

SHADES OF THE PAST

Williams Bay Historical Society
Established 2013

Volume 2 Issue 4
Fall 2015

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INFORMATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

February 6th – Day in the Bay
DVD of Williams Bay in the 1930's will be playing at the Library. We will have calendars, note cards and the DVD of 1930's for sale.

February 13th – Third Annual Valentine's Luncheon

March 8th – Tuesdays at 2pm
Geneva Lake Museum
Presentation by the Williams Bay Historical Society

June 16th – Ice Cream Social
Edgewater Park during Dog Day in the Bay

June 23rd – Annual fundraising garage sale

Board of Directors

President - Judy Bausch
Vice President - Pat Grove
Secretary - Phyllis Janda
Treasurer - Doreen Collins

Directors

Maggie Gage
Henry Kenyon
Susan Vavra

Williams Bay Historical Society Celebrating The Past Looking Toward the Future

The Williams Bay Historical Society is now two years old! What began as a historical exhibit at the Barrett Memorial Library has become a 501(c)3 organization of over 80 members and an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Our website and Facebook pages are viewed daily by members and many others who live in or love our Village! We appreciate everyone's feedback.

We have held a Speaker Series at the Village Hall with topics ranging from iceboating to Mastodons, a private tour of the Geneva Lake Museum, an annual Valentine's luncheon, our Wonders of Williams Bay tour which we will repeat every other year, an antiques

appraisal, and a look back at the Palm Sunday Tornado that ravaged the Bay 50 years ago. Other fundraising events included a yearly garage sale, basket silent auctions and the sale of our calendars, notecards, and ornaments at the Williams Bay Fine Art and Craft Fest and other venues.

This year we received a grant from the Wisconsin Historical Foundation to purchase software for cataloging our archives and artifacts. The Board of Directors looks forward to the coming year; we hope you do too. Keep posting on Facebook (History of Williams Bay) and checking our website (<http://wmsbayhistory.ipage.com>)

Judy Bausch, President



Second Annual Dinner a Huge Success

The Williams Bay Historical Society's 2nd Annual Dinner Meeting was held on Friday, October 16th, in the Beasley Center at George Williams College.

Over 40 members and guests enjoyed a great social hour and wonderful dinner while taking part in a little history quiz based upon a "Bay Leaves" article from 1938.

Afterwards, everyone went into the Seabury Room to view home movies taken during the 1930's. Long time resident Donna Elbert had met earlier with us to help identify some Bay residents in the movies. Henry Kenyon and Jean Ohl were in the audience and remembered additional people and locations.

The movies will be available soon on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCFKxavFHb2T4lWcl1ap6ekA

Thank you to all who attended!!!

Additional photos from the dinner can be viewed on our website: <http://wmsbayhistory.ipage.com>



Form Historical Society Among Geneva Lake Residents *(Continued from page 4)*

Geneva Lake and its vicinity, such as relics of Indian and pioneer life, stories of the early settlers, old letters, books, pamphlets, and photographs. It will place markers at various points of interest, trace out old trails, locate former Indian villages, and endeavor to stimulate general interest in local history. It is hoped that there may be established in time a museum for the proper display and preservation of the historical material collected. The collection already at hand has been given a temporary home

at Yerkes Observatory. The society solicits gifts of material relating to the early life of Wisconsin. Such gifts will be carefully preserved and will be credited to the donors.

Making Extensive Survey

One piece of work already well underway is a survey of the shores of Geneva and Como lakes to discover evidences of the occupancy and activities of the Indians. Several camp sites, wigwam hearthstones, burial places, trails, stone implements, etc have been

found in the first few days of exploration—enough to show that this is a particularly rich field for the archeologist. This survey is being made by Charles E. Brown, director of the State Historical Museum at Madison, assisted by his son, Theodore Brown. The results of this work will soon be published.

Four Markers Placed

The four bronze markers placed on boulders in July mark the places where the first whites saw Geneva Lake in 1831, the old Indian *(Cont. on page 3)*

For comments or questions please contact:

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MISSION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

The purpose of the Williams Bay Historical Society is to assist in the preservation and exhibition of items of historical interest that are within the boundaries of Williams Bay, and the immediate surrounding area. It will seek to provide the public with educational opportunities to learn about our unique local history. It will also seek to organize and assist in the commemoration of significant dates and events in village history.

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Antique Appraisal with Barbara Eash



Second Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon



Williams Bay Palm Sunday Tornado



Ice Cream Social



Form Historical Society Among Geneva Lake Residents

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trail along which they came from Fort Dearborn, now Chicago, to the four lakes at Madison and beyond, the location of the Potawatomi village at the head of the lake, and the site of Chief Big Foot's lodge in Fontana.

The officers of the society are as follows President M.A. Healy; Vice Presidents Paul B. Jenkins, W.H. MacDonald, and L.G. Buckles; Secretary Storrs B. Barrett; Treasurer Charles D. Higgs; advisory committee S.B. Chapin, Edwin B. Frost, and J.S. Hotton.

A general invitation to all those interested is hereby extended to become members of the society. All residents around Geneva Lake and its vicinity whether they be permanent or temporary residents are eligible. The annual dues have been placed at two dollars. Applications should be made to the secretary at Williams Bay.

Wisconsin Local History and Biographical Articles Citation Wisconsin Historical Society. Wisconsin Local History & Biography Articles; Elkborn Independent; Elkborn, WI; October 6, 1927; viewed online at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org> on October 6, 2015.

Williams Bay Exhibit at Geneva Lake Museum



Historical Society President Judy Bausch with the new Williams Bay exhibit at the Geneva Lake Museum.

Be sure to check out the exhibit during your next visit to the Museum!

Geneva Lake Museum
255 Mill Street
Lake Geneva, WI

<http://genevalakemuseum.org>

Historical Society Receives Grant Award

The Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Council for Local History awarded the Williams Bay Historical Society a grant of \$696.00 to purchase PastPerfect collections management software. There is also a match required of museum supplies.

Pat Grove states that the grant award will enhance our efforts to start cata-

logging/archiving our collections and donations that are stored. The software has several features such as membership lists, newsletters, event announcements, financial statements, and connections to the other historical societies in the state. It will also be a repository of all our legal contracts and affiliations.

We will work on this project in the upcoming winter months. PastPerfect is used by 70% of the historical societies in the state as their museum management system. We will need to purchase supplies and a computer to fully integrate the project. Please contact us if you interested or have had experience in archiving.

Form Historical Society Among Geneva Lake Residents Plans Completed at Bay Meeting

Make Survey of Shores of Geneva Lake to Discover Traces of Indian Inhabitants

In conformity with plans which had their beginning at the time of the unveiling of several memorial tablets at the head of Geneva Lake (last) July, a meeting was held at Yerkes Observatory on September 23rd to com-

plete an organization to be known as the Geneva Lake Historical Society. On the advice of the State Historical Society of Madison, a constitution was adopted which will permit the affiliation of the local society with the state organization. The society, after incorporation will enjoy certain privileges through the State Historical Society, including a

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vote at the annual meetings of the state institution and the right to copies of its publications.

Will Preserve Relics

The scope of the society will include the collection and preservation of all kinds of historical material relating to

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