



Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society

Historic Times

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Open Thursday afternoons from 2-5 p.m. and by appointment.

For research, call archivist Bev Silldorff: 262-242-3290

A New Life for the Isham Day House

By Sam Cutler, Jr.

Construction on the little cottage across from Mequon City Hall has begun. Built by Yankee settler Isham Day in 1839, the building, which served not only as a single family home but as a harness shop, print shop, and post office as well, is once again being re-purposed. This time the oldest structure on its original foundation in Ozaukee County will become a postal history museum and postage stamp gallery.

The first order of business to be completed has been the installation of a new roof – cedar shingles with half-round copper gutters and downspouts. The area around the building has been landscaped to direct any runoff away from the foundation. Inside, the major transformation of the north room is under way. The ceiling and second floor joists have been removed revealing the roof rafters and the half timber frame construction technique used by Day.

In 2000, UWM Professor Tom Hubka from the School of Architecture analyzed the unique features of the Day House: “The building has some elements that were not typical of New England construction.” Because of the sloping site, a “walk-out” basement contained



Sam Cutler, Jr., Jim Schaefer, and Dave Salvaggio.

the kitchen. Unlike the half-timber framing method of later German immigrant builders, the Day House is framed with narrow, sawed timbers infilled with fired red bricks. The late local historian Don Silldorff believed that Day probably obtained his timbers and bricks from Peter Turck’s saw mill on Pigeon Creek not far away.

A heating and air conditioning system is now in place, and once the puzzle of connecting the natural gas line to the main under Cedarburg Road is solved, the museum’s walls can be prepared for plastering and painting. With the guidance of General Contractor David Salvaggio and Project Architect Jim Schaefer, the construction work should be completed this fall. Once the reconstruction is accomplished, UWM Professor William Wood and students from the university’s Museum Studies Program will be assisting Historical Society Board Member Sam Cutler in preparing exhibits.

The Mequon River Postal History Museum and Stamp Gallery is scheduled to open in June, 2018.

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MT Historical Society 2017 Board of Directors

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James Schaefer

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262-242-4653

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mcsayner@yahoo.com

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Mequon, WI 53092

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Email: mthistory1839@gmail.com

MTHS Phone: 262-242-3107

Join Us

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, 216 Green Bay Road,
Suite 102, Thiensville, WI 53092. Membership form
located on page 7 of this newsletter.

New Members

July 2017 - October 2017

As of October 24, 2017 the membership of MTHS consists of 179 Individual/family members plus 25 business and organization members for a total of 204.

New Members since the last newsletter:

George and Jennifer Barton
Dell and Joe Dermody
David Paske
Louisa & Andrew Siefert

Members needing to renew their membership in November/December will be able to do so at the Annual Meeting on November 5th at the Mequon Nature Preserve.

See you there,
Mary Sayner
Membership Chair

NOW OVER 200 VOTING MEMBERS

Year End Giving

Please keep the MT Historical Society in mind when you plan your year-end giving. As we have said so many times, we are completely dependent on our members and friends to sustain our society. Your fully tax deductible contributions will help to ensure that the rich history of our community will be available for generations to come.

Many of our members over the age of 70-1/2 have taken advantage of the option to donate to MTHS directly from their retirement account. Always consult your attorney or financial advisor for tax and legal advice.

Thiensville's Historic Districts

Contributed by Bob Blazich, President, MTHS

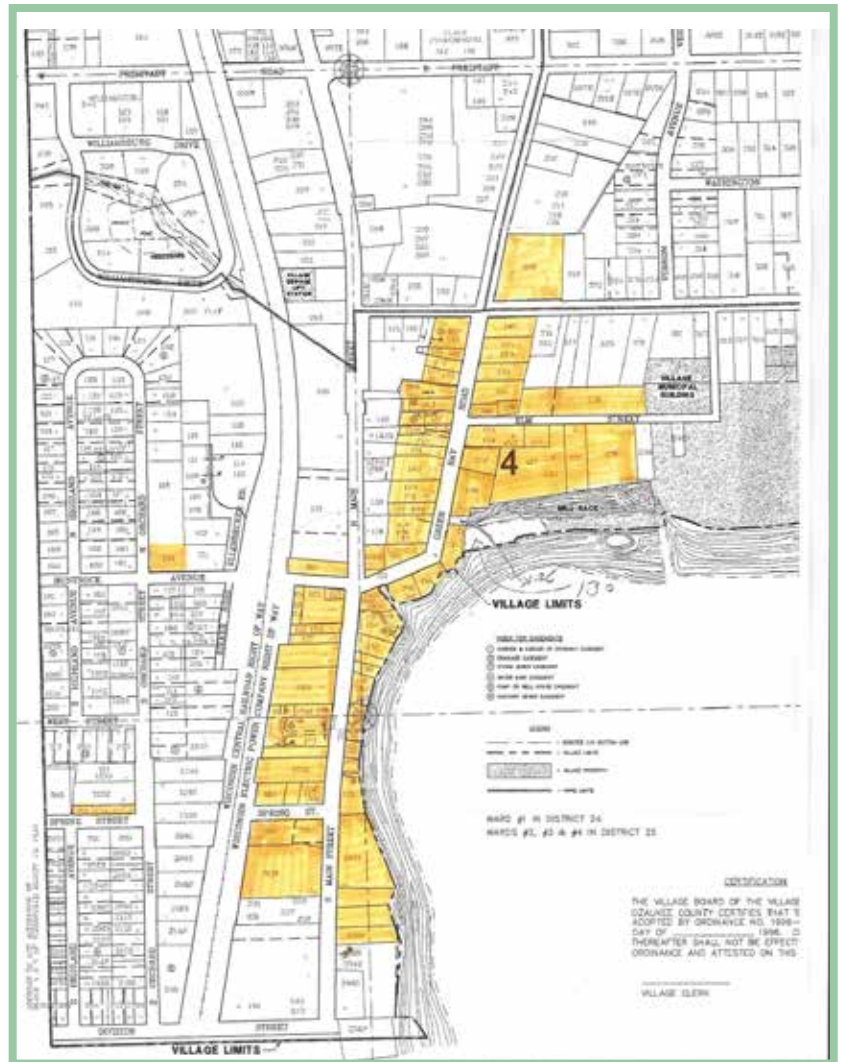
Many of you have heard about Thiensville's Historic District. But the more I talk to people, the more I'm convinced that very few people really understand the district (actually districts). To learn more, I met with Ron Heinritz, a Village of Thiensville trustee and the chair of the village's Historic Preservation Commission.

Ron started by going back to 1984 when the Village of Thiensville was concerned about the loss of buildings in the village's business district. To better understand the health of the business district, an architectural firm, Brust and Heike, was hired to do a comprehensive survey. The report that came out of that study included a recommendation to improve the business district by creating a unifying theme for the center of the village.

Move forward to 1991 when the village board created the Historic Preservation Commission and turned over the leadership of that commission to local historian, Don Miller. Working with MT Historical Society founder Don Silldorff, Miller began to use the information from the Brust and Heike report to identify historic buildings in the village. By 1994, Miller's commission had completed their work, laid out a historic district and conducted a public hearing. The resulting Thiensville Historic District, as created by local ordinance, included most of South Main Street, Elm Street to Village Park and Green Bay Road from Riverview south to Main Street.

Jumping forward to July of 2003, the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), working with a grant from the US National Park Service, ordered an Architectural and Historical Resources Survey of the village. The study was conducted by Heritage Research Corporation who presented their results to the WHS state board.

The outcome of the Heritage Research process was the approval of two, yes two, areas of the village that



qualified for national and state listing as historic districts. The Main Street district includes 10 buildings at the intersection of Main and Buntrock. The second National Historic District is along the west side of Green Bay Road from Glaze to Dr. Abraham's dental office. Why limited to only these areas? To qualify for the state and national register, the buildings in a historic district need to be from the same generation, generally maintain their original appearance and stand side-by-side without interruption.

If you would like more information about Thiensville's Districts, contact Ron Heinritz at the Village Hall.

Recent Happenings at MTHS

Contributed by Bonnie Heintskill

The 60th Anniversary of the City of Mequon Event on Sunday, July 30th



Nancy Szatkowski as Nieman Haus tour docent.



Kathy Nieman and Fred Derr.



Dr. Nina Look, center, and members of the Thiensville-Mequon Rotary Club.



County Supervisor Karl Hertz with tour docents Diane Hetzel, Barb Johnson and Dawn Holyoke.



Tom Nieman giving a personal tour of the Nieman Haus.



Former Mayor Connie Pukaite, Present Mayor Dan Abendroth and Former Mayor Christine Nuernberg

Recent Acquisitions at the Don Silldorff Archive

Contributed by Archivist Bev Silldorff (262-242-3290 or 262-242-3107)

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

Margaret Bussone: MT School Documents, postcards of Thiensville, photos of Wilson School Dedication, photos of Thiensville Mill demolition 1956, School Dist. #3 pictures and clippings

Louise Hoffman: 1970 aerial photos of Mequon, Stemmler mugs (see image at right), Thiensville State Bank ink Blotters, Jr. Women's Club Scrapbook 1971-72,

Jerry Luedtke: Thiensville Lumber Yard Apron

Ozaukee County Historical Society: 1897 & 1905 Baptismal Certificates, 25th Anniversary Program T-M Rotary Club, Menu-Range Line Inn, 1929 Oz. Co. Graduating Exercise Program, Wine List for Nantucket Restaurant, Menu for Chez Paul Restaurant, 1978 Oz. Co Guide-Anniversary/Progress Issue, Newspaper Clippings-1929, 1934 & Black Thorn House, Copy of Wm. F Jahn Biography & Memoirs from Estate of Ruth Renz, Various Issues of The Squire and a 1977 Spectrum.

Lee Wills: Advertising for Bublitz Home Furnishing & Funeral Service, Thiensville.

John & Helen Ward: Mequon -50th Anniversary Tee Shirt, 1st yr. Tee Shirt for Gathering on Green.

Barb Johnson: 1961 Photo Mequon Basketball Team, 1962 Squire Issue on Homestead Graduates, The Citizen - 1963-53 Yrs. of Growth & Progress in Mequon & Thiensville.

Neil Trilling: 4 Maps of Thiensville (Ward, Zones, Parks, & Business & Industrial) from Don Molyneaux's Estate, 1 Photo of Thiensville's Main Street (undated).



Stemmler commemorative mugs donated by Louise Hoffman.

Jonathan Clark House: Milwaukee RR Depot model, Thiensville. Made by Arthur Schait in 1950.

Mike & Marc Schaefer: 1983 News Graphic Pilot – 1st Girl on HHS Football Team: Sue Schaefer, "I Survived the Widening of Mequon Road" mini banner, Photos: HHS Football Team, HHS Girls Track Team, HHS Play Cast, HHS Letter Jacket Insignia: 1982 Chevron.

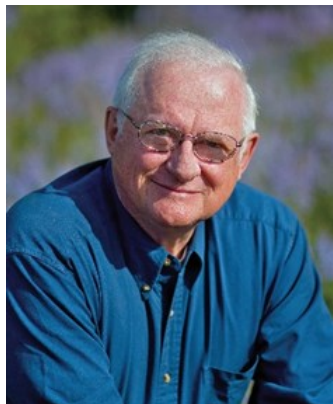
Constance Pukaite: Framed Inked Drawing of Old Mill, Thiensville.



MTHS is active on the web!
Be sure to check out our new website at www.mthistoricalsociety.org
and LIKE us on Facebook.



Never Curse the Rain
**An Extraordinary Presentation by Wisconsin Historian
Jerry Apps**



Sunday, November 5, 2017
Mequon Nature Preserve
8200 W. County Line Road, Mequon

Sponsored by:
Mequon Thiensville Historical Society
Friends of Jonathan Clark House
Mequon Nature Preserve

Growing up on the family farm, Jerry Apps learned from a young age that water was precious. The farm had no running water, a windmill pumped drinking water for the herd of cattle and Jerry and his brothers hauled bucket after bucket of water for the family's use. As Jerry writes, "Water is one of the most precious things on this planet, necessary for all life, and we must do everything we can to protect it." Jerry is Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the author of more than 35 books on rural history and country life.



- 1:30 Exhibits & book sales**
- 1:45 Mequon Thiensville Historical Society Annual Meeting**
- 2:00 Presentation: "Never Curse the Rain"**
- 3:00 Exhibits & book sales**

This event is free & open to the public. For more information contact Bob Blazich at mthistory1839@gmail.com or Nina Look at 262-618-2051. Jerry's presentation is underwritten by an anonymous Mequon family who supports historical and environmental education.

Jerry Apps Presentation at MTHS Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 5th, 1:30 - 3:30pm

One of the highlights of our year at the Historical Society is our MTHS annual meeting held each fall. Based on the attendance at our past meetings, these gatherings have proven to be very popular with society members and the broader community.

We are pleased to invite you to a very special Annual Meeting program this year. Our speaker will be the popular author, lecturer and historian, Jerry Apps. Many of you will know him from the warm and personal books he's written and his many appearances on public television.

Born and raised on a Wisconsin farm, Jerry Apps is

now Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. As the author of over 30 books about rural history and country life, Prof. Apps has chosen the title of his recent book, *Never Curse The Rain: A Farm Boy's Reflections On Water*, as the title for his presentation.

This year's annual meeting program will be held on Sunday, November 5th, from 1:30 – 3:30 PM at the Mequon Nature Preserve on County Line Road in Mequon. The event is being sponsored jointly by The Mequon Nature Preserve, The Friends of Jonathan Clark House and the MT Historical Society. Jerry Apps appearance at this meeting is being underwritten by a generous member of our community.

Volunteers Needed

As winter approaches and thoughts of not being able to work in the garden settle in, why not consider spending one or two mornings each week at the MT Historical Society. The work is very interesting, the company is enjoyable and your contribution to the cataloging of our ever growing collection will help future visitors access information. The coffee is hot, the building is easily accessible and the benefits are many. To learn more, contact Mary Sayner at 262-242-3107 or by email at mthistory1839@gmail.com.

Board Members Sought

We currently have openings for energetic and resourceful board members and would like to fill those positions with members of our historical society. As a board, our responsibility is to ensure the viability of the society, increase public awareness of our organization and continue to collect, preserve and share the rich history of Thiensville-Mequon. If you are interested in learning more about serving on the MTHS board, please contact Bob Blazich at 262-242-4653 or by email at rblazich@gmail.com.

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

Email Address: _____

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: M-T Historical Society, at 216 Green Bay Road, Suite 102, Thiensville, WI 53092.



Historic Times

Mequon - Thiensville Historical Society's

Pictured: Sam Cutler, JR and David Salvaggio in front of the Isham Day House.

SAVE THE DATE!

M-T Historical Society Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 5th, 2017 from 1:30pm - 3:30pm at the Mequon Nature Preserve located at 8200 W. County Line Road in Mequon. Our speaker will be the popular author, lecturer and historian, Jerry Apps.

Your Renewal is Due

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

216 Green Bay Road, Suite 102, Thiensville, WI 53092

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