



Richfield Historical Society
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www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org



President	Vice President	Recording Secretary	Corresponding Secretary	Treasurer	Past President
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Committees

Collections
Jean Happel/Norb Berres

Education
Kathy Weberg

Event Coordinator
Daryl Grier

Historic Sites
Herb Lofy

Library/Program/Newsletter
Marge Holzbog

Lillicrapp House
Aerona Smith

Long-Term Planning
Jim Metzger

Marketing
Frank "Buzz" Carr

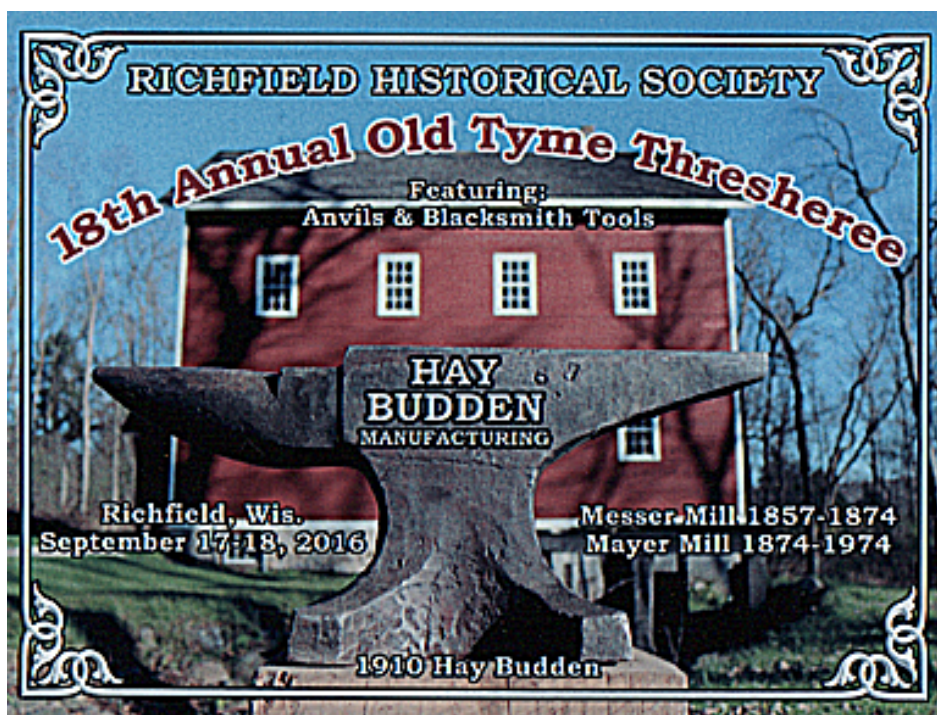
Membership
Judy Lehman

Mill House
Clara Birkel / Cindy Schmechel

Mill Restoration
Harry Niemann

Project Coordinator
Del Schmechel

Volunteer Coordinator
Sharon Lofy



Anvils and Blacksmith Tools are this year's Thresheree feature

RHS in Action

Something new is coming to RHS.

He lived in the Mill and made quite a mess!
He'll make his debut at the Annual Thresheree.
On September 17th and 18th –
Come and see.



Historic Barn in Richfield Finds New Purpose - (Excerpted from article by Joe Vandelaarschot)

People pass by every day without understanding the historic significance of an old barn along Highway 41. But it won't happen much longer. Volunteers are tearing down the historic barn, on what was known as the Joe Kohl farm, to use the lumber in constructing a blacksmith shop in the Village's Historical Park.

Barns have dotted agricultural landscapes for years and years, and many of the old structures have fallen into disrepair because of time and weather. "This barn (off Polk Street and adjacent to Highway 41) has not been used for a long time," said owner Brian Kazmierczak, who still farms the adjacent land. "It was still in pretty good shape, but it wasn't going to be used, and I didn't want to see it just fall apart or rot away." Kazmierczak said the Historical Society approached him about reusing the lumber. "I don't have the time to work for the Society. So I thought giving them the lumber and materials for free was one of the ways I could help.

Charlie Mayhugh was one of the RHS Thursday Crew's volunteers on site as work began to take down the old barn. He owns a company called Re-Barn and has worked with old barns and structures for years. He said this barn was built in two sections, with the oldest half built somewhere in the 1880s or even the 1870s. The older portion has lumber and timbers that are all hand-hewn, while the newer section has lumber that was cut in a sawmill. "Some of the beams are 55 feet long," said Project Coordinator Del Schemechel. "Just think of finding a tree large enough to produce a 12 inch square beam 55 feet long. Then, think of all the work it would take to prepare it and then lift it into place – not to mention connecting it to the supporting posts and rafters. You can see the axe marks on the lumber showing where they were preparing it to be put in place," Schemechel said. Mayhugh and Schmechel agree the barn is a piece of history.

Mayhugh said in the older sections of the barn there are few nails – if any. The timbers are held together by mortise and tenon joints which have been used for thousands of years by woodworkers to join pieces of wood mainly at 90-degree angles. The tenon is cut to fit the mortise hole. The joint may be pinned or wedged to lock it in place. "There are many examples of that in this barn," Mayhugh said. Mayhugh said the structure has stood for more than 100 years because of the skill and craftsmanship of those who built it. Mayhugh and Schmechel agree the barn is a piece of history.

Schemechel said he and other RHS volunteers are proud to help preserve another part of local history. In building the blacksmith shop, we want to use as many historical elements and materials as possible so the public can see what it took to build these kinds of structures way back when.



Kohl Barn

Gold Dust Twins

Now on display at the Lillicrapp Welcome Center is a large box containing the advertising for Fairbank's Gold Dust Washing Powder. RHS received this box as a donation from Ethel Stephen. The labeling cover indicates it came from the Klippel General Store in Richfield.

The Gold Dust Twins trademark for Fairbank's Gold Dust Washing Powder (an all-purpose cleaning agent first introduced in the late 1880s) appeared in printed media as early as 1892. "Goldie" and "Dusty," the original Gold Dust twins, were often shown doing household chores together. In general use since, the term has had popular use as a nickname on several occasions. It is often used to describe two talented individuals working closely together for a common goal, especially in sports.



Fairbanks Washing Powder

The original (circa 1892) version of the twins was a standard drawing of two young African-American children cleaning up together in a washtub. On the original containers they simply are pictured standing side-by-side behind a mound of gold coins, under an arch reading "Fairbanks" and over the arch reading the "Gold Dust Washing Powder" text.

By 1900, the twins had been transformed into a cartoonish pair of caricatures, bald, asexual black children wearing tutus emblazoned with the words "Gold" and "Dust." On product containers and in advertisements, they were often comically depicted, along a huge stack of dishes in a washtub with one twin cleaning and the other drying. The twins became icons following a 1903 national marketing campaign with the slogan "Let the Twins Do Your Work." They became an easily recognizable trademark found in many, if not most, U.S. homes during the first half of the twentieth century. The Gold Dust twins were drawn by E. W. Kemble, a staff artist for the "Chicago Daily Graphic."

The products (along with Goldie and Dusty) were phased out by the mid-1950s as national sensibilities began to change.

PRESIDENT

Jim Metzger

Greetings to all you historians out there. This year is flying by even faster than most. The RHS is enjoying a very exciting year. It started early with a very successful Antique Appraisal Fair & Chili Lunch in February followed closely by Maple Syrup Family Day. Education Activity Day was held on two separate days in May. Our second major fund raiser, "Richfield Art at the Mill," was held on July 23rd. Again this year it proved to be an outstanding event with the Park busy with artists showing their wares along with tours of the Lillicrapp Welcome Center, Mill House and the Messer/Mayer Grist Mill. The profits this year were again outstanding all due to the heroic efforts of Committee Chair Lois Hessenauer and the many, many RHS volunteers that make this possible.

The Events Committee this year decided to forgo the annual Vintage Baseball Game and Car Show event normally held in August. An event, to be named later, will take its place next year in August. Our largest event, the 18th annual Thresheree, is held on the third weekend in September. Every year this event grows in every way imaginable. This event takes a whole year to plan and counts on over

200 RHS volunteers. Herb & Sharon Lofy along with Quint Mueller are the backbone behind this event. If you have not been to this event, you are missing, in my opinion, one of the most enjoyable events in Washington County. The Park is normally ablaze in fall color and presents a perfect place to host such an event. This year the Old Iron Swap Meet, normally held in October, will be incorporated into the Thresheree program. The RHS will again host the pancake breakfast for Fall Harvest Days at Wisconsin State Fair Park. This is a fun event and also is a fundraiser. We conclude this year's activities with Christmas at the Richfield Historical Park on Saturday December 3rd.

As you can see, the RHS is a very active group of volunteers dedicated to the preservation of history in Washington County and Southeastern Wisconsin. If you see yourself as someone that may want to be part of this group, access our web site www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

COLLECTIONS

Jean Happel/Norb Berres

It All Began in Caves

Ancient man, the ones we picture as dragging their knuckles along undiscovered hills and valleys in search of something to kill for their next meal, was in fact far more similar to modern man than we might suspect. When they were lucky enough to stumble across an unused cave, they tended to make it a home, as we today do when we move into a new dwelling. Drapery material was in very short supply in those days, and Nikons were not yet in the pipeline. So they made their primitive home a little more cozy and inviting by inventing home decorating.

In what we tend to think of as their unsophisticated and maybe even feeble minds, they, as we do today, pictured their surroundings and their activities and wanted to preserve those mental images on the walls of their dwellings. Needing to invent all the tools to do this, it was not the work of stupid creatures. With torches to light the walls, etching tools or minerals and soot for paint, they displayed in their new creations remarkable images of the animals they hunted and the actions of their lives.

Having the accrued benefits of thousands of years of millions of inventive minds, we today take for granted the modern devices we use to fill our walls with our memories. Brushes, canvas and paint came to be the only tools available until about 200 years ago when the searching minds of men began using chemistry and lenses to capture reality in a far more accurate way. Photography.

Today we are most fortunate that early settlers of our area had the same innate need to preserve images of their lives and activities. They recorded their history with the devices they had, and we as the current custodians have some of these images which we are endeavoring to make available for all to see and enjoy. In our inventory are thousands of these visual memories, and to make them all available is the quest we face over the next few years. We currently have on display many street scenes from the several hamlets which now comprise Richfield as well as a selection of old advertising. Much of our collection is preserved in digital form. When we have the equipment, we hope to have our power point programs in continuous loops running during the various events. These things all need many hours to complete. So we will be spending much time in the "cave" to make it a reality.

The "sunroom" of the Welcome Center for now is the display area for this photography collection which we hope to expand and freshen continuously. It is the beginning of what we want to become a prime attraction to the Historical Park. Along with the historical photos, we have on display a collection of cameras from the last 100 years.

Another “snapshot” of life from 100+ years ago is a new display of the sales ledger from Stuetgen’s Livery covering the years 1892 thru 1906. The store was just to the west of what is now Johnny Mannattans and was where their new parking lot is now. Check out the cost of a drink of “wiske” for 10 cents or repairing an old shoe for a nickel or welding a machine part for 50 cents. There are 29 customer names in the book, and we will display a different name page for each event. Descendants of older Hubertus families will want to check it out for their historical connection.

EDUCATION

Kathy Weberg

Once again, the two education days sponsored by RHS, held in May, were a huge success. Students from Friess Lake School, Richfield School, St. Gabriel School, St. Peter School and Erin School were joined this year by newcomer Neosho School – totalling 143 students and their teachers with numerous chaperones – visited the Historical Park for five hours. They participated in hands-on activities at ten different locations. The students said it best. Here are some of their quotes in their own words and spellings:

- “I appreciate you and the volunteers helping us understand.”
- “I do not like outhouses. The bread tasted good.”
- “I had the most fun doing the surgar shop.”
- “I had a lot fun wile I cleaned the close and I also had a lot of fun at the farming thing.”
- “ I learnd that it was a kids job to pump water.”
- “ I really liked whatching the blaksmith make nails. I have coal at my house. I try to catch it on fire but it won’t work.

There are many other fine comments, but last, but not least, “It was so awesome. I LOVE this place.”

A big thank you to the more than twenty volunteers who pull this “awesome” field trip off year after year.

EVENTS

Daryl Grier

We continue to have super events this year! In the last newsletter I reported that the Antique Appraisal Fair & Chili Lunch gets more successful every year. This year we made over \$1,300.00. Maple Syrup Family Day was a great family event. Folks learned how syrup is made, got a taste and could take some home to enjoy. The Plant Sale was also a success at \$700+ profit in addition to getting plants to beautify our homes. Our annual Art Fair was held July 23rd and was again a success. (See Chairperson Lois Hessenauer’s comments below.) Next is the annual Thresheree September 17th and 18th. See the flier enclosed in this newsletter or view our website richfieldhistoricalsociety.org and check out our Facebook page. All contain details about the event.

We have many volunteer opportunities that you can choose from, short term, easy and it is a good way to support our society. If you would like to volunteer, contact Daryl Grier, 262 628-4221 dgrier@charter.net or Sharon Lofy 262 297-1546 hsl1725@yahoo.com.

Adopt a Garden

Sharon Lofy & Daryl Grier

Our gardens need some help to enhance the beauty of our park. It is your chance to get some outdoor time and with a little work beautify our park. You can choose small, larger or a couple to call your own. (We’ll get mulch since all of the gardens need it.) For example:

Mill House:

- Ground cover in front: weeding, divide
- Cement planter on either side of the house: hostas, weeding
- Outside summer kitchen: dig up iris to save & kill the rest, replant
- North side, weed up to tree & kill the rest

Woodshed:

- Weed & edge

Vegetable Garden:

- Weed around the fence
- Plant in spring (we have a crew), weed throughout the season & reap what you sow!!!

This list is not intended to be complete, but we need some beautifying folks to help out. Contact Daryl or Sharon to pick your garden. 262 628-4221, dgrier@charter.net or Sharon Lofy 262 297-1546.

Flowers for Threshere:

Reminder. Please save your flowers for dried flower arrangements that will be sold at the Threshere. Any type of plant, flower or branches from flowering bushes can be used. To dry, just pick them when they start flowering, tie a string around a bunch and hang them upside down to dry. Hang in a dry place, a garage or basement works. If you don't have a place to dry them, contact Daryl Grier.

Flower arranging:

If you are able to help assemble dried flower bouquets, please join us at Sharon Lofy's at 9:30 a.m. on Monday September 12th. It shouldn't take much more time than an hour depending on the number of volunteers.

No talent is required to make these arrangements!!! The flowers will be laid out on tables and then you would just walk around and pick one of each. Then someone will put tissue paper around them, and someone else will tie a ribbon around the bunch.

Art Fair

Lois Hessenauer

The Richfield Historical Park was a flurry of activity on July 23rd as 70+ talented artists and a variety of vendors set up their tents to display their works of art and sell their products. The Silent Auction tent was filled with donations of original art work ranging from wooden bowls, paintings, glass items, yard sculptures, jewelry – plus much more. Children of all ages enjoyed the wonderful activities at the Kohl's Color Wheels brightly colored tents.

The crowd was entertained in the morning with great music by two guitarists, Cheryl Kuhaupt and Nancy Landry. The Eric Schoor Jazz Trio thrilled the afternoon attendees. With the day being hot and very humid, beer, wine, soda, and especially ice cold water were purchased at the RHS Beverage Tent. Bilda's Friess Lake Pub once again served its delicious pulled pork sandwiches and other yummy food. Many attendees took tours of the historic buildings located in this lovely Park -- Messer/Mayer Mill, Mill House and Lillicrapp Welcome Center with its new Christmas at the General Store display.

A big thank you to all who attended, exhibited, and volunteered at this event. A special thanks to our sponsors/donors: Oarsman Capital, Dehumidifier Corporation of America, Monches Farm, Waddell & Reed-Heimerman Team, Kohl's Color Wheels, Conley Media, Piggly Wiggly – Richfield and No Mosquitoes For You. The proceeds from Richfield Art at the Mill will go towards Richfield Historical Society (RHS) projects, in particular the restoration of the Messer/Mayer Mill foundation.

Mark your calendar for Art at the Mill on July 22, 2017

HISTORIC SITES**Herb Lofy**

Where has the summer gone? I know we all express amazement at time escaping us. However, it becomes more obvious as we get older. "Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer you get to the end, the faster it goes." And, so it goes that it is once again time for the RHS Threshere. This year's feature is Anvils and Blacksmith Tools. The Threshere booklet will include a brief history of the blacksmith trade.

From the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s, blacksmith shops dotted the landscape. The need was to fabricate and repair equipment used on farms and in businesses. The simple definition of a blacksmith is one who works with iron on an anvil and uses a forge. It needs the talents of a metallurgist to understand the characteristics of different metals. It actually becomes quite scientific to be successful.

Locally I knew of a shop on the southwest corner in Pleasant Hill. It was operated by Conrad Barchent until his death, sometime I believe in the mid-1940s. That property was once owned by my great grandfather, Joseph Lofy, from 1862 until 1873. My grandfather, Hubert Lofy, bought it again in 1903, and sold it to Barchent in 1910. In 1943, my grandmother, Margaret Lofy, along with my dad, Jerome Lofy, again took possession of the ½ acre with a house (partial log) and the blacksmith shop.

The shop was constructed of cut lumber with the blacksmith portion running east to west on the south end while the connected livery stable was north including a large door opening on Pleasant Hill. I assume the shop was built by the Barchent family. It was removed in 1972, and the house was moved to the southwest portion of the lot and remodeled. Mom and Dad lived there until 1995. It then became the property of Joan Russell (my sister) and myself until selling it in 2000. As of this writing, the State of Wisconsin owns the property with the house scheduled for demolition in the near future.

Another local blacksmith shop was in Richfield on the east side of Main Street. It was owned and operated by the Kraetsch family. Edward Kraetsch bought the property in 1911 and started in the blacksmith trade. In a conversation with his daughter-in-law, Shirley Kraetsch, I was told Edward went to school in Milwaukee to learn the trade. He rode the train from Richfield and attended school on Kinnickinnic Ave. Eventually, Edward's son, Howard (Shirley's husband), joined in the business until operation ceased in the early 1960s.

The major work of the blacksmith in later years was to sharpen plow points or shares as they were referred to. This is the section of the plow that makes the initial penetration into the soil and needs to be pointed. By the 1950s, farmers started using "throw-away" shares. Instead of sharpening, they bolted on replacements that could not be reused. Although the blacksmith had numerous other jobs, I believe "throw-a-way" shares were responsible for many shops closing.

I wish to thank Dawn and Quint Mueller for helping load the four wagons of grain bundles for threshing at the Threshere. I've had several people volunteer and help over the years, but it is difficult to predict when I have time to do it. With very short notice, they provided the needed help.

The 18th Annual RHS Threshere at the Richfield Historical Park will be September 17th and 18th. This show brings many volunteers together to present a great family event showcasing local history. The Messer/Mayer Mill is listed on the State and National Registers as an historic site dating back to the mid-1800s. I encourage Society members to "talk it up" with family and friends to spend a day at the event taking a trip back in time. Admission is only \$5 with children 12 and under free. A wide selection

of foods is available at very reasonable prices with pies, ice cream and “Sweets and Stuff” to satisfy your sweet tooth.

LIBRARY/PROGRAM/NEWSLETTER

Marge Holzbog

The Mill House Book Club meets the third Wednesday each month at 1:00 p.m. at “The Nutman” located at the northwest corner of Hubertus Road and Hwy 175. We are lucky to have knowledgeable Jeannie Lietzaw as our leader. All are welcome to join our often lively discussion!

The coming selections include:

- September 21, 2016 – “All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr
- October 19, 2016 - “The Girl with Seven Names” by Hyeonse Lee
- November 16, 2015 - “The Mare” by Mary Gaitskill
- December 21, 2015 - “A Man Called Ove” by Fredrik Backman

Please note that there are three “Little Free Libraries” now located at the Park thanks to the work of an Eagle Scout, Nathan Seibold. Stop past, review the selections and barrow a book donating one back in exchange. If you have books you would like to donate, call Marge Holzbog 262 251 3882.

The Lillicrapp Welcome Center now houses various old Richfield Secretaries’ and Assessment Records previously housed in the Richfield Village Garage. These documents allow us a look at interesting information from our past such as:

“Notice is hereby given that at the annual town meeting held in and for the town of Richfield, at the school house in School District No. 4 in said town on the 6th day of April 1880 it was resolved by the majority of the Electors present, that no animals, as horses, mules, cattle, sheep, swine, goats or any domestic animals shall run at large in said town and that for violating said law, the offender shall forfeit the sum of twenty-five cents for each and every offense.” Dated the 12th day of April A.D. 1880

LILLICRAPP WELCOME CENTER

Aerona Smith

This year the Lillicrapp Welcome Center (LWC) is taking part in tours at the RHS Park in addition to being open for all Society’s events. On Saturday June 18th, along with Messer/Mayer Mill and Mill House, LWC was included in the “Centuries of Architecture” tour presented by the Washington County Historical Society. Homes and buildings from Germantown and Richfield were also part of the tour.

Even though the weather was extremely hot and humid for our Art Fair on July 23rd, visitors came and enjoyed the General Store displays and the historical photography at LWC. Our special Christmas exhibit this year includes a 1920s feather tree with antique ornaments and a decorated 1950s tree. Vintage toys and old fashioned candies in candy jars are on display.

We are pleased to mention several new additions to LWC; one being a 1904 copper (black oxide) National Cash Register. A donation of an antique glass showcase with oak trim and cast iron feet became part of the General Store. This showcase currently features Madame Alexander Presidential First Lady Dolls dressed in their inaugural ball gowns.

Along with the photography and camera display in the Summer Kitchen, there is a new display case and exhibit put together by Norb Berres. Inside this display case is a ledger that dates from 1892 thru

1906 and is a transaction registry for a business located in Hubertus. This business did blacksmithing, leatherwork, and sold General Store items. The ledger even shows customers' names.

Many thanks to all who donated items to LWC. Things are looking great. Our location is just north of the Mill and Mill House. As you approach the LWC parking lot, the Lofy grocery wagon display will come into view. A railing made from antique, black iron wagon wheels leads to our beautiful Donor Brick Walkway and the LWC entry door. LWC is handicap accessible.

LONG TERM PLANNING

Jim Metzger

Last winter the Capital Campaign Committee decided it was time to revisit phase three of the Mill Foundation Restoration project. Diane Pedersen volunteered to chair this as an ad hoc committee. (As you may remember, the mill foundation restoration was broken down into three phases with phase one & two being completed last year. Phase three will be the most expensive of the three.) At the same time, it was thought that a different approach to rebuilding the phase three foundation wall may be feasible. Phase one and two were carried out with "period correct" construction techniques.

With some guidance from the State Historical Society, it appeared that another technique could be considered. From the outside and inside of the Mill, it would appear period correct. There would be a reinforced poured wall faced off on both sides with the same stones that make up the wall now. This approach, we thought, may lead to a lower cost for rebuilding the remaining foundation without sacrificing any of the original look.

A local engineer and construction company are evaluating this proposal and are preparing a price quote comparing this approach against using period correct techniques. The Committee anticipates receiving this bid very soon. Then it can be determined if we have enough funds in the bank to go forward or what shortfall there may be. If we are adequately funded, we hope to start phase three next year.

Another project that is coming along nicely is the Blacksmith Shop. The Thursday Crew, headed by Del Schmechel, is salvaging building materials from many sources in a quest to keep costs down. We hope to have the building enclosed before the cold weather sets in.

There are presently other smaller projects that are being carried out in the Park and will be obvious such as 150 trees being planted and maintained by an Eagle Scout and a foot bridge project being constructed by a Girl Scout group. It is sad to say that the Park will not be spared the ravages of the Emerald Ash Bore. The new tree plantings will hopefully in time take their place.

Again, I cannot overemphasize the determination and hard work put forth by many, many RHS volunteers that make this all possible. We all hope to see you at some of our events in the future.

MARKETING

Frank (Buzz) Carr

Once again this year, the Marketing Committee has decided to concentrate on advertising to help increase the attendance at our events. We have decided to spend most of our allocated advertising funds with Conley Media. This gives us an advantage in reducing the cost of each ad because Conley is supporting us by giving us substantial discounts in their various publications. Conley covers most of Washington, Ozaukee and Waukesha counties with a series of daily and weekly publications. We will advertise in most of them for the Threshere. We will also advertise in select other publications. The goal is to maximize the penetration of our ads while minimizing the cost. Please support Conley

by reading their publications. They are being very generous to our society by giving us these cost breaks, and you will notice that we are featuring Conley as a sponsor in all the ads and posters for our events.

HOWEVER, THE BEST ADVERTISING IS FREE. As members of RHS, you can help us by telling your friends and neighbors about our events and encouraging them to attend. Our events are certainly entertaining to the community, but they are also FUNDRAISERS. The more people that come, the more money we make to support our efforts in the Park and to get the mill grinding. You are supporting us by being members, and we appreciate that. So take the next step and go out there and campaign with those you know on our behalf by spreading the word about the great work we do. Thank you all for your efforts.

MEMBERSHIP

Judy Lehman

Membership is important in keeping our Richfield Historical Society community strong. Joining the Richfield Historical Society at the Thresheree (September 17th and 18th) will give a new member a winter 2016 newsletter and three issues in 2017. So come to this year's Thresheree and bring a friend!

As a current member, the Thresheree is a convenient way to take care of business and support your society. It will be the best value for \$20 you will spend all year. It would also be a great time to add a donation to your membership to support the ongoing and new projects coming in 2017.

This will be a year of promise, hard work and fun. Thank you for being a member of your Richfield Historical Society.

MILL HOUSE

Clara Birkel/Cindy Schmechel

Linda Derrick writes:

- Did your descendants immigrate to America?*
- Did they settle in Wisconsin?*
- Why did they leave their home country?*
- How did they travel here?*
- What was it like back then?*

If you have ever asked yourself similar questions, or if you just have interest in learning about who first settled in Wisconsin, you will want to visit the special exhibit on Immigration History featured at the Thresheree on September 17th and 18th.

We have gathered information and photos about the people who came to America and settled in Wisconsin. Here's just a sampling of what this exhibit will feature:

- Ellis Island and Castle Garden – Most early immigrants arriving in America first stepped foot on U.S. soil at one of these two locations. Learn more about what it was like and see the photos of some of the faces of our ancestors as they arrived and went through processing at these facilities.
- Immigration to Wisconsin – Waves of immigrants settled Wisconsin from as early as the 1820s. The largest groups that settled in this area came from Germany, Norway and Ireland. Learn more

about all the different ethnic groups who came to Wisconsin, as well as when and why they left their native lands.

- Richfield Homesteaders – A comprehensive list will be on display. It includes the names of those who settled in the Richfield area. Learn what country they came from and the year they arrived.
- Richfield Plat of Homesteaders – This is a big map dating back to the turn of the century. It shows the acreage of each homestead and who owned it at the time. If you live in this area, you can find out who owned your property back then. If your family homesteaded around here, you might locate their property on this map. Copies are for sale at just \$3 each.
- The Mill Operator’s Family – Like many who settled in this area, the descendants of the families that operated the Mill came from Germany. Learn more about their immigration history.

Don’t miss this exhibit! It will only be available for viewing at this year’s Thresheree held on September 17th and 18th, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day at the Richfield Historical Park. More details on the Thresheree are in the attached flier or go to richfieldhistoricalsociety.org. We hope to see you there.



Irish Sailing ship



Ellis Island



Immigrants Coming to America



MILL RESTORATION

Harry Niemann

We now have a railing on the stair leading from the parking lot to the Welcome Center. This addition will provide safety for those coming to the Welcome Center. The rail was designed by myself and called for four steel rimmed wagon wheels. Fortunately, we were able to get these as a donation, two of them coming from a Wagon and Carriage Shop in Jeffersonville, Indiana.



(L to R) Pete Samson, Jerry Perkowski, Harry Niemann

Pictured are the Thursday Crew members who completed the project.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Del Schmechel

In the past, we have had a number of Eagle Scout projects, and now we have something the Girl Scouts can help us with. Behind the scene, work goes on to make a foot bridge between the Mill House and the Welcome Center. But, it is much more than a bridge. It's a statement that girls can do anything they want to do. (Hopefully, this will be only the first such project at the Park.)

Along with design help from architect Tim Einwalter, the scouts are almost ready to make a proposal to the Village Park Board. This project will not begin until the scouts confirm they have raised all the needed funds and/or have obtained the materials needed as donations. While there will be no outlay of money from our society, we do expect to help with the labor as we do with all Park projects.

A new music stage next to the Food Tent will soon be under construction. It will provide a big improvement; and the fact that this will cost our society less than \$50.00 shows, once again, how our crew can get the most out of every penny. We are so very lucky to have the men who make up our Thursday Crew!

The Crew continues to make progress on the Blacksmith Shop. To save money, we are turning used utility poles into cedar shingles. The process goes like this: We obtain poles from WE Energy and remove any metal that would dull the saw blade. The pole is then cut into 16 ½ inch pieces so that they can fit on Charlie's shingle saw. Those slabs are then finished into final shingles. The work takes a lot of time, and it's hot and dirty. No one complains! They just keep on working to insure, when needed, the shingles will be ready for our Blacksmith Shop roof. With any luck, we will have some of our rafters in place for the Threshere. When completed, I am certain we will find a way to give credit to those who are working countless hours to build this wonderful addition to our park.

Jim Metzger, the Society President, has provided the equipment to allow us to keep air moving in the Mill basement. We are working to get this operational as quickly as possible. It's just one more improvement of many that could go unnoticed. This equipment will help keep the area less damp and help keep damp loving powder post beetles in check.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**Sharon Lofy**

THANK YOU!! for supporting our Richfield Historical Society Plant Fundraiser. Faust Greenhouse, along with Sunny Point Garden Plants Nursery, partnered with us to help us make it a great success. The proceeds from the plant gift certificates that you purchased made a great contribution toward our fundraising for the Messer/Mayer Mill foundation. Please keep us in mind next year.

This year we are adding a Swap Meet to the Society's 18th Annual Thresheree September 17th and 18th. We thought that this would be a perfect fit for the Thresheree rather than having it as a separate event in October. So spread the word..... Give Mark and Sue Maaha a call to register a spot, or if you have any questions call 262 252 4328.

Anvils and Blacksmith tools are the feature for this year's Thresheree. With this feature, we are opening the door for next year's dedication of the Society's new Blacksmith Shop. The Thursday Crew is putting in many hours of hard work to complete this building. Be sure to check it out. It is located across from the Sugar Shack and just south of the Pioneer Homestead..

The Thresheree is for young and old. It is an event that brings back memories (threshing, log sawing, horse drawn field plowing, old tractors, gasoline engines, a trip to the Mill for grinding feed, remembering no running water in your house and shopping at the general store.) You may notice parents and grandparents pointing and describing what the younger generation is seeing. For those who do not have these memories, we are hoping to make this a fun way to learn about our past. Our guides and exhibitors will be happy to explain and answer your questions.

Check out the enclosed flier listing Saturday's and Sunday's Thresheree schedules along with the many things that there are to see. . . have the kids build their own log cabin; build a scare crow; visit the encampments; tour the Mill to see what's moving; visit the Mill House and view the Mill family's geneology; visit the Welcome Center which houses our general store with a Christmas theme as well as many historic cameras and photos; the Pioneer Homestead; the Sugar Shack and more.

Make certain you go through the Silent Auction Tent. Make a bid on a special item, and make certain to check the bidding often to avoid being outbid. Sweets and Stuff will be selling a variety of items including snacks, bakery, books, household items, pumpkins, gourds, dried flowers and more. Check the Museum Tent. It might have something to add to your collection.

As far as food (the fuel you need to view all that there is to see), breakfast is served from 9 – 11 a.m. both days – pancakes sausage and eggs. After 11 a.m., enjoy brats, burgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, walking tacos and beverages. Ice cream and popcorn will also be available.

Now that August has flown off the calendar, we are in full swing readying for this great event. This brings to mind all that needs to be done to present our 18th Annual Thresheree.

You will be getting a call or have already received a call to volunteer. Ask a family member or friend to volunteer with you. It's a great way to show them what the Thresheree is all about. Also, any youth needing community hours are very welcome. We are always in need of volunteers. There is setup time the week before the event, and the week after the event is busy with take down. The two days of the event have many volunteer spaces to fill (around 200 spaces in addition to those giving the tours).

We are also calling all PIE BAKERS. We are always looking for more pies for our pie contest held Saturday and Sunday mornings. Pies can be dropped off at the Pie Tent 10:00 a.m. or before. They will be judged at 10:30 a.m. We cannot accept CREAM PIES! (We do not have refrigeration available.) Pies should be cooled down and setup. If the pies are still warm, they are difficult to slice and judge. After judging, pie slices will be sold. Check with family and friends to help us add to our list of pie bakers. (You do not have to enter the contest to donate a pie or two.)

Your help is much appreciated. Without your help, this wonderful event would not be possible. Call Sharon 262 297 1546 and thank you.

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS 7:00 p.m. All Welcome

Wednesday, September 28th - Richfield Fire Hall, 2008 State Rd. 175

“Wisconsin Gangsters” – Chad Lewis

Thursday, October 27th – Richfield Fire Hall, 2008 State Rd. 175

“Ellis Island & What We Brought With Us”

Tuesday, November 15th – Richfield Village Hall, 4128 Hubertus Road

“Sacred Drum Circle” – Herb Heck

2016 Sponsors & Donors

Sponsors/contributors for our events and In Kind donors are a very important and appreciated element of the operation of the Richfield Historical Society. The support of these contributors enables the Society to continue the projects which preserve the history of the Village of Richfield and share it with current and future generations. A Thank You to all the many businesses that have purchased ads for our 2015 Events Program and everyone who has donated to the Messer/Mayer Mill Restoration Fund.

Wheat (\$500 or more)

Dr. Don & Janis Crego (Thresheree)
Dehumidifier Corporation of America (Art Fair)
E.H. Wolf & Sons (Thresheree)
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Rye (\$499-\$250)

Monches Farm (Music-Art Fair)

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Waddell & Reed-The Heimerman Team (Art Fair)

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Milwaukee Appliance (Freezer) Greg & Kathy Carter
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(Gravel-Lillicrapp Welcome Center
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Wolf Bros. Fuel, Inc. (LP Gas)
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