

Richfield Historical Society To Restore Messer/Mayer Mill

The Richfield Historical Society is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization which is restoring and preserving several buildings at the Richfield Historical Park in order to create a living museum of Richfield's history. This museum includes log buildings from the time of the early settlers and continues through life on the saw and grist mill homestead, and then on to the era of cash cropping and dairy farming.

There are several distinctive areas at the 29-acre park:

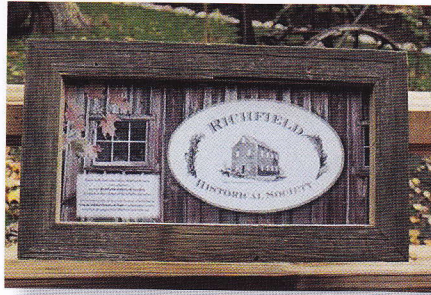
- The Grist Mill, which is the central focus of the park, with all the original equipment intact. This area includes the miller's home, also being restored, and supporting buildings
- Pioneer Homestead, featuring log buildings which enlighten visitors about the life style of the early settlers in Richfield



The Richfield Historical Society has enjoyed a strong and very motivated volunteer base from its inception. This has continued to grow each year. The majority of the work at the park is done by Richfield Historical Society (RHS) volunteers. RHS hires contractors only when their expertise is needed. In addition to the volunteers, RHS is supported with funding from private donations, area businesses, and the Village of Richfield. This combination has allowed us to achieve impressive results. RHS welcomes new volunteers. Special skills are not necessary. New volunteers, trained "on the job", will learn how to use hand tools from the past that blend with the power tools of more modern technology.

Grist Mill Restoration (WI-067-002)

- History: This large 30 by 45 timber frame structure has three floors and a basement. It was built between 1871-1873, by Andrew Messer. There is original equipment on all three floors and in the basement. The power to run the mill came from the water turbine that is deep in the



basement water chase. It produced 25 hp and ran at 425 RPM.

- There are plans to restore the mill to working condition, and have it powered by the original water turbine.
- Current projects include restoring the milling equipment, rebuilding the pressure box, and replacing the mill foundation. In the future, we will be adding the lean-to machine shed to

the south of the mill which once had a 35 hp gas engine in it to power the mill in times of low water levels.

Saw Mill Reconstruction-History: The saw mill was built in 1856 by Johann Messer. It contained a "Mulley" saw, and was powered by a water wheel. A Mulley saw is similar to a two-man pit saw. A large heavy blade moves up and down. This type of saw was well suited for this area with its large native trees. The area was clear cut, and the lumber was used to build the homes and barns in the area. The remains of the foundation can still be seen on the east side of the grist mill. The plan is to build a saw mill with a working Mulley saw.

Volunteer Your Time and Talents

Call 262-628-2443

or e-mail info@richfieldhistoricalsociety.org

7th Annual Richfield Art at the Mill Art & Fine Crafts Fair and Plein Air Competition

Beautiful Richfield Historical/Nature Park
Richfield, WI -- Washington County

Messer/Mayer Mill, Richfield, Wisconsin
Richfield Art at the Mill

Saturday, July 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org

