



# THE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

September 2016

Vol. XXXV, No. 3

*A newsletter by the Brown County Historical Society dedicated to the preservation of history in Brown County, Wisconsin.*

## 2015 PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER —

# THE FRANKENTHAL BUILDING 130 NORTH ADAMS STREET, GREEN BAY

by Jerry Abitz

In the early 1970s, the urban renewal of Green Bay's downtown elicited strong emotions, particularly among people disappointed and resentful about the removal of longtime businesses and the destruction of architectural landmarks. This came to a head with the unsuccessful attempt to save the historic and much-loved Kaap's Restaurant. Citizens soon realized that they needed to be proactive in saving our older buildings.

Around the same time, George Burrige and his fellow Astor Neighborhood residents developed the 1980 Astor Historic District to recognize and help protect the grand homes on Green



Although countless buildings, housing stores and businesses, have been razed through the years, the Frankenthal Building still stands (originally constructed in 1928 to 1929). *Photo courtesy of Downtown Green Bay.*

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B a y ' s  
east side.  
In 1984,  
when he

was board president, the Brown County Historical Society (BCHS) sponsored the Heritage Festival, an event that commemorated the 350th anniversary of Jean Nicolet's visit to Wisconsin. That same year, in desiring to do more to celebrate and preserve our past, he convened a group of citizens and BCHS members who were interested in exploring and promoting historic preservation in the area, to decide what direction to take next in the wake of the past decades' successes and failures. The outgrowth of this meeting was the formation of the BCHS Historic Preservation Committee.

As members to this committee, Burrige purposely invited two individuals who had experience on the Historic Preservation Review Board, the statewide group that reviews all nominations for the National Register of Historic Places — Professor Bill Laatsch at UWGB and myself. Current committee member, Don Kraft, also was a charter member. We met monthly and discussed many ideas of how historic preservation, as an ethic, could be incorporated into the public's values.

Starting in 1988, annual Historic Preservation Awards were given to projects, organizations and individuals that advanced the cause of historic preservation. The award winners would be present and honored at the annual meeting in February. These awards have been well received and viewed as very positive in the public's eye.

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## THE FRANKENTHAL BUILDING

(continued from page 1)

The subject of this article, the Frankenthal Building, was selected to receive one of the 2015 Historic Preservation Awards for Building Adaptive Re-use. Receiving the award was Howard Frankenthal, the building's owner.

While these BCHS preservation awards often recognize a major rehabilitation effort to save a building that has deteriorated from neglect over time, this award is more a celebration of one of Green Bay's landmarks that has been well maintained over the years. Often, when a downtown building loses a well-known 70-year tenant and its primary commercial space remains vacant for more than ten years during an economic downturn, this does not bode well for the survival of the building. In this case, however, Mr. Frankenthal's continuing maintenance of this building was a solid investment that assured its survival in down times until Wells Fargo saw the opportunity of a historic but modernized building at a prime downtown location.

Designed by the Foeller, Schober and Stephenson architectural firm, the building is considered to be of the Mediterranean or Neo-Classical Revival style. It was built in 1928 and 1929 to hold the Cady-

Barnard Co. Originally the Cady Land Co., the business had become a successful real estate and land company that, by that time, had grown to be one of the largest owners of downtown real estate in Green Bay. They also marketed farmland to area farmers in Brown County and beyond with ads in newspapers as far away as Milwaukee. It housed a number of small tenants as well.

In 1932, the C.A. Gross Co., an upscale men's clothier founded in 1910, became the main floor tenant



Mr. Howard Frankenthal (left) accepting the 2015 Preservation Award from Don Kraft, then chair of the BCHS Historic Preservation Committee. Frankenthal validated his commitment to preserving historic landmarks with a generous pledge of \$18,000 to the Brown County Historical Society's Capital Campaign as a matching grant to preserve Hazelwood Historic House. Photo by Chuck Golueke.

and remained there until the business closed in 2003. Other tenants filled the upper floor. Serving the community in this same location for 71 years, the C.A. Gross Co. became a highly visible business landmark in Green Bay's downtown. During this period, the building was well maintained to uphold the image of a fashionable men's clothing store.

In 1983, the building was purchased by Howard Frankenthal, the son of the founders of Packerland Packing Co. Repairs were made to the building's façade and new windows installed. Frankenthal installed his own business office on the second floor which also still rented space to other tenants. For these improvements, Mr. Frankenthal received a 1991 Mayor's Beautification Award. As Jeff Mirkes, an official of Downtown Green Bay Inc., was quoted in a February 14, 2005, *Green Bay Press-Gazette* article, "It's a great building with nice curb appeal."

As mentioned before, when the C.A. Gross Co. closed, that space remained unoccupied for nearly ten years during the recent real estate recession. In 2013, the Wells Fargo Commercial Banking & Wealth Management agreed to occupy 5,000 square feet of the first floor. After a new boiler, new HVAC and a revised floor plan, Wells Fargo moved into their new location in October 2015.

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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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## THE RED CHAPEL

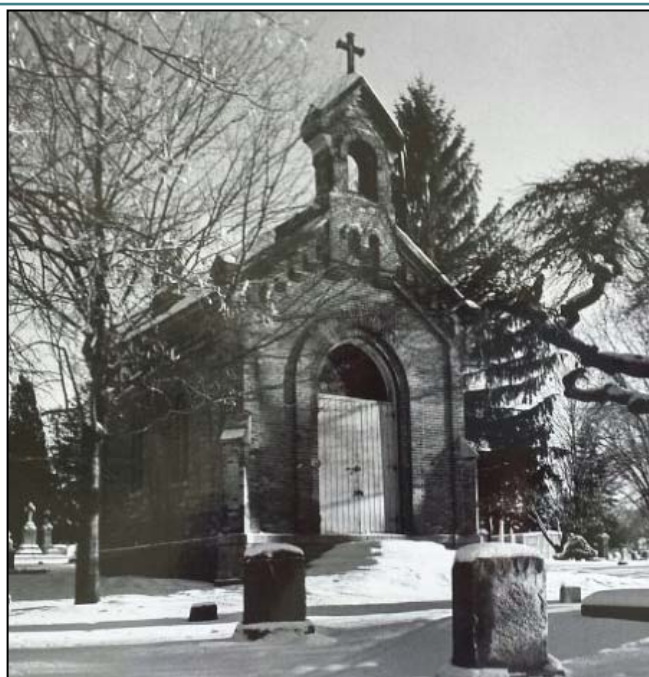
by Chris Dunbar

In the heart of the Allouez Catholic Cemetery sits a historic gem referred to as the Red Chapel. Boarded windows, a roofing system past its lifetime, deteriorated foundation mortar and a padlocked, peeling, front door spark curiosity about the building's past and its future. With a rich history dating back 140 years, the Chapel has a story to tell that connects us to our past.

Bishop Francis Xavier Krautbauer had the chapel built in 1876. The second bishop of the Green Bay Diocese, he arrived in Green Bay in 1875 from Milwaukee. Early in his tenure, he designed and commissioned a cathedral to replace St. Mary's humble wooden church on Madison Street. A skilled architect, Bishop Krautbauer modeled the cathedral after the Ludwigkirche in Munich, Germany, where he was pastor prior to immigrating to the United States. In 1881, after five years of construction and a cost of \$35,000, the imposing Romanesque Revival-style building was consecrated as St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Located at 140 South Monroe, the Cathedral remains a community icon, a symbol of permanence and the centerpiece of the area's rich Catholic history.

Built about the time the cathedral was started to enclose the remains of his predecessor, Bishop Joseph Melcher, the red brick chapel also is an admirable example of Romanesque Revival architecture. Although less ornate than the cathedral, there are similarities in the brickwork between the chapel and that of the cathedral. On December 20, 1877, a Pontifical Requiem Mass commemorated the completion of the red brick chapel and the fourth anniversary of Bishop Melcher's death. Following the mass, carriages proceeded to Allouez Catholic Cemetery where Krautbauer dedicated the chapel and placed Melcher's casket in the vault. The chapel entombed Bishop Melcher's body for nearly 40 years until 1915 when his remains were removed to the nearby mausoleum built for Bishop Joseph J. Fox. The red brick chapel has the distinction of being one of the first receiving vaults in the country, holding bodies throughout the winter until they could be buried when the ground thawed.

Unused for countless years, the chapel stands abandoned among the century-old tombstones. Insurance liability concerns, repair issues and lack of funds all conspire to jeopardize the building's future. For more than ten years, the Red Chapel has been on the BCHS' "Preservation Watch List," a website-posted list that keeps endangered properties in the public eye. Historic Allouez Society has been vocal regarding the Red Chapel. In its Spring 2011 newsletter *Le Journal d' Allouez*, an article by Jane Temp and Holly Dudley states, "Even though much renovation is needed, this is an architectural work which is truly worth saving."



**HELP US PRESERVE OUR PAST —  
SAVE THE RED CHAPEL!**

Please contact Christine Dunbar  
920-437-1840 or [bchs@netnet.net](mailto:bchs@netnet.net)

*Above photo by Tom Martin; courtesy of  
Historic Allouez Society photo collection.*

In April 2016, an Allouez Catholic Cemetery spokesperson informed the BCHS of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay's plans to demolish the building in early June. The Historical Society has a strong commitment to preserving and saving landmark buildings for future generations. A meeting was initiated, inviting local preservation groups including Historic Allouez Society, the Brown County Trust for Historic Preservation, Allouez Preservation Commission and like-minded citizens to strategize preserving the Red Chapel.

A timely *Green Bay Press-Gazette* article by Paul Srubus brought the chapel's plight to the public eye. Public outcry and appeals to save the chapel culminated in the creation of a "Save the Red Chapel" group.

Father Dan Felton, vicar general for the Diocese of Green Bay, met with the group to clarify the position that repairing the unused chapel was not viable from neither a funding nor a priority standpoint. However, he further stated that the Diocese was amenable to the group raising funds for preservation work as long as structural work was completed in 2016.

An initial report by architect and BCHS board member Steve Srubus got the project underway. The bricklayers union, restoration experts, a structural engineer, contractors, stone masons and roofers all voiced the

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## NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM — ENGAGING STUDENTS IN HISTORY

by Jenny Woldt, Teacher, Gr. 4/5  
Jefferson Elementary School, Green Bay

The Brown County Historical Society partnered with Woodlawn Cemetery and Green Bay Jefferson Elementary School to pilot a fourth-grade, cross-curricular unit of study called "Early Leaders of Wisconsin." The unit began in the classroom where 24 students investigated the historical significance of Brown County through primary and secondary sources, many of which were provided by the Brown County Historical Society.

Within the unit, the students traveled to the beautiful grounds of Woodlawn Cemetery where the voices of Brown County's history came to life. Costumed actors portrayed the following influential leaders from our county's past: Elizabeth Arndt, John Kiernan, Elizabeth Baird and John Lawe.

The stories the students heard related to the lives of these past figures and illustrated their significant impact on history – locally, regionally and nationally. Once the learning returned to the classroom, the students were to complete a performance assessment. Their task was to create a multimedia presentation relating to a figure from Wisconsin's past, including how this person contributed to our local society, with the intent to convince the Brown County Historical Society to include their research in an upcoming exhibit.

The overall experience of the Woodlawn Cemetery Walk and related classroom activities allowed students to gain a better understanding of our community's past. Additionally, students realized they have the ability to positively impact our community by their [own] actions, just like prominent leaders that came before them.

The overall collaboration was a success! Plans are to move forward with inviting other fourth-grade classrooms across Brown County to participate in our Woodlawn Cemetery walk for the 2016-2017 school year.



Top: Jefferson Elementary School students at Woodlawn Cemetery in May. Bottom: Jim O' Rourke portraying John Lawe. Photos by Jenny Woldt.

GO GREEN!! HELP BCHS SAVE \$\$\$!! GO GREEN!!

### INBOX...? OR MAILBOX...?



We want to continue to use all of our resources wisely, including the dollars you give so generously. Every member can help reduce costs of publishing the newsletters — paper, printing and postage — by opting to receive the BCHS *Historical Bulletin* in your Inbox.

**So we encourage each of you to  
SWITCH TO THE E-VERSION!**

It's easy to sign up! Just email your request to Susan ([skslk@centurytel.net](mailto:skslk@centurytel.net)); the next issue will arrive in your Inbox!

GO GREEN!! HELP BCHS SAVE \$\$\$!! GO GREEN!!

**PRIVACY STATEMENT:** Brown County Historical Society (BCHS) will NOT sell or distribute to any third party neither its donor list nor its membership list. Contact info will be used only to conduct the operation and support of the ongoing business of BCHS.

# EVENTS

Join us for one or all!

## IF TOMBSTONES COULD TALK WOODLAWN CEMETERY WALK



Tony La Luzerne portraying Austin Straubel (2008). Photo courtesy of BCHS photo collection.

Join us at Woodlawn Cemetery for our popular If Tombstones Could Talk event and explore our rich and diverse local history. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the beautiful grounds and learn about the people who contributed to the area's rich and

unique history. Talented local actors, partnering with our dedicated research team, bring life to the famous, infamous, rich and poor buried here.

Be sure to wear your walking shoes and bring a flashlight to participate in this fascinating program.

*This event is a collaboration between the Brown County Historical Society and Woodlawn Cemetery.*

Wed. and Thurs., Sept 7 and 8, at 6:30p  
and Sat., Sept. 10, at 4:00p.

\$7/person; \$14/family  
Reservations required.

[bchs@netnet.net](mailto:bchs@netnet.net) or 920-437-1840



## DOWNTOWN GREEN BAY WALKING TOUR

Travel from Historic Hazelwood through the center of the Historic Astor Neighborhood, along the Fox River and through downtown Green Bay. Uncover some little known stories about the history of the area. Discover connections between Green Bay's story and that of building a nation. Learn what's behind street names, fun facts and tidbits about famous individuals, and connect stories of Green Bay's history to the built environment and monuments that mark important locations and connect us to our past.

Sat., Sept. 17, 10:00a-12:00n

\$5/person

Please call to reserve a place (920-437-1840).

## VOLUNTEERS ARE A VITAL PART OF OUR SUCCESS!

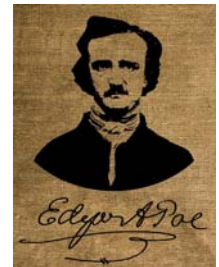
Our enthusiastic volunteers contribute to the Society in numerous ways. Volunteers engage visitors in connecting the past to present through innovative programs, performances and Hazelwood interpretation. Some volunteers prefer the behind-the-scenes work of digital archives, organizing events, lending a hand in the office or getting dirty in the flower gardens. Volunteers maximize our resources and help us build an exciting future.

JOIN US AND HELP MAKE HISTORY!



## POE EVERMORE

Discover the macabre tales of Edgar Allan Poe on this mysterious and eerie evening at Hazelwood. We offer an evening of Poe's work guaranteed to astonish and astound.



Saturdays, Oct. 15 and 22, 5:00-9:00p

\$10/person

Programs start on the half-hour.

Please call for reservations .



## BROWN COUNTY LIBRARY LOCAL HISTORY SERIES

September 8 — October 27, 2016

Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30p

*(Details continued on page 6)*

*\*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)!*

# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 7 and 8, at 6:30p, and Saturday, Sept. 10, at 4:00p – Woodlawn Cemetery Walk. Advanced reservations requested. \$7/person; \$14/family.

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10:00a – Downtown Walking Tour. Advanced reservations requested. \$5/person.

## OCTOBER

Saturdays, Oct. 15 and 22, 5:00-9:00p – Poe Evermore at Haunted Hazelwood. \$10/person. Check website for more details!

## DECEMBER

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3, 1:00-3:00p – Holiday Tea. Advanced reservations required. \$20/person.

Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 10, 11, 17 and 18 – A Dickens of a Christmas. \$6/person; \$5/seniors 65+; \$4/children ages 5-17.

# EVENTS

(continued from page 5)

**September 8** – “Forces of Change: Events That Led to the Creation of the Green Bay Fire Department, 1836 to 1895” by Lt. David Siegel

**September 15** – “African Americans in Nineteenth Century Northeast Wisconsin” by Prof. Victoria Tashjian of St. Norbert College

**September 22** – “The Million Dollar Historical Organization - The Earned Legacy of the Green Bay and De Pere Antiquarian Society” by Carol Jones

**September 29** – “Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story” by Pulitzer Prize Winner, David Maraniss

**October 6 and 13** – “Fort Howard: The Establishment of the United States Government in Green Bay” by Kevin Cullen, Deputy Director of the Neville Public Museum; Tim Brumm, Teacher; and Les Van Horn, retired, Brown County Surveyor

**October 20** – “Wisconsin on the Air: 100 Years of Public Broadcasting in the State that Invented It” by Jack Mitchell

**October 27** – “Enduring Food Traditions: Wisconsin Supper Clubs, Small Town Cafes and Church Socials” by Terese Allen, Food Historian

For more details, visit the Brown County Library at <http://www.browncountylibrary.org> OR call the Local History Dept. (920-448-5815)

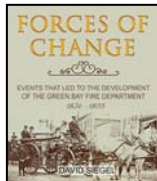


Photo by Don Kraft

## THE RED CHAPEL

(continued from page 3)

opinion that the chapel is in solid condition and should be preserved. The Diocese requested a condition assessment be completed by an authorized organization. Don Kraft, a structural engineer at Brander Construction and a BCHS Historic Preservation Committee member, is undertaking this comprehensive report.

The group has been busy working on a fundraising strategy and getting bids for the many aspects of the preservation project which need diocese approval. Structural preservation projects include a new roof, tuck pointing and replacing several bricks and a chimney, repairing the mortar on the limestone foundation, creating a new cellar door and painting the front door. A stained glass expert volunteered his time to recreate the windows.

On August 2, 2016, the Village of Allouez passed a proclamation supporting the Brown County Historical Society and Catholic Diocese of Green Bay's efforts to "Save the Red Chapel." It states in part, "The Red Chapel is a building that has special character, historic interest and aesthetic interest for the Village; and the loss of historical resources through razing or adverse impacts from alteration should be avoided whenever possible."

Mat Hoffman, BCHS board member and Save the Red Chapel advocate, said, "We believe that the past and the future can live side by side and the future is better for it. That living in the modern world begins with honoring the people and places of the past."

### Sources –

- Archives of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, [www.gbdioc.org/archives/history](http://www.gbdioc.org/archives/history).  
Srubus, Paul. "140-year-old Chapel Headed for Wrecking Ball." *Green Bay Press-Gazette* (Green Bay, Wis.), May 14, 2016.  
Temp, Jane, and Dudley, Holly. "Unraveling the Mystery." *Le Journal d' Allouez* (Allouez, Wis.): Vol. VI, Issue 1, Spring 2011.

## HISTORY'S MINUTE — MORGAN L. MARTIN'S MILITIA JACKET

by Chris Dunbar



Rangers volunteer militia coat belonging to Morgan L Martin along with sword which belonged to Platt Rogers Green, United States Army. Photo courtesy of the Brown County Neville Public Museum.

On March 5, 1837, Henry Dodge, governor of the Territory of Wisconsin, commissioned Morgan L. Martin of Green Bay as a captain and the commander of the Green Bay Rangers, a volunteer company of mounted rifle-

men. The troops were led by the following officers: M.L. Martin, Captain; Seth Reese, 1st Lieutenant; G.W. Lawe, 2nd Lieutenant. Dodge stated, "Mounted rifle men are the most efficient troops for the protection and defense of our frontier settlements."

These citizen soldiers began forming what would become the Wisconsin National Guard 11 years before Wisconsin attained statehood in 1848. It wasn't until 1879 that Wisconsin's adjutant general first referred to the state's militia as the "National Guard" but, since 1837, these volunteer companies have been ready to respond to threats and emergencies.

M.L. Martin's rare triple-breasted militia coat is currently part of Brown County's Neville Public Museum special exhibit, "Life and Death at Fort Howard," commemorating the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Fort Howard. The coat and other fascinating artifacts and stories depicting Fort Howard are on display until April 9, 2017.

### Source —

Information courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, <http://www.dma.wi.gov/>.

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

## WE REMEMBER IRENE "BILLIE" KRESS

by Joan Hogan

On June 19, 2106, the community and BCHS, especially, lost a dedicated, major supporter. It is hard to list all the things she was and did for us. She had a special love for Hazelwood because she fondly remembered playing there in her childhood.

Billie was generous and worked hard to make BCHS successful. During its first major fund drive, she sponsored the Kellogg Library at Hazelwood. She also chaired the library committee for many years. She was a past board member, worked on many committees and was always a willing volunteer.

A landmark move by the Society to hire an executive director was made possible through her significant support. She recognized the importance of the decision. Each year she would donate for it. What made her support special was that she became involved in whatever needed her attention.

Billie had a philosophy: "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

*Farewell, Billie.*

*You are fondly remembered.*

## THE FRANKENTHAL BUILDING

(continued from page 2)

This building has seen 88 years of changes in downtown Green Bay. With continued care like it has been fortunate to receive in the past, it will have many more years as a Green Bay landmark.

### Sources —

"Barnards Buy Cady's Real Estate Interest." *The Milwaukee Journal* (Milwaukee, Wis.), March 5, 1944.

Interviews and conversations between Howard Frankenthal (owner, Frankenthal Building) and Don Kraft (member, BCHS Historic Preservation Committee), Fall 2015 and Spring 2016.

National Register and State Register of Historic Places list. See [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org).



# NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT 50TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO CONTEST

GET YOUR CAMERA AND DISCOVER YOUR FAVORITE HISTORIC BUILDING  
HISTORIC PLACES



HONOR THE HISTORICAL PLACES THAT MATTER TO YOU!



50 photographs will be featured online and at the Statewide Local History Conference.



Prizes awarded for adult  
and student photos.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION  
IS OCTOBER 7, 2016.**

For details, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/photocontest](http://wisconsinhistory.org/photocontest)



Left: Jean Nicolet Statue at Wequiock Falls County Park. • Photos courtesy of the BCHS Preservation Watch List • Right: Humboldt Round Barn.

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SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2016**

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1008 South Monroe Street, Green Bay WI 54301 [MAP](#)  
Phone: [920-437-1840](tel:920-437-1840) / [www.BrownCoHistoricalSoc.org](http://www.BrownCoHistoricalSoc.org)

**HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM**  
*See details for events on pages 5 and 6 of this issue.*  
Tours, programs and teas scheduled at your convenience  
by appointment throughout the year.

**ADMISSION**  
Adult \$5.00 • Seniors (60+) \$4.00 • Children (5-17) \$3.00  
Children under 5 are FREE. AAA discounts.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY & HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE