



# THE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

March 2014

Vol. XXVI, No. 1

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

## 2013 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER

# THE MCLEAN RESIDENCE

### 100 Rosemont Drive, Allouez

by Jerry Abitz

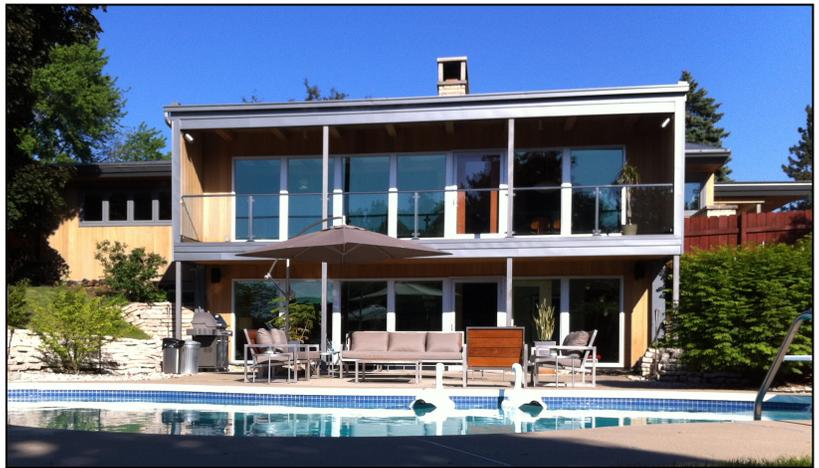
The Brown County Historical Society has been awarding its annual Historic Preservation Awards for various projects and for individuals active in promoting the reuse or rehabilitation of older buildings since 1988. Quite a few of them have been given to homeowners who have rehabilitated older residences from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This project, however, involves a more recent era and is not what one thinks of as "This Old House," but the McLean residence definitely does qualify for such an award.

At the end of World War II, veterans returned home, went off to school or received training under the GI Bill. They had put their lives on hold and now were eager to marry, raise children and purchase their own little piece of paradise. It was a period of great optimism, notable population growth, and the establishment of tract housing

estates around our nation's cities to meet the huge demand for housing.

It also was a time when new ideas were used in designing by forward-looking architects such as Wisconsin's Frank Lloyd Wright, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and others. Impetus for this style of house came from the architects and developers in California, who were busy building large tracts of housing for the great post-war migration into the area. They began to use newly-developed materials as well as new technologies and no longer felt the restraints of the past. The style that developed acquired the name, "Mid-century Modern."

Characteristics of this style with its many variations<sup>1</sup> were: large, floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the nature in their own yard, roofs that were flat or whose pitch was



(Top) Rear-facing and (bottom) street-facing exteriors of the McLean residence. Photos supplied by Tamara and Steve McLean.

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## THE MCLEAN RESIDENCE

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very low, interior spaces that were open instead of being subdivided into many small rooms, and the focus of the interiors was nature as seen through these glass walls. Green Bay did not have huge tract developments like the large metro areas but, nevertheless, did participate in building houses of this type.

One example of this architectural style is the McLean residence in Allouez. Merrill Rogoff, a prominent and successful lawyer, decided to build on land that became available adjacent to the Town & Country Golf Course, part of the Greenbrier subdivision. Rogoff then approached John T. Nichols, a local architect, to create a plan for his dream house. Nichols, himself a resident of Allouez, was already living in a house designed and built featuring this mid-century modern style.<sup>2</sup> He designed the house in this same style as his own with window walls overlooking the vistas the golf course offered. Eventually the open land was replaced with upscale houses in this early golf course subdivision.

When ground was broken for the foundation, the builders encountered problems with an underground spring. Due to this discovery, the developer offered the Rogoffs an additional lot. The location of the house was then moved to the center of the two city lots. The residence was built and the family moved in. In 1977, Rogoff died and the house was sold. Donna

Kolkocek and her son, Chip, moved in. After 30 years, it again went on the market and Tamara and Steve McLean became the owners.

Tamara and Steve first developed a passion for the mid-century modern architecture and furnishings by collecting vintage art glass and low-brow paintings.

As a n y homeowner can attest, 50 years of usage requires maintenance issues to be addressed. Siding needs refinishing or repairing, roofs (especially those that are flat or have a slight pitch) have developed leaks,



(Top) Living room, (middle) dining area and (bottom) kitchen of the McLean residence. Photos by Jerry Abitz.

more efficient windows are now available, and air leaks that require caulking are just some of the variables that may need attention.

The mahogany siding was stripped and refinished, the mahogany soffit boards under the eaves were removed and reinstalled with the opposite sides exposed. The copper metal work was replaced with steel.

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### BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OUR MISSION – To preserve, present and share the heritage of Brown County history through preservation activities, exhibitions, educational programs and events.

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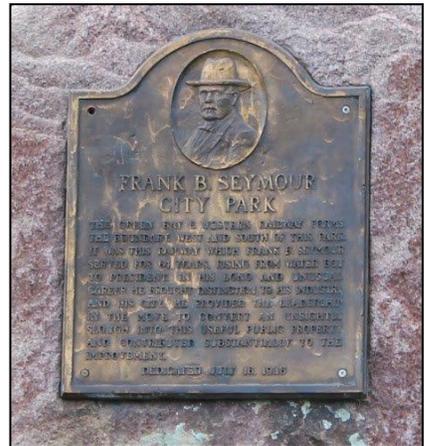
# Sleuthing Brown County's Bronze Beauties

by Melinda Roberts

*Author's note* — There are about a dozen bronze markers peppered throughout Brown County — erected between 1899 and 1934, their significance and stories all but forgotten by this current generation. This article marks the launch of a new series in the BCHS *Historical Bulletin*. Future issues will identify one of Brown County's bronze beauties, provide the marker's location and report the history behind its placement. After all, *we're* those future generations for which these markers were created! It's time to bring these stories back to life and honor the legacies thoughtfully preserved in bronze, to take a moment to consider Brown County's rich, interesting history and remind ourselves that there wasn't always a Kwik Trip on every other corner.

It happened recently, while driving south on Ashland Avenue, a route I've taken many times before. But this time a sparkle was captured in the periphery of my vision as I sped past a small park. A quick U-turn, and I was headed back towards

down town Green Bay in search of treasure — a once purposefully placed and now generally overlooked historical marker. To my delight, I was rewarded for my efforts by the discovery of a bronze marker mounted onto a pink granite boulder.



Located on South Ashland Avenue, this plaque commemorates Frank B. Seymour. Photo by Melinda Roberts.

Tarnished by decades of Wisconsin weather, the marker honors the park's namesake, one Frank B. Seymour:

*The Green Bay and Western Railway forms the boundary west and south of this park. It was this railway which Frank B. Seymour served for 64 years, rising from water boy to president in his long and unusual career. He brought distinction to his industry and his city. He provided the leadership in the move to convert an unsightly slough into this useful public property and contributed substantially to the improvement.*

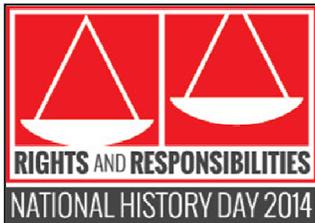
I tried to imagine the now impeccably-manicured, gazeboed park as an “unsightly slough,” and thought about Seymour’s rise from water boy to president. That’s the real magic of an historical marker -- the opportunity to see into the past to the people and their stories, to events and their outcomes, and to be reminded that the Green Bay I toodle around in today is very different from a hundred or a thousand years ago and more.

I also considered the history of the marker itself. Who placed it there? Who designed it? Was it expensive? Where did that boulder come from? I searched for “Frank B. Seymour” online and found nothing. Then I tried the “Green Bay and Western Railway” and quickly located the Green Bay and Western Historical Society, Inc. A few email exchanges with GBWHS editor and webmaster Bill Christopher, and voilà, I had much of what I was looking for.

In his book *The Green Bay and Western: From Moguls to Alcos*, author Stan Mailer describes the unveiling of the marker.

On July 16, 1936, over 200 people, many of them employees of the Green Bay and Western Railway, gathered at the slough-of-brackish-waters-turned-park to honor their retired president, Frank

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**VOLUNTEER!!  
FOR  
NATIONAL  
HISTORY  
DAY!**

Mark your calendars now! The Northeastern Wisconsin National History Day contest is fast approaching on Saturday, April 5. At this year’s contest, we are expecting four hundred students, representing more than twenty area schools. Students will showcase their exhibits, websites, documentaries, performances and papers pertaining to this year’s theme: “Rights and Responsibilities in History.” We need your help to provide a positive experience for the area’s young historians.

We are in need of adults who are interested in history and willing to volunteer as judges or room monitors. Volunteers are not required to have formal history training. All that is needed is some interest or knowledge in history and a love of kids!

To sign up and for more information, check out the website at: <http://www.uwgb.edu/nationalhistoryday/>. You may also contact the Northeastern Wisconsin National History Day coordinator, Deb Anderson, at [920-465-2539](tel:920-465-2539) or [andersod@uwgb.edu](mailto:andersod@uwgb.edu).

## BCHS BOARD UPDATES —

### CLASS OF 2014-2015-2016



#### NANCY FARVOUR

Nancy has spent 52 years in the food service and catering industry. Retired from Bellin Health's Food and Nutrition Dept. in 2009, she went back into catering and food services part-time at NWTC in 2013.

She studied for three years at NWTC in the Landscape Design Technician program, and previously owned and restored an 1863 Belgian home- stead, keeping the original floor plan intact. She also landscaped the yard and designed the gardens. Nancy has volunteered her time as a caterer for the Beja Shrine fashion shows and Christmas dinners for Foster family events. She now serves as a volunteer in event planning for both Brown County Historical Society and Hazelwood while also volunteering time at Green Bay Botanical Garden. Although she enjoys helping in the planning of BCHS events, her passion always will be the wonders and beauty of gardens. One of her yearly adventures is going to Grandparent Camp through UWGB with two of her grandchildren.



#### CHARLES GOLUEKE

Born and raised in De Pere and currently residing north of Green Bay, this will be Chuck's second term on the Board. He worked for many years in the printing industry and now the computer graphics field. His interest in photography and history led him to Heritage Hill in the early years where, as an active volunteer for many years, he helped with photo projects, newsletters and as an interpreter. Over the last several years, Chuck has been demonstrating beer-making as part of the park's Heritage Fests. Chuck recently began a digital archive committee at BCHS with the purpose of scanning and archiving photographs and documents from the community that otherwise might be lost. The archive program is being built with an emphasis on sharing some of the content with the public on a website and is in the early stages of being

formed. If anyone is interested, Chuck welcomes your help with the program, particularly with web and data entry but soon will be looking for photos that you'd like preserved.



#### JASON KRINGS

Jason is a lifetime resident of the City of Green Bay and has an Urban and Regional Studies degree from UWGB and a Secondary Education/Social Studies degree. For the last 11 years, Jason has been teaching Social Studies/History with the Green Bay Area Public Schools; he also has encouraged young adults and members of the community to take an interest in local history by developing a Downtown Green Bay Historic walking tour and leading multiple groups on this walk. Six years ago, he began to encourage students to participate in National History Day with a group of five students. Since then, National History Day has turned into an extracurricular activity at Southwest High School, participants have increased to approximately 30 students on average, and the school has had both state and national qualifiers each year.



#### DANIEL C. ROGERS

Born in Madison, he received a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 1970. He worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Madison as a Landscape Architect, Park Planner, and Property Planner from 1971 until 1976 when he moved to Green Bay, performing the same duties locally for the DNR Northeast Region. Dan has been associated with Heritage Hill since its early planning stages in 1974 when he was assigned to work with the Historical Park Committee of the Brown County Historical Society and representatives of the State Historical Society to create a plan. Over the years, Dan's duties at Heritage Hill have included Master Planning, Site Planning, Environmental Impact Statement writing and representing the DNR as official liaison to the Corporation. Dan retired from DNR in 2011 after 40 years of service. He is currently serving as a member of the Heritage Hill Corporation Board of Directors.

# 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

by Christine Dunbar

Brown County Historical Society members and guests gathered at Riverside Ballroom on Sunday, Feb. 23, to celebrate a successful year. Board President Tori Rader thanked departing board members Barbara Beaver, Myrna Dickinson and Laurel Towns, and new board members were welcomed.

Prior to the meeting, members were sent ballots to vote on bylaw changes recommended by the board. The vote passed in favor of the change.

Mary Jane Herber introduced the Society's Local History Award of Merit, presented to Bev and Stu Smith by Tori Radar for preserving the historic culture of Green Bay through countless historic productions.



## 2013 Historic Preservation Awards

- Packers Heritage Trail, Green Bay
- De Pere Auto, 705 George Street, De Pere
- S.A.L.T. Restaurant, 401 Main Street, De Pere
- McLean Residence, 100 Rosemont Street, Allouez

Warren Gerds entertained the assembly with a program titled "This is a Funny Way to Make a Living," sharing stories of his career as a journalist and reading from his book, *The Legend of Taylor Rapids*.

## THE MCLEAN RESIDENCE

(continued from page 2)

The roof was replaced for aesthetic reasons since the concrete tiles did not match the mid-century modern materials. The original Pella roll screen windows were replaced with more efficient replicas of the originals by the same Iowa-based firm.

Interior updates included removing previously-installed heavy Queen Anne curtains and window coverings from the previous occupants to lighten and modernize the interior décor. Painted and papered walls were updated in colors more appropriate for the period. New Nelson pendent lights were installed throughout the home. Most recently, the kitchen on the main level received a complete remodel in the summer of 2013. Wilco Cabinets of Green Bay, with Tamara's design direction, built period and style-correct custom mahogany cabinets to match the original wood throughout the home. All of this work was done to bring the residence back to its roots while modernizing the home to accommodate a young 21st-century family. Mi-Mar Builders, Inc. of Green Bay worked with Steve and Tamara to complete much of the work.

Because the McLeans were interested in the mid-century modern architecture and interior design, they



**Photo in story at left:** Board President Tori Rader presents the 2013 Local History Award of Merit to Stu and Beverly Smith for their contributions to the community. **Photos above, first row, left:** Mike Mc Kenna (left) accepts the Preservation Award for the Packer Heritage Trail from Historic Preservation Chair Don Kraft. **First row, right:** Larry Fisette (left) accepts the Award for De Pere Auto from Don Kraft. **Second row, left:** Pat Drury (left) accepts the Award for S.A.L.T. Restaurant from Don Kraft. **Second row, right:** Tamara and Steve McLean (left) accept the Award for restoration to their mid-century modern home from Don Kraft. *Photos by Chuck Golueke.*

did their research by reading various magazines such as: *Atomic Ranch*, *Dwell*, *Modernism* and *California Modern*. They installed reproduction period furniture such as the Eames dining room table and the Eames-endorsed Herman Miller lounge chairs that overlook the outdoor pool area.

Exterior improvements include landscaping provided by Landscape Artisans of De Pere around the pool area and on the side yard, adjacent to Webster Avenue, and in the front yard.

The final result is a light, airy interior with window walls and balcony overlooking the outdoor pool and their side yard on both levels, complete with style-appropriate furnishings. The house is a delightful example of an architectural movement that is becoming more and more recognized as a style to be emulated. For their effort, the BCHS has awarded them with its 2013 Historical Preservation Award for historical restoration.



<sup>1</sup>Not all houses are designed by architects because of the additional cost. Many are designed from standardized plans resulting in what is termed "vernacular designs."

<sup>2</sup>The Nichols residence at 128 Taft Avenue was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

# EVENTS

Join us for one or all!!

## NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS

Saturday, May 17 — 10:00a and 2:00p

The Astor District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, includes some of Green Bay's most elegant homes and historically interesting sites. Some of the Wisconsin Territories earliest leaders, such as James Doty and Morgan L. Martin, resided in today's historic district. Later the area, then called "Astor Heights" or simply the "Hill," became the prestige neighborhood of Green Bay. During the city's late nineteenth century's boom years, lumber barons, shipowners and builders and civic and cultural leaders built large, imposing homes on streets lined with stately elm trees. Today it is a thriving neighborhood. Join us and explore the history and architecture of the neighborhood.

*Reservations required. \$5/person.*

## PETALS AND PORCELAIN

FRIDAY THRO' SUNDAY,  
JUNE 6-8, 12:00-4:00P

Returning for the fourth annual presentation, this is an event you will not want to miss! The event celebrates exuberant, fresh flower displays by talented local florists, inspired by Hazelwood's collection of hand-painted china.

Each of Hazelwood's main floor rooms will feature a distinctive china pattern and a room bursting with floral displays. The majority of the china on exhibit was painted by Frederika Crane (1854-1930), a northeast Wisconsin native and long-time friend of Hazelwood's Deborah and Sarah [Martin]. Frederika left Green Bay to study art at the Art Students League in New York and, upon her return, opened studios in Green Bay and Neenah where she taught art and china painting.

In addition to the exhibit, artists and presentations will be featured throughout the weekend. Talented musician Mary Eisenreich will entertain from 1:00-3:00p each day. Enjoy refreshments on the back porch.



Floral display by Enchanted Florists. Photo by Kathy Kauth.

## IF TOMBSTONES COULD TALK WED., JUNE 18, 6:30P

This event provides an exciting opportunity to walk the beautiful grounds of Fort Howard Memorial Park while sharing stories about the people who contributed to Green Bay's rich and colorful history.

Fort Howard Memorial Park is a rich historical resource in our community. People from all walks of life are buried in this cemetery, founded in 1862. Rich, poor, famous, infamous, loved or forgotten alike, they are all buried here. The Brown County Historical Society's "If Tombstones Could Talk" cemetery walk brings the voices of those buried here to life. Costumed actors will portray individuals representing all walks of life from the county's

*(continued on page 7)*

## CALENDAR\*



### MAY

Saturday, May 17, 10:00a and 2:00p —

**Astor Neighborhood Walking Tour.** The Walk is approximately 1.5 hours and includes a glimpse of interior architecture of Historic Hazelwood House. *Reservations required. \$5/person.*

### JUNE

Friday through Sunday, June 6-8, 12:00-4:00p —

**Petals and Porcelain.** Includes refreshments. \$7/person. *No charge for BCHS members.*

Wednesday, June 18, 6:30p —

**If Tombstones Could Talk: Fort Howard Memorial Park cemetery walk.** *Reservations required. \$6/per person; \$14/Family (2 adults and children 5-17 years).*

### JULY

Friday, July 4, 1:00p —

**Heritage Players Celebrate July 4 at Hazelwood.** The award-winning Heritage Players will return to the Hazelwood back porch on July 4th to present "They Came to Wisconsin: Immigrant Stories and Songs." Bring a lawn chair. *Regular admission applies. No charge for BCHS members.*

*\*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](http://www.browncohistoricalsoc.org)!*

# EVENTS

(continued from page 6)

past based on a theme of "Tragedy and Triumph."

The program's continuing success is due to a dedicated group of actors, planners and researchers. Thanks to Myrna Dickinson for heading this committee. If you want to get involved, we are always looking for help! • Researching a character/ writing a script • Portraying a character • Guiding groups through the cemetery • Call the BCHS at 920-437-1840 or [bchs@nenet.net](mailto:bchs@nenet.net).

Please note the tour lasts approx. 1.5 hours, standing and listening to actors. You are welcome to bring a lightweight lawn chair, if you wish.



Charlie Hagen portraying Johann Joseph Platten. Photo by Kathy Kauth.



Heritage Players "Immigrants" program group. Photo by Stu Smith.

## HERITAGE PLAYERS ARE BACK FOR JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION

### HERITAGE PLAYERS REPRISE "THEY CAME TO WISCONSIN: IMMIGRANT STORIES AND SONGS" PERFORMANCE—FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1:00P

Local history should never be forgotten. Doing their part to facilitate remembrance, the Heritage Players will again present their 2008 original production of "They Came to Wisconsin" for their 18th season of breathing life into local history. Immigrants' experiences of coming to America are told through dialogues, skits and music.

Directors Stu and Bev Smith have drawn the tales from diaries and early published recollections as well as from original stories adapted by the players. The Smiths take pride in the research that was put into this production, exclaiming that "the really exciting

thing about research is how it transforms historical figures into real people."

**Hazelwood will be open from 12:00-4:00p; performance will be at 1:00p on the back lawn. Regular admission prices apply. BCHS members free.**

## BRONZE BEAUTIES

(continued from page 3)

B. Seymour. "FBS," as he was affectionately referred to, had donated the materials. WPA workers had donated their labor and time. Identified as "the grand old man from New London," FBS was present as his great-granddaughter, Miss Janet Zahorik, unveiled the bronze tablet honoring his distinguished GB&W career.

Afterwards, FBS expressed his gratitude. Then-mayor John V. Diener and other dignitaries spoke to the coming of diesel trains and other large-scale changes to the GB&W. It was a day of pomp, circumstance and celebration.

Sadly, FBS would not live to see the anticipated changes. He passed away on May 6, 1938, before the first diesel train arrived in Green Bay.

And that's how the lovely community park on South Ashland Avenue between School Place and Clinton Street came to be, and how the legacy of Frank B. Seymour was literally preserved in stone.



## GOODBYE

from Courtney Martin

As many of you may know, I am no longer the Program Coordinator for BCHS but I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for the amazing experience that I gained in that position! I have been able to meet so many of you and, more importantly, really get to *know* you. From volunteers to members, BCHS has some of the best people out there, helping to preserve and share the history of Brown County.

It was with mixed emotions that I accepted my current position at *Fox Cities Magazine*, but I cherish the time I spent working with you all. *THANK YOU SO MUCH!* But I won't be gone entirely! If I learned anything from this past year or so is that things are done from a passion to help. I have that passion and, for that reason, I will continue to be volunteer for BCHS. I look forward to still seeing you all at programming, and thank you once again for all of the help you have given me.

**SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEIGHBORS —**

**MISHICOT  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

by Jim Sustman

The Mishicot Historical Museum is located next to the water tower at Randolph and Rockway Streets in the village of Mishicot. The Museum is located in a two-room schoolhouse that served the village from 1874 to 1905. In 1905, when a new school was built, this building became the village town hall. In 1950, the Town Hall moved into a different building and the old school building served as the village maintenance garage and as a garage for the police car. In 1988, members of the Mishicot Area Growth and Improvement Committee (MAGIC) did an extensive restoration to the building, turning it into a museum.

The Museum houses village artifacts, items from area farming communities, Native American objects and a recently-added research center. This center houses one-room school records from the neighboring areas as well as records documenting Mishicot's unique history with the Potawatomic Indians.



What was once a two-room schoolhouse (1874) is now the Mishicot Historical Museum. *Photo courtesy of Virginia Parlato.*

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Memorial Day through Labor Day  
Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00-4:00p  
*Also open by appointment*

**CONTACT INFO**

**MISHICOT VILLAGE HALL**  
**Phone:** 920-755-2525  
**Email:** magic@mishicot.org  
**OR**  
**JIM SUSTMAN**  
**Phone:** 920-755-3317  
**Email:** jim\_sustman@yahoo.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY & HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE  
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! BROWN COUNTY

ADMISSION  
Adult \$4.00 • Seniors (60+) \$3.50 • Children (5-17) \$2.50  
Children under 5 are FREE. AAA discounts.

See calendar of events on page 6 of this issue.  
Tours, programs and teas scheduled at your convenience  
by appointment throughout the year.

THURSDAY THRO SUNDAY  
OPEN JUNE 1-AUG. 29, 12:00-4:00p,  
OFF-SEASON BY APPOINTMENT  
HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BCHS offices — 8:30a-4:00p, weekdays  
1008 South Monroe Street, Green Bay WI 54301  
Phone: (920) 437-1840 / [www.BrownCoHistoricalSoc.org](http://www.BrownCoHistoricalSoc.org)

HOURS for  
MARCH — JUNE 2014

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