2019 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER

ANCESTRY ACRES

HOWARD-SUAMICO HISTORICAL SOCIETY 12787 VELP AVENUE, SUAMICO

by Timothy Rasmussen; introduction by Don Kraft

In 1856, Robert Vickery and his wife, Elizabeth, left England to come to the new world of America. In the 1860s, they eventually settled in Suamico and started to build a farmstead, which eventually included a barn, a granary, and the farmhouse in which they raised their four sons. Elizabeth died in 1910 and, in 1914, at the age of 80, Robert fell, broke his hip, and eventually died of his injury. In the following years, the house was occupied by a series of owners.

In 2008, the Village of Suamico purchased the property as the site for their new municipal building. The original plan was to locate the building on the south half of the property and, if a use could not be found for the house and barn on the north half, demolish those buildings and sell the lot. But first, they approached the Howard-Suamico Historical Society to see if they might be interested in the

nearly 140-year-old Inside this issue: buildings. The farmstead has now been restored to depict Ancestry Acres (cont.) Suamico farm life in the late 19th century. Message from the Director 3 The Thank You! selected

5

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BCHS Ancestry Acres for a Preserva-



Restored barn at Ancestry Acres. Photo by Timothy Rasmussen.

tion Award in the category of Historic Restoration. Awards are presented at the annual meeting but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was cancelled. We

look forward to a time when we can present the certificate to the Howard-Suamico Historical Society.

Ancestry Acres (cont.) 2020 National History Day

BCHS Board Transitions

Calendar of Events (cont.)

Calendar of Events

Love History? Become a BCHS Volunteer!

It is with great pride that the Howard-Suamico Historical Society is showcasing its work on our Ancestry Acres project, located at 12787 Velp Avenue in the Village of Suamico. The project started in 2009 when the Village of Suamico approached us with the idea of restoring the Robert and Elizabeth Vickery homestead and opening it up to the public. We signed a 99-year lease on the property and let the work begin.

ANCESTRY ACRES

(continued from page 1)

After five years of meetings and talks with several contractors, we were able to start fundraising and begin work on restoring the barn which was in much need of repair. The barn had not been used for a lot of years and its stone footings were collapsing along with the barn's bottom beams. The back wall was pushed out about 4 feet and its bottom timbers were rotted away. All of the concrete in the cattle area was broken up and needed to be replaced.

We started the project by contacting Bain Housemoving to raise the barn to a safe height so the footings and foundation could be replaced. Precision Builders from Bonduel replaced the bottom beams using beams donated by Louis and Eileen Terrien.

While the barn was in the air, HHH Construction from Seymour put in new footings and foundation walls using concrete donated by Peters Concrete of Green Bay. Kurt Olson Construction worked on the barn floor and poured new concrete up by the house for the ramp being installed there by the Howard-Suamico Lions Club.

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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Top: Barn (2011) at Ancestry Acres, prior to raising the barn for restoration. Bottom left: Front of the farmhouse, facing Velp Avenue. Bottom right: Interior photo of restored barn. All photos by Timothy Rasmussen.

Once back on the new foot-

ings and foundation, work on the barn interior began. The horse stalls were removed, and that area of the floor was raised to keep it even with the threshing floor. This provided a larger flat area that the public could use. The haymow floor was removed; new beams and floor were installed. A stairway also was constructed to create access from the threshing floor to the cattle area and the havmow.

With the help of a lot of volunteers, we were able to install new barn boards on the outside of the barn, new windows, new doors and new electrical. The original beams in the barn (except the sill beams) were straight and in good shape so they were saved along with the original barn boards. They are visible on the inside of the barn but are covered by new boards on the outside. This will help preserve the old boards and maintain the character of the interior.

To finish the barn, Mike DeBoth from Oconto installed the original stone from the footings on the front of the barn to showcase some of the original charm. Donald Wilquet Roofing from Luxemburg removed the original metal roof and two layers of rotted cedar shake shingles, and replaced them with a new metal roof.

Our original plan called for three phases of work with the barn being phase one. Phase two was the house. During phase two, the original bathroom was removed and divided to bring back the original bedroom on the first floor of the house and make the bathroom handicapped accessible. The kitchen was gutted and new electrical and plumbing were installed along with insulation and new drywall. The original floor

(continued on page 6)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Christine Dunbar

Dear Brown County Historical Society friends, members and supporters, I hope this finds you safe and healthy.

As we all navigate the uncertainty and change to our lives, I want to offer you an update on changes taking place at the Historical Society.

We are following all recommendations and regulations of the Badger Bounce Back, CDC, and State and local governments orders, and will remain closed to the public until it is deemed safe to reopen. We look forward to getting back to programming but realize that historic houses like Hazelwood face substantial challenges. The small room size presents social distancing concerns; the cleaning and sanitizing rooms of historic artifacts creates additional concerns of an entirely different type.

We are reviewing, revising and reevaluating programs as we move into summer with the hope that we can find safe, creative ways to offer them. We will be posting updates via email, our website and social media platforms.

We received a Paycheck Protection Program loan that assisted with payroll and utilities for eight weeks while we continue to search for additional funding. Although we are faced with financial challenges, we see new avenues for providing programs and creating digital content to reach a wider, more diverse audience. We are working to fulfill our commitment to the community in new ways.

Our cemetery committee works diligently throughout the year preparing for the "If Tombstones Could Talk" cemetery walks. Regrettably we have had to cancel the June programs and are evaluating the feasibility of future programs this year. We are posting short stories from these programs on our social media sites every Tuesday. We are encouraging our community to document their experiences during these times and share with us.

Although Hazelwood may not be open for business, we have a busy summer of restoration projects designated from capital campaign funds ahead of us. In April we replaced our two 25-year-old furnaces and air conditioners. Julie and her team at Hurckman Heating and Cooling did a wonderful job. The new HVAC system will protect the artifacts with

controlled temperature and humidity, and keep the staff toasty in the winter. Additional summer projects include a new roof, walkways and signage. Hopefully you can stop in and see our progress.

Despite the current setbacks, we hope to forge ahead — making connections to our past, to each other and to the future. Thank you for your continuing support. We need it now more than ever.

I hope to see you soon,

Christine Dunbar

Christine Dunbar



Thank you to photographer Sunshine Tourtillot for the valuable work she is doing on behalf of the Historical Society.

We are fortunate to have Sunshine Tourtillot, a talented professional photographer, volunteering her time and talent on several Hazelwood projects. Our initial project, based on requests from visitors, is to produce an updated guidebook that digs deeper into the history of Hazelwood and the Martin family. Sunshine offered her photographic expertise for this project which is underway.

Sunshine is assisting as we search for new ways to engage with our friends and members while we are closed. She is photographing artifacts from our collections for use in future digital programming. We will feature these images and their stories online for everyone to enjoy.

Sunshine's photography can be seen on our social media platforms. You can view Sunshine's work or contact her at www.sun www.sun shinetphoto.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS!

by Christine Dunbar

The Society has been fortunate to have Steve Srubus and Jay Krings as dedicated board members for the past six years. In completing their second three-year board term, they are required to step off the board – but are welcome back after a year's hiatus. Both gentlemen brought a wealth of talent knowledge to the Society. Steve's architectural expertise was beneficial on the Committee Preservation and in planning for updates to Hazelwood. Jay created historic walking tours, and also researched and portrayed characters for our





Top: Jay Krings. Bottom: Steve Sruba. Photos supplied by same.

cemetery walks. They both have been dedicated to the Society's mission to preserve and share Brown County's history. We will miss them on the board.





Dennis Wojahn. *Photo supplied by same.*

It has been my honor to be the Treasurer for most of the last 13 years. A treasurer's responsibility is to attempt to ensure that the financial condition of a nonprofit organization is sound so it can carry out its mission. Over the years, BCHS and other nonprofits have had to deal with the 2008–2009 recession and the current COVID–19 virus. In

addition, we had a capital campaign in order to make necessary improvements to Hazelwood. Therefore, the Treasurer position may be somewhat under the radar but is critical to the nonprofit organization. The position also requires someone with a financial background. I will be working with the BCHS Board and Chris Dunbar to transition toward my replacement.

... AND WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Shana Ledvina. Photo supplied by same.

Shana Defnet Ledvina is an active member of the community and has lived in Brown County for most of her life. She is treasurer of the Green Bay Running Club and treasurer of ProjectVote of Brown County, and volunteers with COVO (Coalition of Voting Organizations of Brown

County) and Big Brothers Big Sisters as a "big sister" to Maria. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse with a B.S. in Communication Studies (emphasis in Public Relations and Organizational Communication). She is a 2015 Graduate of the Leadership Green Bay Program.

Most recently, Shana worked as the De Pere City Clerk-Treasurer from 2012 to 2019. Prior to that, she was the Elections Specialist with the Brown County Clerk's Office from 2008 to 2012. She is currently in the most rewarding position of her life as a stay-at-home mom to Nora, two years old, and supports her husband, Jim, in his career as an attorney. They live in De Pere and often can be found enjoying downtown De Pere, Voyageur Park, Legion Pool, the Kress Library, and the many playgrounds and parks that De Pere has to offer.

Now that Shana has grown comfortable in her new role at home, she is eager to be of service to local organizations such as the Brown County Historical Society. As a current member of the BCHS, she values the importance of preserving local history through education and public outreach, but especially loves reading the *Voyageur Magazine*.

Feel free to contact Shana at <u>920-544-1787</u> or <u>sdledvina@gmail.com</u> with any questions.

Interested in serving as a BCHS board member?

or on one of its committees?

~ Discover the opportunities! ~ ~

Contact Chris Dunbar — call 920-437-1834

or send an email to

Chris@browncohistoricalsoc.org.



SPECIAL NOTE ~~

Due to COVID-19, ALL EVENTS at Brown County Historical Society and Hazelwood Historic House ARE TENTATIVE. Please visit www.browncohistoricalsoc.org for updates.

~2020~

See dates in August and September for BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S "IF TOMBSTONES COULD TALK" CEMETERY WALK SERIES

The 2020 season begins at Fort Howard Memorial Park. This year's theme is "And Now You Know the Rest of the Story."

Visitors will meet characters representing a wide range of time periods and circumstances.

Take a step back to their time and hear the rest of the story.

*We are offering indoor Cemetery programs at both Fort Howard and Woodlawn in 2020 to accommodate those who have difficulty walking. Space is limited and reservations are required.

\$10/Adults; \$8/BCHS Members, \$5/Children (ages 5-17). <u>BCHS Members must present</u> Membership Card in order to receive member rate.

JUNE

CANCELLED — All June dates of the BCHS' If Tombstones Could Talk cemetery walks.

Saturday, June 20, 9:00a and 11:00a — The Great Fire of 1880 Walking Tour. The Great Green Bay Fire of September 20, 1880, destroyed 100 buildings, more than any other fire in the city's entire history. Local firefighter and historian David Siegel will provide a guided walking tour of the footprint of the fire including the origin location, significant firefighting scenes, destroyed buildings sites and five existing buildings that were directly threatened by the flames, but survived. Siegel also will share first-hand witness accounts taken from a subsequent court case. \$12/person.

JULY

Saturday, July 25, 11:00a-2:00p — Faeries & Wizards Fest. Spend an enchanted afternoon at Hazelwood with your little faeries and wizards! The adventure begins with decorating a faerie crown or Wizard's hat and creating a magic wand. Help the Faerie Princess and Mystical Wizard produce a magical potion! Build a fairy house out of natural materials. Other activities include face painting, yard games, and much, much more! A light lunch of lemonade, sandwiches, fruit and desserts will be served on the back lawn. Bring your own picnic blanket! This event is geared towards children ages 4-8 and their parents, but everyone is welcome! This is an outdoor event. \$7/person.

Thursday-Sunday, July 30 through August 9, 12:00-5:00p — "We Stand on Their Shoulders:" A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting Rights. This exhibit explores moments when women in Wisconsin gained political rights and highlights a few key leaders. The exhibit covers the ratification of the 19th Amendment, 1921 Wisconsin Equal Rights Act, 1924 Indian Citizenship Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act. The eight-panel display shares the important story of women's quest for political rights and recognition through quotes, photographs and a timeline of events. The exhibit is sponsored by the History Museum at the Castle in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society and 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition. General admission applies.

AUGUST

Saturday, Aug. 1, 1:00-3:00p — Votes for Women: A Celebration of the 19th Amendment. A Hazelwood Summer Tea.

"The right is ours. Have it we must. Use it we will."
—Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Join us as members of the Greater Green Bay Chapter of the League of Women Voters share stories of how Wisconsin women fought to get the vote. Enjoy tea and a lunch of savory and sweet treats. Get inspired with our traveling exhibit, "We Stand on Their Shoulders": A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting Rights. The exhibit is sponsored by the History Museum at the Castle in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society and 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition. \$25/person.

Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 4 and 5, 6:00p, Outside* — If Tombstones Could Talk: Allouez Catholic Cemetery (continued on page 6)



Saturday, Aug. 15, 9:00a-4:00p — Roarin' '20s! Road Rally. Fill up your gas tanks, start your engines and join us for the Brown County Historical Society Road Rally 2020 Fundraiser! Assemble a team and explore back roads, city streets and unique locations in Brown County. As a team, compete to win by solving clues, playing games, taking selfies, completing challenges, enjoying scenery and discovering history! Your final destination is Ancestry Acres in Suamico. Meet us at the barn for food, drinks, music and prizes! \$35/Adults; \$30/BCHS Members; \$15/Children (ages 5-15).

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 6:00p, Inside* — If Tombstones Could Talk: Woodlawn Cemetery

Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 2 and 3, 6:00p, Outside* — If Tombstones Could Talk: Woodlawn Cemetery

TBA — If These Homes Could Talk: Astor Neighborhood Walk. "If These Homes Could Talk" is an annual event in partnership with the Astor Neighborhood Association (ANA) and the Brown County Historical Society (BCHS) to document the social and architectural history of the Historical Astor Neighborhood.

OCTOBER

Fridays and Saturdays, October 9, 10, 16 and 17, 5:00-8:00p — Haunted Hazelwood: CLUE! Join us for a night of mystery and murder at Hazelwood. You and 11 other guests will travel to the past and assume the character of Morgan L Martin, his wife, Elizabeth, other family members or acquaintances for a night of mystery and intrigue. While the night may start out as innocent fun, tragedy strikes; now you must partake in a CLUE!™ inspired quest to solve the unfolding mystery. Do you have what it takes to go back in time and solve the mystery?? \$20/person.

Disclaimer: While the evening's adventures involve the names of people who actually lived, the events that unfold are created solely for the sake of an enjoyable experience.

DECEMBER

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5, 1:00-3:00p — Hazelwood Holiday Tea. Join us for a delightful cup of tea along with appetizing sandwiches and delicious desserts. *Program and Hazelwood Historic House Tour included*. \$25/person.

Friday, December 11, 4:00-7:00p — Hazelwood Holiday. *General admission applies*.

Saturdays, December 12 and 19, 11:00a-7:00p — Hazelwood Holiday. *General admission applies*.

*We are offering indoor Cemetery programs at both Fort Howard and Woodlawn in 2020 to accommodate those who have difficulty walking. Space is limited and reservations are required.

*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!

ANCESTRY ACRES

(continued from page 2)

was uncovered from under carpet and two layers of linoleum, then sanded and refinished. The parlor got a new floor to replace the badly warped original; it also got some new paint without disturbing the wallpaper.

A later addition to the house included a large family room to the back of the house. That room got the paneling and beams removed, and new carpet, plaster, trim work and paint installed.

Phase three of the project is the landscaping. This started with removal of some overgrown bushes and the HS Lions Club installing a new ramp for the handicapped. The deck on the front of the house was removed and the original porch was recreated. Volunteers have been planting as well as maintaining the flowers and shrubs around the house.

When we originally obtained the property, there were over 100 trees on the property, most of which were scrub pines and a full line of cedars along the road. The Village of Suamico removed them and the stumps. The front yard was leveled and new grass planted. The Village has been a great help on our entire project. They installed a small park behind the house which is always busy. Presently, their Park Department has been using the lawn for Yoga in the Park.

Our plans to be open from May until October are currently on hold because of the Governor's Safer at Home order. When lifted, we will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month with free admission. Please visit our website — hshistoricalsociety.org — to see this year's schedule. Once open, we invite you to come out and enjoy a walk in the past.



2020 National History Day —

BREAKING BARRIERS IN HISTORY

by Christine Dunbar

The 2020 theme for National History Day is Breaking Barriers in History. Coordinated by the Area Research Center at UW-Green Bay, the regional competition took place on March 7. Brown County Historical Society participates each year and provides an award for a project on Northeastern Wisconsin history.

Luke Holmgren from Bayshore Community Academy (Oconto) created an exhibit titled "The Walleye War & Barriers to Sovereignty Rights." Luke's exhibit explored how Fred and Mike Tribble of the Ojibwe Tribe on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation broke barriers by fishing off reservation land in 1974. The brothers were arrested, but they were aware of several treaties signed with the U.S. Government from 1836 to 1854 which stated that "they ceded (sold) all land in northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, but retained the rights to hunt, fish and gather in the ceded territories." This led the Lac Courte Oreilles to sue the State for denying them their treaty rights and the Walleye War began. By 1983, the Voight Decision in the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in favor of upholding the treaty rights for the Ojibwe. By 1990, the Ojibwe agreed to limit fishing harvests in order to preserve the population for future generations.

Luke decided to do the exhibit on the Walleye War because he enjoys fishing and the subject interested him. His favorite part about the regionals was sharing his project with an audience, especially those who like history.

Forrest Figueroa from Lake Country Academy (Sheboygan) also received an award for his exhibit, "Wisconsin's 32nd Infantry Division: Breaking through the Hindenburg Line." Forrest's exhibit discussed how the Wisconsin 32nd Division's unique wedge-shape style of fighting was able to break through the Hindenburg Line during WWI, breaking the stalemate. The Hindenburg Line was a strategic defensive of barbed wire and machine guns on slopes, in hopes of slowing the Allied Armies' advance, but it did not stop the 32nd from breaking through on October 14, 1918. Afterwards, General Haan, commander of the 32nd, adopted the shoulder patch, "a line shot





In front of their exhibits at the 2020 National History Day is Luke Holmgren (left, by Jenny Holmgren) and Forrest Figuero (by Celeste Figueroa).

through with a red arrow, to signify its tenacity in piercing the enemy line. It then became known as the Red Arrow Division."

Forrest explained that he was interested in the project because he lives near Wisconsin State Highway 32, which is the memorial highway for the 32nd Division. His school trip to the Area Research Center helped solidify his research, where he could read first-hand accounts of soldiers during the war. He looks forward to participating again next year.

Congratulations to Luke and Forrest for their excellent research projects!

UPDATE — Luke Holmgren's exhibit, titled "The Walleye War & Barriers to Sovereignty Rights," won a place in the State competition held in April and moves on to the National Competition to be held in June. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National competition will be held virtually.



Sources -

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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 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 Brooke. Uhl@browncohistoricalsoc.org, or call <u>920-437-1840</u> to set up a meeting.





SCHMIT







Brown County Historical Society

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 1411

Green Bay WI 54305-1411

HOURS for **JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2020**

BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BCHS offices - 8:30a-4:00p, weekdays 1008 South Monroe Street, Green Bay WI 54301 MAP Phone: 920-437-1840 / 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 \$6.00 • Seniors (60+) \$5.00 Children (5-17) \$4.00 • Children under 5 are FREE. AAA and Time Traveler discounts available.

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