



THE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

June 2013

Vol. XXV, No. 2

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

2012 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER

THE BRIDGE-BETWEEN RETREAT CENTER 4471 Flaherty Road, Denmark

by Jerry Abitz

Sister Caroline Sullivan, a Sinsinawa Dominican nun since 1963, is the executive director of The Bridge-Between, a retreat center near Denmark in the Town of Morrison. Born in Scotland and raised in England, she has had a number of roles since she joined the Dominican Order – teaching school in Kenosha, Green Bay and Oshkosh, and as principal at St. Peter’s Catholic School in Oshkosh.

Caroline’s spiritual quest took her back to school at Loyola University in Chicago to complete the requirements for a Master of Pastoral Studies degree with an emphasis on spirituality and pastoral counseling; upon finishing, she became a pastoral assistant. In 1977, however, a crisis of faith struck.

She began her journey for her spiritual vocation within her Order. Perceiving similar needs in those around her, she

began to dream and, eventually, talk of setting up a retreat center. She realized that the Order could not support her dream financially, but began to look for a possible site and found this location with a stream flowing through it – a small farmstead in



Top: The restored 1909 farmhouse, now the focal building at The Bridge-Between Retreat Center. **Bottom Left:** Original farmhouse prior to renovation. **Bottom Right:** Caroline Sullivan, founder and hostess. Photos supplied by The Bridge-Between Retreat Center.

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THE BRIDGE-BETWEEN RETREAT CENTER

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southeastern Brown County in rural Denmark. She knew instantly this was the place she was seeking.

While there are a number of large and well-funded retreat houses in the Green Bay area, Caroline wanted something more intimate. She envisioned a visit here to be more like a visit to the home of one's grandparents, where one sits down at the table to eat with others, lives off the land and is close to nature – a place where one can reconnect with one's inner self. Twelve guests seems to be the magic number for its capacity to ensure connectivity.

Funding such a dream when one has little or no money can be an obstacle. But, responding to her invitation, friends who appreciated her dream stepped up when money was needed to buy this 12½-acre site (now 27 acres) along the edge of the Devil's River with a complete set of broken down, turn-of-the-century farm buildings. As one person commented, "You're going to buy this God-forsaken place?!!"

In the end, living frugally, using what was available, and inviting individuals and busi-

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nesses to build The Bridge-Between together by sharing time, talent, and resources, enabled this heritage farm to be saved.

This small farmstead consisted of a 1909 two-story gabled house, an 1890 granary, a 1924 concrete-block silo, an 1890 English threshing barn, and an 1890 milking barn. Slowly these buildings were retrofitted for



Top: The 1890 granary. **Bottom Left:** The silo under renovation, and **Bottom Right:** as it looks today. Photos supplied by The Bridge-Between Retreat Center.

their present use. Volunteers and generous trades people were integral in the restoration of the heritage buildings.

A 1600-square foot addition was put on the farmhouse to provide group meeting space as well as a four-season dining room and bedrooms. The following year, a geothermal heating and cooling system was installed.

The two-story granary was stripped to its frame, the roof was replaced, windows put in, a pot belly stove and electricity installed, a bathroom, kitchen, living room, dormitory-style sleeping area, and produce room were all built. The first floor became a gathering room and the second floor is a dormitory.

The dilapidated milking barn was razed so its materials could be reused for the granary and threshing barn where llamas, ducks, and chickens live today. Beyond the farmhouse, in the

A JOURNEY OF 532 MARKERS

by Melinda Roberts

The Wisconsin Historical Society probably never imagined a near-death experience would be the genesis for an interest in their historical markers, but that’s how it happened for me a diagnosis of Stage III-A colon cancer the day before my 55th birthday, a bleak two-year window, and a happenstance encounter with Marker 26 – Dawn Manor: Site of the Lost City of Newport. I had just moved to Wisconsin and knew nothing about the state except that “some sports team” called “the Packers” played here and I was a very long way from Westchester County, New York, where I had lived since 2005, and my native Southern California.

I’d photographed Marker 26 and three other Sauk County markers on a trip to Baraboo to see the “man mound.” I looked up the markers online when I returned home to De Pere, and that’s when I discovered there were 532 markers in 71 Wisconsin counties! It seemed like a good way to get to know Wisconsin (and keep my mind off the cancer) was to spend the remaining 18 months of my two-year window visiting, photographing, and blogging about the markers.

My journey officially began on June 28, 2012 – the date kismet brought me to Marker 26. As of this publication, I’ve visited 28 counties (39%) and photographed 246 markers (45%). Along the



Marker 1 — Peshtigo Fire Cemetery. Photo by Melinda Roberts.

way, I’ve learned that Wisconsin has a *rich, rich* history that includes the ice age, indigenous peoples, and swarms of European immigrants whose cultures and lifestyles still heavily influence the Wisconsin of today.

Wisconsin is home to the Ringling Brothers Circus (Marker 42), Laura Ingalls Wilder (Marker 118) (whose stories I grew up on), and the oldest logging camp in the United States on its original site (Marker 179). It is the birthplace of the Republican Party (Marker 135), Flag Day (Marker 115), “The Greatest Show on Earth” (Marker 440), and Kindergarten (Watertown).

The typewriter was invented in Milwaukee (Marker 43), the Ice Cream Sundae in Two Rivers (Marker 197), the snowmobile in Sayner (Marker 212), and the words and music to “The Old Rugged Cross” were penned at a church in Sturgeon Bay (local marker).

Runaway slave Joshua Glover was protected from his angry Missouri master by a “great crowd” of Wisconsinites who “eventually escorted [Glover] to Canada and safety” (Marker 463), and the Union Congregational Church in Green Bay was “at one point, on the Underground Railroad, which assisted escaped slaves in gaining their freedom.”

Marker 20 is the most disturbing -- Butte Des Morts (Hill of the Dead) in Menasha, which



Caught in a snowstorm in Vilas County (Marker 82). Photo by Melinda Roberts.

A JOURNEY OF MARKERS

(continued from page 3)

documents the 1730 French and Menominee massacre of the Fox Indians. "The village was destroyed and its inhabitants slaughtered. The bodies were piled in a heap and covered with earth, forming the Hill of the Dead." This hill is now a part of Fritse Community Park, which includes a walking path and children's playground.

Marker 1 is the most tragic — the Peshtigo Fire Cemetery in Peshtigo, memorializing the "tornado of fire" that claimed "at least 800 lives" and the "350 unidentified men, women, and children . . . preserved in a nearby mass grave."

Marker 535 is the most beautiful — the North Point Light Station in Milwaukee is at a breathtaking location atop bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan.

Wisconsin is Mother Earth to many tribes of Native Americans, including Oneida, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, Chippewa, Potawatomi, Munsee, and Sokaogan; numerous markers honor sacred sites, follow the battles of the Black Hawk War, and recognize the Native American heroes of the United States Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

In addition to the Wisconsin Historical Markers, I have come upon 137 Veterans Memorials and Civil War Monuments. Deeply moved by the patriotism of the Wisconsinites, I strive with my photographs and postings to honor those who gave their lives to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.

Even though a few markers have been singled out for this publication, in truth, every marker has been interesting and enjoyable to visit. I have learned about moments of triumph and defeat, stood in Milwaukee where Abraham Lincoln delivered a campaign speech, walked through sacred woods filled with ancient effigy burial mounds, and have been awed, inspired, challenged, motivated, and moved. The West Coast has its sunshine and the East Coast has its history, but Wisconsin is the heartbeat of America, which is the take-home lesson that I've learned so far in my journey to visit and photograph the 532 Wisconsin Historical Society historical markers.

Author's note: Read more about Melinda's journey and the markers in this article at wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.blogspot.com.



Hazelwood (Marker 156) located on the Fox River Trail.
Photo by Melinda Roberts.

CIVIL WAR VETERAN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

by Kathy Balza

As many of you may be aware, our Nation is currently commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. As a tribute to these brave men, I have started a project to document all Civil War veterans buried in Brown County. At present, I know of roughly 500 men, but I could use your help. If you have a Civil War veteran buried in Brown County in your family tree, or know of one, please contact me at either jkbalza@sbcglobal.net or 920-336-5645.

The veteran need not have served in a Wisconsin unit, just needs to be a veteran of the Civil War. I am interested in their name, in what unit they served and in what cemetery they are buried. If only the name is known, don't worry; I'll do my best to discover the rest. I'm also interested in any photo(s) you would be willing to share and allow to be scanned.

Once the project is completed, the information will be compiled according to cemetery. A copy will be available at Hazelwood Historic House for research. Information to be cited will be: veteran's name, birth date, date of marriage, spouse, date of death, place of burial; it also will include their military information: unit served, date of enlistment, date of discharge and rank. Finally, I hope to be able to include their obituary and, when possible, a photo.

*Thank you so much for your help
in honoring the Civil War Veterans.*

EVENTS

Join us for one or all!!

PETALS AND PORCELAIN — A Celebration of Flowers, Art and Fine China Friday–Sunday, June 7-9, 12:00-4:00p



Hand-painted china by Frederika Crane paired with floral arrangements by Joe DeKeyser of Aster Park Floral. Photo by Kathy Kauth.

Come and enjoy the exquisite floral arrangements by top local designers paired with Hazelwood’s superb collection of hand-painted Haviland china. *Petals and Porcelain* is a perfect way to welcome the gardening season!

Saturday’s event includes musical presentations by Mary Eisenreich (1:00-3:00p) and Ikebana flower-arranging demonstrations (1:00-2:00p). On Sunday, join author Lee Summerville for a presentation of “Vintage Delights of the Garden” and make an herbal sachet to take home. Visiting artists from the ARTgarage will be painting on canvas and silk throughout the weekend. Refreshments will be served on the back porch overlooking the Fox River.

Bring in this ad or show your membership card for \$1.00 off the admission price.

Admission \$7/person. For more info, call 920-437-1840 or check our website (www.browncohistorical.org).

Cemetery Walks

See calendar listings on page 6 for dates.

“IF TOMBSTONES COULD TALK” BURIED PROFESSIONS FORT HOWARD CEMETERY WALK Wed., June 19, 6:30-8:00p

Meet a shipbuilder, steamboat captain, ice harvester, undertaker/furniture maker and other past



Joel Fisk (1811-1877), portrayed by Randy Kruk, at a 2011 cemetery walk. Photo by Kathy Kauth.

residents of Brown County as they share stories about their careers, most of which have been forgotten. Meet some of Brown County’s past residents at their gravesites and learn about their cares as their life stories are re-enacted. Discover the impact they made on our community.

This guided walking tour takes place outdoors; please dress accordingly. Light, portable lawn chairs are encouraged. Please use the Military Avenue entrance to park.

Cost: \$6/person or \$14/family. **Reservations requested** to the Brown County Historical office at 920-437-1840 or email bchs@netnet.net. Refreshments will be provided following the tour.

~ RIVERBOAT FUNDRAISER ~ BUILDING A RIVER HIGHWAY: A fundraiser celebrating the historic voyage of the Steamship Aquila on board the Foxy Lady July 14, 6:00-8:00p

Join us in celebrating Morgan L. Martin’s dream of steamship travel on the Fox River while traveling on the modern riverboat, the *Foxy Lady*. The two-hour trip will take passengers from the mouth of the river at Green Bay to De Pere and back (we will not traverse the locks). Enjoy music, food as well as actor portrayals outlining the history of the grand project of the Fox-Wisconsin Waterway.

Admission \$35/person. **Reservations required.** Admission fee includes hors d’oeuvres; cash bar for beverages. Call 920-437-1840 or bchs@netnet.net to reserve your place. Space is limited!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

Save the date!

BCHS Annual Picnic
Thursday, August 15,
on the grounds of
Hazelwood House.

**Bring a lawn chair
and your appetite!**

RSVP requested — 920-437-1840

*We'll be there!
You?*

See calendar listing for more details.

CALENDAR*



JUNE

Friday through Sunday, June 7-9, 12:00p-4:00p –

Petals and Porcelain. \$7/person.

Wednesday, June 19, 6:30p –

"If Tombstones Could Talk" cemetery walk at Fort Howard Cemetery. \$6/person; \$14/family.

JULY

Sunday, July 14, 6:00-8:00p –

"Building a River Highway – Reliving the *Aquila* on the *Foxy Lady*." Reservations required. \$35/person.

AUGUST

Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 6-7, 6:30p –

"If Tombstones Could Talk" cemetery walk at Allouez Cemetery. \$6/person; \$14/family.

Saturday, Aug. 24, 1:00-3:00p –

Flower Fairy Tea Party. Reservations required. \$15/adults; \$5/children (5-12).

Thursday, Aug. 15, 5:30p –

Annual Backyard Picnic at Hazelwood Historic House. Join us to celebrate all of our members and volunteers! Dinner served at 5:30p. Please RSVP and bring a lawn chair!

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6:30p –

"If Tombstones Could Talk" cemetery walk at Woodlawn Cemetery. \$6/person; \$14/family.

Sunday, Sept. 15, 4:00p –

"If Tombstones Could Talk" cemetery walk at Woodlawn Cemetery. \$6/person; \$14/family.

Thursday, Sept. 19, 5:30-8:00p –

Captain's Walk Fundraiser, an evening of wine, appetizers and music. Reservations requested. \$28/person.

NOVEMBER

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 29 and 30, 2:00-4:00p –

Holiday Victorian Tea. Reservations required. \$20/person.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 12:00-4:00p –

A Hazelwood House Holiday.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 6:00-8:00p –

An evening of candlelight and music at Hazelwood.

*Events can be added, changed or cancelled without notice. To make sure you stay informed, make our website one of your Favorites — www.browncohistoricalsoc.org/

THE HAZELNUT GALLERY — SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!

by Christine Dunbar

If you like gardening, history and cooking, check out these recent arrivals for your bookshelves!

– *Putting Down Roots: Gardening Insights from Wisconsin's Early Settlers* describes why the German, Norwegian, Irish, Dutch, Polish and Finnish immigrants planted what they did, plus some great recipes and suggested heirloom plants for today's gardens (\$24.95).

– *Gudrun's Kitchen* examines a Norwegian immigrant's life through her recipes (\$22.95).

– *The Flavor of Wisconsin: An Informal History of Food and Eating in the Badger State* is a remarkable exploration of the rich food history of our state, paired with old and new recipes (\$29.95).

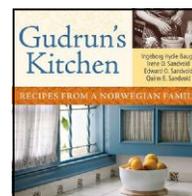
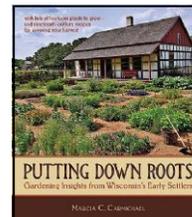
– Military aficionados can choose from books covering the Civil War through the Vietnam Conflict, all with a Wisconsin perspective.

We carry an enticing variety of hand-blended teas and tea accessories from Sage Hollow, and the gallery is filled with an interesting assortment of donated antique, collectible and historic-themed items.

Board member, Christine Whitton, is the new gallery manager, taking over from Joan Hogan. We would like to thank Sarah and Gary Landreman for building and donating two attractive shelving units that provide much needed additional display space.

If you would like to volunteer to staff the store on special events or summer weekends, please contact us. Also, we are always accepting quality items to stock the store and contributions are tax deductible. To donate, please call the BCHS office (920-437-1840).

As always, thank you for donating your objects and for sharing your time.





2013 NATIONAL HISTORY DAY— TEACHES, PREPARES AND INSPIRES REGIONAL STUDENTS

The University of Wisconsin—Green Bay hosted the Northeastern Wisconsin Region’s National History Day competition on Saturday, April 6, welcoming approximately 400 middle and high school students from 23 schools throughout the region. The theme for National History Day 2013 was “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas and Events.” National History Day brings history to life for sixth- to twelfth-grade students by engaging them in the discovery of the historic, cultural and social experiences of the past. National History Day inspires students by teaching through project-

THE BRIDGE-BETWEEN

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old orchard, is a one-room guest cottage, built as a living memorial.

Turned into three retreat rooms, the silo underwent the most dramatic transformation. The walls were insulated, three floors installed, and window and door openings were cut in the walls to allow light to enter as well as access, which were then covered by either solar glass or a door. The mostly missing roof was replaced; the feed room below the silo chute became the bath/shower room while the silo chute itself was outfitted with a portable toilet on each level. Stairs and a deck of treated wood for each room were also installed.

The Bridge-Between’s farmland has been preserved with a sustainably-tended garden, providing food for guests. As a reminder of yesteryear, a gift shop is located in the farmhouse where one can purchase sheep and llama wool, knitted and crocheted goods, sheep and llama wool hats, greeting cards as well as jams

based curriculum, encouraging critical analysis and thinking through the use of primary sources.

Students enter the National History Day competition in a variety of categories, including historical papers, exhibit displays, documentaries, performances and websites. The BCHS presents a special award to exceptional projects which have a Northeastern Wisconsin focus.

—In the junior category, this year’s award went to Brandon Buck and Rachel Holzem from West De Pere Middle School for their documentary, “**Diversity in the NFL.**”

—The senior division winners were Noelle Metoxen, Rachel Ninham and Eveyonna Ortega of Oneida Nation High School for their documentary, “**Assimilation Through Education.**”

The regional competition is a wonderful opportunity to share in the enthusiasm, creativity, and scholarship of the area’s history students. Many BCHS members volunteer and, like them, you will find it a rewarding experience! If interested, contact Deb Anderson at andersod@uwgb.edu or call 920-465-2539.

produced on the farm. (*Purchases also can be made on its website; see below.*)

The first guests arrived in the fall of 1987; some stayed for a day or two; others for several weeks. All faiths are welcome. Simplicity is what Caroline subscribes to — find a reuse for what is already here; live simply, attuned to one’s environment and appreciate what you already have. While staying there, one can reconnect with God and nature to provide stability and purpose for your life.

In establishing The Bridge-Between Retreat Center on a rundown farmstead, buildings were restored and retrofitted at a time when these once numerous farmsteads are rapidly disappearing. Although the BCHS has been presenting these awards since 1988, this is the first one involving a farmstead. For its efforts, The Bridge-Between Retreat Center was awarded a 2012 Historic Preservation Award for building adaptive reuse.

Author’s note: Learn more about The Bridge-Between Retreat Center at www.bridge-between.com or call 920-864-7230.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEIGHBORS — BROWN COUNTY FEDERATION OF HISTORY MUSEUMS

The Brown County Federation of Museums (BCFM) is an independent, not-for-profit organization established in 2006 to promote greater awareness of area history museums and build lasting cooperation among member institutions. Member organizations meet monthly to coordinate yearly activities, make the most of limited resources to enhance professional development and participate in joint marketing. A yearly theme allows visitors to explore a topic through a wide variety of programs. Join us this year! and explore...



How We MOVE

(See websites for additional events, dates, and times.)

- **Brown County Historical Society - Hazelwood Historic House** 920-437-1840 / www.browncohistoricalsoc.org
July 14 - Building a River Highway - A Foxy Lady Cruise - Celebrating the Steamboat Aquila's 1856 Trip on the Fox River. *Reservations required.*

- **De Pere Historical Society - White Pillars Museum**
920-336-3877 / www.deperehistoricalociety.org
- **UW - Green Bay Archives & Area Research Center**
920-465-2539 / www.uwgb.edu/library/spc
- **Green Bay & De Pere Antiquarian Society**
www.antiquariansocietygbdp.org
Celebrating 90 years of service - 1923-2013
- **Heritage Hill State Historical Park**
920-448-5150 / www.heritagehillgb.org
Memorial Day-Labor Day - Daily touring
Aug. 17 - Fur Trade Experience
Sept. 7 - History of Transportation
- **National Railroad Museum**
920-437-7623 / www.nationalrrmuseum.org
- **Neville Public Museum of Brown County**
920-448-4640 / www.nevillepublicmuseum.org
Aug. 16 - Baylake Bank Tall Ship Festival
Feb.-Dec. - Transportation photos from permanent collection.
All Year - Edge of the Inland Sea. See how transportation has changed from canoes to airplanes.
All Year - Museum Place includes information on the Fox-Wisconsin Parkway, USS Green Bay and the Port of Green Bay.
- **Oneida Nation Museum**
920-869-2768 / www.oneidanation.org/museum

For additional events, please visit the Brown County Federation of History Museums website - www.bcfm.org

Brown County Federation of History Museums

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1008 South Monroe Street, Green Bay WI 54301
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ADMISSION
Adult \$4.00 • Seniors (60+) \$3.50 • Children (5-17) \$2.50
Children under 5 are FREE. AAA discounts.

HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM
Opens Saturday, June 1!
Open Thursday-Sunday, 12:00n-4:00p, through August 25
Tours, programs and teas, scheduled at your convenience
by appointment throughout the year.

BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BCHS offices - 8:30a-4:00p, weekdays

HOURS for
JUNE - AUGUST 2013

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