

SHADES OF THE PAST

Williams Bay Historical Society
Established 2013

Volume 2 Issue 1
Winter 2015

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INFORMATION

QUARTERLY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Program: Antique Appraisals*

Saturday, January 24, 2015

9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Barrett Memorial Library

Community Room

65 W. Geneva Street

Williams Bay, Wisconsin

**Registration required, to register call 262-245-2709. Co-sponsored with The Friends of Barrett Memorial Library. Limit 2 items per person*

“Day in the Bay”

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Visit our display at the Barrett Memorial Library! We will have historical prints for sale as well as calendars and note cards.

Second Valentine’s Day Luncheon

Saturday, February 14, 2015

12:30 p.m.

Sherwood Lodge

116 Cherry Street

Williams Bay, Wisconsin

More details to come!!!

Board of Directors

President - Judy Bausch

Vice President - Pat Grove

Secretary - Phyllis Janda

Treasurer - Doreen Collins

Directors

Maggie Gage

Henry Kenyon

Tom McReynolds

Wonders of Williams Bay Historical Tour

By Michelle Bie Love



Ancient Native Burial Ground on Elm Street

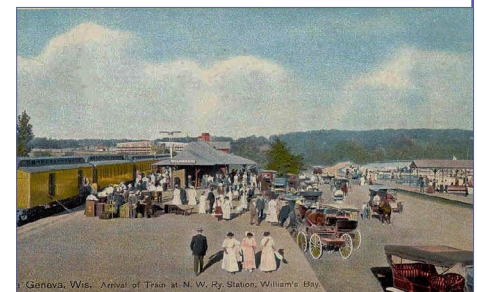
The first Wonders of Williams Bay Historical Tour was held on Saturday, October 18th. Eighty people registered for the event that was sponsored by the Williams Bay Historical Society.

The self-guided tour began at Edgewater Park and highlighted 12 locations of historical value in or near the village. Volunteer docents at each location described its historical significance to both the village and the Geneva Lake area.



The Matriark - built in 1899

Tour participants learned about: The Ice Age and Mastodons, Geneva Lake Boats, Native Americans - The First Villagers, All Aboard - The Train Age in Williams Bay, “Clear Water” -



Williams Bay Depot - early 1900s

Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, The Center of Things - Downtown Williams Bay, Hotton Building (the Bayview Building) Ancient Native Burial Ground, Sun, Moon, and Stars

Parade of Progress Window

By Frank M. Van Epps

Those of you who happened to be listening in on the Columbian Broadcast Tuesday evening heard about the celebration of the Grocery Store Pageant of Progress this month.

Grocery stores are a lot different from the days when they the hang out for a group of men who solved out country's problems while basking in the heat of a base burner and nibbled at the crackers from the nearby barrel.

The changes that have been made have been so gradual that it is hard to realize how great they have been. A glance at Granzow and Peterson store window gives one a pretty good idea.

The bill of sale by which Henry Granzow acquired the grocery store from W.H. Howe on October 6, 1902 and his first day book are among the many interesting things on display. There is the first coffee grinder, their first telephone, their tobacco cutter, etc.

From their attic Mike and Hank have found many pictures and articles which have attracted so many lookers that they were two deep at times.

Among the pictures are Mike and Pete (Peterson) when they worked for O.P. Southwick in 1899 with two horses and rigs out in front of what is now the Hotton building; Jewel Boat

Co. in 1899 and another in 1900; Walter Jewell and his fellow crew of the Sphinx Sail Boat 43 years ago; Vic Hansen's Garage where Fish Line Store now stands with Tulley's Meat market at Lee's Kitchen; Walworth Avenue 35 years ago; the Bay's first Base Ball Team with Mike in it, of course, and also one of when the Bay was County Champion at the Fair, 35 years ago; the first school, which burned in 1922 and to fight which most all the men in town carried water, including the editor; a class in third grade in the old school 23 years ago, among the pupils shown are Bob Anderson, Don Krause, Gladys Peterson, Roy Johnson; a picture of the Lucius Newberry and Lady of the Lake which used to do a rushing business carrying passengers around the lake 55 years ago.

Besides pictures of Mike and Henry at various ages and occupations some other pictures are shown, Lawrence Hollister in one (of) the first autos at the age of 16; Al Weyhrauch, Nelson Hanson, one (of) the Bay's earliest

settlers, George Williams, son of Royal Williams and grandson of Israel whose old homestead is now remodeled into apartments by E.H. Hollister; S.B. Barrett, the first president of the Village, Thomas Lackey at his 90th birthday, when all the village helped him celebrate.

Sailors were interested in the sailboat of 80 years ago in of the Douglass Elgin Club.

A set of golf clubs call to mind the rough course back in 1901 when Hank tried his hand at the game; a crude revolver of 70 years ago. And there were other articles and pictures.

We like to look at old things and see how others and even we lived long ago; but fortunately we like to look ahead and keep on struggling upward in the great Pageant of Progress. What has happened in the grocery business has happened in all business, thanks to progressive men and women.

Reprinted from Bay Leaves, Vol 7 No. 15, April 13, 1939



Granzow & Peterson Grocery Store - 1920s

For comments or questions please contact:

wmsbayhistory@gmail.com

Or

Williams Bay Historical Society

P O Box 678

Williams Bay, WI 53191

Or visit

www.wmsbayhistory.ipage.com

Editor: Michelle Bie Love

Photo Credits: Williams Bay Historical Society and Michelle Bie Love

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is published quarterly
by the Williams Bay
Historical Society



Affiliated Member of the
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.

On this Date in Williams Bay History

- **March 26, 1894** - Christian Hansen purchases land for the Hansen subdivision.
- **January, 1900** - Fred Webster, son of composer Joseph P. Webster, was hired to teach at the newly organized school District 7 in Williams Bay.
- **February 16, 1907** - First library board selected.
- **January 3, 1921** - Free Evangelical Lutheran Church re-organized as the Free Mission Church under the leadership of Mike Peterson.
- **February 1922** - The library and lot were offered to the Village free of debt.
- **March 19, 1949** - Williams Bay telephone numbers are changed to a 5-digit dialing system from a 4-digit system. The numbers will start with a five.
- **February 21, 1953** - The second First Congregational Church (UCC) building burned down.
- **February 21, 1954** - Cornerstone was laid for the new First Congregational Church (UCC) at its present location.

Answer to Fall 2014 Can You Guess????

Elmer H. Hopkins and Frank W. Walker formed a partnership in 1923 to buy out the business of George Van Velzer. Do you know what the business was?
 Answer: Garage located on the southwest corner of Walworth Ave and Geneva St.



Hopkins and Walker Garage

Wonders of Williams Bay *(Continued from front page)*

Frost Park, George Williams College of Aurora University, World Famous Yerkes Observatory, and East Delavan Cemetery.



M.A. Southwick General Merchandise early 1900s



Then and Now Bayview Building 2014 (Old Hotton Building)



Frost Park Memorial to Dr. Edwin Frost



Yerkes Observatory

Notable People in Williams Bay History

Arline Southwick Pierce 1904 - 1988



- Born November 3, 1904 in Williams Bay.
- Daughter of Oliver and Mary (Ladd) Southwick.
- Graduated from Williams Bay School in 1923, attended Whitewater Normal and taught at Sheboygan for 4 years.
- Married Harold Pierce, June 20, 1929, in Williams Bay.
- Employed at Yerkes Observatory.
- Librarian at Barrett Memorial Library for 12 years.
- Member of Williams Bay United Church of Christ, Friends of the Library, the Study Club, and the Women's Club.
- Died January 27, 1988 in Williams Bay.
- Buried at East Delavan Cemetery.

Winters were Cold in the Late 1800s

(Continued from page 4)

- **April 15, 1875** - Ice is gone from lake.
 - **April 14, 1877** - Ice began disappearing from lake and navigation was fully open on May 26.
 - **January 2, 1879** - Temperature dropped to 26 degrees below zero.
 - **January 16, 1879** - Three day snowstorm began.
 - **February 11-12, 1881** - Heavy snow blocked trains for 3 days.
 - **March 3, 1881** - Heavy snow blocked trains for 10 days.
 - **March 18, 1881** - Heavy snow with drifts up to 20 feet blocked trains for 4 days.
 - **May 13, 1881** - Ice gone from lake.
 - **December 21, 1883** - Cold temperatures caused ice to cover lake from Geneva Bay to the Narrows.
 - **December 26, 1883** - Blizzards, deep snow, and cold temperatures continued into January 1884.
 - **January 19, 1886** - Temperature was 20 degrees below zero.
 - **January 12, 1888** - Extreme cold for several days temperature dropped from 20 degrees to 34 below zero.
 - **October 30, 1890** - Ground was frozen solid.
 - **January 6, 1891** - Lake was completely frozen; ice was very smooth making for great sport for skaters and ice boaters.
 - **January 1893** - three weeks of below zero temperatures in January, coldest was 29 degrees below zero.
 - **April 5, 1893** - Ice gone from lake.
 - **January - February 1895** - Temperatures did not rise above zero; coldest was 19 degrees below zero.
 - **April 17, 1895** - Ice gone from lake.
 - **Winter 1896** - 31,000 tons of ice cut from Geneva Lake.
- Without full house heating and the Gore-Tex clothing we have today, the bitter cold must have been insufferable for the early residents of Williams Bay.

Antique Appraisals with Barbara Eash

The Williams Bay Historical Society & Friends of the Barrett Memorial Library are welcoming Antiques Appraiser, Barbara Eash on January 24th from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Registration is required, first come - first served. Bring two treasures for Mrs. Eash to appraise for Free! No coins, stamps or firearms. To register call the library at 262-245-2709.

Winters were Cold in the Late 1800s

Winters of the last three decades of the nineteenth century brought extreme cold to the Geneva Lake area.

In his book, *Annals of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 1835-1897*, James Simmons documented the extreme temperatures and ice conditions on Geneva Lake.

- **April 20, 1872** - Ice which had been up to 34 inches thick is gone from lake.
- **April 21, 1872** - Heavy snow storm hits area.
- **December 20, 1872** - Temperature dropped to 20 degrees below zero.
- **January - February 1875** - Fifty days with below zero temperatures.

(Continued on page 3)

Historical Society Members Elect New Board

By Michelle Bie Love
New members of the Board of Directors for 2014-15 were elected at the October 16 meeting of the Historical Society. Elected for a two year term were Doreen Collins, Maggie Gage, and Henry Kenyon.

Directors
Maggie Gage
Henry Kenyon
Tom McReynolds

The Board has exciting plans for the coming year!!

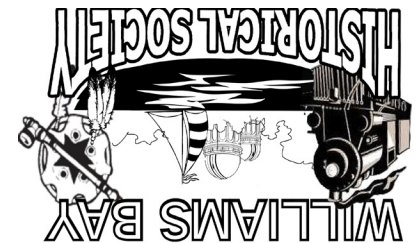
Thank you to retiring board members, Ann Becker and Greg Trush. Special thanks to our first President and ongoing supporter, Deb Soplanda, whose dedication helped make the Society a reality!

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



Williams Bay Lionesses present a \$1500 donation to the Historical Society.

L. to R. Doreen Collins, Society. Treasurer, Rena Monroe, Lioness President, Pat Grove, Society. Vice President, Judy Bausch, Society. President



Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Williams Bay Historical Society
PO Box 678
Williams Bay, WI 53191