



Waupaca County Historical Messenger

Fremont

The year 2011, which began on March 28, was an active one for our organization. Our meetings are held on the last Monday of each month except December. Society business is conducted from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Programs and activities for 2011 were as follows:

March 28--"Grandmas Button Box." This program consisted of members and visitors bringing their button boxes from home. History about the two button factories in Fremont and the different kind of buttons was presented. We participated at the New London Museum with a display of artifacts from the Fremont button factories. May 23--Our program was on the history of Memorial Day and Flag Day celebrations in our area. We did a "Then and Now" comparison.

June--Time was spent planning events and fundraisers. July 25--Early history of the ice cream sundae, banana split, Popsicles, and soda pop was discussed. Everyone was treated to ice cream sundaes. August 6--Dedication of the two-

sided pictorial view display at the Historical Wolf River Crossing Park next to the Bridge Boat Ramps in Fremont. The display tells the history of the early years of the Wolf River, river boats, fishing, water carnivals, and logging. August 29--"Lets Shake it Up." Historical look at salt and pepper, and their containers. Salt and pepper shakers did not come into being until the late 1930's and 1940's.

September 26--"A Look at Yesteryear."

Spending a day, or evening, at the 1884 Beaver Dam School. A typical school day and what it was like. Each person was given a certain grade for penmanship, art class, a spelling bee, and reading. Songs were sung, and oh yes, the dunce chair was in use!

November 12--Our annual community Christmas tree lighting of honoring local citizens who served in the community. This year we honored Village of Fremont retirees,



Fremont Historical Society historian, Elsie Mae Hildebrand Yohr stands proudly beside the pictorial view display she designed.

Danny Goetsch and his sister Sharon Wohlt.

So far here's what has taken place in 2012:

January 30--Election of new officers, and revisions and updating of the by-laws. Discussions have taken place concerning ways we can go about maintaining the Old Beaver Dam School. The schoolhouse has been offered to us on a \$1 per year lease. If we cannot raise enough money, the 1884 building will be razed. Presently it is being used as the Fremont town hall until they can move into their new building being constructed directly behind it.

Also located on this property is the Pioneer Cemetery where Ira Sumner and his family are buried. He was a very prominent citizen of Waupaca County, contributing greatly to its history. Sumner who was a surveyor, donated the land for the school and also the cemetery. It would be sad for our society to lose these historical properties. We are

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Hellestad House

Of interest to historians is this log cabin which was home to Ole and Anne Hellestad in the mid-1800s. It was moved from its original site just south of Scandinavia to Hartman Creek State Park in 1997. The cabin has since been restored and is available for public viewing. Information about visiting this historical building can be obtained by calling the park office at (715) 258-2372.

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seeking help and suggestions on ways to preserve them. The school is located on Highway 110 at the east entrance of Fremont, just before the bridge. Plans are to use the building as a research center and museum.

February 27--"Maple Syrup." Lee Sebstead of the Fremont area presented a program on making maple syrup. March 26--Guest speaker David Morden about his interest in wood carving and Native American beadwork. He has received numerous awards for his works. March 31--Fundraiser for the Beaver Dam School. Appraisal Day Fest. April 3--Election day bake sale fundraiser. April 30--Regular meeting of updating for future programs and saving the school.

May 19--"Spring Fling." Garden and craft exhibit and sale. A fundraiser for the school building. Contact Mary Krause at (920) 446-3236 for booth rental information. Both indoor and outdoor vendor spots are still available. May 21--Guest speaker will be David Looker who will present a program on the early years of fishing. June 25--"Cultivating the Past." Waupaca County Master Gardener speaker.

June through October--Events and projects are pending.

November 10--Annual Christmas tree lighting.

Officers and board members: Wanda Harrison, president; Vice-President, vacant; Karleen Liedtke, secretary; Ann Mathwig, treasurer; Kathy Gaynor, board member; Elsie Mae Hildebrand Yohr, historian.

Elsie Mae Hildebrand Yohr

Iola

The past year has been an interesting and exciting one for the Iola Historical Society. We have measurably expanded our holdings of artifacts and archival materials, along with our physical properties. We're also in the midst of experiencing dramatic and fundamental change which should bode well for the future of the organization.

As our attendance was down slightly during the 2011 museum season, we are presently embarked on broadening our promotion and



A display dedicated to Engebret "Bert" Stromberg, who was Iola's constable, and an accomplished violin maker, was completed this past winter. The display comprises three cases and shows the construction process from raw materials to finished musical instrument.

presentation. During the three months that we will be open for the 2012 season, we are undertaking to develop at least one special historical education program per month that will be presented as a public attendance draw. We will be promoting these programs through participation in an advertising program in the *Picture Post* organized by the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce.

Having served as president of the IHS with unprecedented dedication for five years, Lyle Mork last fall found it necessary to relinquish the position and the attendant day-to-day duties that he had assumed.

That left a big hold in the coordination and dispatch of the society's activities, one that is in part being filled by Clifford Mishler functioning in the role of acting president. While Lyle has extracted himself from many of the tangent duties that he had assumed, he has remained dedicated to the society in the areas of historical and genealogical research, where his knowledge of family backgrounds, community history continue to be invaluable.

In Lyle's absence, vice-president Robert Stamstad has stepped forward to head up the development of

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Iola

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an organizational responsibilities structure that is effectively spreading supervisory applications for housekeeping, preventative maintenance, building and grounds, and the docent visitor hosting function among the active membership. These supervisors are in turn building volunteer teams to dispatch the duties on an equitable and manageable basis to assure that we broadcast a truly quality and inviting presence to our visitors.

This year we will be presenting our 28th annual Strawberry Fest Antique Appraisal Fair on Sunday, **June 24**, and our 3rd annual Taste of Norway & Lost Arts Fair on Saturday, **October 6**. In addition, this year we launched another activity, one which we plan to make into an annual affair, a Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser event. This year's event was presented on Saturday, April 14. It attracted the participation of roughly 100 of our neighbors, fellow citizens and visitors, generating a net contribution of about \$450 to our financial coffers.

This year's Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser proceeds have been specifically earmarked for a major restoration project that is just getting underway, restoration of our historic 1894 Iola & Northern Railroad depot to its original appearance. Enhancements added to our public presence over the past year include the completion of a special display area in our museum building dedicated to the violin making career of Iola constable Bert Stromberg, a farm and tradesmen tool and implement display, and the acquisition and installation of a HD video display screen and the associated computer and software equipment to enable the presentation of video programs to entertain and enlighten our visitors.

Presently we are undertaking the exercise of embodying a "collections and archival development policy" to provide a guideline for pursuit by the society today and into the future that will facilitate keeping an eye on how best we might pursue preserving and interpreting history as it relates to the Iola community and service area. Like all historical heritage organizations, we recognize

and acknowledge that we have neither the resources or the physical space to collect every historical artifact or record that might become available; that we must be selective in deciding which artifacts or records to actively collect, which offered donations to accept, and which to decline; that these conditions will change over time as circumstances evolve.

There are going to be challenges ahead, of that one can be certain, but we are confident that they will be addressed with the interests of the past, present and future served with the consolidated wisdom of our committed membership.

Cliff Mishler

Marion



Ray Arndt poses in front of a collection of tools that he donated to the Marion Historical Society.

June 4--The regional 2-Cylinder club will meet at the historical society grounds on June 4th at 6:00 p.m. The club met there last June and enjoyed seeing the Ray Arndt Tool Museum. Ray has been a long time member of the group. Vintage tractors were brought by members for show and tell and the museum buildings will be open during this time.

August 16--The Marion Area Historical Society will host a Treasures of the Past Appraisal event on August 16th at the historical society grounds. The event will be from 4-8 p.m. The actual appraisals will start at 5:00 p.m. The appraisals will be done by Mark Moran, an appraisal professional

who was a book writer for Krause Publications. This event has a fee and a sign-up for specific times. Food and refreshments will be available. Further details can be obtained by calling Pat Pamperin at 715-754-2982.

Pat Pamperin

New London HS

In 2011, our monthly meetings took place on the last Saturday of each, except December.

Our Historic Village was open the first and third Sunday of June, July and August and also appointment. We had about 600 visitors to the Village.

Something new in 2011! The Wolf River Theatrical Troupe performed "The Wedding Belles" on May 3, 4 & 5, and also 10, 11 & 12 at 7:30 pm in the chapel at our historical village. It was a lively comedy set in the 1940's.

As usual, our annual Heritage Days & Railfest was the first weekend in August (6 & 7). Once again we had the Wild West Review with stunt performers, horses, trick riding, fancy shooting and more. The buckskinners rendezvous is an added yearly attraction, and draws attention to our log cabin in the woods. People could also tour five buildings and the steam engine and four railroad cars. Attendees enjoyed our bake sale in the Octagon House and enjoyed homemade ice cream on the grounds, while looking at antique tractors and antique toy tractors. On Sunday we had a non-denominational church service in the chapel.

In 2012 we will again have our village buildings open on the first and third Sunday of June, July and August, offering tours to groups throughout the year.

This year we are changing the venue at Heritage Days & Railfest on **August, 4, 5**. The Great Lakes Timber show will entertain the crowd, demonstrating log rolling, ax throwing, wood chopping, and chain-saw carving. Audience participation is welcomed with three shows on each day. Check this out at www.historicalvillage.org. This event ties in well with New London's rich lumbering history.

Sylvia Stern

New London PM

There is a lot going on at the New London Public Museum. The museum director and assistant director attended the American Association of Museums conference and expo in Minneapolis at the end of April. We'd be happy to share our discoveries with you, feel free to give us a call or drop us an e-mail.

We have been busy working on new exhibits. Our current temporary exhibit is a tribute to the "100th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts." Ambassador Scout, Mara Scherer, created the exhibit as her Gold Award project. Opening in late May, is an exhibit/fundraiser to help us preserve our taxidermy bird specimens. The exhibit "Save the Birds" will showcase not only our collection, but also feature the work of Wisconsin artist Paul Dominguez.

We are also researching and looking for artifacts to support our fall exhibit "Children in the Civil War." Not to mention redoing two of our permanent exhibits spaces, the local history section and the Native American section.

Turning to events, we have a great collaboration **May 12-19** with Mosquito Hill Nature Center, the New London Library and the New London Parks and Recreation Department. It is a weeklong celebration of migratory birds, called "Feather Fest". A list of all the activities, art projects around town and other information about the celebration can be found at our website, www.newlondonwi.org/museum.htm

An event on **September 15** continues our commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War by focusing on the lives of children during the conflict. Activities, demonstrations and the opening of the new exhibit will be on tap for children of all ages to discover and enjoy. On **November 10**, we welcome Debra Morningstar, Native American storyteller, to the museum. She will be presenting her "Feathers, Furs & Tepees" program for our Curiosity Series.

So there's a lot going on at NLPM! We hope you will be able to stop by and satisfy your curiosity!

The museum is open Monday through Friday 10-5 and Saturday

10-1 (we are closed Saturdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day). Admission is free; however, donations are always welcome and go towards our preservation and education projects.

The research area is open by appointment only. If you have any questions or want to set up an appointment contact the museum at 920-982-8520 or christinec@newlondonwi.org

Chris Cross

Rural

Our past year was a relatively quiet one for the Rural Historical Society; no big projects, but ongoing gathering of material, sharing of ideas, enjoying some interesting programs and planning for 2012.

As we look to 2012 it promises to be a very big year. Once again we will be holding a Rural House Walk. We were very pleased (an understatement) when Pat Fletcher volunteered to chair the event. Though, we also know it will involve the combined efforts of all our members to make it a success. Pat has already begun working on the publicity, and has six houses plus the cemetery to take part in the Walk. (The folks in the cemetery were the easiest ones to convince.) This year we will have several homes that haven't previously participated. The date is set for Saturday, **September 22** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please circle this date on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you.

As usual we will have "Sundaes on Saturday" and "Margaret Ashmun Day" on **June 16**. There will be a program about Margaret Ashmun, Rural's best known author, as well as lots of ice cream and strawberries.

Information is slowly being gathered about the barns located in Dayton Township. These historical buildings are slowly disappearing, but we keep trying to gather background information on their history, and stories of their families before they are all gone. As one can imagine, this is very interesting, but also a very time consuming, project.

So, these are just a few of things we are going to be doing in 2012. We are looking forward to the new year with much anticipation and hope the

you and your historical societies are also looking forward to an exciting year. History can be a real voyage of discovery.

Helen Robinson

Scandinavia

First of all, lets take a quick look at what transpired during 2011, and a little before that, if you will.

Probably the most significant thing to happen is FOSH became affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society. Of course, in order to become a member we had to first develop a set of by-laws that conformed to WHS standards, which we did. We then had to incorporate, which we also did in November 2010 at a significant drain I might add to our bank account. After overcoming these two hurdles we applied for affiliation in the Society and received it.

Our Eliason cabin located on our Historic Street came closer to being completed last year. Things still needing to be done on the cabin include the construction of a sleeping loft, and windows and porch posts need to be painted. Fortunately, we had excellent help on this project with FOSH member Carl Lantz utilizing his carpentering skills.

And here's what's taking place this year:

Another building located on our Street is the Silver Lake Standard Service Station which was built in 1931, and donated in 2009 to FOSH through the generosity of Darlene and George Kriewaldt. George has since taken on this project and things are moving along at a fast pace. Early in April, George and his two sons, Rick and Rob, along with a couple of FOSH members, removed all the interior drywall. It became quite obvious that the drywall was "hung" prior to the invention of screws as there were 30 to 40 nails in each of the studs! We were tired when we got done pullin' nails.

George has hired Dave Heise to restore the chimney inside the building. The interior electrical work has been completed and once the chimney is in place, new drywall will be "screwed" on the ceiling and walls.

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Scandinavia

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All the windows will be replaced with replications of the originals, and once installed, work can be then begin on the exterior. There are siding boards to replace, others to scrape, and then a fresh coat of paint applied. We have yet to determined whether it should be trimmed in Cities Service or Standard Oil paint schemes.

Another building project being considered is the construction of a machine shed to house our farm implements. At the present time they are being stored in our Knoph cabin in addition to the barbershop. Before we can have the buildings open for visitors the implements have to be removed and placed on display outside. Following the open house they are then returned to storage. Having a machine shed would eliminate the need for doing "chores."

Future plans are to move the Knoph cabin and Jole barbershop from their present location in the park to our Historic Street, but that's sometime down the road, or the street, as the case might be.

Within the membership of our society we plan on conducting additional oral histories as repositories (individuals) with remembrances are slowly leaving us. Additionally we are trying to replenish our bank account through money-making events. Whatever they might be.

Uff da! I almost forgot to mention that the Norwegians are coming! On **June 23** a group of Sons (and daughters) Of Norway will be visiting our historic buildings as part of a convention trip. *Doug*

Waupaca

The Waupaca Historical Society had a busy year during 2011 and is looking forward to some exciting events in 2012.

Membership in our society has stayed fairly steady. Currently we have approximately 250 members. Many of our members live in or around Waupaca, but some of our newest members have been visitors to our facilities that just appreciate that history is being preserved and

help us continue that mission by becoming members in our society.

Our society has faced financial and budget challenges over the last few years, due to the economic downturn and cuts from previous funding sources. We have approached these challenges with determination and sought to continue our current level of services and programs by communicating more with community and civic leaders, applying for grant funding for special projects, raising awareness of our needs with our members and patrons, and striving to educate the Waupaca community and our members about the importance of preserving our historic buildings and collections.

Waupaca County Historical Societies'

THINK TANK

Will be hosted on **May 19th**
by the **Iola Historical Society**
More information will be follow.
So be sure to circle this date
on your calendars.

A major road construction project has begun on South Main Street in Waupaca. The Holly History Center is still open to the public on Wed. and Friday afternoons, (and also Sat. mornings beginning in June) but visitors will need to park on Deer St. and approach the building from the east / Jefferson St. We are delaying the opening for the Hutchinson House Museum until June 30th due to the road construction project. The Hutchinson House will be open on weekend afternoons from 1-4 p.m. from **June 30 to Sept. 30** this year. See our website for specific details.

www.waupacahistory.org Also, if you hand out the "Passport to History" brochures, please let your patrons know that the Hutchinson House in Waupaca is having a delayed opening due to a road construction project.

Here are some of the special events that we hosted or participated in during 2011:

Winter--Logs & Lumberjacks, special exhibit at the Holly History Center; Spring--Security System installed at the Waupaca Railroad Depot Building.

March 17--St. Patrick's Day Concert featuring Gaelic Harper, Jeff Pockat, held at the Holly History Center; Applied for and received a Wisconsin Historical Society Mini-Grant to assist with the purchase of Past Perfect Museum Software upgrades; May 19-- "Gulf Coast Hurricanes & Their Aftermath", a special program held at the Holly History Center.

June--Open Houses at the Hutchinson House Museum and Waupaca Railroad Depot held during the Strawberry Festival weekend in Waupaca.

Summer--Special "Apron Exhibit" at the Hutchinson House Museum; Applied for and received a Grant from the Waupaca Area Community Foundation to assist with covering the cost of painting the exterior of the Hutchinson House Museum. Painting project was completed in August & September; August--Held an "Art at the Depot" event as part of Waupaca's "Art on the Square;" Held an Open House at the Hutchinson House Museum as part of the "Rod & Classic Car Show" event held in South Park.

September 6--Held our Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck at the historic Railroad Depot Building; September--Provided free tours of the Hutchinson House Museum for all 4th grade students from the Waupaca Learning Center.

October 9--Hosted an "Antiques Appraisal Event" with guest appraiser, Mr. Mark Moran; Participated in and won a \$2,500 grant from the Fox Valley Community Foundation during its "25 for 25 Charity Challenge" online voting event.

Participated in Hansen's Appliance Store's annual "Christmas Tree Decorating Contest". This event helped us raise approx. \$300 in donations. Many thanks to Barbara Fay Wiese for her creativity, to the 4th grade students of Waupaca who designed the "calling

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Waupaca

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cards" that were used to decorate our tree, and to our volunteers who helped make the popcorn chains.

December 8--Held a "Volunteer Appreciation Night."

2012 looks to be just as exciting. Here are some of the events already held and more that are upcoming:

March 1--Quarterly Member Meeting held at the Holly History Center featured our director (Julie Hintz) as the guest speaker, with the topic of "Little Known Facts About some of Waupaca's Early Settlers".

March-May-- "Everyday Life of Waupaca's Early Settlers", special exhibit at the Holly History Center.

June 7--Quarterly member meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7th at 3:30 p.m. at the Holly History Center and will feature our curator, Barbara Fay Wiese, sharing information about the historic Hutchinson House and the Hutchinson family; **June 16--**

Annual Open House at our Waupaca railroad depot, held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come and take a look at the wonderful progress of the depot restoration and enjoy some home bake goodies from our bake sale;

June 30--Hutchinson House Museum opens for the 2012 summer season. Come visit any Saturday or Sunday between 1 and 4 p.m., through Sept. 30th, and see our special "Vintage Quilt Exhibit.

July 4--Come and celebrate at the Hutchinson House Museum and enjoy music, food, and fireworks at South Park in Waupaca.

August 9--we will be hosting a second "Antique Appraisal Event". Do you have a vintage item or antique that you would like to have appraised? Call 715-256-9980 to get more details about this special event and reserve an appraisal time slot.

September--Annual membership meeting (place and date still to be determined); Special "Old Car Show" and "Yellowstone Trail Drive" to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Yellowstone Trail. (This event is still in the planning stage. Call us in August for additional details - 715-256-9980. All history lovers are welcome to participate in the Trail Drive, whether you own a vintage auto or

not.) **Late September--**Tours for fourth grade students at the Hutchinson House Museum. Do you like history and working with kids? We can always use additional volunteer tour guides to assist us. Call Julie Hintz, director, at 715-256-9980, if you would like to volunteer.

The "Passport to History" program has been very successful and we encourage all of our patrons to visit the other historical societies that are located throughout Waupaca County.

Julie Hintz

Weyauwega

Though, we are a small group, we had a lot of projects this past year.

In February, we held a two-day "Picture Id Days" in the lower level meeting room of the public library. WAHS has a number of photographs that they are unable to identify the people and places. We were hoping people in the community would be able to provide some help in identifying them. The public was also asked to bring in pictures they had for possible identification. Cookies and coffee was served and although not a lot of the pictures were identified, the community was made aware that the historical society is in Weyauwega is an active group.

The Weyauwega Area Historical Society (WAHS) continues to act as docents for the Little Red School House Museum. The museum is open each Sunday afternoon from 1:00-4:00 during June, July and August. Tours are available at other times by request. Members of the Society take turns at the museum. Retired teachers also help out. The museum is also open on the Saturday of the annual Horse and Buggy Days held in Weyauwega.

The weekend of Horse and Buggy Days, WAHS will host it's most ambitious project of the year, the annual "Cemetery Walk." Last year, our second annual walk was hosted for the school children in grades 4-8 from both the public and parochial schools. The Friday afternoon that the children came to the cemetery served as a dress rehearsal for the public presentation that would be given on Saturday. Members from the high school drama department acted as guides for the walk. Society

members and community volunteers portray pioneer families that are buried in the cemetery. A brief history of the cemetery is presented.

Since our group is made up of volunteers who do not have a historical preservation background, Jacqueline Frank, the Director of the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, came and viewed the museum and offered us her suggestions on how to better preserve and utilize the museum. After viewing the museum, she spent several hours talking to the members and sharing ideas with us.

Through her suggestions the Society is planning on doing a "trunk show" to highlight some of the things we have in the museum. The society will be doing this during the summer and hopefully taking it to the school in the fall. She also suggested that we work with the city on the value of the property and insurance issues.

Another large project taken care of this year is that a home for all of the items donated to WAHS has been located. A large storage room with shelves drawers and a work area has been secured so that all of our artifacts can be in one place.

WAHS information has been posted on the City of Weyauwega web site. Our own web page is still in the developmental stage.

We are working on landscaping some of the area around the Little Red School House to make it more attractive to visitors.

The "Passport to History" project from the county group of historical societies was once again participated in by WAHS.

The membership remains about the same with 12 members with 6 of them being very active in the group. Monthly meeting are held the fourth Tuesday of each month except December. Extra meetings are called if work on a project is needed.

Members of the organization had to step up and take added responsibilities late in the year because of the illness of our president.

The following officers for the 2012 year were elected in January: Marietta Paap, president; Vice President, Mary Jane Baehman, vice-president; Pat Ritchie, secretary; Betty Larson, treasurer; Florence Oehlke, historian; Jim Taylor, past president.

Pat Ritchie