A Commitment to Our Members

President’s Message

At our recent annual meeting, I discussed the advancement of the Society during this past year and promised those in attendance that we would do a better job of communicating with our members.

Throughout our 25+ years as an organization, the Mequon Thiensville Historical Society has relied on the financial and volunteer support of our membership. Members from our immediate community and from throughout the United States have helped the Society achieve our mission of collecting, preserving and sharing the history of the Town of Mequon and its successors, Mequon and Thiensville.

Roughly 10 years ago, the Mequon Historical Society, as it was then known, continued to serve the community. But the organization had become increasingly dependent on the support of donors and patrons to meet the cost of keeping the organization functioning and maintaining the historic Isham Day House which we lease from the City of Mequon.

Move ahead to November, 2010. Thanks to generous donations from The MT Sunrise Rotary Club, The Mequon Community Foundation, Logemann Community Center, and member Connie Pukaite, the Society was able to sponsor a free presentation by Milwaukee historian and author John Gurda. Over 100 people attended the Gurda program and many of our attendees became members that night. The process of rebuilding our membership had begun.

The organization is now nearing 30 years, and has committed itself to returning to its history of being a membership driven organization. We rely on your dues to pay our bills and grow. We have recently used member dues to purchase archival storage materials to protect our growing collection. We also rely on volunteers from our membership to do the work involved in organizing and cataloging our collection.

Thank you for supporting MTHS through your membership. We are a 501.c.3 non-profit organization and all dues and donations are fully tax deductible. If you have any membership-related questions, comments or suggestions, please contact our Membership Chair, Amanda Heintskill, at 262-227-9316.

Bob Blazich

Save The Date

Pommerntag Festival

Sunday, June 28th, 2015

Noon to 6 p.m.

Mequon Rotary Park  4100 W. Highland Rd., Mequon
http://pommerschervereinfreistadt.org
Sponsored by the Pommerscher Verein Freistadt

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MT Historical Society
2015 Board of Directors

President: Bob Blazich
Vice-President: Mary Sayner
Secretary: Bonnie Heintskill
Treasurer: Don Molyneux
Membership: Amanda Heintskill
Archivist: Bev Silldorff
Researcher: Ruth Renz
Newsletter: Jennifer Hamm
Members: James Schaefer
         Paul Schreiber
Member Emeritus: Don Goniu
Member Emeritus: Gordy Hinrichs
Ex-Officio: 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

Grow with Us

The MT Historical Society has grown rapidly during the past two years. We have approximately 250 voting members including members from several states. Join today. It’s easy. Memberships also make great gifts!

Annual Membership:
Individual ..........................$10
Family ...................................$15
Contributing .........................$25
Business ...............................$75
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. For more membership information, please call our office at 262-242-3107.

We Need Volunteers

Contributed by Mary Sayner, Vice President

Two thousand fifteen (2015) has begun with mainly board members of the M-T Historical Society doing the volunteer work to keep the society moving. Your financial support through dues and donations is greatly appreciated. But we also need your expertise, time, muscle, sweat, and creative juices to move ahead.

The archive needs you to “clip, file, index and organize.” The Society needs you to represent the organization in the “Fun Before the Fourth Parade.” You could help staff the Isham Day House during open weekends in the summer, or tell the story of Mequon and Thiensville during the “Taste of Mequon” in fall. Maybe help with programming for the Annual Meeting, or provide ideas to a committee if fundraising is your thing. The website for the Society is crying for attention. It needs an influx of materials to update the community on what is happening.

Will you help? We have advertised our need for help to the membership in recent newsletters hoping that you would call us. That did not happen. So-----members of the board will be calling you. I know that you will be sitting on “pins and needles” waiting for the call!

Contact Mary Sayner at 262-242-2624/mcsm.ths@gmail.com to volunteer to help.

Save the Date

Isham Day House Clean Up Event
May 2nd, 2015 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Come join us on May 2nd from 10:00 a.m.
to 1:00 p.m. We’ll provide the cleaning supplies, you provide the smiling faces. All cleaning will be inside and on the first floor. Help us with various light cleaning duties such as:

• Sweeping/Vacuuming
• Window Washing
• Floor Washing, etc.

Please call 262-242-3107 if you can help.
History of the Mequon-Thiensville Farmers Market
Contributed by Bonnie Heintskill, Board Secretary

Cutting and filing advertisements at the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society is illuminating and fun. It is interesting to see what companies and businesses were here back in the 1990’s and who are still around in 2015. Many ads were from the Mequon Pavilions and its tenants as well as East Town Square Mall. Individual businesses also advertised their services such as accountant firms, lawyers, counseling, apparel shops and shoe stores in both Mequon and Thiensville. One example is an ad for the Thiensville Business Associations’ Farmer’s Market.

The Thiensville Farmer’s Market originated around mid-1980’s. In June 1995 an ad was placed in the Inside Mequon magazine. In October 1995, the Northshore Lifestyle Magazine used photographs featuring locals shopping as well as the farm merchants. Current ads are now seen in the News Graphic and The Ozaukee Guide.

The Thiensville market first started in the parking lot of the old Sentry Food Store (currently where Cousins Submarine Sandwich Shop is) on North Main Street (Old Highway 57) and Freistadt Roads. Local farmers would bring their fresh produce once a week and sell it from their trucks or stands. The market would run from June through October. It eventually moved across the street to the Bonniwell Shopping Plaza (where Walgreens is now) at the southeast corner of Freistadt and Main Street. Two years ago, in 2013, it was moved to Thiensville Park and expanded to include other merchants, premade food for lunches or dinners and live entertainment. The Logemann Center sells fresh squeezed lemonade to quench your summer thirst while shopping.

This year it was not only in the parking lot on the west side of the park but grew to include merchants also IN the park with tents, trucks, booths, and tables. What originally started out as just fruits and vegetables has expanded to include a variety of craft products, homemade soaps, essential oils, and garden plants, fresh baked goods, etc. The Farmer’s Market has had a local chef’s contest for both adults and children each year with the winner attending a cook-off in Chicago. The chefs have to use fresh ingredients found in that day’s vendors. There are different types of activities as well as entertainment to appeal to any age besides shopping.

The farmers market runs rain or shine from approximately June 17 through October 25 each year. Keeping up with the electronic age, the Thiensville Business Association will send out reminder emails on Monday nights as well as list who will be selling their products. All you have to do is sign up at the TBA booth at the entrance to the park. They also have a Facebook Page to keep you up to date.
What’s Going on at the Society?
Contributed by Bonnie Heintskill, Board Secretary

This past quarter, with the holiday season, it has been quiet for MTHS staff, Board Members, and volunteers.

Our Winter newsletter, designed by volunteer and board member Jennifer Hamm, was issued in December. We appreciate the many compliments received for the look and content of this issue. If you have suggestions for future issues or articles, please feel free to submit your ideas to President Bob Blazich at mthistory1839@gmail.com.

With the passing of Don Silldorff and the “retirement” of Donald Goniu and Gordy Hinrichs as active Board Members, we had openings on our Board of Directors. The three open spots were filled by Jennifer Hamm, Paul Schreiber and Mark Brunner.

Jennifer is a native of Mequon, has a 5 year old entering kindergarten in the Mequon-Thiensville school district, and works part-time. Paul moved to the area in 1974 and is a newly retired Northwest Mutual Agent. Mark Brunner is the business director of Logemann Center. Mark’s family originally settled between Range Line and County Line Roads. His family is the Caretaker of St. Peters Cemetery in River Hills which is the former Brunner Farm in Mequon. Mark joined the Board as Ex-Officio but will still remain with the Logemann Center. Ex-Officio means that he is here representing Logemann on our Board but will have no voting power. All subsequent Logemann Business Directors would be Ex-Officio. Paul is a full Board Member with voting rights as well as Jenny. We welcome all three new members to our Board and look forward to working with them.

Volunteers have been busily working in the Donald Silldorff Archive Room. Organizing donated items, collections of newspapers, obituaries, photos, and events takes time and effort. One recent donation consisted of the complete paperwork archive of a former Mequon-Thiensville School District superintendent, Dr. Campbell. Mary Sayner, Vice President of MTHS, is in the process of indexing this donation which is housed in several banker’s boxes. She also had to cull out duplicates while she was reading the information before indexing it on the computer and then making file folders to archive all the materials.

Another project Mary Sayner spearheaded, along with help from other volunteers, was cutting out advertisements and stories in the Northshore Lifestyle Magazine, and Mequon Insider Magazine, relating to businesses and local residents in the Mequon-Thiensville area. The volunteers had to write the name of the magazine and the dates on each ad for archival purposes. Bonnie Heintskill has been alphabetizing these ads as well as making files for them for the filing cabinets. Even though it may sound like boring work, it never is! It is so interesting to see old advertisements from 20+ years ago and read about local individuals and organizations.

Board member Ruth Renz, and volunteer Donna L. Eigel, are currently working on obituaries. Ruth clips articles from old newspapers and Donna indexes the names and files them alphabetically in the file cabinets. Our family files are growing thanks to these ladies! If you have copies of obituaries, funeral cards, photos, or family histories, we would love a copy!

The Society is working on a grant application from the Wisconsin State Historical Society which, if received, will fund the purchase of an archival software called Past Perfect Museum. This will enable us to scan in photos, index books and family names, and create a membership data base. Other upcoming events in the summer will include taking part in the Family Fun Before the 4th parade and activities, Historic Days in the fall, and have the Isham Day House open for The Taste of Mequon as well as our annual meeting and presentation in November. We are always looking for new event ideas, and volunteers to help at events, so please feel free to contact us.

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Recent Acquisitions at the Archive
Contributed by Archivist Bev Sildorff (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.

Donald Molyneux:
• Lions event photo books and clippings.

Elaine Behm Corcoran:
• Ozaukee County pewter ornaments (see image).
• Ozaukee County Historical Society Interurban Depot Ornament.

Harold Schnell:
• Carbys genealogy.
• Article from 1939 Life Magazine, “Germans in America.”
• Information and pictures regarding the John Gierach Family and home, pictured in the Life Magazine article mentioned above.
• Four drawer metal filing cabinet.
• Booklet: Things Worth Knowing about the Telephone; and more.

Richard Bailey:
• 1966 letter from August R. Suelflow to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Suelfow.
• 1957 article, “When the Girls Began to Say “Number, Please?” in Wisconsin.
• Trinity of Freistadt Historical Society notes from year 2000, “Freistadt Joins the Telephone Age.”
• Article regarding the “History” of telephone expansion in Mequon-Thiensville by Harold Schnell.
• 1999 Letter from Ameritech, Wm. O. Cauglin, to Harold Schnell.
• Various other telephone company related articles.

Cindy Bock:
• Homestead High School Commencement Exercises Programs, various years.
• Dr. Campbell information, speech notes, and recorded speeches.

Tom Ladky:
• Image of Donges Bay Garage circa 1923.

Pewter Ozaukee County Ornaments donated by Elaine Behm Corcoran.

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

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

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

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Your Renewal is Due