



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

## IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR

by Bob Blazich, MTHS President

Thanks to our members, friends and local businesses, 2016 turned out to be a very good year for the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society.

You may remember that at this time last year, our society was losing its long-time rent-free home, and we had neither a new location nor the funds to afford one. As we moved into the early months of 2016, things fell into place much to our relief. The Logemann Community Center granted us over \$3,000 as they closed their doors and their books. The City of Mequon, our previous landlord, offered to move our entire collection saving us about \$1,500. Thanks to Wayne Houpt of Suburban Harley, we were able to negotiate a very favorable rental agreement with Sydney Koritzinsky, the property manager of Thiensville Professional Park. Sandy and Jean Custer offered us off-site storage space.

To protect our collection, we needed to find funds to purchase expensive archival storage materials. The Mequon Community Foundation, the TM Lions Club and the Mequon Woman's Club granted us over \$2,400 to purchase the needed storage items.

Three of our members stepped up early in the year to help us build a rent fund. Steve French pledged a full year of monthly donations, Helen and John Ward donated more than a month's rent and a member of

our board paid our first month's rent payment.

Our year-end fundraising campaign included a successful \$4,000 challenge grant that brought donations ranging from \$20 to \$2,000. Special thanks go out to our major donors; MT Sunrise Rotary Club, Bob and Jan Blazich, Sam Cutler, Jr., Connie Pukaite, Pat and Ron Heinritz, Fred Derr and Nina Look, and Mary and Bowne Sayner. The campaign added enough money to pay our \$9,600 rent bill for 2017.

For a year that started out with anxiety and uncertainty, we are pleased to look back on 2016 as a very good year. Our membership increased by roughly 20%, our treasury expanded, our collection is preserved in much needed archival storage and major plans are in place for further expansion in 2017.

Thanks to all of you who helped us move forward in 2016, and we look forward to your continued support and participation in the coming year.

### *Save the Date*

**MTHS Fundraiser on Sunday, July 30th, 2017  
 from 11 am - 5pm at the Nieman Family  
 Residence on Cedarburg Rd.**

Come celebrate Mequon's 60th Anniversary with us.

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# MT Historical Society 2016 Board of Directors

**President:** Bob Blazich  
**Vice-President:** Fay Walker  
**Secretary :** Bonnie Heintskill  
**Treasurer:** Paul Schreiber  
**Membership :** Mary Sayner  
**Archivist:** Bev Silldorff  
**Members:** Sam Cutler  
James Schaefer

**Member Emeritus:** Gordy Hinrichs  
Don Molyneux

## Contact Us

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

**Archivist:** Bev Silldorff, 262-242-3290

### Membership & Volunteer

**Chairperson:** Mary Sayner, 608-881-9935  
mcsayner@yahoo.com

**Newsletter:** Jennifer Hamm, 262-370-2232  
jenniferhamm53092@gmail.com

**Address:** 216 Green Bay Road, Suite 102  
Mequon, WI 53092

**Website:** www.mthistoricalsociety.org

**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

*November 2016 - February 2017*

Edward Foster  
Henderson Group, Inc.  
Dave Jackson  
Kerry Mattingly  
Greg Mueller  
Dianne Robertson  
John and Mimi Rosing  
Tina Schwantes  
Gordon Simons  
Tom and Linda Streifender  
Mary Beth and Lee Szymborski  
Reid VanSluys  
John Wirth

## Shop at Amazon Smile



SHOP AT SMILE.AMAZON.COM  
and Amazon will donate a portion of your  
purchase price to the Mequon-Thiensville  
Historical Society at *no additional cost* to you!

Simply type smile.amazon.com and search for  
"Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society"  
as your charity of choice. Then, every time you  
shop at Amazon, type in:

**smile.amazon.com**

**Thank you for your support!**

# Woman's Club of Mequon

*Contributed by Fay Walker*

Since September of 2016, I have had the pleasure of helping to coordinate and preserve the documentation and history of this local service organization that will be celebrating their 80th year.

The Woman's Club of Mequon started on November 12, 1937. It initially consisted of 15 women from the Township of Mequon and Village of Thiensville. Mrs. N. J. Hoffman was elected as President on December 7, 1937. Its motto, "Together for Service", continues to ring true.

The Woman's Club of Mequon helps local individuals with scholarships, supports local schools and contributes broadly to community projects. All this help is provided without any fanfare or public announcements. It is a group of outstanding and benevolent ladies with an amazingly strong commitment to our community.

How do these women continue to raise money for everyone they help? Throughout the years they have thought of creative ways to fund these endeavors. Some of these were special events to help sponsor fund raising for a Mequon-Thiensville Public Library; while others were bazaars, dinner dances, card parties, luncheons, style shows, craft fairs and cookbooks.



*The Woman's Club met in the Mequon Town Hall, known as the Mequon City Hall after 1957, from their founding in 1936-37. In early 1964, the club, then in their 28th year, purchased the former Mequon Community Methodist Church building at 1425 W. Mequon Road as seen above.*

*The building had been vacant for several years. The growing congregation moved to their new location on Oriole Lane in 1961 following a large donation made in 1959. The Women's Club bought the property on January 15, 1964 and held their first meeting in the new building on February 10th of that year.*

The group worked long and hard to purchase and maintain a permanent site for the club. By November of 1963 it had raised \$6,000.00, however, another \$10,000.00 was needed to purchase a building. The father of club member Marion Hatzinger generously offered a low interest loan giving the club the ability to purchase a vacant church building on Mequon Road that stood at the location of the present BMO Harris Bank.

With a building of its own, the club was able to host many events and rent out the space to various groups. By 1990 it was time for the group to move on and it sold the Club House. Today the group meets in various locations such as the F.L. Weyenberg Library and Grace Lutheran Church. Seventy-nine years after its founding, the Mequon Woman's Club continues to maintain its original commitment as a positive and caring force for our community with service and financial assistance.

Throughout the years, the MWC has maintained wonderful scrapbooks of its yearly activities. Photos in the scrapbooks are often missing names and places. We would like to be able to identify these marvelous women, and hear stories that bring these pictures to life. If you have any information or family or friends have been involved with the organization over the years, please stop by. We are open on Thursdays from 1:00 – 5:00 PM.

# Recent Happenings at MTHS

*Contributed by Bonnie Heintskill*

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, October 23, 2016. Reid VanSluys presented "A Railroad Comes to Ozaukee County, The Milwaukee Road in Thiensville and Mequon, 1871 - 1985." We were very pleased at the turnout and had quite a few "new" faces at the presentation. Thank you Reid for your fun and informative presentation. Marc Mrugala of Edward Jones Investments in Thiensville also gave a short presentation on gifting to non-profit organizations.



*Reid VanSluys presented "A Railroad Comes to Ozaukee County, The Milwaukee Road in Thiensville and Mequon, 1871 - 1985" at the MTHS Annual Meeting on Sunday October 23, 2016.*

In addition to our speakers, Joe McGinty had a display on the Interurban Trains. MTHS member and volunteer, Kathy Hoffman, brought an antique doll display and talked with attendees. Sam Cutler, Jr. had a display on the projected Isham Day House Post Office Museum and collectible stamp sale shop including a 3-D mock-up of what the museum would look like. Jonathan Clark House also had a display at the meeting. Member Judy Voland Helgeland had two display boards on her family farm located on Donges Bay and Wauwatosa Roads. There were also two display boards on the history of the post office in Mequon and Thiensville. Thank you to Steve French, MTHS member, for underwriting the costs for the refreshments!

Sam Cutler, Jr. and Bob Blazich (MTHS board member and board president, respectively) gave

a presentation of the proposed Isham Day House Mequon River Post Office project to the Mequon Common Council's Committee of the Whole in early December. While no vote was taken, the feedback from the members of the Council was very supportive of the project. A brief article about the project is on Page 6 of this newsletter.

With money from one of the two grants we received this fall, we were able to purchase an HP 7740 scanner/copier/fax/printer. It has an extra-large scanning bed which will accommodate up to 11 x 17" flat items. The new printer is networked with all of our MTHS computers and is available to scan any photos or flat historical materials brought to our office.

The Society will have a display on the second floor of the Frank L. Weyenberg Library for the months of July and August, 2017 as well as the entrance display case for the month of August.

Saturday, January 21, MTHS was the host for

the Ozaukee County Historical Co-op meeting in our office. We provided coffee, goodies, and shared ideas to promote each of the 14 organizations that make up the Co-op. It is great to get together with fellow historical societies and share ideas.



*Sam Cutler, Jr. talked to the attendees of the Ozaukee County Historical Co-op meeting on Saturday, January 21st, regarding the Mequon River Post Office project. Pictured Clockwise from bottom: Jean Steinke, Bev Silldorff, Fred Derr, Dr. Nina Look, Ellie Pipkorn, Terry Schoessow, Sam Cutler, Jr., Margaret Bussone, Bob Gosewehr, Fay Walker, and John Enright.*

# Volunteer for MTHS

*Contributed by Mary Sayner*

All of the Board members of the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society are volunteers first and Officers and Board members after that. Each member of the Board volunteers in his/her own way to MTHS depending on what needs to be done, what skills he/she has, and what time is available to him/her for volunteering. Regardless of the time or task accomplished, as volunteer chair I appreciate all that is done. Thank You!

Other volunteers are also vital to MTHS. One knowing that she was to be gone during the Taste of Mequon prepared a number of picture boards to be used in the Isham Day House during the event. Another has taken a liking to the Victorian doll house that was donated to the society. She has taken it upon herself to add to the house to reflect the use of a home in the 1800's and also to give it a look of a home one would see while walking the streets of Thiensville. In addition, this volunteer has taken charge of the newspaper personal and business files, organizing and expanding them as needed.

Another volunteer is working on clipping newspapers and magazines preparing articles to be filed. Others

are sorting through boxes of donated items from a City of Mequon Mayor, the Logemann Community Center, the former Ford dealership in Thiensville, or helping with moving all of MTHS's photos into a permanent file case. Another is making copies of documents for a family collection and then making sure that the originals are properly returned.

During certain times of the year the number of volunteers seems small. Volunteers need time to assist a family member when there are things like a move, purchase of a home, the welcoming of a baby to the family, a wedding to plan and attend, etc. MTHS believes that family comes first. So we are happy to adjust.

There is much to do. MTHS welcomes all volunteers. If you can schedule but an hour a week, you will be welcome and given a project to work on. Working together, much can be accomplished. Hope that you can join the volunteer force in 2017.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT 2016 VOLUNTEER YEAR!

## Preserving and Sharing our History - The 2017 MTHS Calendar

Did you get a copy of the 2017 Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society Calendar which was made possible by the financial support for Suburban Motors Harley-Davidson? If not, stop by the Society on Thursdays from 1-5 pm to pick up your copy for the low price of \$5.00 each. Members receive one free copy. If you are not currently a member, see page 7 for our membership form.

If you have suggestions or images that you would like added in coming years, please contact MTHS at 262-242-3290 to share your thoughts. We would love to hear from you!

## MTHS Wish List

*MTHS is in need of the following items. Remember, your donations are tax deductible! Call us for more details.*

### **Office Supplies:**

- \* 2-step collapsible stool with wide steps and hand rail.
- \* Seagate Backup Plus External Hard Drive 5 TB, WIFI accessibility and 200 GB cloud storage.
- \* 1st class stamps - 100

### **Volunteers:**

- \* Social Media
- \* QuickBooks
- \* Website
- \* Newsletter
- \* Underwrite a newsletter (\$100)

# 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.

Judy and Glen Helgeland:

- Office supplies and equipment

Roy Wetzel:

- Copy of matchbook cover Keiper Cheese House

Ruth Renz Estate:

- Pictures, pamphlets, and books relating to Mequon and Thiensville and the people who lived here.
- Personal and professional documents

Gary Kohls:

- Corrigan's History of Mequon, 1st printing.

Thiensville-Mequon Rotary Club:

- 50th Anniversary Celebration program, 1937-1987.
- Plaque of Recognition to Mert Campbell.
- T-M Rotary Club Membership Directory (undated) *\*See Image at right.*

Steve Peterman of TWP Architecture, LTD:

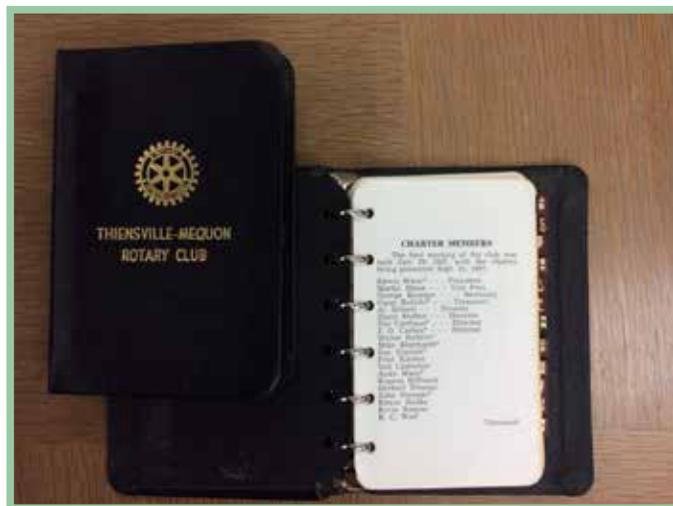
- Seven flat file storage units.

Paul Schwengel:

- U.S. 3 Cent Mint Sheets and postage.

Rick Riemer:

- Photo collage consisting of 6 Thiensville historic buildings.



## A New Life for the Isham Day House

*Contributed by Sam Cutler, Jr.*

Over its 177-year history, the little house across from the Mequon City Hall served several different purposes – as a pioneer settler's cottage, a harness-maker's shop, an ante bellum post office, a printer and a family residence from the 1930's to the 1980's.

If things go according to plan, the Isham Day House will begin a new role as a postal history museum and stamp gallery. The new museum will focus on the historical significance of the building's early use as the Mequon River Post Office. In the years directly before the Civil War, the house was literally the center of the town. It provided a crucial link between this growing farming community and the outside world. Before the coming of the telephone, radio, and television, let alone the internet, information was delivered by letters and newspapers through the U.S. Mail.

Going forward, the outward appearance of the house will hardly change, save for a much needed new roof. The lion's share of the transformation will come in preparing the two small 10' X 17' rooms to receive visitors and house the museum's collection of postage stamps and other related postal history artifacts.

Once the City of Mequon (the landlord) approves the plan submitted by the MT Historical Society (the tenant), construction should begin this coming summer. The grand opening of the postal museum is slated for June of 2018.

We will keep you "posted" as to our progress through this newsletter and our website. Get ready for a "first class delivery" of a fascinating story about Mequon-Thiensville's historic past.

# The Victorian Doll House

Contributed by Kathy Hoffman

This fall, the MT Historical Society was excited to receive the donation of a Victorian-style dollhouse from Barbara Hansen. Hand-built by a resident of Willowbrook Place, the two-story, eight-room house was carefully conveyed by Willowbrook staff to the Society's Thiensville office. The dollhouse provides a tangible exhibit for visitors to the office to enjoy.

The exterior of the house boasts yellow clapboard siding, a shingled roof, double-hung windows and a wrap-around porch. The fully furnished interior includes a parlor, formal dining room, bedroom and bathroom, and a farm kitchen complete with tiny porcelain dishes on the table.

Work has begun to add embellishments to the house inspired by architectural details of some of



Thiensville's historic homes. These will include the sunburst gable peak of the 1884 Hoeft home at 151 Green Bay Road; the porch columns and railing of the 1895 Gierach home at 153-155 Green Bay Road, and the gingerbread trim of the 1884 Gierach-Hadler home at 173-175 Green Bay Road. The Village of Thiensville's Historic District Walking Tour booklet is being used for close-up photos of the Victorian and Queen Anne details of the homes.

Lightning rods and an old-style chimney will be added to the roof. Several rocking chairs and a bicycle now reside on the porch. The furnishings of two additional rooms are being expanded upon to create a music room and sewing room.

MTHS member, Kathy Hoffman, and her mother, Margaret Hoffman, are donating labor and materials for this project.

## 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.*



*Picture of the 1952 Woman's Club of Mequon Charter Members: Back Row: Mmes. Carl Wilbert, Edwin Lucht, Hannah Knepel, Carl Gruenwald and Walter Hesse. Front Row: Mmes. "unidentified", Louis Ernst, N.J. Hoffman, Oscar Sommer and Al Duehring*

# Historic Times

Mequon - Thiensville Historical Society's

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**M-T Historical Society Fundraiser on Sunday, July 30th, 2017 from 11am - 5pm at the Nieman Family Residence** Mark your calendars! You are invited to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the City of Mequon with an outdoor event at the Nieman home on Cedarburg Road.

**Your Renewal is Due**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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