



## Upcoming:

- \* Come see our booth at the County Fair July 8—11 display of historical games.
- \* History of Briggsville August 15 2PM at the historical society.

## Strawberry Sociable a success once again

The Fairest of the Fair of the Marquette County Fair visited the annual Strawberry Sociable held on June 12. See photo, left. We served over 140 strawberry shortcakes. This was the 41st year since the first Strawberry Sociable was held by the historical society.

## Featured building on our grounds.

Even if we are not open, you can tour our grounds and learn about history. Here is the first home of the Marquette County Historical Society, the Cochrane Nelson House. Learn about it on the sign posted out front and reprinted here to the right. The turn of the century home tells a story about our past. Come back and visit it when we are open and see how our ancestors lived. Also view vintage and antique quilts and a special apron exhibit.



*Old fashioned  
...on purpose*

**W**elcome to the Cochrane Nelson house, the home of the Marquette County Historical Society. This house was built in 1903. It was built by T. Harry Cochrane who was the son of the man who first platted the Village of Westfield, Robert Cochrane. Robert built a grist mill in 1853, one of two mills that formed the mill pond located behind this home.

T. Harry Cochrane and his family only lived in this house for three years. In 1906 Nels and Petrea Nelson bought it and the Nelson family lived here for 72 years until it became the Marquette County Historical Society Museum.

Nels' and Petrea's families moved to the US from Denmark. They met in Westfield and married in 1893. Nels owned and operated a grocery store and ice cream parlor on Main Street.

The house grounds once had an ice house, a fountain house, and a two story carriage house. Inside is a front hall, parlor, dining room, kitchen, summer kitchen added to the back, bedroom with "cuddling room" for mothers to care for babies, and two large bedrooms upstairs, both with walk in closets, something that was very unusual for houses of this time. There's also an attic under the eaves.

The "cuddling room" on the first floor was made into a bathroom by Mr. Nelson shortly after buying the home. It was the first indoor plumbing in Westfield. Water was pumped up into a tank in an upstairs closet that was released to flush the toilet and refill a hot water tank installed in the kitchen. It was cutting-edge technology at the time.



**Rummage Sale** The Marquette County Historical Society held a rummage sale during the village-wide Westfield rummage sale days .. Curator and Board Member Carol Claesges waited for the first customers on Friday. Board Member Norm Bernard put up a sign at the Marquette County Historical Society rummage sale. Thanks to everyone who helped or came to our rummage sale. We made over \$800 for the support of the organization. MCHS is an all volunteer, all donation supported non-profit.

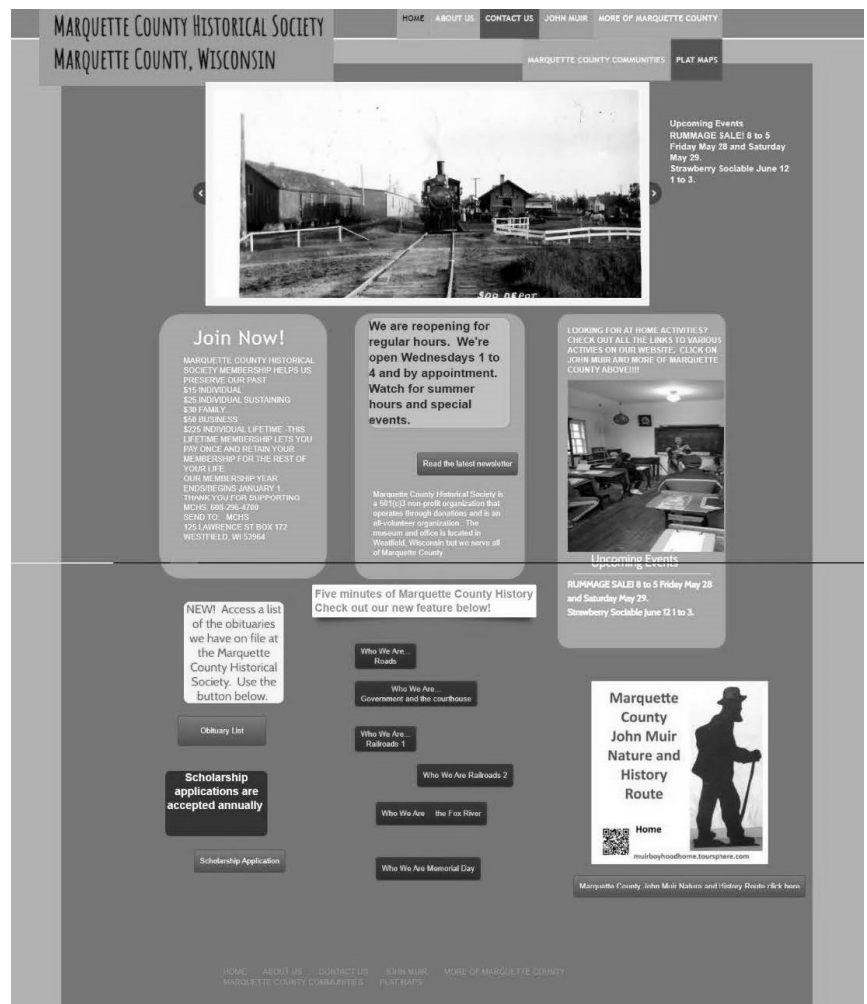
### Visit our website!

The photo to the right is the home page of our website. The address is [www.marqcohistorical.com](http://www.marqcohistorical.com).

Our website averages 994 visits per month. Information is added or changed regularly, so come often to view the website. Something new are the Who We Are videos, five minutes of Marquette County History. You can see the buttons for these in the center on the lower half of the screen. They are red in color. One is added each month.

There are many links to other information about Marquette County, too. Use the page links on the top of the page to move through our website. Plans are to add plat books in the near future.

Our Facebook page is popular, too. In the 30 days before this newsletter was published, we had 227 engagements with our Facebook page and it reached 2,545 people.



**Visit our website: [www.marqcohistorical.org](http://www.marqcohistorical.org)**

## Scholarship winners 2021

Each year the Marquette County Historical Society awards one or two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors in Marquette County. They make application to the society and are chosen based on academic success, involvement in their community, two letters of recommendation and on an essay they write about why the historical society is important to Marquette County. The students considered may be going to any post high school continuing education experience including university, technical school or apprenticeship to a trade. If they are awarded a scholarship, they promise to work eight volunteer hours at the historical society over the following year. The award is paid out after their first semester of school after they show proof of registration for the next semester and successful completion of the first.

This year, two Marquette County seniors were awarded the scholarships. Their essays are printed below.



**Connor Robinson** In a small county like Marquette, local history is easily overlooked because of how unimportant it may seem to its residents. Many think that history is bigger, about how America and our world transformed over the years. But, our local history is just as important, maybe even more. Each community has a special style and culture. When we leave to go to college in a different city, work in a different state, or get married in a different country, we take part of our local community with us. We spread what was once limited to a handful of families. America is essentially made up of small towns of people who came from families from other small towns. They blend with local culture to create something new.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “We are not makers of history. We are made by history.” The Marquette County Historical Society preserves and protects the history of our small town, where it all began for many people. This will be even more important as time goes on. So much is digital now and we see fewer printed photos. At the Marquette County Historical Society, we can see examples of how our parents all the way back to our great-great-grandparents used to live. Marquette County Historical Society is run by caring volunteers and paid for by donations from people concerned about the preservation and education of our town.



**MacKenzie Frank** I feel the Marquette County Historical Society is one of the most important buildings in our county. I have been there a number of times with my grandmother and she showed me around the buildings and taught me about some of the historical items. One of the most significant historical items in the building was my Great Great Grandma Franks wringer washing machine. Another significant item in the buildings would have to consist of the jukebox that originally came from the Franks’ tavern in Harrisville and it was kept in the old school house/town hall. It was used when people got together to celebrate different events. As I was visiting, my Grandpa Groskreutz informed me that Clint Kolpin and he had moved it to the museum after the town donated it to them.

I enjoyed going there because the members shared with me what some of the old items were used for and I found it super interesting! I plan to volunteer at the museum for the upcoming rummage sale and the Strawberry Sociable, where I hope to hear more stories about our wonderful county.

I was surprised to hear the house is over 100 years old and so are many of the items there. It makes it easier to imagine what life was like for my great-great grandparents

In conclusion, I would certainly recommend to my peers that they spend some time visiting or even volunteering their time and talents. Thank you for taking your time to read my scholarship application.

## Visit our website: [www.marqcohistorical.org](http://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  
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Westfield, Wisconsin 53964  
(608) 296-4700 / e-mail: [marqcohistorical@gmail.com](mailto:marqcohistorical@gmail.com)  
[www.marqcohistorical.org](http://www.marqcohistorical.org)  
Hours: Open Every Wednesday Afternoon (1:00-4:00 p.m.)  
Other Times Available by Appointment

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"Imprints: On the Sands of Marquette County" is the quarterly newsletter of the Marquette County Historical Society Editor: Kathleen McGwin

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## Join today! The Marquette

Members receive a the newsletter, discounts on gift shop items, and the pleasure of knowing you are preserving the wonderful, rich history of Marquette County.

## County Historical Society welcomes new members.

### Membership Application

Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 Individual

\$25 Sustaining (donation plus membership)

\$30 Family (dependent children and spouse)

\$225 Lifetime \$50 business (includes business card in newsletter)

Make check payable to:

**Marquette County Historical Society**  
**125 Lawrence Street, P.O. Box 172**  
**Westfield, WI 53964**



## Find us on Facebook

Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook and enjoy the changing posts about history in Marquette County. You can add comments about your own experiences or information about each post.

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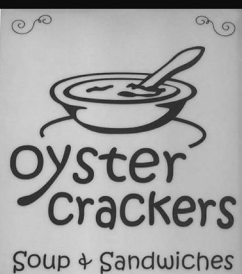
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Some website statistics: We average over 1,000 visits to our website per month. Go to [www.marqcohistorical.org](http://www.marqcohistorical.org) and have fun looking at our website.

## Our Favorite Tales of Marquette County..... *Preserving history one story at a time*



By:  
John Dolan  
Joan Ingraham  
Kathleen McGwin



## New local history book supports MCHS

A brand new book about Marquette County History has been published and is available at the historical society, the Marquette County Tribune, and Reader's Realm in Montello. All sales support the Marquette County Historical Society.

The authors of this new book are Joan Ingraham, John Dolan and Kathleen McGwin. Joan Ingraham and Kathleen McGwin have been writing columns for the Marquette County Tribune for many years. Joan's is titled Things I Forgot to Remember and Kathleen's is Betty, Blanche and Beulah Love Marquette County. This book is a collection of some of their columns of history as well as other stories and facts about Marquette County. Some are contributed by readers of Joan's column. John Dolan, a retired Lutheran Pastor, has done research about the Lutheran and other churches in Marquette County. They all chose some of their favorite tales to help tell the history of Marquette County, Wisconsin.

Dolan's section is filled with Lutheran Church history in Marquette County and McGwin has included stories of Marquette County Veterans.

Just a few of the family names you'll find in the book include Barber, Barr, Bartz, Basore, Buchholz, Brown, Cairns, Chapman, Cotter, Crown, Dannan, Diehlmann, Eckerle, Evans,

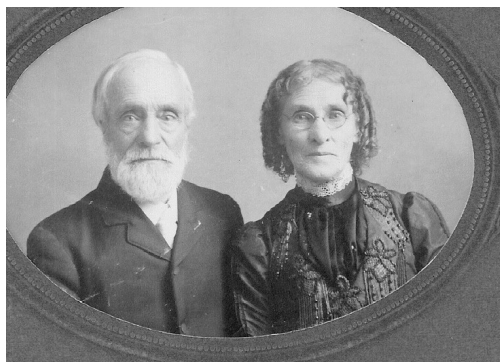
Flynn, Frohling, Grahn, Gruhlke, Hall, Hartwell, Hillmer, Hines, Houselet, Jaster, Kershaw, Klimke, Kolpin, Kruger, Lind, Loomer, Luedke, Manthey, Metcalf, Mevis, Mularkey, Older, Otto, Phillips, Ransom, Reetz, Russell, Schultz, Schwochert, Stelter, Terrell, Teske, Weiske, Whirry, Worden, and Zellmer.

And there are more. The book is filled with interesting facts and stories about Marquette County and the people who have lived here over the years. For just \$15 it's well worth it for hours of good reading and, it makes a great gift.

## Family photos mean Marquette County History revealed

Nathan Weber has been sharing family photos for the MCHS archives. It is a treasure trove of Marquette County history and will help others in the quest for their own family lineage. Here are just a few below.

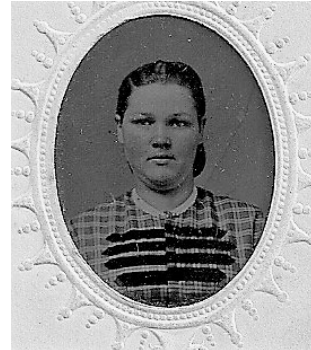
James and Harriet Ellison



Ellison home in Moundville



Caroline Smith, sister of Isaac Smith who married Harrison Coon.



**MCHS is now open regular hours. We are open Wednesdays from 1 to 4 and by appointment. Masks are your choice. Please still practice social distancing.**