



THE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

September 2020

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

ROARING 1920S ROAD RALLY

by Brooke Uhl

Twenty teams, dressed in their finest flapper wear, started their engines at Bay Beach Amusement Park for the third annual Brown County Historical Society Road Rally on Saturday, Aug. 8. This year's theme was the Roaring '20s in Brown County. Teams solved clues, took selfies, and learned some famous dances of the 1920s!

Teams received a trivia booklet containing activities, ciphers, clues, selfie stops, trivia and fun facts related to the Roaring '20s. Selfies ranged from carrying milk cans, to posing as a West High School Band, to re-enacting detectives who found stolen money from a local bank robbery. Each photo the teams took documented a unique representation of Brown County during that era.



Carl and Zoomie Hardke posing at Ancestry Acres. Photo by Sunshine Tourtillott.

Teams had four dance challenges to perform: the Shimmy, the Black Bottom, the Charleston, and the Lindy Hop. Each dance started during the 1920s and became a staple of the "Jazz Age." The young generation performed these dances as a rebellion of the standards and customs of their parents. Considered scandalous by the older generation,¹ they seem tame by today's standards.

Teams participated in activities at nine locations, including discovering facts about the 1917 Milburn at the Automobile Gallery, embracing your inner artist with a paint-by-number designed by artist Molly Johnson from the Mill Art Center in Denmark, and practicing sleuthing skills by navigating Fort Howard Memorial Park to find the graves of those involved in the Farmers Exchange Bank Robbery in 1928. Each activity was designed to get teams to discover more history about Brown County.

Even the incessant rain did not put a damper on the fun. The final stop for all participants was at Ancestry Acres in Suamico, a recently restored house and barn owned by the Howard-Suamico Historical Society. The sun came out to shine as teams arrived to complete their final challenges, dances and selfies before turning in their trivia booklets. The Howard-Suamico Historical Society provided beverages and ice cream bars which were appreciated by the hot and tired participants. Prizes were awarded to teams based on how well they scored, and every team earned a prize.

*Thank you to everyone who participated!
We hope to see you again next year.*

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President's Message

by Mary Katherine Matharani

Well, here we are again at the beginning of what looks to be another beautiful Wisconsin fall. But for the first time in 100 years, we are suffering through a pandemic with all of its ramifications. Favorite destinations, restaurants and shops are closed or too scary to go into; friends and family are sick and dying. But some good things have happened. Families have been forced together and maybe have gotten to know each other a bit better. Some have found a new talent or hobby and, for the first time, have had time to work on it! We have had time to examine our priorities more carefully and thoughtfully to decide what is truly important to us and our community.

That's where Brown County Historical Society comes in. We provide a lot that may seem subtle but is important. We create a connection between the current residents and the history of the past. It gives something of permanence and grounding in a time of such uncertainty on every level, even something like trying to plan for the next annual dinner!

BCHS has certainly suffered financially during this time, as have nearly all nonprofits. When we look

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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back to the history of the great flu epidemic of 1918, we can see the importance of keeping historical records and having a safe repository for all of those stories of the past, especially the effects it had on local residents. In that light, BCBS is a very important repository.

This is just one of the reasons to continue – and improve – our support for Hazelwood House and the Society, so we can be here, in perpetuity, for those who come behind us so they can better know and understand this turbulent and important time in history.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Christine Dunbar

To Brown County Historical Society
Friends, Members and Supporters,

As we all navigate the uncertainty of these times, I want to offer an update on what we are doing at the Historical Society. The health of our visitors, supporters and staff remains of utmost importance to us in all of our program decisions.

Throughout the summer we offered tours and programs through timed ticketing, ensuring only one reserved group was in Hazelwood House at a time. We extended the summer hours through September and will offer programs to small pre-registered groups throughout the year.

Early in the season we cancelled our "If Tombstones Could Talk" cemetery tours at Fort Howard and Allouez. Instead, actors were pre-recorded at Allouez Catholic Cemetery for a virtual cemetery walk. We hope to share it online soon. Following Health Department and local guidelines for COVID-19, we determined we could safely offer a scaled-down version of our September cemetery program at Woodlawn Cemetery. We limited the number of participants to 10 per group with a total of 50 people per program. The walks, scheduled for two days, sold out quickly. A rainstorm required we reschedule, but we are getting used to postponing and rescheduling events this year.

Reluctantly, we could not overcome the hurdles associated with implementing our successful Murder Mystery event in October as well as the ethnic holiday program and holiday tea. Despite postponed events, the program committee continues their valuable work of planning events for 2021.

The Board of Directors is meeting virtually and working on an approach to help us navigate the current unique challenges as well as to implement strategies for a successful future. Spearheaded by board member James Rosenburg, we took a deep dive into the challenges the Historical Society and many other local small organizations face. We are exploring new ways to increase membership, funds, partnerships and engaging a younger and more inclusive audience.

We depend on the income which our programs generate. Like many other organizations, we are looking at ways to create virtual programs, such as walking tours, cemetery walks (as mentioned above), architectural tours, educational programming, and many others. Once created, we could offer an online ticketed event for you to enjoy at a time that's convenient for you!

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THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

by Paul Emmel

This is one of my absolute favorite photos taken by my Great Uncle Max Schober. About 1900, Max captured the excitement of a twenty-horse hitch pulling the circus band. Behind followed elaborate wagons of caged animals, elephants, and whatever would draw people in Green Bay to see "The Greatest Show On Earth," produced by the Ringling Brothers. Max's photography timing and perspective was perfect.

Imagine 80 thundering hooves, dust, and blaring music! The circus parade down Main Street aroused the entire city to see the big tent show. Arriving by special train from Baraboo, Wisconsin, Barnum & Bailey was the biggest event of summer.

As a boy in the 1940s, I remember watching rough and tough workers set up the Big Top with the help of elephants. I was fascinated by teams of circus laborers sledge hammering tent stakes in perfect rhythm, never missing a stroke. At night we sat on bleachers and watched the three-ringed super show. It was marvelous! When a thunderstorm hit, the tent roof was cut open to allow the collected rainwater to drain. Another unforgettable moment.

Max Schober (1879-1965) later became a founding partner of Foeller & Schober, a prominent architectural firm that designed many institutional buildings in Wisconsin. Max was an older brother of my Grandfather Otto Schober (1881-1961). Besides photography, Max collected Indian arrowheads found in fields around the East River that flowed by his large boyhood home on Main Boulevard.

We are indebted to our ancestors for leaving behind momentos of another era. They help us imagine what it was like so long ago. The entire collection of mounted photos was kept for years in a basket under a table in our cottage living room. Today it is known as "The Max Schober Collection" at the Neville Museum in Green Bay.



The twenty-horse hitch pulling the circus band as it approached Green Bay (circa 1900). Original photo by Max Schober, provided by Paul Emmel; courtesy of the Neville Public Museum. For additional historic images, visit [photos.nevillepublicmuseum.org](https://www.nevillepublicmuseum.org).

ROAD RALLY

(Continued from page 1)

Thanks to:

Our Sponsors: PDQ Carwash, Green Bay Packers Gives Back, One Law Group, S.C., Cellcom, and Festival Foods.

Our Partners: Area Research Center, Automobile Gallery, Bay Beach Amusement Park, Brown County Library Local History & Genealogy Section, Brown County Parks, City of Green Bay Parks Department, Denmark Mill Art Center, Fort Howard Memorial Park, Howard-Suamico Historical Society, Lambeau House, Oneida Nation Museum, and the Village of Wrightstown.

Our Volunteers: Barb Beaver, Leihla Blozinski, Rachel Bowker, Tammy Castonia, Myrna Dickinson, Lily Duquaine, Chuck Golueke, Timothy Hinkfuss, Dennis Jacobs, Coleton LaBarre, Shana Ledvina,

Mary Katherine Matharani, Ana Olp, and Kelley O'Connor, plus Sunshine Tourtillott (photographer) and intern.



Footnote –

¹"1920s Dances: Styles, Moves & Music." Study.com. July 12, 2016. <https://study.com/academy/lesson/1920s-dances-styles-moves-music.html>

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

(Continued from page 2)

The Historical Society relies on the generosity of donors and members like you to help us raise funds that directly support educational programs, events, archival resources, and inspiring lifelong learning. Thank you for your past support. If you are able, please consider a donation in any amount this year.

THE QUARANTINE QUILT PROJECT

WISCONSIN MUSEUM OF QUILTS & FIBER ARTS CEDARBURG, WI

by Jayne Jackowski, BCHS member



Left: Jayne Quilt quilt square submitted by Jayne Jackowski. Right: COVID quilt in the shape of a face mask. Photos by Jayne Jackowski

In early March when museums were closed as part of the COVID-19 quarantine, the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts was looking for a way to keep members and others involved in the museum and develop new projects and opportunities to encourage artists working from home to keep creating.

“The Quarantine Quilt Project” was announced via email and internet. Everyone, in and out of Wisconsin, was invited to submit a square to be put into a quilt to “make the best of a strange situation and craft during your quarantine!” The only requirement for submission was that each square measure 12” x 12” with a 1” margin around the design. All types of fiber arts, quilting, embroidery, applique, etc., were welcomed.

The response was overwhelming. Over 400 squares were submitted from Wisconsin, around the

United States and beyond. Foreign squares arrived from Israel, United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Squares sent from Australia took months to get here. I was among those who answered the call I submitted an embroidered square to be included in one of the quilts.

The next step was for museum volunteers to assemble the many squares into quilts. The squares submitted prior to June 30 were used to create 27 different quilts of different sizes, themes and colors. Each block tells a personal story through the medium of fiber.

These quilts are now on exhibit at the Wisconsin Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum in Cedarburg which will be open until November 15. For details on directions and hours, visit the website at www.wiquiltmuseum.com or call 262-546-0300.

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