

# Chippewa County Historical Society

AREA HISTORY CENTER | 715-723-4399

123 ALLEN ST. | CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729-2898

Open on Tuesdays 9 am-4 pm | Open on Fourth Saturdays 9 am-1pm

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# THE EAGLE SPEAKS



FEBRUARY 2014

*Preserving Your Past — For Future Generations*

[www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ChippewaCountyHistoryCenter](https://www.facebook.com/ChippewaCountyHistoryCenter)



# THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2014



"OLD ABE"

[www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org)

## Inside this Issue:

Calendar .....	4
Chippewa Woolen Mill .....	8
Committee Members .....	3
Donations .....	7
Lake Wissota Centennial .....	3
Membership Form .....	9
Newsletter Sponsors .....	6
Officers & Directors .....	5
President's Letter .....	4
Publicity Update .....	9
TPPH .....	7
Trivia .....	7
Volunteer Profile .....	5

Arley & June Engel, August 1960



Monday, February 17  
**Bi-Annual Membership Meeting**  
 at the Area History Center

- Presidents Progress Report & Hall of Fame Inductions
- Program: A Night at the Museum, Popcorn and 1953 film:
- Our Town Chippewa Falls and some Surprises

## Let's Have A House Party

ARLEY ENGEL

We have to go back a long way to the first house party that my older brother Eugene and I attended. It happened during the summer of 1946 at Curtiss, Wisconsin. We were visiting our Aunt Ruth and Uncle Butch Shore. They were renting a farm just north of Curtiss and they had around 20 milk cows. It was summer vacation for us boys and we spent a week with our aunt, uncle and their 2 children, 3-year-old Jack and 6-month-old Judy.

Saturday afternoon some of the neighbors came over to help move furniture from the living room to the front porch. The living room became the dance hall. The excitement increased as we finished milking a little early that evening and neighbor's cars started arriving as we came in from the barn. While we were getting cleaned up after chores

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Arley & June celebrated  
50 Years in 2010



House Party *continued from cover*

a three-piece band arrived. One band member played a button box concertina, another played the guitar and the third man played a bass fiddle. As you can imagine, together they made a lot of good music.

The crew that cleaned out the living room even rolled up the carpet so we were down to a hardwood floor. Being 9 and 13 years old we were not much for dancers but we were drug to the floor and whirled around by some of the older ladies. Some of the younger ones tried to teach us what they knew about the art of dancing. Being guests from out of town we did not get to sit out very often. There was beer for the older folks and homemade root beer and orange aide for the kids. It was a warm summer evening so a few times we did work up a sweat.

By 11:00 p.m. it was time for "lunch." The music stopped and sandwiches were served followed by cake, coffee and ice cream. Eugene and I were going home the next day so we tried real hard to get a good rest when we finally got to bed about 12:30.

I never attended another house party until June and I were shivareed in 1960 after our August wedding. June's Dad had put up 3 half barrels that day for our reception but it must not have been enough for some of our neighbors as a couple weeks later they tricked us into coming to a party that ended up being on us. We were invited to a House Party at our Aunt Marge and Uncle Ford Engel's house to play some cards with family. We played only 2 hands when out in the yard we heard horns honking and people were shouting "free beer, free beer." This was embarrassing for us as we had just made the first payment on our trailer house and we were out of cash. But that didn't matter, they loaded us into their cars and off we all went to the River Inn. It was not long until Sam Rineck had a new half-barrel on tap and the party was started. Some of the families in attendance included Reeds, Goulets, Bowes, Roberts, Blaesers, Rooneys, Rinecks, Wucherpfenigs, Schneiders, Engels, McFarlens, Webbers, Steinmetz, Heberts, Wikans, Stelters, Baiers, Hawkins, Cottons and Lynns. The neighbor ladies had made up sandwiches ahead of time and they served a lunch around 11:30 p.m. After the lunch they passed a hat and most every one present must have thrown in \$5 or more because after paying \$32 for the half barrel we came home with \$40 or \$50 extra dollars in our pockets. Not bad for having started the evening with only three or four dollars. This is how neighbors were treated in the old one-room school districts. ♣

*That's all for now from Engel's Little House On the Wheaton Prairie.*

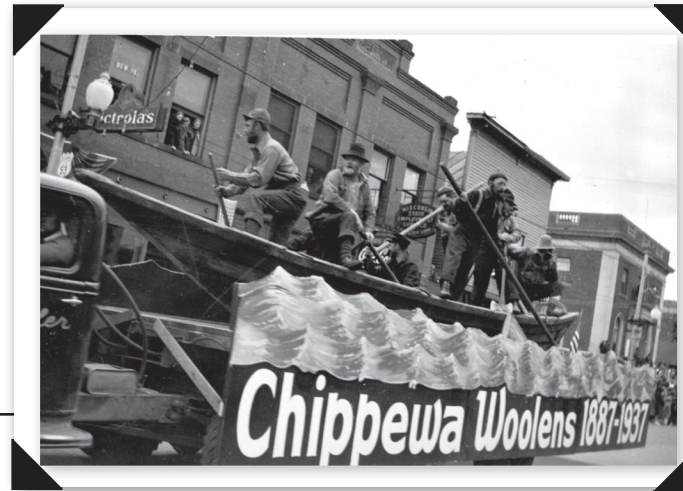


**shiv•a•ree** n., v. -reed, -ree-ing. n.

1. a mock serenade with noisemakers given for a newly married couple; charivari.
2. an elaborate, noisy celebration.
3. to serenade with a shivaree.

[1835-45, Amer.; alter. of Mississippi Valley French, French charivari charivari]

Charivari (or shivaree or chivaree, also called "rough music") is the term for a French folk custom in which the community gave a noisy, discordant mock serenade, also pounding on pots and pans, at the home of newlyweds.



A Chippewa Falls Woolen Mill parade float with a bateau boat from the lumbering era is displayed on a truck in downtown Chippewa Falls in this 1937 photo. In the background are the Music Block, Jasper Drug and the Rutledge Charity buildings.

## Publicity Committee Update

BY JIM SCHUH

### Website and Facebook Links:

You can now find links to our Internet information on two newly designed Chippewa County websites.

- We now have a link on the new county website to our website and Facebook page. It is included in the Register of Deeds section along with the Chippewa County Genealogical Society's website link.

**Link:** [www.co.chippewa.wi.us/government/register-of-deeds/genealogical-historical-societies](http://www.co.chippewa.wi.us/government/register-of-deeds/genealogical-historical-societies)

- We can also be found in the Community section under Attractions in the Chippewa County Tourism website.

**Link:** [chippewacounty.com/business/things/chippewa-county-historical-geneological-society](http://chippewacounty.com/business/things/chippewa-county-historical-geneological-society)

Our Historic Markers are also listed.

**Link:** [chippewacounty.com/things/sort/all-cities/historic-sites-and-markers](http://chippewacounty.com/things/sort/all-cities/historic-sites-and-markers)

### Out-reach to High Schools:

Our Board of Directors has a goal of continuing to increase youth involvement. We have two new contacts with teachers at Chippewa Falls High School. Amanda Hill teaches a Wisconsin History class and Todd Kornack is head of the American Club which is the closest thing to a history club at Chi-Hi.

### WI Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls

I have met with the Director of Volunteer Services & Activities and she would like us to present our slide shows and video programs. ♣

#### Photos on page 8, left column:

Lalie Boos donated a teal blue wool outfit that she bought when she was 18. Her children also wore it.

Nancy Chisolm and Ellen Devine show their Chippewa Woolens garments.

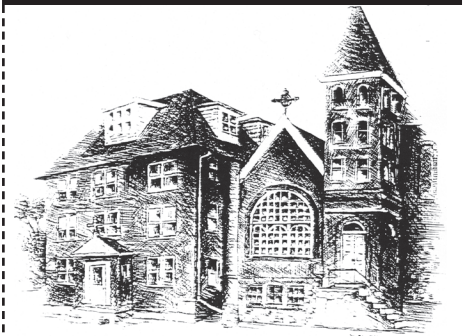
Program participants pictured from left are Jim Mandelert, Dave Gordon, Joe Mandelert, Greg Sleight and Jim Schuh with Chippewa Woolen Mill products displayed above.

Jerry Lamirande donated his signed softball complete with scores of Chippewa Woolen Mill games, a salesman's book and a trophy won by the Chippewa Woolen Mill team.

#### Photo on page 8, center top:

The Chippewa Woolen Mill was located on Duncan Creek from 1884 until the late 1980s. The Leinenkugel's Brewing Co. Leinie Lodge was built on this site in 2003.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Types of Memberships:

- Individual (1 Year) ..... \$20
- Family (1 Year) ..... \$25
- Contributing Member (1 Year)..... \$50
- Life Member (Individual)..... \$125
- Life (Couple) ..... \$175
- Extra Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

Chippewa County  
Historical Society  
123 Allen Street  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



## Chippewa Woolen Mill

BY JIM SCHUH

From 1882 to 1962 Chippewa Woolen Mill played an important role in the economy of Chippewa Falls. On January 25th we did an interactive presentation on the history of the Mill. To a standing room only crowd, Joe and Jim Mandelert and Greg Sleight, shared their recollections and stories about the role the mill played in their lives. About 80 photos of the mill and its employees, from the Joe Mandelert collection, were scanned by Jim Mandelert and included in a PowerPoint that was shown during the program. These photos have been added to our CCHS collection. Our guest speakers who worked at the mill reviewed the manufacturing process, procedures and history. Many other former employees also shared their memories. Several attendees brought in Chippewa Woolen apparel and other memorabilia to display during the program. Some generously decided to donate the items they brought and these have been added to the society's collection and will be on display for several months in the former convent dining room, now the Joe Joas Room.

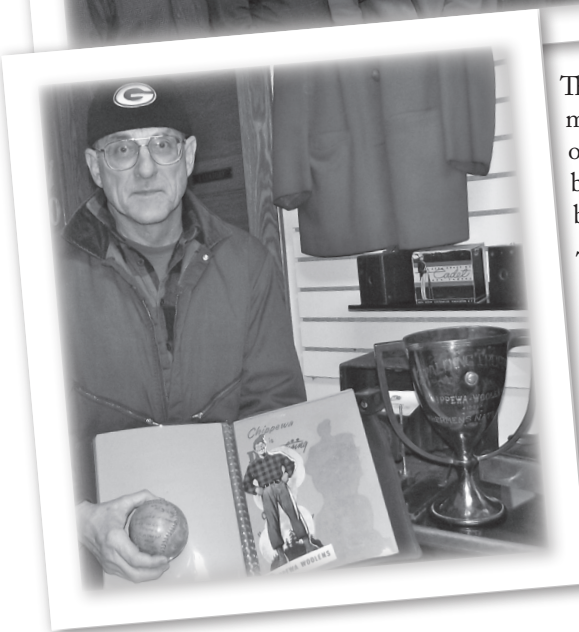
The Mill was established for the purpose of supplying the men that worked in the lumber trade with warm and dependable clothing. During the 1920s the mill employed about 100 people and for years it was the city's largest employer.

The Chippewa Woolen Mill purchased wool from local sheep farmers and took it from the raw source all the way to the garment stage.

They produced a variety of high quality woolen products including a complete line of men's clothing, a large assortment of sportswear for men, women and children and outerwear for men and women. Besides clothing they also made automobile robes, blankets and wool batting. At different times they were also under contract to make blankets for the U.S. Army and clothing that carried the Sears, Roebuck & Co. label.

The mill's downfall came with the onset of synthetic fabrics. In 1962, it closed its doors and equipment was sold to cover company debts. During this time there were reportedly more than 300 other woolen mills that also closed down. During the late 1980s the City of Chippewa Falls acquired and razed the mill buildings. The mill was located on the property that now occupies The Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company, Leinie's Lodge.

We are in the process of creating a Chippewa Woolen Mill Historic Marker recognizing the importance of this business. Because of the popularity and success of this program it has been suggested that it be repeated when the historic marker is ready for installation.



WHAT WAS HAPPENING 100 YEARS AGO AT THIS TIME . . .

## Lake Wissota Centennial Celebration

JIM SCHUH

From 1913 through 1918 Lake Wissota went from concept to completion. The harnessing of the waters of the Chippewa River, Yellow River, O'Neil Creek, Paint Creek and Stillson Creek resulting in the creation of Lake Wissota has had an enormous positive impact on western Wisconsin and Chippewa County. The increase in recreational and sporting activities has made this body of water a destination to visitors and a relaxing and scenic home to residents.

During the next four years our newsletter will review this process and progress. Xcel Energy has provided the Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association and Chippewa County Historical Society with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of dam construction in Chippewa Falls. We greatly appreciate their support and their sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations. Stay tuned to this series of articles for further developments.

The following information was taken from *The 7-9-96 Determination of Eligibility for National Register of Historic Places, for the Wissota Dam Historic District, Chippewa County.*

### WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY FORMATION

"The purchaser of the Chippewa Valley Electric Railway and Light Co. was the American Public Utilities Company, owned by Charles B. Kelsey and Joseph Brewer, promoters and engineers, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1913, they had purchased the La Crosse Gas and Electric Company, and they now changed its name to the Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power Company and merged the Chippewa Valley properties into it. In contrast to the lumbermen who had been the previous owners, the Kelsey-Brewer organization was aggressive, energetic, technically skilled, and highly ambitious. Immediately after forming the Wisconsin-Minnesota company Kelsey-Brewer began intensive development of the existing electric properties while proceeding with a program of rapid expansion, in order to facilitate their larger plan of developing hydroelectric power sites on the Chippewa River."

Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power Company

Kelsey-Brewer & Co.  
Grand Rapids, Mich.  
Engineers and Operators

Committees in sync!



### Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

Collection & Artifacts:

- \* Nancy Schuh, Arley Engel, Lucyann LeCleur, Terri Stahr,

Photography Sub Committee:

- \* Lucyann LeCleur, Donna Bourget

Building & Grounds:

- \* Skip August

Space Utilization Sub Committee

- \* Steve Rasmus

Education:

- \* Marge Hebbring, Catherine Lea, Evalyn Frasch, Ann Gordon

Docent Subcommittee:

- Pat Ahneman, Jeff Pritchard

Exhibits:

- \* Arley Engel, Nancy Schuh, Mary & Jim Erickson

Historic Markers Sub Committee:

- \* Tom Larson, Jim Schuh, Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber

Finances:

- \* Skip August, Kathy Forsgren

Membership:

- \* Donna Bourget, Mary McKenna

Telephone Subcommittee:

- \* Mary McKenna

Publicity:

- \* Jim Schuh

Newsletter:

- \* Jim Schuh, author & editor  
Elly Rochester, layout & design  
Nancy Schuh, author & proofreader  
Column Authors: Arley Engel, Kathy Forsgren, Dave Gordon and Mary McKenna

\* Chairperson



## CALENDAR

- Feb. 17**  
6:30 CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting (See cover for details.)
- Feb. 18**  
(Membership meeting took place of Feb. Board Meeting)  
10:30 a.m. Historic Marker Committee  
Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch  
1:30 The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting
- Feb. 22:**  
9 am - 1 pm Museum Open Fourth Saturday
- March 18**  
9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting  
Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch  
1:30 The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting
- March 22:**  
9 am - 1 pm Museum Open Fourth Saturday
- April 15**  
9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting  
Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch  
1:30 pm The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting
- May 8 - 11**  
The Past Passed Here in Allen Park

➤ Signs  
 ➤ Stickers  
 ➤ Graphics  
 ➤ Banners

33 E. Willow Street  
715-723-3437 [www.gabersigns.com](http://www.gabersigns.com)

## A Message From Your President

I just looked at my message in the February 2013 issue of "The Eagle Speaks" and will repeat my first sentence from last year. "I know we live in Wisconsin but -15 degrees is ridiculous." I wish it were only -15 this year. Let's hope that this years Polar Vortex is done by early February 2014.

We have been asked to do a number of presentations in 2014. The first was our "Lumbering in the Chippewa Valley" at Wissota Springs Assisted Living in January. We will be doing four presentations this spring at the new Wisconsin Veterans Home. February will be a slide show "Tour of the Chippewa County Historical Society Museum", March "Chippewa Falls Memories", April "Historic Markers Located in Chippewa County and May "The Past Passed Here" video and slides.

We look forward to doing this for those who can't get to the History Center and to share the great history of our area with our community.

February 17 will be our Semi Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting theme will be "A Night at the Museum". We'll have popcorn and enjoy watching the 1953 film "Our Town Chippewa Falls" and some other surprises.

A special part of our February Membership Meeting is the induction of people who have made significant contributions to the Chippewa County Historical Society into the Hall of Fame. Our first inductee is Fred Dinkel. Fred was elected president at the first Charter Membership Meeting of the Historical Society on February 8, 1971. He was instrumental in starting negotiations with Mabel Cook to purchase the Cook Rutledge Mansion. At the March 12, 1973 meeting President Dinkel announces that the Mansion is purchased with Capital Funds for \$30,000.

Our next inductee is Gertrude Casper. Gertrude said of her 44 years of shell collecting "I must confess that I have been carrying on a love affair with seashells for many years. Sometimes it is hard to comprehend that a live animal can create such a gorgeous home. The line, pattern, shape and color make them truly works of art." She gave her collection of 800 shells along with all of the display cabinets that house her collection in 1991. She oversaw the completion of the room at the museum to house her collection.

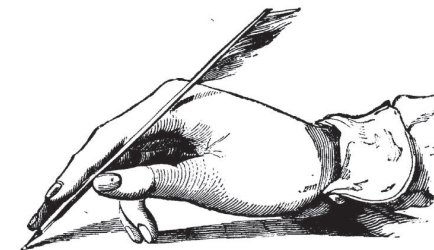
Our last inductee is Elly Rochester. Elly, a graphic designer, volunteered to help improve our newsletter "The Eagle Speaks" in 2007. It became evident from the very beginning we had the right person for the job. Elly changed the format and inserted many great ideas into the publication. She has brought "The Eagle Speaks" into a top-notch newsletter, which routinely receives many compliments.

Our recent nine-inch snowfall on a Tuesday prompted the Board of Directors to take the following action: The History Center will follow the School System. The Museum will not be open when schools are cancelled. My compliments to the four brave soles, who showed up that snowy Tuesday.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Membership meeting February 17, 2014.

Dave

## Donations



### Donations in Memory of:

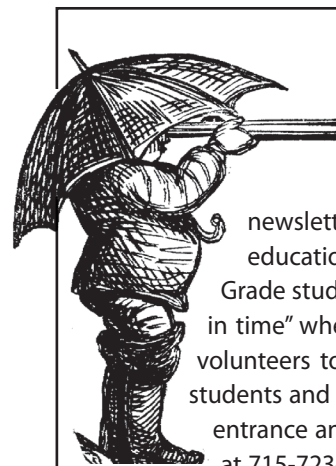
	From:
Nilah Goulet McDonald .....	Robert & Mary Goulet
Florence Ryan .....	Arley & June Engel
William Goulet .....	Arley & June Engel
Judith Anderson .....	Arley & June Engel
Carole Mickesh .....	Arley & June Engel
Carole Mickesh .....	History Center
Wes Geissler .....	Norber Tlachac
David Pressler .....	Anonymous

### Other Donations:

Visitors .....	\$92.05
Susan DeLong .....	15.00
Bob Pevan .....	50.00
John & Lorraine Ponlius .....	50.00
Gyda Nadreau .....	25.00
Pierre Girard (Marker Fund) .....	50.00

### Contributing Membership:

James & Jeri DeLong .....	\$50.00
Mrs. Paul Snyder .....	50.00



### Looking for Volunteers for The Past Passed Here

We will host our 11th Annual TPPH re-enactment on May 7-11. The Wisconsin State Historical Society April newsletter, *Columns*, will include an article about our fun filled educational event. An exciting field trip is offered to 650 Fourth Grade students and the public is encouraged to enjoy a "step back in time" when the students are not present during TPPH. We need volunteers to assist us by serving food in our food booth, helping students and the public make souvenir necklaces, manning the main entrance and other activities. Please contact co-chairs Mary Brown at 715-723-0619 or Marge Hebring at 715-720-7877 to sign up or for more information.



### New Policy

If the schools are closed do to poor weather conditions—the Area History Center will also be closed.



## TRIVIA

### What's on Television: Monday Night / Sept. 1962

#### WEAU CHANNEL 13

- 12:00 - Your First Impression
- 12:30 - Truth or Consequences
- 1:00 - County Agents
- 1:15 - Weather, News
- 1:30 - Jane Wyman Show
- 2:00 - Jan Murray
- 2:30 - Loretta Young Theater
- 3:00 - Young Doctor Malone
- 3:30 - Our Five Daughters
- 4:00 - Popeye
- 5:40 - Crusader Rabbit
- 6:10 - Sports, Weather, News
- 6:30 - Martin Kane
- 7:00 - Man Called X
- 7:30 - It's a Man's World
- 8:30 - Saints and Sinners
- 9:30 - Sea Hunt
- 10:00 - News, Weather, Sports
- 10:30 - Follow the Sun

The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

Mail any comments or future articles to 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. 715-723-4399.

**Chippewa County Historical Society**  
123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI



Anne Keller

CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013-2014

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

- \* **President**  
Dave Gordon, 6854 182nd St.,  
Chippewa Falls 723-2647 (2014)
- \* **Vice President**  
Jim Schuh, 5432 178th St.,  
Chippewa Falls 726-2376 (2014)
- \* **Recording Secretary &  
Corresponding Secretary**  
Mary McKenna, 217 W. Elm St.,  
Chippewa Falls 720-9635 (2013)
- \* **Treasurer**  
Kathryn Forsgren, 18498 122nd Ave.,  
Jim Falls 382-5511 (2014)

DIRECTORS

- \* Lucyann LeCleur, 201 S. Rural St.,  
Chippewa Falls 723-7468 (2013)
- \* Skip August, 18416 54th Ave,  
Chippewa Falls 723-8493 (2014)
- \* Steve Rasmus, 936 N. Bridge St.,  
Chippewa Falls 723-4339 (2014)
- \* Jerry Way, 257 Dwight St.,  
Chippewa Falls 723-2097 (2015)
- \* Nancy Schuh, 5432 178th St.,  
Chippewa Falls 726-2376 (2015)
- \* Teri Stahr, 7493 County Hwy K,  
Chippewa Falls 723-9007 (2013)
- \* Arley Engel, 5294 90th St.,  
Chippewa Falls 723-5124 (2014)
- \* Marge Hebbring, 7361 203rd St.,  
Chippewa Falls 723-5278 (2013)
- \* Donna Bourget, 1420 Miles St.,  
Chippewa Falls 723-6559 (2015)

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A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MARY MCKENNA

Anne

This issue's volunteer, Anne Keller, was born in Green Bay, grew up in Sheboygan, and graduated from college at UW-River Falls. Anne married Emmett, who is from Cochrane, but they met in Spooner, and lived in Madison and now reside in Chippewa Falls. Emmett was a graduate student in Madison while Anne taught French there. They had two children, Paul, who died when he was 18, and Sarah who is married and currently living in Switzerland. Anne and Emmett's grandchildren are Christoph (14) and Annikka (8). Anne's 98-year old father lives in a nursing home in Waupaca, where her parents had retired. Anne relates that she really likes living in Wisconsin - snow and cold included.

When their children were past kindergarten, Anne began working in the Central Lutheran Church office. After 15 years, she returned to teaching French - this time in the Chippewa Falls School System.

Thirty years ago, Anne and a friend started the Chippewa County Genealogical Society, where she continues to be involved with the addictive hobby of tracing family trees. That hobby has led her to a sincere appreciation of the community of Chippewa Falls, its history, and the stories of the families that became its foundation. Her current involvement is as the society's newsletter editor and helping others who want to trace their families. Anne has helped many people trace their roots, as well as several who have wanted to find their biological parents.

Anne represents the Genealogical Society at the Historical Society Board meetings and serves on the planning board of "The Past Passed Here." During that event, which is all about the fur-trading era, she dresses in authentic costume as a woman from French Canada. She loves talking with the kids during that week and some of them really don't believe that she does live in Chippewa Falls and not in Canada. Anne spends the days circulating among the children, giving them a sprinkling of the romantic French language. She helps at various capacities, like making medallions and assists with games. At the end of each day as the fourth grade students depart, they emulate what Anne has conveyed to them and, in parting, you can hear them say "merci" and "au revoir" and their smiles show the impact the event and Anne has made on them. Many of them say "it is their favorite field trip of the school year."

Her volunteering extends to helping at the Chamber of Commerce Visitors' Center and the Heyde Center. She also participates in Central Lutheran's bell choir, the Freedom Ringers. She's been fortunate to have traveled several times to Europe and has even visited some of the places from where her husband's or her own families originated.

Anne says that the Chippewa Falls community is fortunate to have a Historical Society that has involved people who appreciate the area's history and are willing to work hard to share their knowledge about it. It is her hope that some day there can be a new, accessible building and an employed staff to care for it and its treasures. We are grateful for Anne's time and service to our organizations and for all she does, we say "MERCI" (thank-you). ♣



Anne Keller

CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
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Anne represents the Genealogical Society at the Historical Society Board meetings and serves on the planning board of "The Past Passed Here." During that event, which is all about the fur-trading era, she dresses in authentic costume as a woman from French Canada. She loves talking with the kids during that week and some of them really don't believe that she does live in Chippewa Falls and not in Canada. Anne spends the days circulating among the children, giving them a sprinkling of the romantic French language. She helps at various capacities, like making medallions and assists with games. At the end of each day as the fourth grade students depart, they emulate what Anne has conveyed to them and, in parting, you can hear them say "merci" and "au revoir" and their smiles show the impact the event and Anne has made on them. Many of them say "it is their favorite field trip of the school year."

Her volunteering extends to helping at the Chamber of Commerce Visitors' Center and the Heyde Center. She also participates in Central Lutheran's bell choir, the Freedom Ringers. She's been fortunate to have traveled several times to Europe and has even visited some of the places from where her husband's or her own families originated.

Anne says that the Chippewa Falls community is fortunate to have a Historical Society that has involved people who appreciate the area's history and are willing to work hard to share their knowledge about it. It is her hope that some day there can be a new, accessible building and an employed staff to care for it and its treasures. We are grateful for Anne's time and service to our organizations and for all she does, we say "MERCI" (thank-you). ♣

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