



Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society  
**Historic Times**  
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6100 W. Mequon Road, Mequon, WI 53092  
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Open Thursday afternoons from 2-5 p.m. and by appointment.  
For research, call archivist Bev Silldorff: 262-242-3290

## The Thiensville-Mequon Colts... Almost

*Bob Blazich, MTHS President*

Quality schools have been a high priority in the Thiensville and Mequon communities dating back to roughly 1840. Over the years, 14 independent school districts formed in the Town of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville. Many of the original school buildings serving these districts can still be seen throughout our community. The 14 districts combined over the years into three Joint School Districts by the 1950's, and the three districts finally merged to form The Mequon-Thiensville Joint School District No. 2 in July of 1972.

The Thiensville and Mequon communities went for over 100 years without a high school. Grades nine and ten were offered at Thiensville State Graded School (Grand Avenue School) until the fall of 1947. Students who wanted a high school diploma went to Cedarburg High School for grades eleven and twelve prior to 1947. After that date, all high school students went to Cedarburg, Shorewood and later Nicolet for their four years of high school.

The 1950's witnessed a blast of change in the Thiensville-Mequon community. Between 1950 and 1960, the population of Mequon doubled from 4,065 in 1950 to 8,543 in 1960, while the population of Thiensville nearly tripled from 897 in 1950 to 2,508 in 1960. The Town of Mequon incorporated as The City of Mequon in 1957. That same year, The Union Free High School District was formed, and Dr. Merton V. Campbell was hired in 1958 as the superintendent of the high school district.

The district purchased land for their new high school and hired Madison architects Joseph Flad and Associates  
*Continued page 7*



*In 1958, the School Board authorized Madison architects Joseph Flad and Associates to construct Thiensville-Mequon's new high school at the cost of approximately \$1.8 million.*

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## MT Historical Society 2015 Board of Directors

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>       | Bob Blazich                      |
| <b>Vice-President:</b>  | Mary Sayner                      |
| <b>Secretary :</b>      | Bonnie Heintskill                |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>       | Don Molyneux                     |
| <b>Membership :</b>     | Amanda Heintskill                |
| <b>Archivist:</b>       | Bev Silldorff                    |
| <b>Researcher:</b>      | Ruth Renz                        |
| <b>Newsletter:</b>      | Jennifer Hamm                    |
| <b>Members:</b>         | James Schaefer<br>Paul Schreiber |
| <b>Member Emeritus:</b> | Don Goniou                       |
| <b>Member Emeritus:</b> | Gordy Hinrichs                   |
| <b>Ex-Officio:</b>      | Mark Brunner                     |

## Contact Us

**President:** Bob Blazich, rblazich@gmail.com  
262-242-4653

**Historian:** Ruth Renz

**Address:** 6100 W. Mequon Road,  
Mequon, WI 53092

**Website:** www.mthistoricalsociety.org

**Email:** mthistory1839@gmail.com

**MTHS Phone:** 262-242-3107

## Join Us

The MT Historical Society is looking for new members. Join today. It's easy. Memberships also make great gifts!

### Annual Membership:

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Individual .....  | \$15  |
| Family.....       | \$20  |
| Contributing..... | \$30  |
| Business.....     | \$80  |
| Sustaining .....  | \$100 |

*Tax deductible 501(c)(3) donations are appreciated.*

**Send your check to:** MTHS, 6100 W. Mequon Road, Mequon, WI 53092. Membership form located on page 5 of this newsletter. Members get our newsletter delivered to their door along with invitations to events hosted by the MT Historical Society. For more membership information, please call our office at 262-242-3107.

## Bev Silldorff Receives First M/T Silver Award

*Contributed by Bonnie Heintskill, Board Secretary*

The Mequon-Thiensville Recreation Department presented their first annual Mequon-Thiensville Silver Awards to honor local senior citizens. MTHS President Bob Blazich nominated our very own Beverly Silldorff, MTHS archivist, for consideration.



*Bev Silldorff, recipient of the M/T Silver Award on May 28, 2015.*

The award ceremony and luncheon, catered by the Prime Minister in Thiensville, took place in the cafeteria of the MT Rec Center located at the former Range Line School, on May 28. Bev Silldorff, from the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society and John Treffert, trustee of the Village of Thiensville and MTHS member, were honored by the Mequon-Thiensville Recreational Department for their many years of service to the Mequon and Thiensville communities.

Mark your calendar for May 26, 2016 for next year's 2nd Annual Silver Awards and think of someone you would like to see honored!

## Save the Date

### Annual Meeting Event

November 1st, 2015 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society will host its Annual Meeting and presentation on November 1st from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Jesse and Barkha Daily, owners of Cheel Restaurant in Thiensville, will be presenting the history and restoration of their building located at 105 S. Main Street. Mark your calendars!

# Volunteer Update

*Contributed by Mary Sayner, Vice President*

People interested in preserving the history of the Mequon-Thiensville area are stepping forward to help out at the Archive located in the Logemann Community Center at 6100W. Mequon Road, Mequon.

Ruth Renz completed an index of the many maps, bridge plans and bonding documents gathered by the society over the past 28 years.

Bonnie Heintskill is preserving glass and other negatives by placing them in acid free boxes which protect them from light, dust and insects. She is also filing clippings from newspapers and magazines that date back to the 1950's and putting Lions Club documents into acid free storage materials.

Fay Walker signed up for volunteer work while attending the Arbor Day event at Logemann. Fay is organizing all the clippings pertaining to Homestead High School as well as the elementary schools. Fay brings new ideas and enthusiasm to volunteering.

Donna L. Eigel, one of our longest serving MTHS volunteers, enjoys going through old newspapers to cut out obituaries or items featuring local individuals. She also enjoys bringing in new jokes and often has the entire work table laughing.

Danielle Schneeberg, a UWM graduate student in Museum Studies, recently joined us as a volunteer. Lorry Roensch, a returning volunteer, spent time helping organize Mayor Eley's papers dating back to the 1980's.

Amanda Heintskill is typing up past rosters of Lions Club members for our data base that will assist in business or genealogical searches.

I continue to index the Town of Mequon Board of Supervisors' monthly and annual meetings. Some items I found interesting are:

- Closing time at the voting polls was sometimes set as sundown.
- During elections, the polls closed at noon for a one hour break.
- At times, Dog License Fees and Liquor License Fees were to support education.
- The Town of Mequon taxed its citizens to pay volunteers from other areas to meet our local draft quotas during the Civil War.
- The Town of Mequon paid property owners \$4 or \$5 for each sheep killed by wild animals.

The Society needs your help. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at MTHS, please call me at 262-853-7376 or email me at [mthistory1839@gmail.com](mailto:mthistory1839@gmail.com).



*Volunteers Donna L. Eigel and Kay Walker.*

## Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society to Increase Dues

When the Historical Society was formed in 1987, First-Class postage was 22 cents, photo-copying was 3 cents a sheet, our collection was stored in the open air or cardboard boxes, and all of our indexing was done with paper and pencil.

It now costs us just under \$1.00 to mail a hardcopy version of our newsletter, our collection is preserved in expensive acid-free archival boxes, and our records

are filed in computerized databases maintained in "the cloud". The times have changed, but our dues have not.

For the first time in our 28 year history, The MT Historical Society will increase membership dues. The MTHS Board voted to increase all categories of membership dues by \$5 starting on September 1st of this year. The one exception will be our Sustaining Member level which will remain at \$100.

# What's Going on at the Society?

*Contributed by Bonnie Heintskill, Board Secretary*

Take a look at what MTHS has been up to since the Spring Newsletter:

- Thanks to our board member, Paul Schreiber, new signs have been placed on our entry door at Logemann Community Center.
- Bob Blazich, Mary Sayner and Bonnie Heintskill worked together to write a Wisconsin State Historical Society Mini-Grant proposal. If approved, the grant will fund the purchase of PastPerfect Museum Software. This will enable us to access all of the information currently stored on our many databases through a simple search. Our grant proposal also includes funding for training and consultation to fully utilize the PastPerfect Museum Software.
- Several board members participated in a Wisconsin State Historical Society webinar on Best Practices for Archival Preservation.
- Board members Jenny Hamm, Mary Sayner and Bob Blazich manned a booth at The City of Mequon's Arbor Day event on April 26th. Several people attending the event expressed an interest in becoming volunteers and members of MTHS.
- Board members Bonnie Heintskill, Amanda Heintskill and Mary Sayner cleaned the inside of



*Fun Before the 4th parade participants are listed from left to right. Front row: Becky Hughes (in car), Jackson Maniaci, Logan Hamm, Sam Hackett. Back row: Amanda Heintskill, Bob Blazich, Bonnie Heintskill, Jennifer Hamm, Ruth Renz, and Gene Taurman (driver in Model A Ford). We were also joined by Jim and Heidi Hilby in the second Model A.*

the Isham Day House on Saturday, May 2nd.

- The Historical Society participated in the Family Fun Before the 4th parade. Along with three cars, two Ford Model A's and a modern convertible, members rode and walked the parade route handing out Society information and candy. We hope you saw us there!
- Future activities include participation in the Taste of Mequon on September 12 and manning a table at Thiensville's Farmers Market on various Tuesdays during the summer.

## Historical Calendar Planned as Fundraiser

The Mequon Thiensville Historical Society is assembling historical pictures and information to include in a 2016 calendar which will be available for purchase in November.

We are looking for local businesses and individuals willing to sponsor the calendar, and ask that you consider becoming a contributor.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us recruit sponsors this summer and sell the calendars in time for the holidays.

Funds raised through calendar sales and sponsorships will be used to purchase a new computer for the Society and meet matching funds grant requirements.

Please call Bob Blazich at 262-242-4653 if you would like to be a contributor or volunteer. We appreciate your support.

# MTHS Membership Update

*Contributed by Amanda Heintskill, Membership Chair*



*Amanda Heintskill, Membership Chair for the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society.*

For those who are new to the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society, I'd like to do a quick introduction. My name is Amanda Heintskill – and I have been chair of the Membership committee for the society for the last two and a half years. I want to take a quick moment to update everyone on the membership numbers as well as what is new.

to issue membership cards after receiving the renewal/new membership paperwork. The cards will have your name(s) and membership level (I, C, F, S, B), as well as your expiration date. Please remember expiration dates are one year from when we receive your paperwork. For example, if we received your paperwork on May 31st, 2015 (5/31/2015), the expiration date would be May 31st 2016 (5/31/2016). For those of you who receive hardcopy MTHS newsletters, your membership expiration date is part of the address mailing labels.

Membership dues will be going up by \$5 beginning on September 1st 2015. The only level that will remain the same for the current dues levels will be the Sustaining level, \$100. The membership application included in this newsletter reflects the September 1st dues increase. If you renew prior to September 1st, the old rates (which date back to 1987) still apply.

As of early May - total membership is 114 families and individuals. If we are to break it down specifically by the membership categories (individual, family, sustaining, contributing and business) – here are how the numbers BREAK OUT:

Individual: 32, Contributing: 24, Business: 2, Family: 49, Sustaining: 7

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact me by phone at 262-227-9316 or by email at starwars822@yahoo.com.

Please be sure to check your mail! Since our last annual meeting this past November, we've begun

Thanks, Amanda

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## I Would Like a Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society Membership!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Tax deductible 501(c)(3) donations are appreciated.*

I would like the newsletter sent by  Mail  Email

*(\*Membership levels at right in effect starting September 1st, 2015)*

I am interested in volunteering for the Mequon Thiensville Historical Society  Yes  No

- Annual Membership Levels\*:**
- Individual .....\$15
  - Family.....\$20
  - Contributing.....\$30
  - Business.....\$80
  - Sustaining .....\$100

**Please Mail Checks to: Mequon Thiensville Historical Society, at 6100 W. Mequon Road, Mequon, WI 53092.**

# Recent Acquisitions at the Don Silldorff Archive

Contributed by Archivist Bev Silldorff (262-242-3290 or 262-242-3017)

The Mequon Thiensville Historical Society thrives on the generosity of donors and local organizations. Below is a list of acquisitions during the last quarter.

Dee Dee Ewert:

- Two books on the Milwaukee Interurban including Bader Traction and TM The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company. (See image)

Mary Sayner:

- Parental Stories of Pioneer Times book.

Joanne Morris:

- Photo of Raymond T. Morris, husband of Joanne Morris, in his WWII uniform

John and Helen Ward:

- Image of 1947 Thiensville State Graded School. Harry Steffen teacher and Principal. (See image)

Lori Puenta:

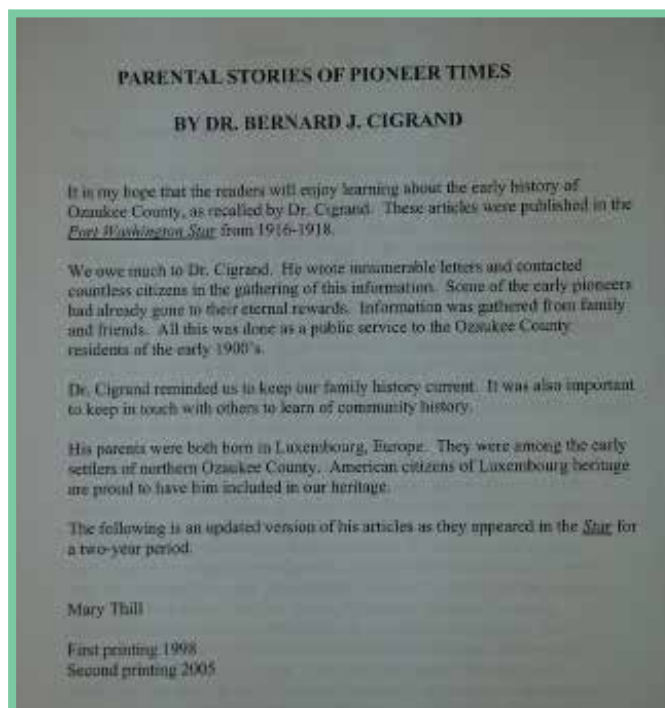
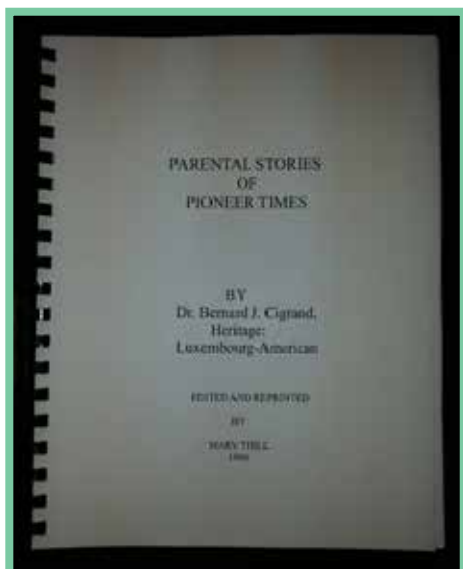
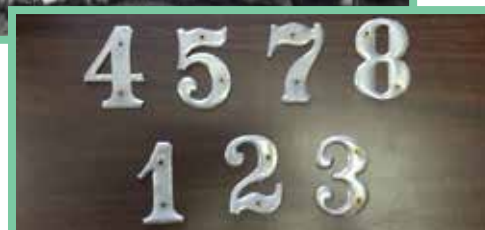
- Metal numbers from Nieman Fromm fox hutches. (See image)

Bonnie and Ray Heintskill and Suzie Feuling:

- Donation of three office chairs.

Top image: Books, *Badger Traction* and *TM The Milwaukee Interurban Electric Railway and Light Company* donated by Dee Dee Ewert. Middle image: 1947 class photo donated by John and Helen Ward. Contact MTHS for additional image details. Image at bottom: Metal numbers from Nieman Fromm fox farm hutches donated by Lorie Puenta.

Below, images of book titled *Parental Stories of Pioneer Times* written by Dr. Bernard J. Cigrand and donated to MTHS by Mary Sayner.



# The Thiensville-Mequon Colts... Almost

*Continued from page 1*

Associates. The land for the high school was purchased from the Frank family who had farmed the land along Mequon Road for 117 years.

"Thiensville-Mequon High School" opened its doors for 235 freshmen and sophomore students in September, 1959, as construction of the school continued. A local newspaper, *The Weekly Witness*, sponsored a high school naming contest offering a \$50 savings bond to the winner. The School Board selected the name "Homestead" submitted by Joe Covert, the son of Virginia Covert, a reporter for *The Weekly Witness* newspaper.

Similarly, several possible mascots were debated and the school almost became "The Colts" after the NFL championship team, the Baltimore Colts. The name "Highlanders" was finally chosen along with the school colors of dark red and white. The name was chosen in part because of the high location of the school, but also because of the Scottish heritage of Dr. Campbell. The yearbook was originally *The Crest*, but became *The Tartan* in 1966.

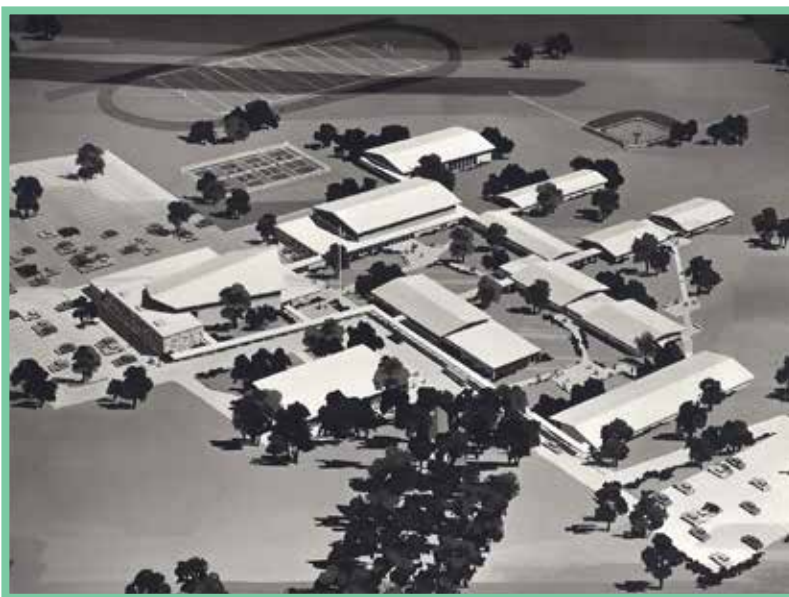
Construction of the original high school was still not completed when a community open house was held on December 13, 1959. The gym and cafeteria were finally opened in early 1960. The following year, the high school board passed a resolution to build another academic wing, and the community voted in favor of a referendum in May of 1962. Plans to build a swimming pool, an auditorium and a fallout shelter (this was during the cold war and "fallout" following a nuclear attack was



*Vern Arendt Weekly Witness image includes: Ozaukee County Superintendent of Schools, Oscar Censky, School Board Members Michael Collucci and President Thomas Walton, Mayor of Mequon Carl Wilbert, President of Thiensville Harold Roethel and Dr. Merton Campbell.*

on everybody's mind) were dropped from the referendum.

The auditorium and swimming pool were eventually approved and opened in December of 1969 along with another new academic wing, the library, the lecture hall and the administrative wing. The additions increased the student capacity to 1800. The most recent additions to Homestead High School were completed in 2000 and included the band, orchestra and choral wing and the new athletic field house.



*Concept drawing of Homestead High School created by Madison, WI architects Joseph Flad and Associates in 1958.*

# History of Homestead High School

*1959 Aerial photo by Vern Arendt of the Weekly Witness taken days prior to the school's opening.*



**Your Renewal is Due**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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