

Concord Historical Society News



Preserving Our Local History

Town of Concord - Established in 1846

Spring 2023

www.concordwihistory.org

Celebrating our 30 Year Anniversary

The Concord Historical Society has been collecting and preserving historic photos, artifacts, documents, maps, and recording local oral histories for the Town of Concord for over 30 years now. We are very proud of the important cultural, local history information that we preserved for our community. We are always looking for new people to volunteer with the CHS, as new ideas and new energy are very helpful. In addition to serving as the CHS president, I also serve as the volunteer president of the Wisconsin Council for Local History, and serve on the Board of Curators of the Wisconsin Historical Society. All of these associations help make us a stronger local history organization, because the information that is shared between these organizations is essential to our growth, and the cultural value that we can provide to the Concord community, and across the state.

We are very fortunate to have terrific board members who help us to accomplish our mission. On behalf of the Concord Historical Society Board of Directors: Barb Seaman, Roxanne Butler, Sharon Christian, Renee Baneck Tantala, Dale Konle and Connor Baneck; thank you to all of our members and supporters. Thank you for your membership and your continued donations and support! - *Cindy Arbiture, President*



**Thank you for
your continued
support!**



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



Curator's Corner: New Donations

by Renee Baneck Tantala

All our donations are special, each in its own way, preserving the past for future generations. We are very grateful to all our donors and volunteers. During this past year Sharon Christian (who serves as co-curator in so many respects) and I have worked on collection inventories: first, the artifacts on our shelving units; then moving on to the archival boxes in our cabinets. Thanks, Sharon, you are so good at finding "good stuff" and bringing it to my attention.

A Very Generous Gift

In the museum we now have an antique electric stove, manufactured by the Monarch Company of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. It was donated by Kim Todd, in memory of her parents, Ted and Wilma Todd. Kim's mother had long intended that this family heirloom would find a new home as part of our collection. The stove belonged originally to Kim's grandmother and she remembers sitting beside it in her grandmother's kitchen in Chili, Wisconsin. The stove was passed along to her mother, who brought it from Delafield to Concord. Wilma was still using it in the late 1960s!

From wood-burning stoves to electric ranges—that's an essential chapter in "kitchen-centered" history. In the kitchen, women's history and knowledge were transmitted as youngsters learned from their mothers and grandmothers. Wood-burners required a special kind of expertise, especially in regulating oven temperatures. (Mother told me that my grandmother knew just how much fuel was needed to bake a cake.) Electric stoves, in addition to their everyday convenience, boosted productivity when a farmer's wife was busy trying to preserve heaps of perishable vegetables or fruit.

CHS is fortunate to have both a wood-burning Monarch stove, "and" a very early Monarch electric range. The wood stove was donated to the CHS by many years ago by Ed Buss and Nora-Lee (Ingersoll) Buss, Bente. We can better explain the wood-to-electricity transition with our two stoves, now sitting at a right-angle to each other, in the museum.

The Monarch Company's trademark goes back to 1899. In 1901, after the merging of two companies, a new manufacturing facility was established in Beaver Dam. In the 1920s and 1930s the company expanded to more than two dozen departments, but for many decades it remained famous for its excellent wood-burning and electric ranges.

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Our wood-burning stove is similar to the Monarch models of the late 1920s. While electric stoves were being manufactured in the mid-1920s, their adoption in rural kitchens depended not only on electrification but also on a family's decision to invest in such a luxury (when, typically, farm machinery was the priority). Wood-burning stoves were still in use in our area during the early 1950s and even later. Thanks to Kim's donation we have a Monarch electric range dating from the late 1920s or possibly around 1930. This stove has a green, marble-looking enamel top and overall it is in very nice condition.

ANOTHER MARVELOUS ADDITION: For your viewing pleasure, now on display in the museum: the basketball and baseball trophies previously kept at the Concord Community Center. If you or your kids played on any of these teams or cheered for them, we'd like to hear from you. What stories or photos can you share?



REMEMBER, in addition to the open hours posted in this newsletter, the CHS Museum is open by appointment. We welcome all visitors but in the summer we especially enjoy chatting with young people and with relatives and friends who may be visiting the area. Just contact me (414-807-8119 or historylynx@gmail.com) or any board member and we'll do our best to suit your schedule.

Spring Open House

You are invited to our Spring Open House on

Sunday, June 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

and

Open Hours for 2023

Concord Historical Museum and Log Cabin

Museum hours will be: 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 11, June 15, July 9, July 13, August 13, August 10, September 10, September 14. And the museum is always open by appointment for our members.



Elizabeth Bauman Boltz

Eliza Boltz

A Very Feisty Lady

By Renee Banack Tantala



Last year, while researching Boltz family history, I discovered this story about a woman who lived in Concord more than a century ago.

In 1873 Gottfried Boltz had purchased a farm in the Town of Concord, where he and his wife Eliza lived for many years. They had many relatives and friends in the Town of Sullivan, so there must have been quite a lot of traveling to-and-fro on the graded roads of both townships.

In the spring of 1897, Eliza Boltz was riding in a one-horse buggy, on her way from somewhere in Sullivan to her home on Elder Lane in Concord. Going south on Pioneer Drive, Elder Lane is on the right, but Pioneer crosses the township line after that turnoff. Eliza's son (most likely Edward) was holding the reins when, to avoid a large mudhole, the horse swerved and hit a stump. That stump was just inches from the roadway but hidden by weeds, making it impossible for the driver to see it. Eliza, a woman in her mid-sixties, was thrown from the buggy. She sustained serious physical injuries and, as one might expect after such an event, she experienced mental anxiety, too.

The Boltz family filed a lawsuit against the Town of Sullivan in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, requesting \$5,000 in damages. This suit rested on Eliza's account so she must have been willing to testify or to give a deposition (I haven't tracked down the original case file). In November the Court decided for the plaintiff and ordered the Town of Sullivan to pay \$500 in damages. To avoid paying (perhaps also displeased by the audacity of the case?), the Town of Sullivan appealed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

On December 27, 1898, at the state's highest court, Ira B. Kirkland argued the Boltz case and won. The Circuit Court's decision was confirmed and damages would have to be paid. The Supreme Court's opinion stated that "If the town officers knew, or by the exercise of ordinary diligence ought to have known, that the stump existed so near the traveled track as to render the highway dangerously defective for the use of travelers in the exercise of ordinary care, and plaintiff in the exercise of such care drove against it and was injured, the town is liable" (Boltz v. Town of Sullivan, 101 Wis. 608 (1899)). You can examine the summary text of the case at <https://cite.case.law/wis/101/608/>. It was also reported in The Watertown News.

Eliza Boltz was an elderly rural woman, injured in a horse-and-buggy accident, but she has had an extraordinary impact. The Wisconsin Supreme Court case has been cited 21 times over the years, including two U.S. Circuit Court cases and cases appealed to the Supreme Courts of the states of Idaho, Montana, Arizona, and Washington. This precedent sent a strong message to local governments: properly construct and maintain your local roads or you will be held liable if accidents occur due to your negligence.

Thank you, Eliza, a very feisty lady. We, the people of Concord, are proud to remember you as one of our courageous citizens.

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.

Mabel Guenterberg - 6-17-22

Robert Peot - 9-16-22

Michael E. Opager 11-16-22 – (A memorial service for Mike will be held on June 24 in Watertown)

Willard Milton Teuteberg – 12- 29- 22

Barbara Duchow – 1-04-23 – (A memorial service for Barb will be on May 10 at Concord Methodist Church)

Carole A. Hoffmeister - 3-16-23

Ralph Bankert - 3-23-23

Marie Hilgendorf - 4-5-23

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!



Simpler Times – Remember when...



Votes were collected in a ballot box like this?

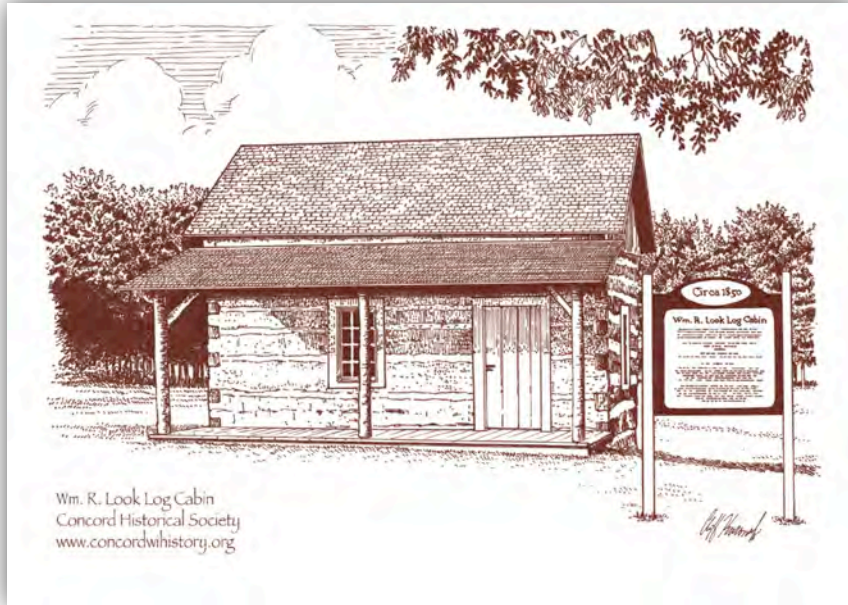


New clothes were made on a sewing machine like this?

20th Year Anniversary

Wm. R. Look Log Cabin Restoration

Note Cards Are For Sale



We have another anniversary to celebrate this year. We relocated and restored the Wm. R. Look Log Cabin at our Concord–Dahnert Park 20 years ago in August of 2003. We then donated it to the Town of Concord. To celebrate the restoration we had an original sketch drawn of our log cabin, then had note cards printed to offer for sale. If you would like to purchase a pack of these beautiful cards we are selling them for at 4 cards for \$6.00 with matching envelopes. They are now available for sale at the Concord Historical Museum. - *Thank you!*

Concord Town Heritage Award

Boltz Family Received 2022 Town Heritage Award

One of the nice programs that we have offered over the years has been the Concord Town Heritage Award. It is awarded to a local family that has lived in the Town of Concord for a significant amount of time. Nomination forms are available from the Concord Historical Society. The award is presented at the Concord Town Picnic in August.

Pictured right are descendants of the Boltz family, some of whom still live in the Town of Concord.

We have been presenting this special award for 20 years. The Ingersoll family was the first family to receive the award in 2003.



Top Row - Left to Right: Dean Gaugert, Carl Schmidt, Shirley Boltz Kohls, Rick Kramer , Rick Kautzer

Front Row - Left to Right: Judy Boltz Baumann, Marcy Gaugert Schmidt, Bev Boltz Kramer, Rosemary Kautzer



Concord Historical Society

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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 will continue to make needed repairs to the William R. Look log cabin. We have two new outdoor signs to replace and 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

Special Dates to Remember 2023

**Sunday, August 13 at 12 noon: Concord Town Annual Picnic
and Town Heritage Award Presentation**

30th Anniversary Celebration

CHS Annual Membership Meeting at the Museum

Saturday, September 23 at 1:00 p.m.



CHS Spring Annual Membership Drive 2023



We are currently into our 2023 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.

Help us celebrate our 30 year Anniversary as an all volunteer local history resource that preserves, promotes and celebrates our local rural farming heritage. **Thank you so very much for your continued support!**

Please send in your 2023 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.



Our Jefferson County History

Did you know that there are 11 Historical Societies in Jefferson County, WI?

Bark River Woods, Concord Historical Society, Cambridge Historical Society, Hoard Historical Museum, Jefferson Historical Society, Johnson Creek Historical Society, Lake Mills/Aztalan Historical Society, Palmyra Historical Society, Rome-Sullivan Historical Society, Waterloo Historical Society, Watertown Historical Society

All of them have exhibits to see and are open at assorted hours.

Explore the history of Jefferson County!



JOIN THE CHS TODAY!

Not a member of the Concord Historical Society?

www.concordwihistory.org



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