



Published by Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society
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Open Thursday afternoons from 2-5 p.m. and by appointment.

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

From Our Archives

By Bob Blazich, President

As we enter our 30th year as a society, I thought it fitting that we respect our own history and begin to republish newsletter articles that have been written over the years. There have been many, many interesting and informative articles written by Don Silldorff, our founder, and others that need to have the dust blown off them. I hope you will enjoy reading these articles as we include them in future editions of our society newsletter.

The first Mequon Historical Society, Inc. newsletter was published on August 11, 1987. The newsletter listed the address of the society as the Silldorff home on Briarhill in Freistadt and opened with these paragraphs:

*Welcome to the Mequon Historical Society
by Don Silldorff*

I have thought a lot about how one inaugurates a newsletter for a fledgling Historical Society. I decided that the best way is to just "get with it". So here goes.

We have embarked on an adventure which is long



The Mequon Historical Society was founded in 1987 and included members of the former Mequon Men's Club that ceased operations that same year. The Mequon Men's Club not only established the historical society, but one of their members, Ottomar Logemann, financed the conversion of the the Mequon Public Safety building into a community center and the home of the historical society.

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MT Historical Society 2018 Board of Directors

President: Bob Blazich
Vice-President: Fay Walker
Treasurer: Rachel Munhin-Young
Membership : Mary Sayner
Archivist: Bev Silldorff
Members: Sam Cutler
Doug Hansen
James Schaefer
Paul Schreiber

Member Emeritus: Gordy Hinrichs
Don Molyneux

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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

As of January, 2018, MTHS has 211 individual voting members and 26 Business/ Organization memberships. During the past month, MTHS gained several new members thanks in part to the inclusion of a free 2018 Historic Photo Calendar underwritten by Suburban Harley-Davidson.

*Gary Achterberg
Harry & Marilyn Banzhaf
Richard Bonkoski
Rita Czukas
Tim Dunar & Louise Dernehl
Christine Fricke
Jim Gennrich
Diana Hetzel
Bob & Jane Johannes
Rob Kos
Joe & Judy McGinty
Manoj & Preeti Mehta
Rachel Muchin-Young
Shirley Nygaard
Mike & Clary Wamhoff
Weyenberg Library*

Mequon River Postal Museum Update

We hope you have seen the extensive work being done to convert the historic Isham Day House into the Mequon River Postal Museum. The roof is on, the gutters are up, the furnace is in (and working), the insulation is in place and the plastering is completed.

Sam Cutler, a member of our MTHS board and benefactor of the project, hopes to start work on the interior displays and stamp collection gallery soon. A major portion of our Spring Newsletter will be devoted to this project, and a summer, 2018, opening is planned.

For more information about the museum project or to donate stamps, please contact Sam Cutler at slcutler@att.net or by contacting the MT Historical Society.

From Our Archives, Continued from Page 1

Contributed by Bob Blazich, President, MTHS

overdue. Early records of much of Mequon's history has been lost forever and more is disappearing daily. We want to reverse this. That which remains is out there waiting to be found as in a treasure hunt. Keep an eye out for it. We will define some of the collectible material we are looking for in a future newsletter.

We have begun to acquire papers and photos of all types which depict the history of Mequon. If you have materials or know of materials that would be donated, make note of it. It is a little premature to actively collect items. Acquisitions, or accessions as they are called, require a form to be filled out describing the materials. Signatures of the donor and the donee will be required. Please contact Don Silldorff for information.

Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 1 goes on to share information about membership cards, an Annual Meeting planned for October 1, 1987, and listed the members of the founding Mequon Historical Society board. With the exception of Don Silldorff, all of the initial board members came to the society from the Mequon Men's Club which disbanded in 1987. The board roster included Ottomar Logemann, President, Donald J. Goni, Vice President, Fredrick Bote, Treasurer, Donald E. Silldorff, Secretary, and members Louis Lemke, William Kachel, Dr. Joseph E. Hoffman, and John J. Weber, Jr.

MTHS 2018 Calendar a Huge Success

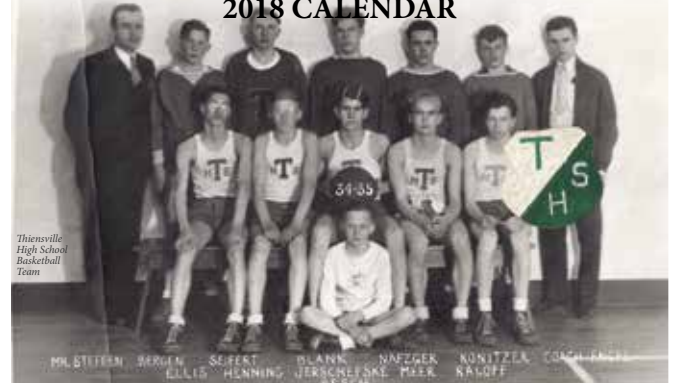
Contributed by Bob Blazich, President, MTHS

Thanks to the generosity of Suburban Harley-Davidson who underwrote the printing of the 2018 MTHS Historic Photograph Calendar and Jenny Hamm who created the calendar, our historical society has added 14 new members and received valuable publicity for the society.

Now in its third year of publication, the photo calendar has proven to be a great public relations tool for the society and a much appreciated free benefit for our members.

If you have not picked up your 2018 calendar, they are available at Suburban Harley, the Village of Thiensville office and the Port Washington State Bank office in Thiensville. Additional copies are available for \$5 each at these three outlets and are offered for free with new memberships starting at \$15 per year.

MEQUON - THIENSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018 CALENDAR



Recent Happenings at MTHS

MTHS ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

With over 120 people in attendance, Nina Look, the executive director of the Jonathan Clark House Museum, introduced well known author, historian and story teller, Jerry Apps. Apps, a retired UW-Madison professor, shared several stories from his childhood days growing up on a farm, and read from his latest book, *Never Curse the Rain*.

The event was held at the Mequon Nature Preserve and drew a record annual meeting crowd. Refreshments were served, several door prizes were awarded and many people stood in line to purchase autographed copies of books by Jerry Apps.

MTHS ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS

The Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society held a very well attended annual meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2018, at the Mequon Nature Preserve. Activities of 2017 were reviewed and a treasury balance of \$16,163.01 was approved.

Three highlights of 2017 were the Nieman Haus event that was attended by over 400 people, the start of the conversion of the Isham Day House into The Mequon River Post Office Museum and a report that our voting roster now exceeds 200 members.

Three current MTHS board members were reelected to three year terms. Mary Sayner, Paul Schreiber and Bev Silldorff were elected to new terms that end in December of 2020.

Our goals for 2018 include hosting a community event at the second Nieman home on Buntrock Avenue, opening the Mequon River Post Office Museum, bringing PastPerfect and Quickbooks software online and coordinating research material projects with the Weyenberg Library.



Author, historian, and story teller, Jerry Apps spoke at the MTHS 2017 Annual Meeting.

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.

Henderson Group: 4 Four drawer HON file cabinets (delivered)

Mary Sayner: 1 two drawer file cabinet (delivered)

Barb Mantz: Framed Drawings by Jean Mantz of 4 Thiensville Historic Buildings

Bob Johannes: Stamp Collection – 20th Century Commemorative Covers (International)

Steve Lawrenz: Book for collection

Ozaukee County Historical Society:

Bio of Wm. F. Jahn, Various issues of The Squire 1962 – 67, The Spectrum Clippings 1967, Magazine THE EDIBLE MILWAUKEE containing article "Our German Soldiers: A Place in Milwaukee During Wartime: notes of Donald Look used as a source. Aerial photo of proposed Lac de Cours, various clippings from News Graphic Pilot, News Graphic, and Mil Journal, Picture of Thiensville depot, Info on property ownership of Donald & Arlie Look, 1889 Copy of the Cedarburg News, and 1983 News Graphic Pilot picture of F.G. Memmler, and News Graphic Pilot magazine "100 Years" (1 copy.) A 1992 framed celebration certificate from Chamber of Commerce regarding ZIP Code Day --"will become a valuable collectors' item."

Walter Colegrove: DVD-R of Gertrude Memmler (9/17/2008) telling of early Mequon.



Four drawer filing cabinets donated by The Henderson Group for use by the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society.

Joan Ravenscraft Vickerman: Copy of "Challenges & Changes in Professional Woman's Life", Various newspaper clippings dealing with Motel Ownership, photos board showing development of business site on Port Road/Donges Bay Rd., post card ads for Port Zedler Motel, 14 pictures depicting development of grocery store, restaurant, motel, picture of Joan golfing, 2 wedding pictures and 1 family portrait.



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



New M-T Historical Society Board Members



Rachel Muchin-Young

Rachel Muchin-Young is new to the community, but not new to historical societies. She served on the Board of Directors of the Manitowoc County Historical Society, and partnered with both MCHS and Franklin Historical Society to offer library programs and projects celebrating the heritage of those communities.

Rachel is the Library Director of Frank L. Weyenberg Library of Mequon-Thiensville. She joined FLW after serving four years as director of Franklin Public Library in Southwestern Milwaukee County. Prior to that she was the Public Services Coordinator at Manitowoc Public Library. Rachel is also a member of the Thiensville-Mequon Rotary Club, Wisconsin Library Association, and American Library Association. One of Rachel's goals at the Weyenberg Library is to develop a Wisconsin History Collection, with a focus on Thiensville, Mequon, and Ozaukee County. To that end, the library is currently remodeling second floor storage space and outfitting it for historical materials.

Before entering library-land, Rachel and her husband, Patrick Young, owned an advertising agency and photographic studio in Manitowoc.

Rachel and Patrick are the parents of three adult daughters, and the grandparents of two young grandchildren who live conveniently in Cedarburg. Spoiling them is her primary hobby. She also reads and knits. "I'm overwhelmed by the warm welcome I've received from this community. It's where I'm meant to be," she said.



Doug Hansen

Doug Hansen, an insurance advisor at Doug Hansen & Associates in Thiensville, opened his insurance agency in 1990. Doug grew up on Washington Island and attended UW-Milwaukee before obtaining a master's Degree in Public Administration from UW-Oshkosh. Prior to entering the insurance field, Doug worked as an addictions therapist and hospital administrator. Doug retired from a 26 year US Army Reserves career with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Outside of work, Doug has been a local Rotarian for over 20 years and he founded a Rotary Medical Mission to Guatemala that he continues to support. Doug is also a member of the MT Chamber of Commerce, the Thiensville Business Association and Alliance Bible Church.

Doug lives in Mequon with his wife of 43 years, Pam. They enjoy time with their adult children and grandchildren and returning to Doug's family home and their cabin on Washington Island.

What do you gain by Volunteering?

Besides working to preserve the history of the Mequon Thiensville area and being with a group of congenial people, volunteering gives one the opportunity to be a sleuth.

As a volunteer working on a project, one finds information that people who grew up here don't remember or never knew. Who knows where the BLUE SHUTTER RESTAURANT was and whether a restaurant is at that location now? Have you knowledge SUSCH'S PINE GROVE RESTAURANT just north of Fairy Chasm on the lakefront? Did this become the Chalet on the Lake? A plat map may identify a drugstore on the corner of Mequon Road and Hwy. 57 as Seyfert's Drugstore or maybe Siefert's Drugstore. Why the difference? An 1892 Insurance Map shows that the Opitz Cemetery abutted the Milwaukee Northern Electric Railroad tracks, now the Bike Trail. Were there people buried where now there is a road? Was there moving of graves and reburial? Who knows?

MTHS needs people with time, curiosity, perseverance and a desire to safe guard the documents that tell the history of this area. I hope that it is you. The next sleuth of MTHS!

Mary Sayner

Matching Grant Challenge Near Goal

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous MTHS member, members and friends of MTHS were given the opportunity to double their donations to the society. We are within reach of our \$3,000 matching grant and hope to be able to close out the fundraising drive in the coming weeks.

Thank you to the following members and friends for their generous donations:

*Mequon Womans Club
Margaret Bussone
Steve French
Carolie Goniu
Ron and Pat Heinritz
Mary Sayner
Lorry Roensch
Fay & Rick Walker
James and Leanna Wills
David & Jean Johnson
Kathy Hoffman
Bob & Mary Beth Henderson
Pat & Don Engelbert
Joe & Judy McGinty*

The board of MTHS wishes to extend a very special thank you to Joyce Rosenberg for her generous donation of \$2000 as a memorial to her late husband, Marty Gadzichowski.

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.

Your Renewal is Due

Become a Volunteer!

Contact Mary Sayner, Volunteer Coordinator, at 262-242-3107 for more information.



Megun - Thiensville Historical Society's

February
images
from the
Megun-
Thiensville
Historical
Society
Calendar.

Collection of vintage
Valentines Day cards from
the Turck/Wilbert Family
Collection at the Megun-
Thiensville Historical Society
archives. Dates unknown.