated base, it is considered "a fine example of the bar form." Today it is part of the collection of the Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin.

There has been much speculation about how birdstones were used. Typically, they have holes indicating that they were attached to something else. Were they fastened to clothing? Worn as pendants? Were they signs of social or ritual status? Or, more practically, did hunters tie them—as weights—to their spear-throwers? Whatever their use, a bar birdstone does evoke the idea of a bird and birds are among the most enduring creatures in the material and oral traditions of Wisconsin's indigenous peoples.

Franklin H. Martin, MD, FACS: From Rural Boyhood to Distinguished Surgeon

A Book By: Dr. Gordon L. Telford MD, FACS

One of our members Dr. Gordon L. Telford MD, FACS has written a book about a young man by the name of Franklin H. Martin who lived in the Ixonia with his family. "Franklin H. Martin had a typical rural upbringing in Wisconsin during which he developed the Strength of character. The self-confidence and other personal characteristics that made him a great leader. After attending Chicago Medical School, graduating in 1880, he became an extremely accomplished physician, administrator, and leader, founding the journal Surgery, Gynecology, and Obstetrics in 1905, the Clinical Congress of Surgeons in 1913. All institutions that remain viable and strong to this day. The book provides insight into the impact of his early years in Wisconsin on these later accomplishments and hypothesizes that it wasn't despite his rural upbringing that he became a great leader – it was because of it."

We plan to have Dr. Gordon Telford speak about his book at our CHS Annual Meeting on September 24. Please save the date. His books are for sale through the CHS and local bookstores. gortelford@aol.com

Please Save Your Store Receipts!

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

Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly Stores

Oconomowoc, Hartford, Hartland, Saukville
and

Albrecht's Sentry Foods

3255 Golf Rd, Delafield, WI 53018

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.

Kenneth Gaugert 12-16-21

Shelby Ingersoll 3-31-22

Lynn Arthur Kramer 9-28-21

Beatrice Loppnow 12-16-2021

David Carl Meyer 1-24-22

Nancy Metzger 1-30-22

Gloria Runyard 12-26-21

Milton Thomassen 9-25-21

Bernice Hemke Smith 11-21-21

Leonardo M. (Lenny) Soto 5-01-22

Susan Marie (Friesch) Peterson 5-01-22

Charles John Rohloff 11-24-21

Howard Webb 9-8-21

Delores Webb 3-9-22

Summer Afternoons with Laura

A Reading Program for Children

Thursdays: June 16, June 23, June 30

The Concord Historical Society will sponsor a reading program for children ages 4 and up. The Town of Concord was home to relatives of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Her mother Caroline and father Charles met and married in Concord. All 3 reading programs will be held at **1:00 pm** at the **William R. Look Log Cabin**, at **Dahnert /Concord Park**. All children need to be accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own blanket to sit around the person who reads from the Laura Ingalls Wilder book.

Please RSVP by **June 1** to Cindy 262-593-8099. Space is limited so please register early. Homemade cookies and lemonade will be served after the book reading and historic games. This program is free for all children.





Curator's Corner: Nuggets in the Archives - by Renee Baneck Tantala

We have collected lots of interesting artifacts but in this column I want to focus on the kinds of documents that are often passed on within families. In addition to birth and marriage certificates, records of land transactions, and other official documents, there are more ordinary ones—such as letters, invitations, receipts, account books, and greeting cards. But historians can find nuggets of history in such items— even in slips of paper kept in a cigar box (yes, we did receive a trove in a cigar box).

For several weeks I've been cataloging two collections of documents that shed light on the history of the Yates family in Concord, going back to the early 1850s. They also tell the story of how the Yates homestead became the William Koepler farm, later owned by Walter Duchow and his wife Irene (William's daughter). We are very grateful to the Family of Ruth Foley and Barb Duchow for donating these special documents.

Land Patents, Abstracts, Warranty Deeds, Mortgage Papers: All of these documents give us a better understanding of Concord's economic history and the movement of people in and out of our area. In our archive we now have an original land patent signed by Henry Dodge in 1847 when he was Wisconsin's territorial governor.

Letters: After George Yates settled in Concord, he corresponded with his brother back in England and several of his brother's letters have survived. I do wish we had George's letters, too, as they would tell us more about what was going on here. From one letter we know that, soon after arriving in Concord, George was the victim of a burglary. His brother wrote to suggest how he might prevent a recurrence. Please don't discard a letter because it doesn't seem "historical" enough. Here are a few examples of local news that—when shared in a letter—would get my attention. There might be bad news about the weather: fields that can't be plowed (too wet); crops drying up (too hot, no rain); hail shredding the knee-high corn. Also of interest would be references to illnesses, such as consumption, scarlet fever, measles, flu. I'd be looking for good news, too: a third crop of hay, a bumper crop of cucumbers for pickling, neighbors helping to build a new shed, Dad bought a new car, we now we have a telephone, Grandpa went "up north" to visit relatives.

Tax Receipts: We have a complete set of George Yates's tax receipts from 1865 to 1887. Since each one is signed by the town treasurer, these are worth having just for the autographs. (I was thrilled to find one signed by my great-great grandfather, Julius Zimdars.) We also have a few of Austin Kellogg's receipts (donated by the Jefferson County Historical Society). He was among Concord's founding fathers and the receipts provide information about his early investments here.

Receipts and Bills of Sale: These items reveal transactions within the community or with people and businesses beyond it. Bills of sale for farm produce (butter, eggs, poultry, livestock) and the stubs of milk checks, though pertaining to a specific farm, may fit into a broader picture. George Yates, for example, sold turkeys to a Milwaukee-based distributor. Receipts listing lumber, nails, and shingles indicate the construction or remodeling of a barn or house.

Insurance Policies and Claims: Usually, a farm's insurance policies had to be renewed at regular intervals. A set of policies, each listing the buildings and property covered by the policy, can document improvements that an owner was making. The Koepler farm's policies record the erection of a steel windmill and the installation of an electrical system.

There are pack-rats and purgers but curators are excavators. We find nuggets and turn them into historical sources. Please contact us and let us take a look at your items --before you head for the dumpster. If a document can help us tell a better story, we want it. Contact me (historylynx@gmail.com or 414-807-8119) or any board member.

Thanks to all our recent donors. Thanks to Cindy for taking the lead on the "Farming in Concord" exhibit and to Eugene Pagel and Carl Friesch for their contributions to that project. And many thanks to Sharon for all the work she's done this year, especially for organizing and labeling our archival boxes.



Concord Historical Society

P.O. Box 154
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(262) 593-8099

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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 2022

Sunday, August 14 at 12 noon: Concord Town Annual Picnic

Saturday, September 24 at 1:00 p.m.

CHS Annual Membership Meeting at the Museum

With guest speaker Dr. Gordon L. Telford MD, FACS



CHS Spring Annual Membership Drive 2022



We are currently into our 2022 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 2022 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 Council for Local History

Did you know that the Concord Historical Society is an affiliate member of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS)? And we are also part of an organization called the Wisconsin Council for Local History (WCLH). There are over 420 local historical organizations that are part of the Wisconsin Council for Local History. The WHS is currently planning a new Wisconsin State History Museum in Madison that will be an amazing state of the art facility. To learn more please check out the Wisconsin Historical Society website at:

<https://wisconsinhistory.org>



JOIN THE CHS TODAY!

Not a member of the Concord Historical Society?

www.concordwihistory.org

1993 to 2018



Sullivan, WI 53178

P.O. Box 154

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