

At the present time, we are open by appointment only and only for one or two people at a time, no groups. Contact us through our website, Facebook or leave a message on our phone. You can also contact one of the board members. Contact information is in this newsletter page 4.

Upcoming events

We are so sorry to have had to cancel our scheduled programs. We are still considering the following. Watch our Facebook Page and the Marquette County Tribune for more information about future events

Oct date to be announced Oxford Paranormal Society
November 11 MCHS Annual Meeting
November 27, 28 Cookie Walk

MCHS is an all donation all volunteer society

Some people think that Marquette County operates the Marquette County Historical Society. That's not true. Marquette County owns the land and buildings and carries the insurance as well as pays the electric bill. But the society itself is a non-profit organization that raises money through fund raisers and donations and is operated completely by volunteers. MCHS has paid for much of the restoration of the Nelson-Cochrane home, paid the entire cost of moving and restoring Riverside School, paid for the entire addition onto the Kerst building and pays for exhibit materials, archival storage materials and all other costs. We have a wonderful relationship with Marquette County Board of Supervisors and departments like Property and together we are preserving history. You can help by donating to the Marquette County Historical Society.

id you know....

MCHS has over 17,339 obituaries in our files. You can go to our website to see the list of obituaries and then come in to view it or request a copy of the obit. We ask for a donation for copies and any work our volunteers do in helping you in your research.



Do you know Ernestine Henry? Board member Greg Smith holds an "orphan" tombstone with the name Ernestine Henry on it. It was found in riprap along the south shore of Lake Mason near Briggsville. We can find no record of a person by that name in Marquette County. It's not uncommon that old gravestones were thrown aside or used as steps or building materials. Sometimes they were replaced with new stones, other times, they may have been broken off and lost from the original grave. Do you know who this is?

Spanish Flu took lives in Marquette County

Our present pandemic had us looking up information about another pandemic, that of the Spanish Flu. Here is some information about those times.

First thing to note is why it was called the Spanish flu. It has nothing to do with where it originated. World War I was beginning to wind down when the flu hit. Spain was a neutral country in WWI. Countries that were in the war and started experiencing the flu and all its deaths suppressed information about the disease so as not to lower morale of the nation and military troops. Spain reported freely on the flu. The public assumed there was a big outbreak of flu in Spain and not elsewhere, thus, it became known as the Spanish flu.

Much of the following information comes from an article in the Wisconsin Magazine of History of the Autumn of 2000 written by Steven Burg, an Assistant Professor of History at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Between September and the end of December 1918, influenza and its related pneumonia killed 8,459 people in Wisconsin. That's about 7,500 more fatalities than would be expected in a normal year. Burg writes that, "more Wisconsin residents died during the six months of the influenza epidemic than were killed in World War I, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict combined."

No one knows the exact source of the flu, but one well regarded theory is that a milder version started in Kansas on an Army base. Then, as WWI soldiers shipped over to Europe, the microbe mutated into a more lethal strain of the flu and spread throughout the continent and then to England and Scotland. Returning US soldiers brought the deadlier strain back to the US with them.

This mutated strain was deadly. At first it seemed like the common flu, but this illness developed rapidly often cutting its victims down with little to no warning. Some people would just collapse, and some died within hours. Twenty per cent of those ill developed pneumonia and half of those "developed heliotrope cyanosis—a condition that filled victims' lungs with a thick blackish liquid, turned their skin bluish-black, and usually proved fatal within forty-eight hours. While the common flu often caused fatalities among the very old or the very young, the influenza epidemic of 1918 paradoxically took its most severe toll on those between the ages of twenty-five and forty—men and women in their physical prime."

There was no cure for the Spanish flu, and the only effective treatment was two weeks of total bed rest. If the ill person could stay in bed for a full two weeks and allow the full recovery, chances are they could survive. Younger folks, feeling better after a few days, but not completely recovered, would return to a full life and the pneumonia that was like a second stage of the disease would hit, often killing them.

It was also highly contagious. A single person could infect an entire building or railroad car. US troops on ships heading for Europe exacted a high toll of death from the Spanish flu because of its easy spread. American combat deaths in WWI totaled 53,402 but in addition, about 45,000 American troops died from the flu. More than 675,000 Americans died of the flu in 1918.

The first Identified case in Wisconsin was recorded on September 28, 1918 when two sailors from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station got sick in Milwaukee. Physicians in the state began reporting the illnesses to the Health Department. They rose from six to 97 in just a few days, then to 256 five days later.

Wisconsin residents were lucky. The State was prepared to fight this foe. In 1876 the legislature had created the Wisconsin Board of Health and required every town, village and city in the state to create its own local board of health. This assured that there was local organization of effort to control a contagion such as this. By the time of the Spanish flu, these boards had already managed outbreaks of scarlet fever, diphtheria, smallpox, cholera and typhoid.

Wisconsin was the only state in the nation to meet the crisis with uniform, statewide measures that were unusual both for their aggressiveness and the public's willingness to comply with them. Measures taken to contain this flu included quarantines with placards placed on the doors of home of those infected. Citizens were also encouraged to stay home, away from theaters and other crowded places. Sick workers and students were sent home and public viewing of bodies at funerals was discouraged. Wisconsin closed all schools, theaters, and banned public gatherings in October of 1918. This included saloons, churches and theaters. Only regular places of employment like factories could remain open.

Overall, these rules laid out by the State were followed and seen as patriotic duty. Teachers, with schools closed, volunteered to canvas neighborhoods, handing out information on the flu and collecting statistics on the number sick. Auditoriums were set up as emergency wards and those who had automobiles volunteered as ambulance drivers. Others volunteered to work in homes where every member of the family was sick with the flu. From Literary Societies to the Boy Scouts, people saw fighting the flu as an extension of the war time effort from preparing meals for the sick to sewing masks for health care workers.

The isolation rules were enforced for three months and encouraged even after the death rate fell. Communities were affected in many ways. "If the breadwinner survived, waiting to fully recover from the flu could result in two weeks of lost pay—an enormous burden for working-class families who lived from paycheck to paycheck. As a result, thousands of families were thrown into poverty and forced to seek charity in the wake of the disease. The epidemic also cost businesses dearly. Sick workers forced factories and businesses to shorten their hours, curb production, and sometimes close

their doors temporarily. Department stores, saloons, poolrooms, dance halls, and movie theaters suffered heavy losses after months of missed profits."

Here in Marquette County, there were 34 recorded deaths from the Spanish Flu. That's 30 to 40 deaths per every 10,000 people. Most of the deaths happened from October through December. Just up the road in Waupaca, one-quarter of the 2,789 residents caught the flu and the undertaker conducted funerals, sometimes several a day, for weeks. There was a backlog of funerals, and stockpiled coffins sat waiting for use as deaths came daily.

The number of flu deaths in Marquette County may have been higher, but not recognized as Spanish flu. The 2017 Montello Express newspaper mentions the high number of illnesses in the county in several editions. The annual fireman's event was cancelled in 1917 due to lack of participation from other fire departments.

The flu took the lives of many WWI Marquette County soldiers, too. Out of 16 WWI Army and Navy deaths from Marquette County, one half of them were from pneumonia from the Spanish flu. There were 444 who served during WWI from Marquette County.

History repeats itself. We aren't the first to experience quarantine, a pandemic and the fear of the unknown and we won't be the last.

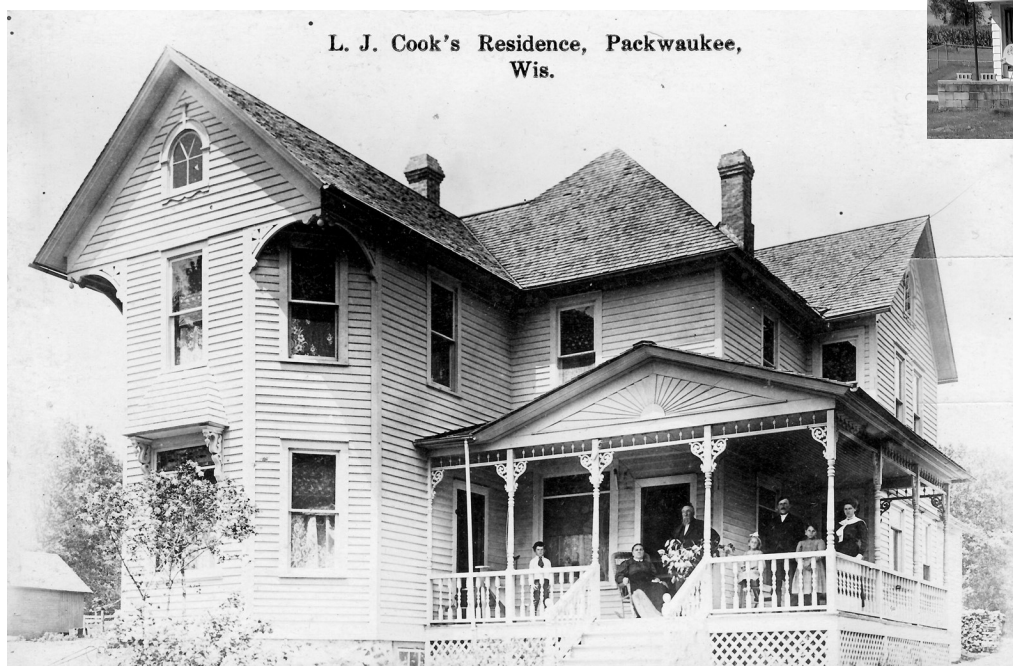
Postcard reveals story about old house

It's nice to find old houses that still remain. This postcard below was purchased on eBay. Research has revealed it belonged to Lyman J. Cook who was born in Vermont in 1836. He died in 1925 and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Packwaukee Township.

Lyman was 26 and single when he was registered for the draft in 1863. The census of 1870 shows him living with wife Eliza, 26 and children Freddie (sic) 2 and Marcia 4.

In the 1890 Portrait and Biographical Sketches book, Lyman is mentioned having a general merchandise store in Montello.

The 1905 census shows he was living here with wife Eliza and grand-daughter Hazel plus two unrelated young men ages 13 and 18 listed as servants. That's a photo of Lyman from a family history and a photo of the house today.



L. J. Cook's Residence, Packwaukee, Wis.

FINAL RITES FOR JOHN McDONALD

John McDonald died at his home, one-half mile north of Briggsville, a victim of Spanish influenza, on Dec. 1, aged 32 years, 10 months and 6 days.

He leave to mourn his loss, his wife, mother, Mrs. Charlottie McDonald, two brother and four sisters. They are Phillip and Mrs. Ole Henson of Briggsville and Mrs. Max, and Mrs. Harry Mitchell, Clara and Peter, all of Portage.

John was born and raised in Briggsville and always of a quiet and humble disposition. He made many friends, who deeply sympathize with the family in their loss.

The funeral was held Tuesday morning from the home, Rev. Fr. Monahan officiating. Acting as pallbearers were John Smith, John O'Brien, Harold and Walter Shutz, Ole Hanson and Max Mitchell. Interment was in the Briggsville cemetery. Those present from a distance were: Mrs. William McMaster's of Detroit, Mich.; Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson, Mrs. Thomas Bresnehan, Frank Kaiser, Michael Cleary and Patrick Clark of Portage.



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
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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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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.

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Membership Application

Please Print

Name: _____

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\$15 Individual

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Make check payable to:

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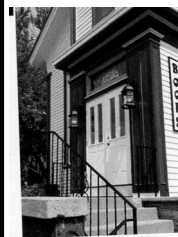
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Some website statistics: We average over 1,000 visits to our website per month. Go to www.marqcohistorical.org and have fun looking at our website.

To Stop Spread of Epidemics.

In a bill introduced by Assemblyman Whiteside of Portage county, power was given the state to regulate the traveling of persons from a community where an epidemic of communicable disease exists. Should an outbreak of infantile paralysis occur in Wisconsin this year, such a law would be applied as in New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and other states last summer.

Upon a public declaration by the state board of health of the existence of such an epidemic in any municipality, according to the bill, that body or the state health officer acting for it may declare that no common carrier shall receive any person from such a place for transportation, except upon the presentation of a certificate signed by the local health officer. Such certificate shall evidence that the holder is free from the disease then epidemic, and that he may be carried to his destination. The common carrier must file all such certificates with the state board of health within 36 hours after receipt. The bill does not apply to passengers destined within the limits of the municipality affected.

If this bill is enacted, it is expected to obviate the necessity of quarantining an entire municipality where infantile paralysis or other dangerous contagious diseases exist in epidemic form.

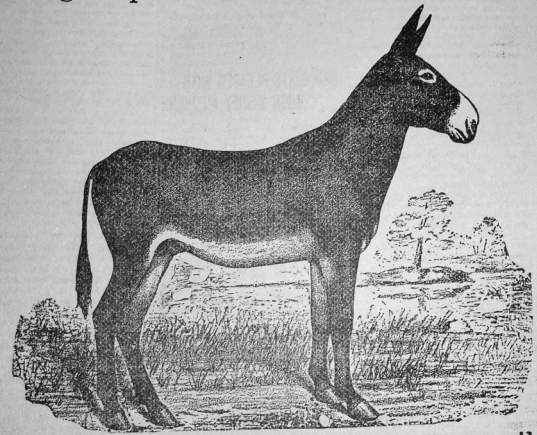
Assemblyman Whiteside was formerly a resident of Endeavor and was a practicing physician there. He now resides at Plover.

In 1917 the country was winding up for entering the war in Europe. The Montello Express is filled with articles on the war and registration for the draft of men ages 21 to 35. The ad to the right was in the paper and reflects an issue brought on by the war, that of mules being sold to European countries leaving few here for use on farms. This entrepreneur was ready to fill the need for more mules and give others a chance to benefit from their high price. Lower right: This ad in the Montello Express of 1917 is for the Cramer Institute in Packwaukee. It wasn't only the Spanish flu that people worried about at that time although this ad says they also treat "All after effects of the flu..."

The article on the left addresses epidemics and quarantines talking specifically about infantile paralysis or polio.

Why Not Take Advantage of The High Price of Mules?

The South has practically sold all its mules to the warring countries. Mules will bring a good price for many years to come



Our Jack will stand at the farm two miles east of Oxford and we will contract for colts from mares weighing 1400 pounds.

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DR. H. A. SCHMIDT,

Manager and Superintendent