



Many improvements coming to MCHS

Board members and volunteers are working hard moving cases, building shelves, cataloguing items, and developing new exhibits at the historical society. Carol Claesges, Secretary and Curator, is putting together a music exhibit that will be fun for visitors to view. She's shown on the left with some of the items that will be included in the display including a 1930s juke box and wax cylinder Victrola.

Carol is also, with the help of other volunteers, working hard to get every item catalogued and to identify its location so it is easier to find. Finally, after almost a decade of consideration, volunteers will begin inputting the collection items into Past Perfect, a museum software system that will greatly improve collection records and accessibility. It will be a slow process, but well worth it in the end.

Upcoming events

May 31 1:30 PM *It's Daylight in the Swamps*
lumberjack program (see inside for more info)
June 13 Strawberry Sociable
July 8-12 Marquette County Fair
July 23 6 PM Indian Trail Tree presentation
Oct date to be announced Oxford Paranormal Society
November 11 MCHS Annual Meeting
November 27, 28 Cookie Walk

Watch the Marquette County Tribune and our Facebook page for updated information about these events

Right, Board members Norma Weisbrod and Jo Groskreutz worked on recording and identifying hats in the collection of MCHS. An ongoing process, MCHS has an extensive collection of historical clothing items and textiles. Over the past few years, the society has purchased acid free tissue paper and boxes to protect the items from deterioration. One of the plans for new exhibits is to change them on a regular basis so that visitors can see more of the artifacts that people have donated.



“It's Daylight in the Swamps!” A Musical Tribute to the Lumberjacks

Ironwood based singer/storyteller Bill Jamerson, will present an hour-long musical tribute to the Wisconsin lumberjacks on Sunday May 31, at the Marquette County Historical Society at 1:30 pm. The program is free and open to the public. Donations are encouraged. The presentation is as entertaining as it is important; as honest as it is fun. It's about people both ordinary and extraordinary, with stories of strength, wit and charm.

With guitar in hand and dressed as a lumberjack, Jamerson sings traditional lumberjack songs and tells stories about life in the lumber camps. He takes his audience on a musical journey with songs about working in the woods, living in a bunkhouse, the hardships of river drives, the importance of camp food, and going into town in spring.

Most of the lumberjacks were newly arrived immigrants who brought a zest for living and a hunger for the American dream. The majority came to America to become homesteaders. Many lumberjacks who acquired property for farming, continued to spend their winters working in the logging camps for extra income. Jamerson shares stories he learned from his grandfather and from others who either worked in the woods or had family members work as lumberjacks.

Jamerson's program includes traditional lumberjack songs that were passed from camp to camp. Some of the songs include, A Lumberjack's Life, which tells of the hardships of working in the cold. Jack Haggerty is the story of a broken-hearted river man, and Jolly Shanty Boy explores the revelry when lumberjacks blew into town. A Shanty Boy in the Pines tells of the many jobs in the woods, while Shanty Boy Wins tells of the rivalry between farmers and lumberjacks. The songs range from foot stomping jigs to soulful ballads.

Jamerson produced eleven historical documentaries for Michigan Public Television, a CD of songs and historical novel about the Civilian Conservation Corps. For more information about this program, please visit his website at www.billjamerson.com or call the historical society at 296-4700.



Two of the new exhibits at MCHS are the Briggsville, left, and the redone Veterans, below. Volunteer Cheryl Ritchie redid the Veterans exhibit for MCHS. The Fire Department exhibit has also been redone. Stop by to see these and other changes being made at the museum.





Glass plate negative prints now ready to view

A few years ago, a Township of Buffalo resident and descendent of the von der Sump family started thinking about what to do with a large number of glass plate negatives in her house. They came from a long ago family member who was a photographer. Most of the photos dated to between 1890 and 1910. She asked one of the MHPS board members who suggested she consider donating them to the Wisconsin Historical Society with the aim of having a full set of prints available at MCHS for use in research.

The stars lined up because now the over 150 photos are available in prints and digital format at MCHS and they are online on the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

Kathleen McGwin contacted Dr. Jim Slattery about the photos. Slattery volunteers each week in the photography area of WHS. He asked the director there if WHS would be interested in the photos. It takes special equipment to scan glass



plate negative and they also must be stored carefully to avoid deterioration.

WHS said they would like the plates and Jim spent countless hours scanning them, putting together an index, and making an album and the digital photos for MCHS. What a gift these photos are. They are a record of what life was like 120 years ago in Marquette County. There are photos of farm equipment, the sorghum press shown above, farm homes in the neighborhood, and recreational activities of the family and their friends.

Go to wisconsinhistory.org and search von der Sump to view the collection online. Or, come to MCHS and browse the photos in the album.

Visit our website: www.marqcohistorical.org

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP or if you are reading this newsletter and are not yet a member, please JOIN NOW. Membership is due January 1. Remember, Life Time membership is \$225 and you never pay again! Individual \$15 Family \$30 Sustaining \$25(individual plus donation) Business \$50 (includes business card in newsletter for a year). We need your support.

The Marquette County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization founded in 1962
Marquette County Historical Society
125 Lawrence Street, P.O. Box 172
Westfield, Wisconsin 53964
(608) 296-4700 / e-mail: marqcohistorical@gmail.com
www.marqcohistorical.org
Hours: Open Every Wednesday Afternoon (1:00-4:00 p.m.)
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“Imprints: On the Sands of Marquette County” is the quarterly newsletter of the Marquette County Historical Society Editor: Kathleen McGwin

E-mail addresses and phone numbers:

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------|
| Jo Groskreutz | jogroskreutz@gmail.com | 608 369-1739 |
| Norma Weisbrod | normaweisbrod@gmail.com | |
| Carol Claesges | cardon@maqs.net | 589-5641 |
| Kathryn Colmer | kathycolmer@gmail.com | 920-2037419 |
| Joanie Ingraham | joanie@theingrahams.com | 296-2618 608-494-0871 |
| Greg Smith | roctor@maqs.net | 586-4332 608-369-3510 |
| Richard Faltz | rfaltz@frontier.com | 608-297-7755 |
| Norman Barnard | nbarnard1948@gmail.com | |
| Kathleen McGwin | mcgwin@frontier.com | 608-369-1061 |
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Do you have a suggestion for a Hero of History in your Marquette County neighborhood? Someone who has worked to preserve historical records, artifacts, stories, or buildings? Someone who has supported history in our county? Contact us and tell us about them.

Do you know that MCHS has an archive of Marquette County **family histories**? And we'd like more. Whether a genealogy or memoir, it would enhance our collection. If you have a completed (or in progress) family history, please consider donating a copy to MCHS. We frequently use them in research and often visitors find valuable information and clues to their own histories in these files. We also have over 17,000 obituaries and cemetery records, school records and much more. Our goal is to save Marquette County history and make it available to the public. We appreciate your support and invite you to visit us to learn more.

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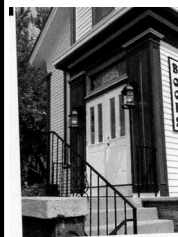
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May, 1871

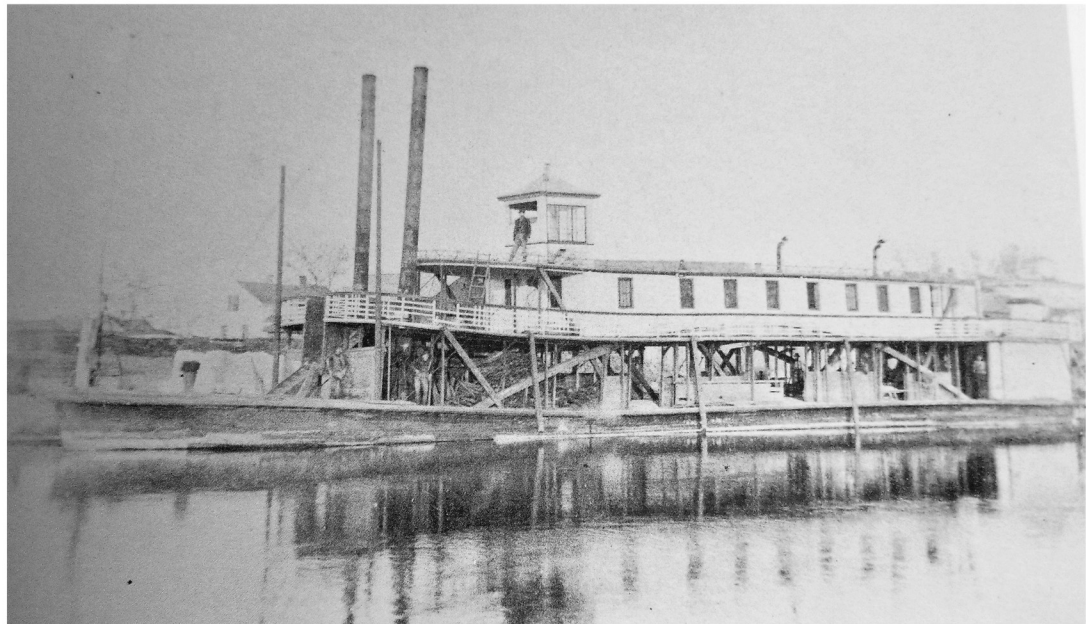
RIVER ITEMS.—We clip the following items from the Portage Register, relative to business on the river:

The *Granite State* came up the Fox, from Oshkosh, arriving here on Sunday last, having on board her barges, 120,000 feet of pine lumber and 50,000 shingles for Wentworth, McGregor & Co. She departed on Tuesday, having as freight the lumber and other material for the Puckaway Club House. On her first trip down she took 5,000 bushels of wheat from Marquette.

The *Montello* also came up on Sunday, bringing 150 tons of stone, quarried at Packwaukee. These stone were taken to Merrimack by Mr. B. Gale, who has the contract for doing the mason work on the railroad bridge at that place.

The *Ellen Hardy* passed through the canal on Friday morning with a cargo of lumber destined for Sauk City, which she brought up the Fox from Oshkosh. She had on board 150,000 feet, which proved to be an overload, and she was compelled to unship 20,000 feet.

The stone quarried at Packwaukee would have been sandstone. We are not sure what Puckaway Club House the lumber was destined for. It may have been the Caw Caw Club in Marquette.



The Ellen Hardy near Portage



WORK FOR BOATS.—There is quite a little job for Fox River boats to do to take forward what wheat there is in store here and at points above here on the River. There are about 18,000 bushels at Packwaukee, 10,000 at Montello, 14,000 at Marquette, 16,000 at Princeton and 100,000 here. Besides this, there is an endless quantity of Rye, Corn and Oats, a good share of which will go forward.—*Berlin News.*

In 1861, the Appleton Post carried this article about plenty of work for boats on the Fox River. Wheat was the main product, but rye, corn and oats also needed to be transported. About 40 years later, the time of the photo above, the cargo had changed as farmers turned to dairy and railroads had taken on much of the hauling of goods. The photo above was taken at the Grand River Locks about 1905. The men are standing on the dredge that constantly worked to keep the river deep enough for boats. In the background is a barge or Durham boat. Durham boats were originally built in colonial times. They were flat bottomed boats good for hauling cargo in shallow water. Washington crossed the Delaware in a Durham boat. The design was adapted over time and used on rivers across the country. Barges like this were used for hauling products as soon as the river opened for large ship traffic around 1851.

Above are some samples of what you'll see at the Stories of the Upper Fox River exhibit at the Montello Historic Preservation Society this summer from June 20 through September 5 open Thursdays through Saturdays. MHPS has collaborated with the Portage and Marquette Historic Societies and all three are holding special events about the Fox River all summer long. Check out the Montello Historic Preservation Society Facebook Page or watch the Marquette County Tribune for more information.