

*Clark County Historical Society*

# **SUMMER POTLUCK**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019**

**Bring a Dish to Pass**

**Beverages, Plates, Flatware will be provided**

11:30 – Board of Directors Meeting

12:30 – Lunch

12:30 – 2:00 – General Meeting

## **Thorp**

Basement (handicap accessible) Thorp Public Library, 401 S. Conway St.  
For more information, call 715-797-8403

Charlotte Tetzlaff President, Lee Kaschinska Vice President, Shirley Anderson Secretary, Chris Patton  
Treasurer.

W5770 Wildwood, Neillsville WI 54456, 715-797-8403

Annual Business Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in November,

Annual Summer Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June

### WE REMEMBER

Marian Carl Ray      April 18, 1922 – April 21, 2019

Shari Lea Malloch      August 31, 1946 – September 2, 2019

### WE ARE GRATEFUL

... for the donations from the City of Owen Historical Preservation Committee and the 1897 Clark County Jail  
Museum.



1897 CLARK COUNTY JAIL MUSEUM AND  
SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE

215 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Neillsville 54456; 715-743-2150

[www.1897clarkcountyjailmuseum.com](http://www.1897clarkcountyjailmuseum.com),

[www.facebook.com/1897CCJM](http://www.facebook.com/1897CCJM)

Steven Roberts President, Shirley Anderson VP,  
Kevin Struensee Secretary, Snick Quicker  
Treasurer Monthly public meetings are held at 7  
p.m. first Tuesday of each month.

We had lots of bus and school tours this past season, as well as lots of rain!

As we write this, we are planning our open house for the Autumn Harvest in Neillsville on October 13. On December 7 we will have our annual Christmas open house with the fully decorated Sheriff's Residence and refreshments. See you there!

Reminder: Please review the links we have on our home page and see if they are correct for your group. Send changes to Natalie [nkerpenbach@gmail.com](mailto:nkerpenbach@gmail.com). Some groups link to their Facebook page, some to their city web page. Also be sure you link your site to the other groups and to your local attractions and businesses.

~~~~~ Natalie Erpenbach, President

COLBY RURAL ARTS MUSEUM

President Lee Kaschinska (715-316-0151) [kaschinskai@hotmail.com](mailto:kaschinskai@hotmail.com); Vice-President Melanie Boeck;  
Treasurer Eldora Schuster (715) 384-2513; Secretary Karen Winkler

We are still working on finishing construction on both the barn and the firehouse. We expect to have both ready by the opening date of our 2020 season. Tentative plans are for a "grand opening" event during Cheese Days next July. Biggest new addition - finally! - on July 11th we moved our caboos from Colfax to Colby. It's sitting, on a roadbed in front of the Colby Depot. We still have work to do before we can open it for tours. We had, for us, a large number of group tours this year, boosting our summer attendance to over 750. Groups included classes from St. Mary' and Zion Lutheran school', as well as the entire Colby Elementary school, grade K-4. The local 4H, and Red Hats from Abbotsford, Athens and Medford. Biggest new, and necessary project is replacement of the Depot Roof, a real necessity which we expect to complete by the fall of 2020. We had our standard three Brat Frys this summer. All were very successful, bring in over \$1,000 each. What we have been doing, and the publicity it has generated has led to a marked increase in businesses and individuals seeking to donate not only items, but donations to the Museum. This has greatly enhanced our ability to complete some projects, as well as undertake others we couldn't previously fund. Apparently the concept - "If you build it, they will come," is true.

~~~~~ Lee Kaschinska, President

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL CENTER

Jim Jantsch, Curator [jantsch@charter.net](mailto:jantsch@charter.net), 715-654-5432  
231 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Dorchester WI 54425, [www.dorchesterwi.com/historical-center](http://www.dorchesterwi.com/historical-center)

Wowwww - What a fantastic year this has been. The Dorchester Historical Center has been more active than ever. The word is spreading that when you get back to your home town of Dorchester: Give Jim a call and he will provide a tour of old and new Dorchester Artifacts. Open House is held whenever it makes sense to hold it like when the three day event called Dorchester Days is held during the month of June. A little over 500 artifacts have been identified in the Historical Center with a picture and words of where the item came

from and who donated it plus a little history of the item. Now in addition to having the items properly logged in as they would say in the Historical World. A separate organization has now been established on the internet and every other day - another artifact is placed on the web for all to see. The organization is called "Dorchester Memories and Pictures" and it was started on March 1, 2019 by a good friend of Jim's. Already over 800 members have signed up. In addition to the artifacts being displayed on the web; thousands of old Dorchester Pictures are also being displayed for all to see. By next year, we hope to have over 1000 members. Hope 2020 will be as progressive as 2019. ~~~~~ Jim Jantsch, Curator

FRIENDS OF OLD SCHOOL/ OWEN-WITHEE  
June Devine Roohr, Pres, Esther Niedzwiecki VP,  
Russ Weiler VP  
Board: Nancy Amacher, Roxana Reitz, Karen  
Horan, Mary Ellen Hughes, Laurel Shilts  
101 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, P O 102, Owen WI 54460, 715-  
351-0321



The Friends of the Old School continue to provide the community with a one-of-a-kind venue—its Old School Gym---for the community events, special exhibits and expos, auctions, fund raisers, dances, reunions, school events, and sports practice.

Maintaining the gymnasium for the benefit of the community is just one part of the FOSI mission, which includes collecting historic information and artifacts of the area and preserving historic structures. The multi-missions are challenging, but FOSI continues to meet the challenges.

During the fiscal year, FOSI attained its biggest ever fund-raising goal of \$70,000.00 for essential masonry repairs on our three-story brick high school building. We are overwhelmed at the extraordinary generosity of our membership and donors who met this stabilization goal in one year's time.

We now look forward to projects that will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of our high school building in 2021.

During the Owen Junior Fair, June 27-29, FOSI sponsored a Grower's Exhibit in the OSG, with 12 diverse exhibits from goat milk products to maple syrup and root beer to bird baths made from rhubarb leaves. The Owen Library sponsored three local authors.

During the Fair, FOSI also sponsored its first Bake-Off. The Rhubarb Bake-Off garnered 18 entries (all delicious) and a 24 x 32-inch rhubarb leaf to take Largest Leaf prize. All the submitted recipes have been put in a booklet available for sale. After the Sunday Fair parade, FOSI sponsored an ice cream social with free cake and ice cream for all.

In late August, the OSG was beautifully decorated for a Quinceanera or 15<sup>th</sup> birthday/coming-of-age party for Olivia and Esmerelda Lopez.

FOSI was honored to be able to loan one of its military uniforms to the Withee Library 1919 display. The suit was a WWI army uniform and hat worn by June Devine Roohr's uncle George Devine.

June Devine Roohr will be stepping down as president this year and will be honored at a recognition dinner held December 28 at the Owen Country Club. The new officer roster will be announced at the Fall CCHS meeting in Thorp.

~~~~~ Mary Ellen Hughes

## GREENWOOD/ BRANSTITER MUSEUM

Chairman, Pat Lindner 715-267-6355, Kay Landini 715-267-6321, Kurt Humke 715-267-6500, Diane Wildish 715-267-6556, Steve Hemersbach, Jeff Block, and Mary Del Fatti 715-267-6761. Hwy 73, Greenwood, 715-267-6354 Summer Hours: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June, July, August, and September from 12 to 3



Greetings from the Branstiter/ Old Streets of Greenwood Museum.

Our summer has been busy. We hosted the Clark County Historical Society meeting and luncheon on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. It was quite well attended. A brief board meeting was held at the beginning and then everyone enjoyed a wonderful potluck luncheon. Speakers for this event were Jeff and Maxine Kluckholm of Neillsville. They buy old buildings, stores, and homes and totally restore them to rent out. They showed slides of how these buildings looked at the beginning and some of the work that had to be done, and how beautiful they are when completed. They are currently restoring the former Corey Jewelry Store on Hewett (main street) in Neillsville. This was very much enjoyed by everyone. In conclusion, a meeting was held with representatives of each historical site present. Many ideas and suggestions were exchanged with the group. Overall, it was an enjoyable afternoon.

The regular summer Sunday openings have been fairly well attended; also, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>-grade classes of Greenwood Elementary and their teachers toured the Museum in late May, plus a few individual visitors as well.

The Museum committee invested in a number of mannequins that have been dressed and displayed throughout the different areas. One is dressed like and represents Don Branstiter and stands in the room of the tractor collection, very interesting.

Class reunions of 60 years and 61 years visited the Museum in August. What an enjoyable group—and most had never been to the Museum before. They spent much time enjoying it. We also have a 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>.

We are again planning an “Open House” in conjunction with the “End of Summer Fest” event on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. We will again have a wine and cheese tasting, music by Steve Hammersbach, and some special displays of antique kitchen utensils and cookie jars. This is always well attended.

We continue to have a number of donated items from many local people, and this is always greatly appreciated.

The status of the new roof and other remodeling projects: we met with the engineer, the mayor, and the city council on what needs to be done. The roof is first on the list! Hopefully the roof will be replaced this fall and the other work next year.

We welcome all visitors and members of other museums to come and visit our museum. Thanks for reading.

~~~~~ Pat Lindner, Chair

## LOYAL AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Diana Schuette Pres, Dave Williams VP, Donna Langfeldt Sec, Margaret Johnson Treas  
N11398 Cty G, Loyal WI 54446, 715-223-2832

Some repairs and upgrading were done this year. Our usual fund raisers were the chicken stand at the Loyal Corn Fest and an antique appraisal/show. We had several class reunion tours. With Diana Schuette stepping down as president, we will report on our new officer list at the Fall CCHS meeting in Thorp.

~~~~~ Diana Schutte, President

### SPENCER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Janean Morrow 659-5869; Vice President Ron Draeger 659-5182; Secretary Jerry Kobs 659-5577; Treasurer Sharon Kobs 659-557; Board of Directors: Myron Kobs 920-422-4309, Christine Kurz; Harry, [www.facebook.com/SpencerHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SpencerHistoricalSociety)

Please join us for our open times at the museum from 11:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. every second Sunday of the month, or by appointment. We meet quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month in the museum at 7:00 p.m. (Sept/Dec/March/and June) at 117 East Clark Street (Village Olde Hall) in Spencer. Everyone is encouraged and invited to join us. We are proud to preserve the history of our Spencer area! Membership \$5 year, \$10 family, \$100 Life, and \$50 contributing.

Currently we are researching five of our pioneer citizens for our second "Discovery Walk" to be held on Memorial Day 2020 at the West Spencer Cemetery. We are continuing to give tours for family and class reunions. We also plan to make contacts with the history club at our high school. We want to involve and educate them in their area history, hoping to inspire future historians to preserve Spencer area history for generations.

~~~~~ *Jerry Kobs, Secretary*

### STANLEY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dave Jankoski Pres, Fred Evans VP, Jim Erickson Treas, Sharon Wundrow Secr, Betty Plombon Director, Directors: Mark Bernklau, Donna Endru, Mary Fitzsimmons, Jeff Trunkel, Betty Plombon, Cheryl Kern-Simirenko; Editor: Betty Plombon, Copy editor: Cheryl Kern-Simirenko  
228 Helgerson St / P O Box 142, Stanley, WI 54768, 715-644-0464,  
Summer – June through September Saturdays and Sundays 1 – 4 p.m.  
Winter – October through May, most Tuesdays 1 – 3 p.m.  
By appointment: 715-644-5880

[www.facebook.com/StanleyAreaHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/StanleyAreaHistoricalSociety)

Greetings Fellow Historians:

We have had a very good summer/fall at our museum. We were open all Saturdays and Sundays in June, July, August and September from 1-4 pm. We also maintained our being open on Tuesdays which is mostly a volunteer worker day throughout the summer. We had visitors all but one Saturday this year.

Our highlight of the this reporting period was hosting the West Central Region/Wisconsin Council for Local History Meeting on Friday, September 13. There were 48 paid registrants who represented 19 historical societies. Some of the communities represented were, Thorp, Withee, Owen Colby, Spencer and Stanley. Two of our members, Cheryl Kern-Simirenko and Sharon Wundrow provided an overview of our experiences in photographing artifacts, scanning photographs and letters, and attaching them to Past Perfect catalog records. We also provided a presentation on fundraising for our digitization efforts. The day provided both information and a hands-on demonstration of how you do it. Also present was Vicki Tobias, from the Wisconsin Historical Society, who conducted an exercise to determine how the state historical society could help and support local digitization efforts. Tours of our museum were also included in the day. At 3 pm, many tired attendees started home with a wealth of information, and hopefully encouragement, to begin, or expand, digitizing their collections and our 11 members in attendance were well satisfied with our hosting efforts.

Our Museum Director, Betty Plombon, has begun genealogy classes for six people interested in learning about doing ancestry research. Several of the enthusiastic attendees are seen regularly in the museum either doing homework assignments or have already begun doing research on their heritage.

This year our local hospital is celebrating 100 years of serving our community. In conjunction with this milestone, we have developed a major exhibit commemorating the hospital's 100 years in our community and also have the main bulletin board in our meeting room dedicated to this milestone. On Saturday, October 19 at 1 pm, we will be hosting a group of retired hospital employees who will recollect some of the funny stories associated with their work in the various departments of the old hospital.

Happy holidays to all from us at the Stanley Area Historical Society. We hope you all have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. May the new year allow you to get done all you had hoped to accomplish last year.

~~~~~ Dave Jankoski, President

### THORP AREA HISTORICAL AND TELEPHONE MUSEUM

307 West Birch Street, Thorp WI

Open 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June, July, August, and September, 1-4 PM

The summer of 2019 brought many visitors to the Thorp Historical and Telephone Museum. Guests came from as far away as Louisiana, New York, Indiana, and Illinois. A local artist also enhanced the baseball exhibit by framing 3 posters from the 1920's era of Thorp history.

The museum, located at 307 W. Birch St., will be open during Thorp Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, October 5th, from 10:00-4:00. For more information or additional tours please contact Sue Klapatauskas, President (715-773-0102), Ellen Lipinski (715-773-2695), Treasurer, or Carol Stasila (715-828-8557).

~~~~~ Sue Klapatauskas, President

### TUFTS MANSION

Mary Hartung Pres, Jo Ann Voss VP, Barb Petkovsek Secr-Treas, members at large Jane Miller, Barb Miller, Denise Clough, Jill Bancroft, and Tammy Ormond  
26 Hewett St, Neillsville WI 54456, 715-743-3346

Open Sunday 2:00 – 4:00 pm from Memorial Day through Labor Day



Neither sleet nor snow stopped the 14th Annual Pumpkin Patch Party at the Tufts Museum. Kids and adults alike enjoyed the games, prizes, pies, apple fritters, and hanging out around the fire.

Tufts Museum next upcoming event is the Annual Cookie Walk and Twice-Around Christmas shop the first week end in December. The board members all participate in baking for this event. Cookies and candies, along with our specialty of Slovenian Potica and Scandinavian rosettes, are available for

sale. The Twice-Around shop has Christmas decorations as well as other items.

The Tufts' has hosted several group tours. The fourth graders are always so interested and enjoy it so much. They find the copper bath tub so amazing. They also are excited to hear Neillsville was only second to Appleton in having electricity in Wisconsin. They are surprised to hear Neillsville was a huge town in the late 1800's and early 1900's booming in the lumbering industry.

In 2020, Tufts' will participate in Heritage Days, with Free Tours on Saturday and other fun things to be planned at upcoming meetings.

Everyone from Tufts' Museum wishes you all a "Very Merry Christmas." Stop by the Cookie Walk to enjoy the Museum at Christmas. Tours are available by appointment by calling 715-743-3345.

~~~~~Jo Ann Voss, Vice President

WILLARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY/WILLARD SETTLERS PARK

Mary Lou Behrens Pres, Bing Berko Secr, Ken Williams Treas  
N9799 Gorman Avenue, Willard WI 54493  
Email: [kwilliams@nconnect.net](mailto:kwilliams@nconnect.net)

After raising \$2000 at our annual rummage sale, we received a matching grant from KSKJ American Slovenian Catholic Union. This allowed us to extend the play area, with musical equipment and a reading nook with a Little Library box, as well as a new flag pole. The high school Landscaping Class was a great help in placing 16 yards of mulch in May. It was too wet to do much else, but we did host weddings and birthday parties.

WOODLAND HOTEL

Contact: Tim Swiggum, Owen WI, 715-613-1422



The City of Owen Historical Preservation Committee and the Woodland Hotel have now become separate official members of the CCHS. Watch for more developments this next year.

~~~~Tim Swiggum

(see also [www.wiclarkcountyhistory.org/clark/societies/museums.html](http://www.wiclarkcountyhistory.org/clark/societies/museums.html))

**Please Read these Minutes Now So You Can Approve (or Improve) at the Fall meeting!!**

Minutes of the  
Clark County Historical Society  
Board of Directors - June 1, 2019

Present: Charlotte Tetzlaff (Neillsville), Lee Kaschinska (Colby), Shirley Anderson (Neillsville), Chris Patton (Greenwood), Dave Jankoski (Stanley), Donald and Janet Rogalski (Thorp)  
Charlotte opened the meeting at 11:35.

Recommended: Secretary contact Neillsville High School concerning printing the CCHS newsletter. Also cut back on print run, send some by E-mail to save money. Notify membership by postcard to let us know if they will accept this format (we will not sell list). They can reply to secretary by E-mail. Recommend they tell their friends, request gift memberships.

Recommended: Send an invoice to groups for their dues.

Recommended: Change savings to Community Bank.

Recommended: The Essay Contest will be discontinued for now, will resume when we have a Chair.

Stanley reported they had a fanning mill they were willing to gift to another museum.

Recommended: Fall business meeting to be held November 2, 2019, hosted by the Thorp Area group.

No other business.

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting; Lee seconded; approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:50.

Minutes of the Clark County Historical Society  
General Meeting – Greenwood, June 1, 2019

Present: Charlotte Tetzlaff (Neillsville), Lee Kaschinska (Colby), Shirley Anderson (Neillsville), Chris Patton (Greenwood), Dave Jankoski (Stanley), Pat Jankoski (Stanley), Connie Pozdell (Stanley), Fred Evans (Stanley), Donald and Janet Rogalski (Thorp), Tim and Kathy Englebretson (Mfd Family Center), Donna Langfeldt (Loyal), Margaret Johnson (Spencer), Jeff and Maxine Kluckhohn (Neillsville)

Potluck Lunch. Pat Lindner was thanked for making arrangements for the meeting to be held at the Branstiter Museum in Greenwood.

Presentation by Jeff and Maxine Kluckhohn of the reclamation of properties they are doing in Neillsville.

(Many attendees needed to leave before the meeting as the presentation lasted for one hour.)

The general meeting was called to order at about 2 p.m. by President Charlotte Tetzlaff.

Charlotte reported that her daughter, (Dr Lucretia Crawford) who was the first Junior Historian of the CCHS is now the head of the archives at Lakeland University in Plymouth after a 35-year teaching career in history.

Secretary's report by Shirley Anderson: Minutes reviewed from the newsletter. Approved.

Treasurer's report by Chris Patton: A \$50 donation was received from Creative Automation. Balance in savings of \$7019.02; checking \$379.31. Moved to accept Connie P; seconded by Karen W.

Report from Loyal: We have not had good turnouts. Class reunions and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes have visited the museum. We will sell chicken at the Corn Fest as usual and have an antique appraisal on July 27 (a Saturday) at the Legion and a brat fry. We need to place some carpet tiles and repair a leaky roof. "This is the Saga of the Soggy Roofs!"

Report from Stanley: Stanley will be hosting the West Central Regional Meeting on September 13. The meeting will have as its main focus "Digitizing a Museums Collections."

Report from Spencer: Sharon Kobs sent us information in absentia about the ribbon cutting and open house at the Spencer Area Museum on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. to be followed by an open house and tours through 4 p.m. The museum is located at 117 East Clark Street ("Olde Hall"). Their first Discovery Walk at the West Spencer cemetery was cut short by rain, but all attendees expressed interest in doing it again in the future. "It was a great way to involve community members as presenters represented their ancestors and added personal stories." "We appreciate Charlotte giving us direction when we began and all the ideas Clark County Society has shared with us."

Report from Greenwood by Pat Lindner: The City of Greenwood owns the Branstiter and they are planning some outside work and the roof in early fall. There will be an open house during the Street Dance in September. Steve Hemersbach will provide music. Our summer hours will be 12 to 3 p.m. on the first Sundays of each month.

Report from Loyal by Margaret: Not much new. We have had 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes visit. No PR. Open Saturdays and Sundays monthly.

Report from the Family History Center by Kathy: We continue to provide resources for genealogical research. The Jurgaitis's are back in this area. We hope to help Greenwood correct information on their plaque.

Report from 1897 Clark County Jail Museum (Neillsville) by Shirley: Good attendance each Sunday during summer. We are talking about cutting back. Trying to keep up with accessing the donations, mostly photos and documents.

Report from Colby: Lee brought flyers with information about a presentation by author Betty Cowley on her book "Stalag Wisconsin." This will be held on Wednesday, September 18 at 7 p.m. at the Colby Community Library.

The fall business meeting will be held November 2, 2019 at a location to be determined. Shirley moved and Margaret seconded for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.