

THE EAGLE



SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2013

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"



Tuesday, June 4, 1-3 pm

New Exhibit Open House Area History Center

- New **Surveying Exhibit** by Dennis Mickesh
- **Civil War Exhibit** donated by Peter Lea
- New **Chippewa County Music Exhibit** by Isaiah Frater

Dave Gordon invited Judy Henske to attend our new Music Exhibit Open House because it features her and other local musicians who have made an impact nationally. Judy agreed to travel here from her home in Pasadena, CA to take part in the open house June 4th from 1-2 pm. She will also make an appearance at the Heyde Center for the Arts accompanied by Jerry Way at 7:30 that evening.

A \$5 cover charge for the mini concert will help cover some of the costs. Please turn out to help us welcome Judy back home to Chippewa Falls.

(For more info about Judy, here is her website address: www.judyhenske.com)



The world's finest canoe man Suplice LaPoint (Rod Gont) welcomes students with Mashkiki Mukwa Eqway (Teri Stahr) looking on.

The Past Passed Here— 10 Years of Success

BY JIM SCHUH

This award winning special event, coordinated by the Chippewa County Historical Society, highlights the sights and sounds of early Chippewa County during the 1700s to the early 1900s. Re-enactors, in an authentic rendezvous setting, clothing and camps, portray French fur traders, lumberjacks and Native Americans. Visitors to the historic encampment experienced camp skill competitions, displays of pioneer tools and weapons, 1800s style food, shopping on traders row and live musical entertainment.

The event began ten years ago in Allen Park, which is the actual site of Native American and French fur trade era camps. It was later the location of the largest sawmill in the world under one roof, the former Chippewa Lumber & Boom Company. The events' name, *The Past Passed Here*, was selected to celebrate and reflect the significance of this historic rendezvous and lumbering era site.



Adults and children alike enjoyed this step back in time, exploring authentic re-enactor camps and participating in activities and camp skill competitions including cat and mouse, canoe paddle races, hawk throwing, sawing competition and making souvenir medallions. Demonstrators included blacksmiths, brain hide tanners, spinners, porcupine quill artist and weapons exhibitors. Food vendors featured old-fashioned candy, fry bread, buffalo burgers, root beer floats and voyageur stew. Traders had a variety of items for sale including beeswax candles, reproduction antique clothing, leather goods, animal furs/skins, beads, jewelry and toys.

This educational special event is truly an inspiration! The majority of volunteers who started this event in 2003 are still involved. Each year people who have never been involved join our forces. They all donate their time and talent to help students and the public journey back in

time to experience living local history. This year about 600 fourth grade students spent a day in camp!

A really big thank you to everyone who was involved at the event this year!

☛ **Planning Co-chairs:**

Mary & Dennis Brown, Marge Hebring, Teri Stahr & Jim Schuh

☛ **School District Community Resource Coordinator:**

Catherine Lea

☛ **CCHS Display:**

John Bjerke, Arley Engel, Dave Gordon, Becky Lodahl, Dennis Mickesh, Jeff Pritchard, Jim & Nancy Schuh

☛ **CCHS Food Booth:**

Skip & Rose August, Chuck Card (Chief cook), Marge Hebring, Emit Keller (cook), Patrick Kurtenbach, Nancy Schuh, Teri Stahr, John Thaller, Marina Mattison

☛ **Main Gate:**

Kathy Forsgren, Isaiah Frater, Sandy Furst, Candy Gunderson, Keri & Mike Hanke, Lucyann LeCleur, Mary McKenna, Linda Marinello, John Thaller, Tiana Stahr

☛ **Souvenir Medallions:**

Lucianne Boardman, Betty (Twink) Hanson, Kristina Hebring, Marge Hebring, Carol Osteby, Julie Sokup, Teri Stahr

☛ **Music:**


Jerry Way playing guitar and singing his original songs about local history

TOP PHOTO:

Holey Bob (Robert Jagodzinski) plays the game Lacrosse with students.

BOTTOM PHOTO:

Jim Lindberg oversees the Cat and Mouse balancing game.



A very special thanks to these businesses who offered free publicity for our event.

Rick Wold, owner of StudioOne Teleproductions donated production of a 30 second public service announcement. WEAU-TV 13, Charter Media and Chippewa Valley Community TV played the spot for us at no cost. The Chippewa Herald, Eau Claire Leader Telegram, Hidden Treasures, Volume One Magazine and The Wisconsin Historical Society printed articles. Guest interviews were done on WEAU-TV 13, WQOW-TV 18 and WAYY Talk Radio.

RE-ENACTORS!

DENNIS & MARY BROWN—(IRON KNEES & MISTRESS MARY) VOYAGEURS, TRADING
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 VOYAGEUR, KNIVES & WEAPONS & **ROBERT JAGODZINSKI**—(HOLEY BOB), PLAYED
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 FUDGE & **LYLE & BARB MARQUIS**—(FRENCHY & BLUEBIRD), VOYAGEUR
 CAMP LIVING & **TIM METZGER**—(9 CLAWS) NATIVE AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION
 & **DAN MEYER**—HAWK THROWING & **MARY MILLER**—(FRY BREAD
 MARY), FOOD STAND & **LEE NELSON**—(LEROUX) CORDAGE MAKER &
SAM THE TRADER—NATIVE AMERICAN BEAD ARTIST & **OWEN &**
KAREN OLSON—LITTLE FOOT TRADERS & **MARGIE SCHALLER**
 NATIVE AMERICAN PORCUPINE QUILL ARTWORK & **TERI STAHR**—(MASHKIKI
 MUKWA EQWAY) TIPI CAMP & **DAVE TURNER**—OJIBWE HUNTER / TRADER &
ROBERT WILLIAMS—(FANCY MAN) & **DAN WINRICH**—
 (DUTCHMAN) DUTCHMAN FORGE, BLACKSMITH &
BEV & MAT ZASTROW—
 BULLET CASTING &



TOP PHOTO:
 French Canadian (Anne Keller) directs the
 beanbag toss

BOTTOM PHOTO:
 A young re-enactor enthusiast retrieves
 a tomahawk.



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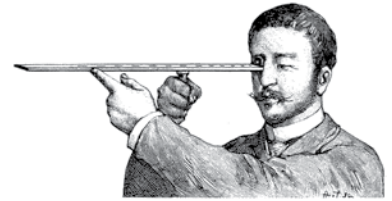
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Dennis Mickesh
and his surveying
exhibit.



CALENDAR

A Message From Your President

- June 4**
1-3 pm New Exhibit Open House
7:30 pm Judy Henske Concert at Heyde Center for the Arts
- June 15**
9 am-4 pm History Center Display at 5th Annual Summer Solstice on Grand Art Fair at the Cook Rutledge Mansion
- June 18**
9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting
Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch
- July 16**
9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting
Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch
- August 20**
9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting
10:30 am Historic Marker Committee Meeting
Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch
- W**e did it! Another successful “The Past Passed Here” happened last week. Jim Schuh’s article in this newsletter gives all the details. Would you believe that Thursday, May 2nd less than a week before the TPPH we had eight inches of snow? The snow melted and in spite of a swollen Duncan Creek the show went on. I would like to add my thanks to the people in Jim’s article who made this year’s event a success.
- At the February Membership Meeting the attendees enjoyed Tom Larson’s presentation of the historic markers in Chippewa County. The marker committee has an important role in preserving the rich history of our area. Mary McKenna, Jim and Nancy Schuh, and myself were inducted into the Hall of Fame.
- It doesn’t seem possible but our two interns are wrapping up their work. David has been working with Nancy Schuh in our collection of artifacts. Isaiah’s music exhibit featuring singer Judy Henske, the Helland Brother violinmakers, and Maggie & Scottie is finished. Please attend the opening of this exhibit and Dennis Mickesh’s surveying exhibit. An interesting part of the research for the music exhibit was making contact with Judy Henske by e-mail and phone.
- Many things are happening at the Society. Presentations have been made to Rotary, Kiwanis and the Senior Center. We had exhibits at Spring Fest and TPPH. Jim Schuh showed slides from Chippewa Falls’ historic highlights at the middle school 8th Grade History Day. We met with a representative of the UWEC Service Learning Center and found out that students at UWEC are required to do 30 hours of community service. We hope to make use of this resource. We are now open on the fourth Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m (see details on page 7). This is the same day that Genealogy has their regular meeting and we thought it would give people more opportunity to visit the museum. The first two months attendance were disappointing but new ideas take time to develop.

The Board of Directors at its April meeting received Director Wayne Meyer’s resignation. Wayne has been on the board for a number of years and has brought important perspectives to many issues that the board has dealt with. He will be missed. Jerry Way was elected to fill the vacancy.

Well as usual I started out wondering what to write about and at the end of my letter realized how much the Society is doing. Hope to see at the History Center soon. *Dave* 🍷



Intern David Withers



Intern Isaiah Frater



Peter Lea



GENEALOGY CORNER

A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

NANCY SCHUH

Peter

From 2011 to 2015 we are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. This seems the perfect opportunity to recognize Peter Lea who has shared his extensive collection of Civil War artifacts with the Chippewa County Historical Society.

Although Peter's paternal grandparents and extended family lived in Chippewa Falls, his parents Richard and Janet were living in Two Harbors MN when he was born. He spent his childhood in Silver Bay and Lakeland MN. He first became interested in the Civil War when he was in 5th grade. He read a book titled *Rifles For Waite*, which was about a 16 year old boy who joins the Union Army and a Cherokee Indian who becomes a general in the Confederate Army. The book had characters from AR and OK; the same states where Peter's ancestors were from who had fought in the Civil War.

When Peter was 16 his parents bought the Hide Away Resort on Lake Wissota from his grandmother and he and his family moved to Chippewa Falls. Peter spent his last two years of high school at Chi High where he met his future wife, Julie. He and Julie shared a love of music and were both in the high school choir and their church's choir.

About 24 years ago Peter & Julie jointly bought a red van with Julie's parents, Jim and Darlene Morrell. This was the start of yearly family trips that included the Morrells, Peter, Julie and their three children Zachary, Jennifer and Hannah. They alternated between family reunions and Civil War landmarks. Peter's first trip related to the Civil War was to Wilson Creek Battlefield, near Springfield Missouri. The first big battle out west took place there in 1861. While taking these trips Peter began his collection of Civil War artifacts and reproductions.

The first Civil War artifact he acquired was a minie ball, which is a conical shaped bullet that gets shot from a musket. He said his favorite artifacts include the Lincoln top hat, the old books and a musket that originally came from Bavaria and was converted from a flintlock to percussion.

For years Peter's collection was stored in boxes in his basement. Then several years ago The History Center had a display set up at the Heyde Center. Julie's parents saw the display and suggested to Peter that he display his collection at the History Center. Peter made arrangements to loan his collection to the Center, his father built glass and wood cases to display the smaller, more valuable items and the Civil War Room was created. Now after all these years we are excited that Peter has decided to turn ownership of the collection over to the History Center.

We cannot thank him enough for this huge act of generosity. On June 4th, The Civil War Room will be part of our Open House. Peter will be on hand from 1:00 to 3:00 pm to share Civil War stories and possibly play few songs from that time period on his restored banjo. Join us and help thank Peter for his donation to the CCHS. ♡

BY ANNE KELLER

There's no disputing that the technology we have at our fingertips has made doing genealogical research easier. During our last Chippewa County Genealogical Society meeting, our presenter (Author Joe Niese, along with Library Director Virginia Roberts) told us about i-things (iphone, ipad, imini, iyiyi) and how they could be useful in doing family research. There are many "apps" and programs available, many of which are free. Older researchers remember how we'd have to either go to the Historical Society Library in Madison or order a microfilm and wait for it to arrive at the library in order to look at a census record. Well ... the other day I was at a coffee shop and looked up a New York census on my iphone. Instant. Of course, what you see is really small, so make sure that record is Clarice and not Clarence.

The presenter spoke about the lots and lots and lots of "old" books that are online. If they've been digitized, that means that what you see is a picture of the actual page. It cannot be changed. BUT – if it has been quoted or copy-and-pasted, subsequent readers can change the entry. That can be a serious problem, because the next reader doesn't know there have been changes. The lesson here: always be cautious and do your own verification with the original, unchanged information.

Come to the next CCGS meeting (10:00 May 25) and hear the Register of Deeds, Marge Geissler, tell us about her role in the county courthouse.



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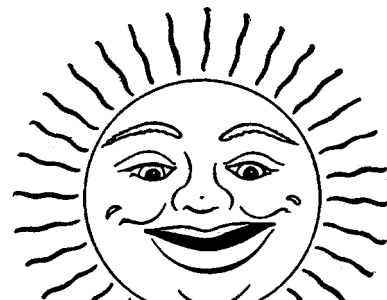


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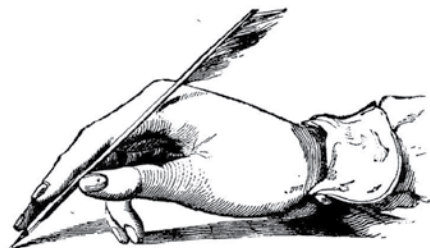
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COUNTY NEWS

Donations



Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, REPORTER

We are ready for summer and our opening on June 1. To celebrate the day we will be unveiling a Marble Mania exhibit, which features a game popular back in the late 1930's, 1940's and into the early 1950's. We also have invited three men who played the game to talk about their experiences at local, district and state marble tournaments.

To continue our busy summer on July 6, we will host former milk haulers who will tell tales of their experiences including a discussion on the services, besides hauling milk; they provided farm families.

On August 10, we will be hosting a Town of Edson Reunion. Jerry Way, along with Amanda Tanzer, will treat attendees to a musical history of Chippewa County. All the above programs begin at 1:30 p.m.

On September 21, we will be hosting this year's West Central Regional Convention. Our afternoon program entitled, "Lumbering in the Chippewa Valley" will feature prominent Chippewa Falls historians Arley Engel, Dave Gordon and Jim Schuh. Please strongly consider your attendance at this event, as attendance has not been what it should be for the past several years. This is an educational event and affords a great opportunity to talk and learn from other attendees.

We held an Antique Appraisal fundraiser on April 6 and April 18, the Stanley Senior Citizen's sponsored a bingo and together they netted our treasury over \$700. These funds will come in handy as we have had some unexpected damage to a wall and ceiling in our 2011 building, caused by a roof ice dam. Repairs were costly and we have a deductible that needed to be covered.

Hope to see you at this years West Central Regional Convention in Stanley! ❄️

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Carl N. Krueger	Arley & June Engel
Margaret Rubenzer.....	Gary & Judy Gaier

Other Donations:

Visitors	\$57.00
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Wissota View Chow Down for Charity.....	352.00

Lifetime Membership:

John Thaller	125.00
Jacqueline Gibbs.....	125.00

Open Fourth Saturdays starting again in September

The Chippewa County Historical Society has expanded the days the Area History Center is open to the public. The museum is now open the fourth Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (We will not be open Saturdays in June, July, August and December.) The new time is scheduled in conjunction with the Chippewa County Genealogical Society's monthly program meeting. Tour the 50-room museum and research genealogy and local history in the extensive library. The Chippewa County Historical and Genealogical Societies are located at 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls. Open Tuesdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m., tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of each month 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or by appointment. Info: 715-723-4399.

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Column Authors: Arley Engel,
Kathy Forsgren, Dave Gordon and
Mary McKenna

* Chairperson

The S S Huckleberry

BY ARLEY ENGEL

Being the second son in a family of 5, we spent a fair amount of time on the Chippewa River. In the early 1940s, dad and mother used to take us swimming down on the flat rock where Beaver Creek empties into the Chippewa. The water level here was up and down depending if the power company was running the generators at Chippewa Falls. Around 7:30 pm the current would increase and the river would rise 2 to 3 feet making for an exciting time on the flat rock. It got a little slippery and put the fear of drowning in the minds of both my brother Eugene and myself. We were not accomplished swimmers.

Our grandfather Bert used to take us fishing on the shore line of Carl Blaeser's land. We had to open 2 different gates and travel down a cow lane to get to the river. The location that we fished was known as the Big Rock. The Big Rock is still in this spot today. It is hard to believe the river currents and the ice flow have not moved the Big Rock. This rock had another purpose, it was the northeastern boundary of a lost city which was named Dell City. Dell City was laid out about 1880 when the Blue Mills Lumbering Company was going strong at Lake Hallie. The site was mapped out and parcels were sold but nothing was ever developed. The parcel of land ran south from the Big Rock to a location on Ralph Liddell's property that contained a broom factory. From here it traveled west to include about 10 acres on the John Blaeser farm where it turned north at a 90 degree angle line with the Big Rock. All of this being on the west river bank and the Hallie Sawmill was on the east side of the river.

Grandpa had a new 1941 Ford 4-door car at this time. We had to be very careful when traveling down the cattle lane as Grandma would have been embarrassed if the car smelled of cow poop when they went to church on Sunday. We attended the Methodist Church that was located a quarter mile west on the south side of the road from the Sunnyside School. This was across Highway 29 from Chippewa Canning Company's permanent pea viner. The storage silo for the pea vines is still located at this site. Back to the river, dad would take us boys down on John Blaeser's property where we fished from shore. We used cane poles for pan fish and set lines for rough fish like carp and catfish. We would soak them in a salt brine water solution strong enough to float an egg. Then they were smoked with a mixture of apple wood and corn cobs. The apple wood supplied the flavor and the dry corn cobs supplied plenty of heat. This was fishing in the good old days! We even hooked a turtle some times—they were great tasting.

One winter when dad got done with stripping and baling our tobacco crop, he decided he wanted to build a small boat using marine plywood and cedar strips for the framework. We did not have room or any heat in the sheds on the farm so he got permission from Sam Rineck who was the owner of the River Inn Tavern to build it inside at the bar. It drew a lot of interest as the construction progressed, until it came time to prime and paint the boat. Then there were a few complaints from Sam's customers and dad was asked to work after the bar closed and get it out as soon as possible. We used this boat with no outboard motor, just oars to propel it for 2-3 years until someone stole it. Dad did not own another boat until they moved out to the Yellow River on County Highway K in 1972.





CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013-2014

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

In the mean time I purchased a small boat with a 5 hp engine in 1953 as a junior in high school. We operated this rig for a year and then put in 7.5 hp with electric start. We tried pulling a water skier but the motor was too small. Then in 1958 Bill Goulet, Sam Rineck Jr. and I purchased a 4-place, 15-foot Lone Star boat with a 35 hp electric start—still not enough power to pull 3 or 4 skiers so a 50 hp electric start was purchased in 1959. It was plenty of power to pull 4 average size skiers. We really tore up the Chippewa River and spent a lot of time on Lake Wissota for the next few years. By 1989 we had taught most of the neighbor kids the fun of water skiing.

Then the dream was to build a flat bottom boat with a paddle wheel. The frame was 16x7.5. The top was covered with sheets of marine plywood. This structure was then stood up on its side. The cavity was filled with water resistant styrofoam sheets from Perrnoud Construction (which had been removed from a Cray building in Chippewa Falls). The bottom was then covered with some old wall paneling that I had torn out of an old building. Next we added a reel from an old Alis Chalmers combine that was donated by Wayne Blaeser.

Now we needed a power supply. I took an old transmission from a small riding lawn mower that I had junked out. We then added a 3.5 hp Briggs and Stratton gas engine. After getting these pieces all synchronized, it was time for a test drive. Mother June, Bert and all our kids climbed aboard. We had 1 plank, 8 feet long by 10 inches wide centered on each side. Mother sat on the floor in the middle. I was the Captain and sat on an old bar stool. We all had our life jackets on and must have been quite a sight to any other craft on the river that day. We went down stream past the first island then turned around for the return trip. Everything seemed to work well on our maiden voyage. We all returned safely.

It was decided that The SS Huckleberry would be a proper name. Brother Bert was into engraving on wood so he built a nice name board using a 6 inch by 5 foot pine board. He carved the letters in with his router and then painted the letters blue. It was finished with clear coat. This was the most impressive part of our craft. We then added 2x2 inch side support poles to which we attached some conduit pipe for rafters. This we covered with a blue tarp. Now we were a classy craft with shade. We got a lot of thumbs up as we cruised up and down the Chippewa. We decided we needed a little more power to come back upstream against the current so we added a 5 hp outboard Motor to the power supply. this unit was hooked in with the rudder steering system and worked beyond our expectations. Many times we went as far as the VFW Bar on Star Ave. east of Eau Claire. This is the Dells Pond area where logs were stored and sorted back in the years of the big sawmills on the Mighty Chippewa River. Other times we went as far as the Dells Paper Mill Dam. Our neighbor Leo Turner was a watchman and he would give us tours of the dam when we tied up at this site. Back to the Huckleberry, we ran it with this mode of power until I retired in 1999. Then I built a new craft designed as a house boat, we even had a water slide off the roof. We pumped water from the river to the top of the slide to lubricate it for a quick slip to the river. The 25 hp 4-stroke Suzuki outboard, was smoothest running outboard I have ever owned. It ran so quiet that we ruined the starter ring gear by trying to start it when the engine was running! We have many memories that will not soon be forgotten among our family and friends. Hale to the SS Huckleberry now retired. *That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie.*

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