



THE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

September 2011

Vol. XXIII, No. 3

A newsletter by the Brown County Historical Society dedicated to the preservation of Brown County history.

2010 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER

THE PETRY-NEVEU HOUSE

by Jerry Abitz

The Petry-Neveu House is located at the southeast corner of Walnut and Jackson Streets in Green Bay, in the heart of what is now referred to as the Navarino Neighborhood. In 1893, the Petry family built this stick style* home to house the family. Five years later, their daughter, Carrie, married August Neveu, a prominent Green Bay drug-gist, and took up residence here. The house remained in the family for more than 100 years.

In 2004, the property was acquired by NeighborWorks® Green Bay, formerly Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), NeighborWorks® is a nonprofit corporation

that works with the City to strengthen and stabilize core neighborhoods of

Green Bay, of which Navarino is a part. To achieve their mission statement as "a nonprofit corporation that strengthens neighborhoods and improves lives by revitalizing housing, neighborhood character, and promoting and preserving homeownership," they organize classes in home buying, offer counseling, and provide a lending program and other ancillary programs to educate a prospective buyer in homeownership.

The Navarino neighborhood is near the downtown area, where many houses of this size often are carved into a warren of apartments for unattached adults, and their grounds become a parking lot. As one drives through this older neighborhood, however, one finds that this is a fairly compact area where that has not happened.

In 2007, Tristen Zimmerman and Troy Kapalczynski needed a home, saw a lot of potential in the Petry-Neveu House property, and decided they were willing to undertake a renovation project of this magnitude to bring it up to date. In 2007, they bought the property from NeighborWorks®.



View of the west side of the Petry-Neveu House, with its 14-color exterior paint job, in 2010. Owners Tristen Zimmerman and Troy Kapalczynski undertook renovating this 1893 stick style home. Inset: House prior to renovation in 2007. Photos supplied by owners.



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THE PETRY-NEVEU HOUSE

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As any homeowner can attest, a home is not a static entity. Styles go out of fashion; weathering on the exterior can cause modifications as things rot or deteriorate. Porches can go bad and get demolished. Water leaks can cause structural damage. Foundations can weaken and things sag. Modifications inside can weaken the structural entity. Even shortcomings in the design can cause future changes or additions that can change the character. This house was beset with most, if not all, of these ills.

Comparing family photos from an earlier time reveal a drastic change in the front porch. An attached garage was added, changing the back entrance that was out of character with the style. The visible stick-style ornamentation had been lost or camouflaged in the painting scheme.

The new owners' goal was to bring this landmark building back as much as possible to its origins and to do so in an environmentally responsible and energy-efficient manner. To achieve this, Tristen and Troy went all out to restore this house. Their list of accomplishments is very long. In summary, they repaired the structural deficiencies, updated the utilities, installed geothermal heating, replaced inappropriate additions, installed new wood windows, insulated, replastered where

needed, and refinished the floors. Interior and exterior architectural details lost over the last 118 years were either replaced with materials salvaged from other buildings, or were replicated and restored. Hired contractors did some of the work, while the owners themselves did a lot of the less-skilled projects. An eye-catching, 14-color paint job was used to emphasize the various details on this "painted lady."

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The Petry-Neveu House — (Upper left) Space for the new galley kitchen on the second floor; double doors lead to a deck. (Upper right) Front door detail (north entrance). (Lower left) Renovated pantry. (Lower right) New interior stairway. Photos supplied by owners.

Comparing the before and after photos provided by the owners show a startling contrast. The result is a welcome attraction to the Navarino Neighborhood, where every May there is a neighborhood walk conducted during National Historic Preservation Month.

For their efforts, the owners were awarded the 2010 Historic Preservation Award for Historic Restoration/Rehabilitation at the BCHS annual meeting last February.

**Author's note* — Stick style, "stick work," or decorative half-timbering is highlighted on the exterior walls in this particular style. Other features include prominent brackets, rafters, and braces. Its origin can be traced back to the Swiss cottages in the 1840s and became popular starting in the 1870s as part of the Victorian era. When one thinks of the painted ladies, like the Victorian row houses of San Francisco, one is viewing stick style housing, a celebration of timber construction with many vertical elements reaching for the sky. Source: Old House Online (www.oldhouseonline.com).

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

The landscape plans of Hazelwood

by Christine Dunbar

Determining the features of historic landscapes is like working a puzzle. Details like photographs, diaries, and accounts all help paint an accurate picture. Old photographs of Hazelwood show lilacs in the front of the house, and vines and a mock orange bush at the kitchen entrance; hollyhocks, sumac, and grapes grace the south side of the house. Prior to 1896, Hazelwood occupied a city block, bordered by Monroe Avenue, Eliza and Emily Streets, and the Fox River. Between 1896 and 1905, Hazelwood's lot was reduced to its present size by the subdivision of the



Sarah Martin sitting in the gardens at Hazelwood (circa 1920s). Photo courtesy of Neville Public Museum of Brown County.

land into three lots. Landscape plans for Hazelwood create the appearance of the 1880s-1890s. Historic accuracy, visitor needs, and neighborhood expectations all play a part in the landscape plans.

In 1964, the Neville Public Museum took over ownership of Hazelwood, an overgrown property with no landscaping funds. The Garden Club Des Peres was approached for advice and, together with eight local garden clubs, organized a Christmas Flower Show at Hazelwood. The \$2,400 profit funded the initial landscape plan.

Hazelwood was transferred from the Neville Public Museum to the Brown County Historical Society in 1989, and landscape plans continued. Landscape Architect, Dan Rogers, was hired in 1991 to create a comprehensive plan. In 1997, Barbara Wyatt, a research design specialist, was commissioned to develop an overall landscape plan for Hazelwood. The goals were to capture a historic look, facilitate access, ease of maintenance, and reclaim the yard. Wyatt's plan addressed parking, a front yard fence, and appropriate signage; it also indicated that the historic nature of Hazelwood would be impossible to recreate and historic plantings should be symbolic. She recommended the overgrown borders be reclaimed, the river view opened up, and invasive species controlled.



Hazelwood House (circa 1910 to 1920). Photo courtesy of Neville Public Museum of Brown County.

One aspect of the landscape plans difficult to implement was maintenance. Doug Landwehr developed a Plant Maintenance Plan for Hazelwood in 2000, recommending low maintenance plants, rabbit control with fences, a compost pile, and extensive mulching. The Society budgets for a summer gardener (10 hr/wk), and relies on additional volunteer assistance.

We are currently revisiting all the landscape plans and prioritizing projects; of primary importance is controlling the buckthorn, thistle, and overgrown borders. Neighbors Paul Dufek and Paul Sinclair cut the overgrown side borders and the ditch along the river with an industrial weed cutter borrowed from neighbor Mary Dollar. They dug buckthorn, pruned trees, and hauled brush to the landfill. Paul Sinclair, Linda Ferguson, Lynn Strelbel, and Jane Cole worked with gardener Cindy Mineau to plant appropriate perennials, update the Ruth Hartman English Garden, and apply heavy mulch to the beds. Thanks to all of our volunteers for the time and assistance they so generously provide.

We can always use your help. To volunteer, call Chris Dunbar at 920-437-1840.



Summertime in the backyard of Historic Hazelwood House (2011). Photo by Kathy Kauth.

BCHS STAFF CHANGES

WELCOME!

HAZELWOOD'S GARDENER — **Cindy Mineau** has 20 years' experience working in garden centers, and is one of the "tropical plant doctors" at a local greenhouse. She is a University of Wisconsin Ex-



tension Volunteer Master Gardener, trained in a wide variety of topics in order to assist the general public with horticultural information, and also holds a Horticulture Certificate from NWTC. She is a member of Herbs in Thyme Garden

Club, and provides volunteer hours maintaining the herb garden at the Green Bay Botanical Garden. She creates and teaches herb and plant-related programs throughout the area.

VOYAGEUR OFFICE ASSISTANT — **Kent Crain** has a B.A. degree in History and Humanistic Studies from UW-Green Bay, as well as an Associate's degree in Prototype & Design from NWTC. He has always had a keen interest



in local history and, as a child, spent hours paging through old city directories and phonebooks, and reading old *Green Bay Press-Gazettes* on microfilm at the Brown County Library. He is currently working on a book that takes a "then & now" look at downtown Green Bay, and has just started a small business building museum models on a freelance basis. Kent looks forward to using his experience and education to help maintain *Voyageur's* success and contribute to its future accomplishments.

BEST WISHES!

Bridgett Lowery regretfully resigned from the BCHS Board of Directors in July 2011 to dedicate time to her bustling new catering business, 416 Cuisine. We wish her continued success in this exciting venture.

Joan Hogan resigned from the BCHS Finance Committee in July 2011. Joan's involvement with the finances of the organization stem back to the early 1990s when a Capital Campaign to restore Hazelwood was underway. Joan remains the Chair of the Publishing Committee and Hazelnut Gallery.



PROJECT UPDATE —

BELGIAN ROADSIDE CHAPELS

You can now take a road trip and identify Northeastern Wisconsin's historic Roadside Chapels, thanks to a recently published brochure produced by the Peninsula Belgian American Club of Namur, and co-sponsored by the Brown, Door, and Keweenaw Historical Societies and the Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation.



Walloon Shrine of Saint Hubert and All Saints Chapel in Kewaunee County, owned by the Bellin Family. Photo by Jerry Abitz.

The brochure is the initial step in a preservation project to document the history of these unique chapels with signage. The brochure maps the 30 remaining chapels with the name of original and subsequent owners, and indicates which chapels are accessible to the public. A separate booklet is underway detailing the history of existing, relocated, and razed chapels.

Brochures available at the BCHS office.

Note: For original article, see the June 2011 issue of the *Historical Bulletin*, "Belgian Roadside Chapels" by Clete Delvaux.

NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM — "A WALK THROUGH HISTORY"

Myrna Dickinson, retired teacher and BCHS board member, created a program that keeps students on the move and takes advantage of the Fox River Trail. In just a few short blocks, students discover a Civil War training ground for new soldiers, the site of a brickyard, and a sacred Winnebago burial site. The walk takes students to the railroad bridge and explores where John Lawe built his trading post. At the Mitchell Joannes' house, 902 East Madison Street, students discover its fascinating architectural details, and explore how Astor Park was platted and developed.

A Walk through History is offered as either a part of the Hazelwood tour or an independent program.



EVENTS

Join us for one or all!!

Cemetery Walks *See calendar for dates.*

“IF TOMBSTONES COULD TALK”

WOODLAWN MILITARY CEMETERY WALK WITH COLOR GUARD PRESENTATION –

“We steamed out of New York Harbor on the most beautiful day, and it gave me a queer pang when I saw the dear old Statue of Liberty fading away in the distance. You never realize how powerfully proud you are of your country and how glad you are to be an American as when you see that marvelous New York skyline sinking in the horizon.”

—Nurse Margaret Rowland to her family.¹

Come and hear the first-person stories of eight of Wisconsin’s military veterans, ranging from the War of 1812 to WWII. A few of the veterans you will encounter include:

- WWI veteran **Edith D. Bender** who served as a nurse in France in 1918. By this time more than 12,000 nurses were on active duty at 198 stations worldwide.
- **Colonel Chapman** (1810-1887), a West Point graduate, who arrived at the Fort Howard Military Post in 1833 as a 2nd Lt. of the U.S. 5th Infantry. Chapman had a long and illustrious career serving his country, and was distinguished in both the Mexican and Civil Wars.
- Kentucky-born **John Mallory**, a private in the Union Army during the Civil War and member of the 13th Regiment U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery. Mallory was a resident of Green Bay for 30 years.
- **John Lawe**, along with most of the residents of Green Bay, had a stake in the War of 1812. Lawe and most traders in the area were pro-British and fighting to maintain their way of life. Lawe was in the Green Bay Militia and served as a lieutenant in the British Indian Department under Colonel Robert Dickson. On August 8, 1816, 500 soldiers arrived to establish Fort Howard, and Lawe’s way of life changed drastically.

¹Stevens, Michael E. *Letters from the Front: 1898-1945. (Voices of the Wisconsin Past)*. Wisconsin State Historical Society, 1992.

Admission: \$5/person, \$12/family (children 16 and younger). **Reservations are required** in order to have enough guides. If interested, please call 920-437-1840, send

an email to bchs@netnet.net, or register online at www.browncohistoricalsoc.org.

NOTE: Cemetery Walks involve quite a bit of standing. You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and flashlight.

CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 6:30p –

Sunday, Sept. 18, at 4:00p –

“If Tombstones Could Talk” Cemetery Walk at Woodlawn Cemetery. (Both walks will begin with a Color Guard Presentation.) Relish the past by listening to some of Green Bay’s past residents. Admission - \$5/person; \$12/family. Reservations required.

OCTOBER

Saturday, Oct. 8 – Historic Bus Tour.

Call for details (920-437-1840).

NOVEMBER

Schedule a tour, tea, or program for your group.

Days or evenings. Call for details (920-437-1840).

DECEMBER

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2:30-5:00p – Holiday Tea

Relax and enjoy an elegant afternoon tea reminiscent of the 1880s. Indulge in authentic sweet and savory tea courses, entertainment, and a tour of Hazelwood, glittering in holiday decorations. Reserve early – only 25 spaces available; \$15/person.

Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18, 12:00n-4:00p –

A Hazelwood Holiday – Visit Hazelwood all decked out for the holidays! Join us for refreshments, and make a holiday ornament to take home. Regular admission charged; members free.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 12:00-4:00p –

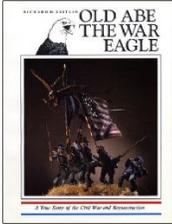
A Children’s Christmas – Special tours, crafts, and activities. Join puppeteer Carolyn Verdonik, and make a holiday sock puppet.

Call us! Create a holiday tour, program or Victorian tea for your group (920-437-1840).

(Continued on page 7)

BOOKS BY MAIL

Available by mail using the form below.

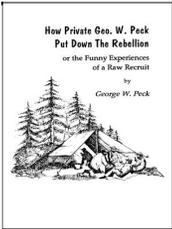


OLD ABE THE WAR EAGLE

by Richard Zeitlin, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin. 1986.

Soft cover, 113 pages, photos and maps; \$9.95.

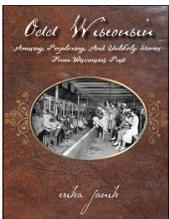
This book chronicles the life of Old Abe, the bald eagle, that became the mascot of the Eighth Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Old Abe participated in thirty-seven battles and skirmishes during the Civil War. After the war, Abe became a living symbol of the victorious Union. It is also the story of the men among whom Old Abe lived, the citizen-turned-soldier of the Eighth Wisconsin.



HOW PRIVATE GEO. W. PECK PUT DOWN THE REBELLION OR THE FUNNY EXPERIENCES OF A RAW RECRUIT

by George W. Peck. Wm. Caxton Ltd. 1990. Reprint. (Originally published Chicago: Bedford Clark 1890.) **Soft cover, 316 pages; \$14.00.**

Peck's humor is often compared with that of Mark Twain in poking fun at prejudice and small-mindedness. Peck presents a humorous view of the life of a cavalryman, who was too scared to fight and too frightened to run. His narrative captures the rhythm, vocabulary, attitudes and feelings of ordinary folks. Many parts will have you laughing out loud!



ODD WISCONSIN

by Erika Janik, Wisconsin Historical Society Press. 2007.

Soft cover, 200 pages; \$16.95.

This collection of short but intriguing stories of Wisconsinites and their state presents a picture of a state history unlike any taught in school. Stories range from one about a giant couple who once traveled with the circus, to dozens of ghosts who looked after the bones of Reverend James Lloyd Breck. Each story highlights a different aspect of Wisconsin's unique history and gives the reader even more reason to declare with pride their cheese head lineage, or at least muse about where the original state constitution actually is.

To Order: Please fill out below and return with payment or credit card info to:

Brown County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1411, Green Bay, WI 54305-1411

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Shipping:	\$1 - \$25:	\$3.50	
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SIGNATURE (CREDIT CARD ONLY) _____

EVENTS

(Continued from page 5)

1st Annual Allouez Historic Home Tour Sat., Sept. 24, 10:00a-3:00p

Visit homes dating from the 1890s-1950s!



TICKETS

Advance sales: \$17/person;
Day of event: \$20/person
at door (if available)

AVAILABLE AT

- * Allouez Café * Petal Pusher *
- * Suitable for Framing *
- * Twigs * The Village Grille *

Co-sponsored by Historic Allouez Society and Brown County Trust for Historic Preservation. For questions or more information, contact Holly Dudley (920-497-8047).

23RD ANNUAL LOCAL HISTORY SERIES CONTINUES THIS FALL

by Mary Jane Herber

The 23rd annual Local History Series sponsored by the Local History & Genealogy Dept. of the Brown County Library is scheduled for five Thursdays this fall – Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, and 27. Programs run from 7:00-8:15p. Always having a broad base of interesting programs about the history of the area and state, the series continues.

Two of the featured speakers this year are Lee Somerville, speaking about her new book, *Vintage Wisconsin Gardens*, and retired Prof. Kerry Trask will speak about Wisconsin in the Civil War, based on his award-winning book, *The Fire Within*. Programs to complete the series are in the planning stages.

A list of History Series programs can be found on the Brown County Library website, www.browncountylibrary.org. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, call the Local History & Genealogy Dept. (920-448-5815, available 24/7).

EVENT RECAPS

Haviland and Blooms - June 2-5

"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers."
— Claude Monet

Monet's statement might also ring true for painter Frederika Crane. The Society's collection of Crane's painted china includes elaborate patterns of bold yellow sunflowers, bright nasturtiums, and delicate flowering branches. The first annual Haviland and Blooms event paired Crane's china with dazzling, fresh floral arrangements throughout



Frederika Crane's hand-painted china graced by a beautiful yellow orchid.
Photo by Kathy Kauth.

Hazelwood Historic House. Mary Eisenreich's lively music on the back porch, perfect weather, and delicious refreshments added to the event's success.

Our thanks to Aster Park Floral, Bittersweet, Bouchard's Floral and Gifts, Buds N' Bloom, Burst, Enchanted Florist, Mayflower Greenhouse, Petal Pusher, Schroeder Flowers, and Twigs Floral Gallery for their inspired floral displays. We are also grateful to Loretta Delvaux, BCHS Program Chair, for organizing the event, and committee members: Barb Beaver, Myrna Dickinson, Christine Dunbar, Mary Eisenreich, Judy L'Empereur, Nancy Farvour, Sue Gilman, Jayne Jackowski, and Jane Shatswell. We are also obliged to Ginney Amen, Chris Berken, Gail Devroy, Iris Ebsch, Sally Enloe, Alexis Fox, Mary Nell Heir, Judy Laskowski, Breanna Linna, Joanne Rathburn, Dierdra Stary, and Judy Wilson for serving refreshments and providing tours, and to Chuck Golueke and Kathy Kauth for photography.

Celebrate the 4th of July!

The popular Heritage Players performed "Civil War Blues" to the crowd on the Hazelwood grounds. The production relates the experience of Wisconsin soldiers as well as the anxieties of the families left behind. The performance received rave reviews.



Heritage Players performing the "Civil War Blues." Photo by Wendy Barszcz.

Spotlight on our Neighbors — Wrightstown Historical Society

by Bonnie Van De Hey

The Wrightstown Historical Society operates the Mueller-Wright House Museum, a Greek Revival-style home built in the early 1850s by village founder, Hoel S. Wright. The collection of artifacts, documents, and photos help tell the story of the area from the time of Wright's arrival in 1833 until today.

Mueller-Wright House Museum — Located at 431 Washington Street in Wrightstown, the museum presents the home as it may have looked in the late nineteenth century. It is the repository of the accumulated history of the village of Wrightstown, and has many items relating to the rural townships of Greenleaf, Wrightstown, Lawrence, Rockland, and Askeaton.

What's in the Local History Library? — You may be surprised at the collection of items

available for public use. There are books of local interest, family histories, obituaries, memorial cards, cemetery records, wedding and engagement notices, plat books, township maps, census records, local newspapers, yearbooks, photos, and more.



Winter fun in Wrightstown (circa 1905). Photo courtesy of Wrightstown Historical Society photo collection.

HOURS

Open every Wednesday — 2:30p-5:30p
Sundays (June - Sept.) — 12:00n-3:00p
Private group tours can be arranged; to inquire, send an email to WHistoricalS@new.rr.com.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME !

Annual Memberships
Single — \$17 Family/Business — \$30

For more information, email WHistoricalS@new.rr.com, or contact Bonnie Van De Hey (920-532-4381).

HOURS for SEPTEMBER 2011 — DECEMBER 2011
BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BCHS offices — 8:30a-4:00p, weekdays
HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM
12:00n-4:00p, Thursday - Sunday
Available for group tours and programs by appointment.
DECEMBER
Dec. 3, 2:30-5:00p — Holiday Tea
Celebrate a Hazelwood Holiday
Dec. 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 — 12:00n-4:00p
Phone: (920) 437-1840

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