Annual Meeting Scheduled for October 27th

Ozaukee County and Mequon-Thiensville in the Civil War

The MT Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting at Mequon's City Hall on Sunday, October 27th. The society's annual meeting will be held at 1:30 in the Council Chambers, and a program on our county and community’s role in the Civil War will follow at 2 PM. Our presenters will be historians Al Buchholz and Peter Jacobsohn whose topics will include the Civil War Draft Riot that brought federal troops to Port Washington to quell the civil unrest brought on by conscription. Free root beer floats will be served. Bring the kids!

Document Preservation Grant Awarded

President’s Message

The MT Historical Society has recently been notified that we have been awarded a Document Preservation Grant from the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The grant will help MTHS purchase acid-free archival storage materials and shelving. We have assembled a large collection of valuable documents over the years, and the grant will help us to be better stewards of those irreplaceable materials. The matching grant from the State Historical Society will help us insure that the documents will be preserved for generations to come.

To allow better access to the information contained in our collection, volunteers have been working for the past two years to build databases. On any given Thursday afternoon, you will find as many as 10 volunteers cataloging books, scanning newspapers and filing obituary notices while others are going through old school records or inventorying the records of former local officials. And all the while, people are coming in to receive help with family genealogies or to learn the story behind local farms, businesses, families and buildings.

The society is growing, and our collection is growing as well. If you have any photos or documents that might be historically significant, please consider donating them to the society or allowing us to scan or photocopy your items. And if you would like to become one of our volunteers, please stop in on a Thursday afternoon to meet our team and learn about how you can join us in our stewardship efforts.
Board Member Profile

My name is Amanda Heintskill, and I am the owner of Phoenix Rising Massage Therapy LLC in Thiensville. I am a lifelong resident of Thiensville, and I serve as the Membership Chair of the Historical Society.

If you have any questions regarding your renewal date, please be sure to check the mailing labels on your copy of the newsletter. If you receive your newsletter by email, I will send you a renewal message well in advance of your due date. Questions? I can be reached at 262-227-9316 or by email at starwars822@yahoo.com.
Mequon is known for its long history of farming by early German settlers. What is less well known is that many of today’s farms have been in the same family for well over 100 years. The Voland family farm that is featured in this brief article is located on the northwest corner of Wauwatosa and Donges Bay Roads. The farm has been known as the Voland Family Farm since 1888, and was owned by relatives of the Volands, the Haendels, since 1843.

Henry Haendel came from Germany in 1839 and worked for the Andrew Geidel family in Mequon as a farmhand. In 1843, rather than receive $80 in payment for a year’s work, Henry Haendel received 20 acres of Geidel land on the corner of Wauwatosa Road and Highway 9 (now Donges Bay Road). He built a small log cabin on the plot and married a woman named Eleanore Baehr. It was hard to make a living farming 20 acres of swampy land, so Eleanore helped support the family by sewing funeral shrouds.

Henry and Eleanore Haendel built the first portion of their permanent home in 1861 shortly before Henry went to fight in the Civil War. He returned from the war, finished building their home and continued to farm his land until his death in 1888. Henry and Eleanore Haendel had several children including a daughter, Maria. In general, property was passed down to the boys of the family, but all of the Haendel boys reportedly moved to Minnesota where they became wagon makers. The farm was therefore passed down to the Haendel’s daughter, Maria.

Maria Haendel, who married a man named Robert Voland in 1871, took ownership of the family farm in 1888 when her father died. Robert Voland’s parents, Karl and Johanna (Schober) Voland, came to the US from Germany in 1854. They had ten children of which seven, including Robert, survived. Karl Voland, who had been a stone mason in Germany, became a naturalized citizen of the US in 1860.

His naturalization was witnessed by Mathias Linden and John Henry Thien, the founder of Thiensville, who arrived from Germany in 1842.

Two small portions of the family’s farm were sold off in 1860 to become the Schubert dance hall on the northwest corner of the intersection and the Herbst meat market just to the north of the dance hall. In all likelihood, the Haendels used the proceeds of these land sales to purchase materials needed to begin construction of their new home. These two pieces of the original Voland family farm were later bought back by the family.

Robert and Maria Voland put their family name on her parents’ Haendel farm in 1888, and the property has been known as the Voland Family Farm for the past 125 years. The family produced cherries, currants, and various other fruits and vegetables, and their farm never grew larger than the original 20 acres.

The land was passed down through generations of Volands and is now owned by Judy Voland Helgeland and her husband Glenn who built a new home on the land in the mid 1990’s. Their new home is directly east of the now razed 1861 family homestead which could not be saved. This little piece of land that was given as pay for a year’s work back in the 1840’s has supported the Haendel and Voland families for over 170 years.

Ruth Renz, Researcher
Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society
History of the Voland Family Farm

1932 Ford Model B 1-1/2 ton truck. This truck is still in the Voland family and is stored by Don Voland in East Troy.

Mequon Thiensville Historical Society's

Your Renewal is Due

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

6100 W. Mequon Road, Mequon, WI 53092

Published by Mequon Thiensville Historical Society

Vol. 15 No. 2 Fall 2013