

Quilts featured in June Strawberry Sociable



Be sure to come to the Strawberry Sociable on Sunday, June 10 from 1 to 3 at the Marquette County Historical Society. Featured this year will be quilts, quilts, quilts including a bed turning by Mary Jean Thalacker. A bed turning is an unveiling of vintage/antique quilts, one after another, all from Marquette County, while Mary Jean tells the story of each quilt.

Inside of the Nelson/Cochrane house you'll be able to view the new quilt room with quilts from Mary Jean's extensive collection on display.

Left, from the Patching Together History with Marquette County Quilts, Marlene

Buchholz who lives on 18th Road, Montello, owns this quilt top. This Lone Star quilt was made about 1900 we think by Alma Eichmann Marotz, Marlene's aunt. The fabric, however, dates as far back as post Civil War times, about 1865. Marlene said, "My Aunt Alma gave me this quilt top when they sold their Ripon, Wisconsin farm. She wanted me to have it. I don't know if she made it but she may have. She also has a quilt top made by her aunt, Alma Eichman Moratz who grew up in Newton Township. Marlene also has the fabric her aunt planned to use for the back and hopes to have it made into a finished quilt.



This Nine Patch is also owned by Marlene Buchholz. Mary Jean Thalacker dated the fabric to about 1895. The blocks were made by Augusta (Schoenfeldt) Klawitter, Marlene's grandmother (in photo, right). It was hand sewn by Marlene Buchholz and put together and tied by Debra Buchholz, Marlene's daughter-in-law. Marlene said, "My grandmother brought these blocks to our farm house in about 1945. I remember sewing the blocks together. She left these blocks for my mother, Laura Eichmann. Mom never had time to make a quilt so when she passed my two sisters and I divided the blocks. These are my share of those blocks. My daughter-in-law, Debra Buchholz of Montello, quilted them for me.



Portage WWII Museum Director speaks at MCHS

Brett Esse was the featured speaker on April 23 at the Marquette County Historical Society. MCHS Board Director Greg Smith arranged for the program. Esse, who started and manages as a personal passion, the Portage WWII Museum, spoke about uncommon war artifacts and uncommon human interest stories. Esse brought many objects of historical interest like miniature compasses used by US and British soldiers and fliers that were made to look like buttons or collar staves. The compasses were developed by the British and saved many lives of men who were shot down, captured, or lost.

Other items included trench art desk set made from a shell casing by a German prisoner of war as well as a baby blanket with swastikas that saved the lives of three Jewish family members including the baby who was wrapped in the blanket. To the right, Brett holds a “Blood Chit.” These chits were carried by military personnel to use if they found themselves in enemy territory. The chits explained that they were American and that the person finding them would be rewarded if they helped them. The statement was written in many languages and was printed on silk.

The WWII Museum in Portage is open from 10 to 3 Thursday through Saturday. The number is 608-697-3690. It is located at 119W. Cook Street.

MCHS presents programs like this each year that are free and open to the public.



Don't forget our own Veterans exhibit in the museum. It is filled with interesting information, artifacts and photos of Marquette County Veterans from the War of 1812 through Operation Desert Storm. To the left top is a photo from 1900 of Civil War Veterans of Marquette County gathered in Packwaukee for a reunion. Below that is a photo of one of the murals located in Neshkoro Veterans Park. Pick up a Marquette County Veterans Memorial brochure at most businesses and you can visit Veterans Memorials around Marquette County.



MCHS is open 1-4 on Wednesdays, during special events and by appointment.

Make this the summer you follow the Marquette County Barn Quilt and Hidden History Mural Route!

If you haven't done so yet, make it a point this summer to take in some of the beautiful barn quilts that dot the landscape of Marquette County. Learn some history as well as you view some impressive murals in various communities. Every mural and barn quilt tells a story. Below is just one.

Star adorns McTier farm

When Mona McTier asked her daughter-in-law Gwen North if she'd paint a barn quilt mural to hang on the white painted shed on the McTier farm on Highway 23 just east of Briggsville, she had an idea it wouldn't be an ordinary quilt square. North has a degree in art and teaches kindergarten in Van Dyne, Wisconsin. The teacher and artist called Mona and said she'd been looking at some old quilts and noticed the blocks were made up of scraps of material that each had their own pattern. Mona was right, no ordinary block it would be as North recreated a patchwork of fabric design to make up a variation of a Lone Star block that now shines from the white shed wall. There are chickens, Scotty dogs, leaves, paisley, flowers, cherries, hearts, wheat and grapes among the stripes and polka dots that form the star block.

Bill McTier who passed away in 2012 was about 4 years old in this photo that shows him on a tractor in front of the machine shed that now sports the patchwork star Barn Quilt. It would have been about 1934.

The photos below show details from the historic mural in Harrisville. It tells the story of the settlement and rich history of the community located on the Harris mill pond. Included on the historic mural are a silhouette of a Native American, the grist mill, Lutheran Church, Frank store, the school, the hotel, electric power plant, a pickle field, Laing's blacksmith shop and garage, the Blue Eagle, J&B Schultz' Cozy Corner Café, Harris Villa Lithuanian Resort,

Bratfest, the old fire house and EMS, Lakeside Implements, and the new Harris Villa Assisted Living home. Home and Community Education (HCE) Barn Quilts and Hidden History Murals of Marquette County continues to add more locations on their map and their website at www.barnquiltsandmurals.com.



Pick up a route map at the Marquette County Historical Society or at most businesses throughout Marquette County and take tour of art, quilts and history this summer.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP or if you are reading this newsletter and are not yet a member, please JOIN NOW. Membership is due November 1. Remember, Life Time membership is \$200 and you never pay again! Individual \$10 Family \$25 Sustaining \$25 Business \$50 (includes business card in newsletter for a year). We need your support.

The Marquette County Historical Society is a 501(c)
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: pnkruger@maqs.net
web site: www.marqcohistorical.org
Hours: Open Every Wednesday Afternoon (1:00-4:00 p.m.)
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Editor: Kathleen McGwin

E-mail addresses and phone numbers:

Leroy Stublaski architectureplus.llc@gmail.com 608-347-6467

Ed Thalacker edthalack@maqs.net 589-5488 608-444-8128
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
June Schumacher jerschumacher@gmail.com 608-587-2388
Karen Watkins kwatkins@maqs.net 608-296-2103
Richard Faltz rfaltz@frontier.com 608-297-7755
Allen Willkomm awillkomm@maqs.net 608-697-2633

Kathleen McGwin: mcgwin@frontier.com 608-369-1061
Neil & Pat Kruger: pnkruger@maqs.net 608-296-4250 920-960-3712
Janet Pope jgpoppe4@yahoo.com 608-296-2557

Did you know? One of the cultures present in Marquette County long before Europeans arrived is that of the Archaic Period. The Archaic Period falls between the earlier Paleo-Indian and later Woodland periods. It extends from about 8500 BC to 1000 BC. During this period people made a number of significant changes in how they lived. It was a time of regionalization—people learned to make ground-stone tools and weapons specific for use in their regions and thus they increasingly stayed in one place. Additionally, they learned to better utilize the food and plant resources specific to their unique area. The products that were developed in specific regions were often traded through extensive trade networks. Trading provided people with a diversification of food, tools, raw materials, and information and ideas while also enabling them to remain in one location for longer times. Because the Archaic people were moving around less than previous groups, they left more evidence of their existence in the forms of housing structures and village sites. The products that were developed in specific regions were often traded through extensive trade networks. Trading provided people with a diversification of food, tools, raw materials, and information and ideas while also enabling them to remain in one location for longer times. Because the Archaic people were moving around less than previous groups, they left more evidence of their existence in the forms of housing structures and village sites.

Significant developments of the Late Archaic include the emergence of more elaborate ceremonies and the building of burial mounds. These mounds were the precursors of the more elaborate effigy mounds that were built during the later Woodland period (400 BC to 1100 AD).

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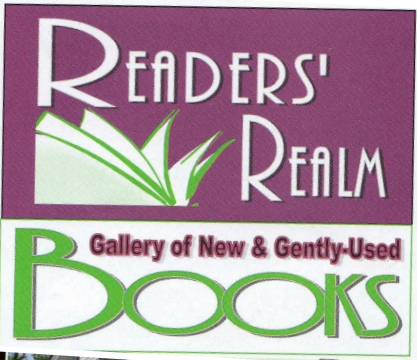
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125 Lawrence Street, P.O. Box 172 **Westfield, Wisconsin 53964**

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web site: www.marqcohistorical.org

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Resorts have long been a part of Marquette County history. These 1942 photos were shared by Irene Lazar who, with her husband Frank, owned Big Springs Resort on Buffalo Lake. The couple vacationed here for years before starting the small resort. The outhouse was part of the experience.



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Johnson Homestead 1856, LLP

W7880 Cty Rd D
 Oxford, WI 53952

Joan M. Ondercin
 612.227.2005
 jmondercin@aol.com