

# SHADES OF THE PAST

Williams Bay Historical Society  
Established 2013

Volume 4 Issue 2 Spring 2017

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY INFORMATION** PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, May 20 – Wonders of Williams Bay Historical Tour**  
Edgewater Park  
10 am - 3 pm

2017 Annual Dinner  
Friday, October 13  
Watch for upcoming details

2017 Local History and Historic Conference  
October 20 and 22, 2017  
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

### UPCOMING HISTORY BOOK

**A Pictorial History of Williams Bay 1836-1939**  
Watch for upcoming book details

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### **Save The Date - May 20, 2017!!!**

#### **Wonders of Williams Bay Historical Tour** by Pat Grove

The “Wonders of Williams Bay Historical Tour” is announced by the Williams Bay Historical Society and will be taking place on Saturday, May 20th from 10 am to 3 pm.

The self guided tour will begin at the Williams Bay Pavilion in Edgewater Park on the lakefront in Williams Bay. Tour booklets and maps will be available and there is no charge for the event. Parking is available along the lakefront at Edgewater Park and at the north-west parking lot.

The tour will include 15 historical sites with docents from the Historical Society at each site who will present a short narrative with information about the site and answer questions.

The United Church of Christ, 46 Stam Street will be offering a free ice cream social and a traveling Vietnam display from 11am to 2 pm.

Yerkes Observatory will offer three free tours at 10 am, 11 am, and 12 pm. The Belfry Theatre will welcome visitors. *(Cont. on Page 4)*

### **Customers Shop. Amazon Gives.**

#### **Support the Historical Society with Purchases from Amazon**

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Williams Bay Historical Society!!

You must FIRST go to smile.amazon.com and enter your regular Amazon login information. You then can search and designate Williams Bay Historical Society as the charity you wish to support. It's that easy!!

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## Kenyon Family of Williams Bay By Pat Grove

One of the projects of the Williams Bay Historical Society is to collect "Oral Histories" of members, families, and long time residents of the Bay who have made significant contributions to the village through the years. Several histories have been collected, but none of them published.

As I was researching for the Historical Society book project in the History Closet at the Barrett Memorial Library there were many old newspaper articles and pictures of Henry Kenyon Sr. from the 1930's & 1940's as he was a very active citizen, involved in the Fire Department, American Legion, and Scouting. Henry Sr. had a trucking business in the Bay. This led me to contact Henry Jr. and request more information about his family.



Williams Bay Fire Department 1927 Henry Kenyon sixth man from left back row. Photo credit: WBHS

The Kenyon family was established in 1856, when Julia Sullivan, daughter of Margaret and Thomas

Sullivan was born on October 31, 1856 in Darien. Richard was born in Michigan. Julia married Richard Kenyon on October 11, 1891 and they moved to Williams Bay in 1892 where they built a house on Walworth Avenue. For a short time they lived on a farm west of the village. They sold the farm a few years later in 1896 to Charles Dodge and moved to a house on the East shore of the lake. This house was moved to Elmhurst Street. The couple lived there until their deaths, Richard on April 13, 1941 and Julia on July 18, 1948. They are buried in Delavan in Saint Andrews Catholic Cemetery. They had three children: Mabel, Henry J. and Richard.

Mildred Fox and Henry Kenyon had four children: Henry Jr., Robert, Curtis, and Delores. Henry passed in 1965 and Mildred in 1975. They are buried in East Delavan Union Cemetery.

Henry Jr. "Hank" was born at home on October 6, 1934, at 135 Elmhurst Street and attended Williams Bay School. Henry remembers the names of the teachers, Mrs. Wolf, Mrs. Brandenburg, and Mrs. Mott. The graduating class of 1952 had 13 students. Henry did undergraduate work at the University of Whitewater and also completed a



Master's Degree in Education at Northern Illinois University. Henry taught in the McHenry School District until his retirement in 1993.

He was married to Marie Dow and Patricia Schuett and has four children: Larry of NJ, John of McHenry, IL, Ann of Ripon, WI., and Mary Beth of MI, three stepchildren, 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. His brother Robert's family lived on "Kenyon Drive" in the Irish Woods area. One niece, Susan Vavra, still resides in Williams Bay.

Henry has been a member of the McHenry County Historical Society for 20 years and is a member of the Walworth County Historical Society. His interests include history, archeology, Indian mounds, and preservation. Henry is a charter member of the Williams Bay Historical Society and is currently the Vice President. He has never missed a meeting or event in four years. His knowledge base of Williams Bay history is extensive, he is a distinguished individual and an asset to the Williams Bay Historical Society.

Henry currently resides in McHenry, Illinois.

### For comments or questions please contact:

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Or

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Or visit

[www.wmsbayhistory.org](http://www.wmsbayhistory.org)

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### SHADES OF THE PAST

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Historical Society



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Wisconsin State Historical Society

### 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.

## 1917 - April 6 - 2017 The 100th Anniversary of U.S. Involvement in World War I



April 6th, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the United States Congress declaring war on Germany and Austria-Hungary, an act that joined the armed forces of the U.S. with those of Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy to defeat the Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria.

When war broke out in 1914, the United States had a policy of neutrality. Many people in the U.S. saw the war as a dispute between “old world” powers that had nothing to do with them. Also, public opinion on the war was often split as there were many immigrants who had ties to both sides.

When the Germans sank the Lusitania in 1915, a passenger ocean liner with 159 Americans on board the public opinion in the United States toward the war began to change. This act killed 1,198 innocent passengers. When the United States finally entered the war two years later, the cry “Remember the Lusitania” was used on military recruitment posters and to unite the people against the Germans.

In January of 1917, the British intercepted and decoded a secret telegram sent from German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmerman to the German ambassador in Mexico. He proposed that Mexico ally with Germany against the United States. He promised them the territories of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

The Zimmerman Telegram was the final straw. On April 2, 1917 President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany. In his speech he said that the U.S. would go to war to “fight for the ultimate peace of the world.”

On the evening prior to the speech, President Wilson had a quiet conversation with Frank Cobb of the New York World newspaper. President Wilson is reported to have told Mr. Cobb, “Once led into war, our people will forget that there ever was such a thing as tolerance; ruthless brutality will enter into the very fiber of our national life, infecting Congress, the courts, the policeman, the man in the street.”

True to President Wilson’s prediction, American society became less and less tolerant of citizens who disagreed with their government’s actions. Also at risk were several million Americans of German ancestry.

At this time, German Americans were the largest ethnic group in Wisconsin, accounting for more than 45 percent of the state’s foreign born population.

During World War I there were three registrations. In the years 1917 and 1918, about 24 million men living in the United States completed a military draft registration card. This number was close to 25 percent of the total U.S. population of approximately 100 million in 1917-1918.

This is the Historical Society’s database of men from Williams Bay who entered the military during the first World War:

Ganord A. Andell  
Donald Kenneth Baker  
Maynard E. Baker  
Warren D. Burdick

James Drabek  
Ivar P. Ericson  
Jesse Wilbur Gardner  
Elmer K. Hansen  
Victor Hansen  
Howard Albert Henne  
Theodore Roosevelt Johnson  
Henry J. Kenyon  
James Kochy  
Allen R. Lackey  
Richard John Oetjen  
Elmer Pierson  
Axel J. Sandberg  
Oscar Otto Stenstrom  
Joseph Emanuel Wendell  
Albert Wheeler  
Frank Edward Williams  
Webster Wanamaker Williams

Information about ancestors who registered for the draft or served in the U.S. military is available on The Wisconsin Veterans Museum website. World War I draft registration records can be search for free at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) or at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) with an Ancestry membership.

### Interesting Facts about the United States in World War I:

The United States had 4,355,000 military personnel involved in World War I. It suffered 322,000 casualties including 116,000 soldiers killed.

- The U.S. Navy played a major role in helping to blockade Germany, keeping out supplies and hurting Germany economically.
- The U.S. forces that were sent to Europe during World War I were called the America Expeditionary Forces (AEF).
- The nickname for U.S. soldiers during the war was “doughboy.”

**Wonders Tour** *Cont. from page 1*

and the East Delavan Union Settlers Cemetery will have grave site tours. The Kishwauketoe Nature Conservatory entrance will be located across from Edgewater Park at the Lakefront. Visitors will take a step back to experience the Ice Age, mastodons, Native Americans, and the golden age of Geneva Lake steam yachts and trains at the lakefront, once the hub of Williams Bay. Historic buildings of downtown and the Fire Station, Barrett Library and Frost Park will be sites also available on the tour. Aurora University will have campus tours available.

Come join us for some family fun. Visit the Historical Society website: [wmsbayhistory.org](http://wmsbayhistory.org) for more information.

**Did You Know Williams Bay Has an Official Song?**

Moonlight Melody of Williams Bay on Geneva Lake was composed by Stanford R. Espedal. A Norwegian composer from the Chicago area, Espedal composed several musicals.

He was a Capt. in the United States Army and served in WW II. He is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

MOONLIGHT MELODY  
of  
WILLIAMS BAY

Words and Music by  
STANFORD R. ESPEDAL

The musical score is for a waltz in 3/4 time, marked 'Valse moderato'. It features piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The lyrics are: 'You brought a love song in-to my heart. I felt the thrill of a cupid's dart. You brought the sun-shine with just a smile. When we're to-gether, then life is worth while.' The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *p a tempo*, *poco rull.*, and *poco rall.*



Circa 1937 Stanford R. Espedal  
(1907-1990)

