



# THE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

June 2019

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2

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

## 2018 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER

### DAANEN/VAINISI RESIDENCE 922 NORTH BROADWAY STREET, DE PERE

by Don Kraft

In 1915, Otto Gretzinger, manager of the Central Lumber Company in De Pere, married Hilda Dedrick, a local school teacher and, later that year, purchased a portion of land on North Broadway in De Pere that was parceled from a larger lot owned by De Pere businessman A.G. Wells. He soon started construction on a fine Bungalow style house.

Its design heavily influenced by the Craftsman style popular at the time, the Gretzingers' rectilinear plan house is an excellent, quite large, side-gabled example of the Bungalow style. The exterior design is distinctive for its front-facing gable entrance, flanked by a unique curved, front porch that spans the front length of the house. The wide



Exterior of the Gretzinger House which is listed on the National Register and State Register of Historic Places, Division of Historic Preservation—Wisconsin. Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

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overhang-  
ing eaves, the wood clapboard first story siding, and the wood shingle front and end gables are all style components frequently found on Craftsman/Bungalow style houses of the period.

In addition to the full basement and a second level bedroom, the main floor consisted of two bedrooms, a bath, kitchen, large living room with a fireplace, and a full dining room, with a rear sleeping porch on one side and a rear sun porch on the other. The interior was full hardwood finish, comprised of fine Craftsman style oak built-ins, doors, and trim produced by the Morgan Company in Oshkosh, likely indicative of Otto's professional ties to the wood manufacturing industry.<sup>1</sup> In January of 1916, the *Brown County Democrat* declared, "This place is pronounced to be the finest bungalow in the city."<sup>2</sup>

Curiously, records at the De Pere Historical Society indicated that, for some reason, the Gretzingers moved out of 922 North Broadway and into a more modest Queen Anne style house at 511 North Michigan in 1930. The reason for them leaving their newlywed home was not apparent. Otto died soon afterwards in the late 1930s and, after remarrying, Hilda survived until the late 1970s.

After the Gretzingers, the house passed through a number of owners. However, according to Dan Milquet, of all the house research he has done by viewing City Residential Appraisal cards in the De Pere Historical Society collections,

(continued on page 2)

## DAANEN VAINISI RESIDENCE

(continued from page 1)



Left: Renovated kitchen. Photo courtesy Katina Daanen and Sam Vainisi. Right: Renovated interior. Pictured are (left to right): Katina Daanen, Pat Drury and Sam Vainisi. Photo courtesy Drury Designs.

this house stood out from most by the fact that, over the years, no building permits for alterations or modifications had ever been taken out for it.<sup>3</sup> While this served to preserve period architectural features, by the turn of the century, it also left the house very dated and lacking modern amenities. In January 2018, local preservation-minded contractor Pat Drury visited an estate sale at the house and, soon after, negotiated to buy the house itself. Given the small kitchen, small bath and old plumbing and electrical, he proceeded with plans to modernize it on speculation, confident that the historic nature of the house and its location would appeal to a like-minded owner.

In the meantime, for more than 30 years, Katina Daanen would drive North Broadway and, as she passed by, admired the house, and fondly wondered what the inside was like. Soon after Drury obtained the house, she drove by yet again; this time, seeing Pat's company sign out front, she decided to inquire. By this time, Pat had already begun removing cracked plaster and modifying kitchen and bathroom layouts. When Katina and her husband, Sam Vainisi, first walked through the house, they struggled to see past the construction debris and bare wall studs. But the original untouched built-in oak cabinets, doors and trim were enough for them to be able to still imagine the original 1915 appeal. With a leap of faith, they agreed to purchase the house and work with Pat to design the remaining renovation, which would include all new plumbing and electrical wiring, and reconfigured spaces for a modern kitchen and baths, all with period paint schemes and refinished original woodwork.

Since the house was a contributing building to the North Broadway Historic District in De Pere, it became listed on the State Register of Historic Places in February 2011 and the National Register of Historic Places in October 2011. The beautifully restored house once again takes its place among the architectural gems of the North Broadway Street Historic District.<sup>4</sup>

### 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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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Footnotes —

<sup>1</sup>*Brown County Democrat*. (Green Bay, Wis.), Jan. 21, 1916; pg. 9.

<sup>2</sup>*Brown County Democrat*. (Green Bay, Wis.), Jan. 20, 1916; pg. 1.

<sup>3</sup>Conversation with Dan Milquet, member, De Pere Historical Society, Feb. 2019.

<sup>4</sup>Wisconsin Historical Society—State Register of Historic Places;  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/records/nationalregister/NR2352](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/records/nationalregister/NR2352)

[www.facebook.com/BCHS](https://www.facebook.com/BCHS)



# PROHIBITION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN COUNTY: BIG CROWD AT FIRST MEETING

by Chris Dunbar

"I cry out for a campaign to make Green Bay dry, to make Brown County dry, to make Wisconsin and America dry, as measures for national safety," declared Mitchell Joannes, prominent wholesale grocer.<sup>1</sup>

Joannes was addressing a meeting of the Anti-Saloon League at Green Bay's Turner Hall during a campaign for a dry Brown County. The campaign was launched with motivational speeches held in several churches, followed by a mass meeting that filled the auditorium at Turner Hall.

Joannes' speech described the decline of the standards of the saloon business over the years and declared that "saloon keepers have resorted to serving minors, girls, women, and drunkards and thereby becoming a party to crime."<sup>2</sup> He mentioned that there were a few law-abiding saloons although, for the most part, saloons had become the homes of men who couldn't afford to patronize them. Joannes cited records from local charities showing that 90 percent of poverty is due to men spending time in taverns and not caring for their families.

R.P. Hutton, State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, exclaimed that patriotism and humanity demand prohibition now. He declared "the German Kaiser's submarines sink food in the foaming brine and the German brewer's mug-marine sinks food in the foaming brew. It is as much lost when sunk in the vat as in the ocean."<sup>3</sup> He went on to pronounce that Wisconsin breweries use 23,000,000 bushels of barley yearly and Wisconsin farmers sell their pigs for a song because of lack of feed. This barley would feed them and the meat would be blood for our soldiers and the Belgian orphans and widows. "We are drinking the blood of our soldiers and the Belgian sufferers when we drink beer today."<sup>4</sup>

The final activities for the campaign took place at the courthouse with resolutions to petition state and national officials to vote for national prohibition. Members voted to petition the Governor E.L. Phillip to immediately prohibit drinking on Sunday.<sup>5</sup>

Prohibition was far more complicated than a clash between drinkers and non-drinkers. Alcohol was a controversial issue among Wisconsin's Yankee



Are these Denmark businessmen bracing for prohibition (circa 1910)? Photo courtesy of UW-Green Bay Archives and Area Research Center.

settlers and immigrants, particularly the Germans who viewed beer as a vital part of their culture. The Wisconsin State Anti-Prohibition Association was established in 1885 by German-American brewers to provide protection to its members from intolerant legislation. They argued that prohibition meant the destruction of rights and property, maintaining that Prohibition destroyed and abolished legitimate business, confiscated property, and robbed a large class of businessmen of the results of their combined labor, enterprise and capital.<sup>6</sup>

The National Prohibition Act was passed in January 1919 to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

## WHAT SIDE OF THE DEBATE WOULD YOU TAKE?

Join us for the Pros and Cons  
of Prohibition: Afternoon Tea.  
Saturday, Aug. 3, 1:00-3:00p  
\$22/person. Reservations required.



### Footnotes—

<sup>1</sup>Green Bay Press Gazette (Green Bay, Wis.), Nov. 26, 1917; pg. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Green Bay Press Gazette (Green Bay, Wis.), Nov. 26, 1917; pg. 9.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid

<sup>4</sup>Ibid

<sup>5</sup>Green Bay Press Gazette (Green Bay, Wis.), Nov 23, 1917; pg. 2.

<sup>6</sup>"Constitution of the Wisconsin State Anti-Prohibition Association." Wisconsin State Anti-Prohibition Association. (Milwaukee : J.H. Yewdale & Sons, 1885); online facsimile at: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/search.asp?id=1182>.

## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE BCHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### BEN CAHALL

Ben is Destination Sales Manager for the Greater Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau. In his role, he is constantly advocating to bring conventions, conferences and meetings alike to the Greater Green Bay area. Since he is very passionate about history and its preservation, Ben feels honored and is excited about the prospect of joining the Brown County Historical Society board.



### TIMOTHY HINKFUSS

I have always enjoyed history. I was a History major at St. Norbert College. I am especially interested in local history and the impact it has on this community. I grew up next door to Hazelwood [Historic House] and appreciate the Society's preservation of this important community landmark. I have been a member of the Brown County Historical Society for many years and look forward to serving on its board of directors.



**Thank You to  
volunteer Julie Renier  
for designing  
the BCHS rack card.  
It is our signature  
marketing piece  
and delivers  
our program details  
to a wide audience.**

## INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR BOARD?

In 1899, forty-eight Brown County historic-minded citizens organized the Green Bay Historical Society. They were concerned that the history of the area, contained in the artifacts, buildings and memories of its people, were being lost. This year we celebrate 120 years of preserving our history.

We are currently recruiting for members for our board of directors to continue the legacy of preserving and sharing history. Our board members share a wide array of talents, from architect to teacher. Join us and share your skills with like-minded people.

If you have a passion for history and time to devote to our mission, give us a call and begin the application process. The board meets on the third Tuesday of each month; board member terms are for three years.

Interested? Contact us at  
920-437-1840 or bchs@netnet.net

## WHATEVER YOUR INTEREST IN LOCAL HISTORY, WE HAVE A COMMITTEE TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE YOU.

BCHS is always on the lookout for good people who want to serve on a committee to advance our mission. Not all committees meet on a regular basis. Call us! Let us know your interest.

- ♦ Artifacts
- ♦ Development subcommittees:  
Fundraising/ Strategic Plan
- ♦ Finance
- ♦ Governance
- ♦ Historic Preservation
- ♦ Program subcommittees:  
Education / Cemetery Walks/ Gardening
- ♦ *Voyageur Magazine*
- ♦ Digital Archives

# BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISER



VOYAGEUR PARK IN DE PERE  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2019;  
9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

## CAR COST:

- \$35/PERSON
- \$30/BCHS MEMBERS
- \$15/KIDS (AGES 5-15)

## BICYCLIST COST:

- \$25/PERSON
- \$20/BCHS MEMBERS
- \$10/ KIDS (AGES 5-15)

**Assemble a Team--Solve Clues--Complete Challenges--Discover Hidden Gems of Brown County!**



## Register:

Team Name (Be Creative!) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send Registration Form and payment to BCHS at P.O. Box 1411, Green Bay, WI 54305

---Or---

Sign up on Eventbrite.com by searching for BCHS 2019 Road Rally

Enter Promotion Code: **BCHSRR19** to get Discounted Member Rate

## Team Members:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Amount:

- Cash/Check: \_\_\_\_\_
- Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_
- Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

## WAIVER

I acknowledge that I am responsible for my own safety and well-being during the Brown County Historical Society Road Rally. I hereby agree to hold Brown County Historical Society, its officers, employees, agents and/or volunteers harmless from any and all liability arising out of my participation in the hunt. I agree not to take any action, or direct others to take any action, that violates the law or puts myself or others at risk. I will honor the rules of locations visited during Road Rally.

## Signatures:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SPONSOR THE ROAD RALLY FUNDRAISER!

*\*\*Donations are tax-deductible\*\**

- Road Crew (\$100)
- Model T (\$250)
- Bronze Coupe (\$500)
- Silver Sedan (\$750)
- Gold Roadster (\$1,000)
- Traffic Jam: (Other amount)

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# CALENDAR

## ~2019~

### JUNE

**Tuesday, June 11, 6:00p – Special Program for those with difficulty walking: “If Tombstones Could Talk” Fort Howard Cemetery Walk.** Program takes place in the Fort Howard Chapel for those have difficulty walking in the cemetery. Limited seating available. \$8/individuals; \$18/families (2 adults + up to 4 children, ages 5-17). *Reservations required.*

**Wednesday and Thursday, June 12 and 13, 6:00p – “If Tombstones Could Talk” Fort Howard Cemetery Walk.** \$8/individuals; \$18/families (2 adults + up to 4 children, ages 5-17). *Reservations required.*

### JULY

**Saturday, July 27, 11:00a-2:00p – Faeires and Wizards Festival.** \$7/person.

### AUGUST

**Saturday, Aug. 3, 1:00-3:00p – “The Pros & Cons of Prohibition: Afternoon Tea.”** \$22/person. *Reservations required.*

**Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 7 and 8, 6:00p – “If Tombstones Could Talk” Allouez Catholic Cemetery Walk.** \$8/individuals; \$18/families (2 adults + up to 4 children, ages 5-17). *Reservations required.*

**Saturday, Aug. 17, 9:00a-4:00p – Brown County Historical Society Road Rally.** (See details on page 5.)

### SEPTEMBER

**Wednesday (6:00p), Thursday (6:00p), and Saturday (4:00p), Sept. 4, 5 and 7 – “If Tombstones Could Talk” Woodlawn Cemetery Walk.** \$8/individuals; \$18/families (2 adults + up to 4 children, ages 5-17). *Reservations required.*

**Saturday, Sept. 21, 10:00a-12:00n – If These Home Could Talk: Astor Walking Tour.** \$15/person. *Reservations required.*

### OCTOBER

**Saturdays, Oct. 5 and 12; and Friday, Oct. 11, 5:00-8:00p – Haunted Hazelwood.** \$15/person. *Reservations required.*

### NOVEMBER

**Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, 1:00-3:00p – Hazelwood Harvest Tea.** \$22/person. *Reservations required.*

### DECEMBER

**Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14, 11:00a-7:00p – Ethnic Christmas at Hazelwood.** General admission.

## GREEN BAY'S COW CONTROVERSY

by Christine Dunbar

In 1881, the Green Bay City Council debated a controversial and boisterous Cow Ordinance issue. Many residents kept a few cows for milk, taking advantage of the right to set them free to forage during the day and collect them for milking in the evening. Green Bay permitted cows to wander through residential neighborhoods unhindered until 1881. By 1880, 400 to 500 cows roamed the city. They messed streets, hampered traffic, broke wooden sidewalks, and demolished neighborhood gardens. In the fall of 1881, the City Council passed an ordinance outlawing cows from roaming the city. City pound master, Greg Biemeret, seized the opportunity to drag unattended cows to the pound to be kept there until owners paid a fine. Cow owners became resigned to the situation and kept their cows at home.<sup>1</sup>

The cow controversy was reignited as the city prepared for the April 4, 1882, municipal election. A group of citizens, led by businessman Elisha Morrow declared the cow ordinance oppressive and tyrannical, and invited residents to attend a public meeting at the City Council chambers to encourage the city to repeal the ordinance. A committee, known as the Cow Convention, was appointed to select a slate of officials and aldermen for the upcoming elections who would support the cows' freedom to roam. Those supporting the ordinance cited complaints by grocers who were losing produce to hungry cows, lawsuits against the city due to injuries by cows, and the expense of repairing the damage to roads and sidewalks. The actual election was quiet with a low voter turnout. Cow Convention mayoral candidate J.H.M. Wigman won the election, but all other Cow Convention candidates lost. The Council results narrowly supported the Cow Convention. The Council voted to repeal the Cow Ordinance but Mayor Wigman (whose mayoral platform supported the cows' freedom) vetoed the repeal on legal grounds. The mayor's veto created a ruckus but remained in effect and cows were restricted to their own backyards.

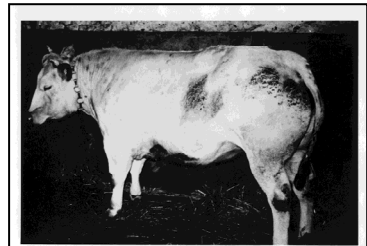


Photo courtesy UW-Green Bay Archives and Area Research Center.

#### Footnote –

<sup>1</sup>Rudolph, Jack. “City Prohibited Cows’ Roaming.” *The Green Bay Area in History and Legend*. Brown County Historical Society, 2004: pg. 86.

#### Sources –

“Cows.” *Daily State Gazette*, April 28, 1881.

“The Cow Confab.” *Daily State Gazette*, March 27, 1882.



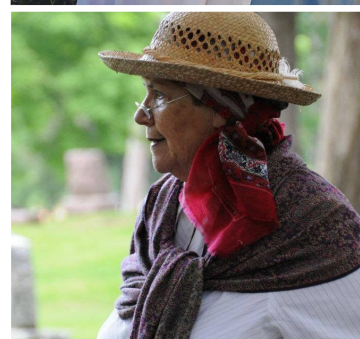


## Love History?

Help history come alive  
at the Brown County Historical Society  
& Hazelwood Historic House!  
Become a docent at Hazelwood,  
assist as a guide in our cemetery walks  
or help with special events and  
so much more!

By joining our team, volunteers  
will gain experience in public speaking,  
research and event design.  
Not comfortable with public speaking?  
We have other volunteer tasks  
that do not involve the public.

If interested in learning more about  
volunteering with us, please contact  
our volunteer coordinator, Brooke Uhl,  
at [bchsvolunteer@netnet.net](mailto:bchsvolunteer@netnet.net) or call  
[920-437-1840](tel:920-437-1840) to set up a meeting.



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEIGHBORS —



## PASSPORT2HISTORY

SPONSORED BY THE  
BROWN COUNTY FEDERATION  
OF HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

Explore Brown County's rich history through this unique, hands-on program at ten participating sites. A program for all ages, passport holders may start their history travels at any participating site and are invited to visit as many sites as desired. The program is available from May 25 to September 2. (Two organizations offer dates outside of the time period.) Purchase a **Family Pass for \$100**. It includes two adults of any age and up to six children ages 17 years old or younger, or a pass for **Two Individuals for \$75** (two people of any age). Participating organizations include:

Ashwaubenon Historical  
Society Museum of  
History and Culture  
The Automobile Gallery  
Hazelwood Historic  
House

De Pere Historical  
Society  
Green Bay and De Pere  
Antiquarian Society  
Heritage Hill State Park  
Historic Allouez Society

National Railroad  
Museum  
Oneida Nation Museum

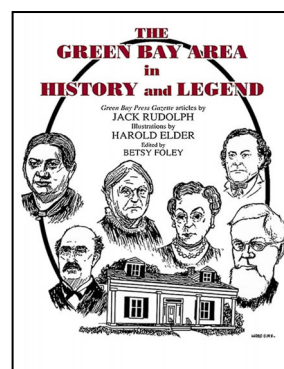
University of Wisconsin-  
Green Bay Archives  
and Area Research Center

*Proceeds support Federation programs.*

To purchase your Passport2History, call the Brown County Historical Society (920-437-1840) or go to: [www.browncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.browncountyhistoricalsociety.org). Learn more about the **Brown County Federation of History Organizations** on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BCFHO/](http://www.facebook.com/BCFHO/).

### GREAT DEAL FOR HISTORY LOVERS!

Passports purchased through the BCHS will receive a **FREE!** copy of the **GREEN BAY AREA IN HISTORY AND LEGEND**, a \$29.95 value!



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

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## ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

### HOURS for JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2019

**BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
BCHS offices — 8:30a-4:00p, weekdays  
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 page 6 of this issue.*  
Tours, programs and teas scheduled at your convenience  
by appointment throughout the year.

#### ADMISSION

Adult \$6.00 • Seniors (60+) \$5.00  
Children (5-17) \$4.00 • Children under 5 are FREE.  
AAA and Time Traveler discounts available.

LIKE US ON [FACEBOOK!](#) BROWN COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE