



*Richfield Historical Society  
P.O. Box 268  
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www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org*

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**LOFY'S GENERAL STORE**

For 47 years from 1921 to 1968, Lofy's Grocery provided everything from food and gasoline to notions, men's overalls and shirts to customers who lived in the St. Augustine neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Lofy bought the store building which had been a cheese factory soon after their marriage in 1921 and decided that a general store was just what St. Augustine needed. Their store was located on the southwest corner of Highway 167 and St. Augustine Road.

At first their business was slow. So, Mrs. Lofy taught for a year at St. Augustine School. Soon people realized that the Lofy's were trustworthy and their prices fair. Mr. Lofy installed two gas pumps and did minor, and some major, car repairs, often without charging.

The store had a glass case with millions of kinds of candy. Mr. and Mrs. had a soft spot for children and would slip children a piece of candy even if they didn't have the penny that it cost.

There were glass cookie jars and wonderful cheeses and sausages. Lofy's was open from 7:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day but Sundays when the store opened at 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. and stayed open until 1:00 p.m. Lofy's Grocery Store seemed a place where everyone had time to spend a few minutes chatting and exchanging news.

- Information gained from the Hartford Times Press (September 11, 1980) written by Polly Edgar in her column "The Wild Grape Vine."  
Copy and photo provided by Fran Lofy.



**Henry Mathias Lofy & Francis Jaworski  
Lofy at Lofy's General Store**

**Committees**

*Education*

*Sharon Lofy*

*Event Coordinator*

*Daryl Grier*

*Historic Sites*

*Herb Lofy*

*Library/Program/*

*Newsletter Editor*

*Marge Holzbog*

*Lillicrapp House*

*Aerona Smith*

*Long-Term Planning*

*Jim Metzger*

*Marketing*

*Kathy Weberg*

*Membership*

*Judy Lehman*

*Mill House*

*Clara Birkel/*

*Cindy Schmechel*

*Mill Restoration*

*Frank (Buzz) Carr*

*Museum*

*Jean Happel/*

*Norb Berres*

*Project Coordinator*

*Del Schmechel*

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This Lofy family traces its ancestors to Nicolas Longfils & Jeanne de Benaux living in Chassepierre, Luxembourg. Son Nicolas Longfils and wife Johanna moved to Morscheid, Germany and raised their family there. Morscheid is 24 miles east of Trier, Germany situated on the Moselle River, west of the Rhine River. Morscheid is adjacent to Luxembourg and the French Alsace-Lorraine area.

According to Morscheid church records, the Lofy surname had many spellings including “Loffie,” “Loffi,” and Loff, some used until 1818 and 1835. One explanation offered is that few 18<sup>th</sup> century people were able to write. Formal schooling was not introduced into the Trier region until 1773. Once people began to write, the spelling of the family surname became uniform. It was 1818 with ancestor Johann Lofy and wife Maria Rosa that the spelling of “Lofy” was confirmed.

(Our friend Herb Lofy is Henry Mathias Lofy’s 4th cousin. Henry Mathias Lofy is the 7<sup>th</sup> generation of Lofys.)

### **THE GENERAL STORE**

Stepping into the incredible world of general stores brings you to an institution one of the strongest in American history. The real glory days only lasted about 60 years and covered roughly 1879 to 1930. During that time, the old stores served the crossroad villages, hamlets and small towns throughout the populated United States.

These general merchandise stores served as centers of trade to sparse populations, provided a popular meeting spot, frequently offered post office services and fulfilled a variety of other needs. In addition to fulfilling his major role as storekeeper, the enterprising merchant was often a politician, banker, accountant, lawyer, insurance representative and most importantly a genuine diplomat.

The owner of the general store had great knowledge of his customers, their likes and dislikes, problems and financial situations. This was vital knowledge since many transactions involved credit and barter. Many families survived on the goodwill and trust of the storekeeper during times of economic problems. The merchant also needed the ability to trade properly for country produce. Butter, eggs, honey, poultry, vegetables, fresh fruit, hides, chestnuts, black walnuts and feathers frequently found their way to store counters.

The general store was also a favorite place for those who seemed to have nothing important to do and preferred sitting around the store stove supplying stories and telling tall tales. When the weather became more accommodating, “center stage” was adjourned to the front porch. One of the classic happenings in a general store was this conversation, or lack of it. A certain storekeeper was found talking to himself as a man entered his store. When asked why he was talking to himself, he curtly commented: “He had been looking for someone interesting to talk to all day. And; thank heavens he had found one!”

It is difficult to put a value on the importance of the general store in the daily life of the community it served. It was considered vital as a provider of goods and services as well as a place to socialize and catch up on all the latest news.

By 1930, the golden age of the rural general store was coming to an end. The major factor was the extended use of the automobile and improved roadway systems. This broadened the shopping area of rural folk who could now visit towns and cities having a greater selection of merchandise. The general store along with the horse and buggy, once so important to daily life, would no longer be needed.

(excerpted from “General Store Collectibles by David L. Wilson)

**PRESIDENT**

**Frank “Buzz” Carr**

Well, here it is August already, and we have had our fourth successful event for 2015 with the Vintage Base Ball Game and Car Show on August 16. The events have, once again, gone very well due to the tireless efforts of our many enthusiastic volunteers. I want to make sure that you are aware of the event chairmen who work the hardest on these. So hats off to Connie Thoma, Chair of the Chili Lunch and Antique Appraisal , Lois Hessenauer, Chair of the Art and Fine Craft Fair, and Daryl Grier, Chair of the Vintage Base Ball Game and Car Show. The Thresheree is next, coming on September 19 and 20, chaired by Herb and Sharon Lofy and Quint Mueller, and I hope that you will all come to join us and bring your friends. Our events are one of our biggest source of funds, and we rely on good attendance to make the events profitable. You may have noticed that we have been doing more newspaper advertising this year. We are spending this money to attract more folks to join us with the dual purpose of introducing more people to our wonderful park so that they can enjoy themselves and also to make our events more profitable. We rely on all of you to help in this regard as well. So spread the word and come yourselves.

One of my jobs that I really enjoy is visiting with the people who come to our events. Whether it’s the vendors or the visitors, it seems almost universal that everyone has a good time. One of the most commonly stated reasons is the helpfulness and friendliness of the volunteers. We have many assets in our organization and our park, but I believe that our most important asset is our people. That means YOU. So thanks to you all for making RHS the wonderful organization that it is.

Thank you also for being generous with our recent financial appeal. As you know, we are continually working to raise funds for the mill foundation; and we will, with your help, GET IT GRINDING. Imagine the great experience when we can enter a working grist mill with the whirring of the elevators and the rumbling of the mill stones. It will bring people from around the country to our park, for we have something that is really unique. I can assure you that we are frugal with your contributions. We have no paid staff and work hard to stretch the funds that we get. Our new blacksmith shop, for example, will be constructed almost entirely with materials contributed by our friends and furnished the same way. We do our best to spend what we collect wisely.

The Capital Campaign has completed the installation of the bricks in the walkway at the Lillicrapp Welcome Center indicating the many donations you have made towards the mill foundation. The walkway where the bricks are located leads from the new parking lot to the Lillicrapp House Welcome Center. It is a beautiful installation, and I encourage you to take a look. We will have a formal dedication of the brick walkway during the Thresheree.

In closing, I want to thank Del Schmechel, Dave Reich and the rest of the Thursday Crew as well as Chuck Boesel. These men work wonders with the events and the Park. Most of us don’t see them in action, but the results of what they do are abundantly clear. We have many terrific volunteers, but not many that are as dedicated and reliable as this team. Many thanks gentlemen!  
See you at the Thresheree!

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Sharon Lofy**

We gave a Messer/Mayer Mill and House tour to a Home School group the end of August. The group of 40 consisted of parents and children. And, a Mill House Kids’ Tour will be offered on both days of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Thresheree (September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). In the past years, youngsters have enjoyed participating. When your children or grandchildren attend the Thresheree, keep this in mind. The information that they absorb in a half hour tour is a great way for them to learn about how families lived in the past.

Thank you very much for your participation in our annual plant sale at Faust Greenhouse. Sunny Point Gardens offered a beautiful assortment of plants. We hope you are enjoying your plants. Perhaps you passed the coupons on to others. I'm sure you will be in their thoughts when viewing your gift of blooms. Keep us in mind in 2016.

You have been so great in answering my calls to volunteer at our different events. – Antique Appraisal and Chili Lunch, Maple Syrup Family Day, Richfield Art at the Mill, and Vintage Base Ball and Car Show. Now our biggest fund raising event is right around the corner – RHS's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Thresheree on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Without your volunteer time and talents, the Thresheree would not be possible. Over 200 volunteers are needed. Every year a few more areas need added help. With your help, we can have another successful event. It is great to hear how much people enjoy themselves at our events. They are very impressed with our many accomplishments. It has also been noted that the volunteers have been very helpful and friendly. This gives a wonderful impression of RHS. Please check your calendars. Pass the Thresheree dates on to family, neighbors, friends and organizations that you belong to. Perhaps some might be interested in volunteering. You can volunteer and receive community volunteer hours. Give me a call (262 297 1546).

Please enjoy checking out RHS's 2015 Thresheree flier, which is enclosed, to see what is happening. At 1:30 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday, there will be a presentation of the donor recognition bricks at the walkway at the Welcome Center (Lillicrapp Homestead House). While there, be sure to stop in and see the general store display. The Mill House will have donated heirlooms returned to the house on display. There will be a WWI National Guard Reenactment stationed for all to see. If you didn't get a chance to make your own scarecrow last year, check the opportunity out this year. Have the youngsters you have with you build their own log cabin. The Thresheree feature this year is the Red E Tractor manufactured right here in downtown Richfield.

A call is out to all our RHS bakers. We are in need of pies for our Pie Contest on Saturday and Sunday, both days of the Thresheree. Pies are to be delivered by 10:00 a.m. (NO cream pies as we do not have refrigeration.) Your entries should be cooled down and set for easy slicing. You can still donate pies even if you do not want them judged. All pies will be sliced and sold at the event.

As you recall, the end of July was very hot. This was an understatement for volunteers giving tours at the Mill, the Mill House and Welcome Center as well as the visitors during our events. We are in need of fans for our buildings. If you or someone you know has a fan that is no longer being used, please consider donating it. Call 262 297 1546.

### AG DAY ON THE FARM – Linda Derrick

This past April, 4<sup>th</sup> graders from all the schools in Washington County spent a day on the farm. They boarded school buses in the morning to spend half the day on a dairy farm and half the day on a cattle farm. It was the culmination of several months of classroom learning about "Wisconsin EduCulture" (*see footnote*). The day was spent "up close and personal" with the farmers, the workers and the animals on Charlie Jones' dairy farm in Jackson and Ross and Marcy Bishop's cattle farm in the Town of Jackson. Bob and Jane Falk also hosted students in northern Washington County at their Newburg dairy farm.

RHS volunteers are a vital part of Ag Day. More than a dozen volunteers spent the day assisting on the farm by coordinating the groups of kids as they moved from one learning experience to another. They found out what it takes to care for dairy cattle from new born calves to milk production, how cows are milked and how the milk gets from the farm to their table at home.

Before the kids come to the farms, the farmer comes to their classroom. Ross Bishop is one of the farmers who goes to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes about a month beforehand. He explains, “Going into the classroom to talk with the kids is a great ice breaker. It prepares them for what they can expect to experience. The kids often have lots of questions, and they begin to realize that food doesn’t just come from the stores. We grow it! I usually tell them, “Those cornflakes you ate this morning might have been grown here last year in my fields.”

When the children arrive at the Bishop farm, they start out at the barn face to face with cattle as Ross begins to teach them about the care and feeding of the animals, growing and harvesting crops and ultimately how the beef gets to the beef processors. One of the barns is turned into a classroom where the kids sit on bales of hay and get to see, touch, feel and sample things first hand. Ag Day not only teaches the kids about dairy and beef production, but also about soil conservation and growing crops to feed animals and humans.



Children at the Charlie Jones’ Dairy Farm & Ross and Mary Bishop’s Cattle Farm. And, the Volunteer Gang



Ag Day was first started by the Washington County Farm Bureau about 20 years ago, and Herb and Sharon Lofy’s Richfield farm was the first to host Ag Day. Herb and Sharon have continued to be very involved. Herb adds, “It’s a huge undertaking that requires time and planning on the part of many to make it all happen. RHS volunteers got involved in the effort about seven years ago, and they have been contributing to its success ever since.” Farmer Ross sums it up: “Because of Ag Day, the kids have fun on the farm, and they get to personally understand where their food comes from. When they drive past a farm, they now get the connection. It’s a great learning experience for everyone who joins us on Ag Day.” If you would like to be a volunteer at the next Ag Day, please contact Herb or Sharon Lofy.

**What is EduCulture?** *EduCulture is education in the field. It is partnering schools and farms, transforming working landscapes into landscapes of learning, and utilizing our community as curriculum. In this process, we are contributing to the preservation of local sustainable agriculture, nurturing farm stewardship and food citizenship, and inspiring young people to become co-producers in their food communities.*

**2015 VINTAGE BASE BALL AND CAR SHOW**

Hot weather, hot cars, hot baseball, a cool breeze and a very cool, fun-filled afternoon rewarded fans at this year's vintage games and show. Many took advantage of the free tours of the newly opened Lillicrapp house, the Miller's House and Grist Mill. Inside the Mill, away from the cooling breeze, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century summers became real. For more than 140 years there has been no heat, no light outside of that coming through the many windows and certainly no air conditioning in that historic building. This year the tours have been more realistic with the warmer summer days during our RHS events; the best of a Wisconsin summer.

The car show exhibitors again commented on the lovely park setting. Most car shows feature hot black-top parking lots; ours offers cool grass and shade trees. As also reported by the artists at this year's "Richfield Art at the Mill," the participants and exhibitors at the Vintage Base Ball Game and Car Show remarked on the friendly and helpful people at RHS events. With such reactions, it is easy to understand how we continue to attract new friends and members. More hands to share both the work and joy.



Vintage Base Ball Game



Classic Car Show

RHS is fortunate to have ongoing support from many local businesses. Bilda's Friess Lake Pub provided their famous pulled pork sandwiches, hamburgers and more, in addition to liquid refreshments that went down so easily on a warm afternoon. Please thank these businesses for their support. Richfield Service was the major sponsor of this year's event. Obermeyer's 41 Auto Body again provided the plaques for the Best of Show selections, contributed pens for the "goodie bags" given to those exhibiting their vehicles, and Ross recorded the collector car registrations. Additional items for those bags came from RE/MAX Reality 100/The Sold by Sara Team, Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, Debbi Meeks Coldwell Banker Realty, Richfield Service, Rock Auto, Laubenheimer's Garage, Hubertus Car Care and Fox Brothers Piggly Wiggly.

If the weather forecast kept you away from this year's Vintage Game and Car Show make a point to attend next year. If you were there, you know that it was a perfect summer day with a breeze allowing us to kick back to a simpler and slower time at the beautiful Richfield Historic Park.

**Threshereed Needs**

**Silent Auction & Sweets 'n Stuff:** If you have some household treasures that you would like to donate, please let us know. We are looking for items that could be a part of the Silent Auction or sold at Sweets 'n Stuff.

**Flowers Needed:** Please save your flowers for dried flower arrangements that will be sold at the Thresheree. 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: 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 14<sup>th</sup>. It shouldn't take much more 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. You just walk around and pick one of each. Then someone will put tissue paper around them, and someone else will tie them with a ribbon.

**Baked Goods:** Demonstrate your baking skills! Baked goods are needed to sell at the Sweets 'n Stuff tent: cookies, bars, brownies etc. Please let Daryl Grier know if you are able to bake. Note:

- 2 cookies to a bag
- One brownie or fudge, about 2" square to a bag

All items can be dropped off at Daryl Grier's or Sharon Lofy's. Baked goods may also be brought to the Thresheree on Saturday a.m. Contacts: Daryl Grier [dgrier@charter.net](mailto:dgrier@charter.net) 262 628-4221, 1179 Wejegi Dr. (south of Hubertus Rd, up from the Copper Dock) Sharon Lofy 4434 Pleasant Hill Rd. (across from the Historical Park), [hsl1725@yahoo.com](mailto:hsl1725@yahoo.com) 628-1546

**HISTORIC SITES**

**Herb Lofy**

It's been a very active summer at the RHS Park. With the recent completion of the Welcome Center parking lot, the building is evolving into an integral part of the historic site. Aeron Smith and her volunteers have done a great job inside representing an old time general store.



Lillicrapp House Welcome Center  
Recognition Walkway

The donor brick walkway to the house is complete with the first round of engraved bricks. I again wish to recognize Chris Marks for volunteering his time and expertise creating the attractive paver walk. Remember, this will be an ongoing project to recognize donors to the present and future capital campaigns.

Construction of the blacksmith shop has begun with the poles set in place, and the fresh paint on the Mill House is nearing completion. I would like to give recognition to Tim Einwalter for his design of the blacksmith shop. He has been a great help with architectural drawings during the planning stages of the building. Things changed several times, and he always came back with revised plans. Tim and his wife Deanna are RHS members and have done a remarkable job restoring the Ebling Homestead on Scenic Road.

Our main annual fundraiser, the Thresheree, will soon be here. The 17<sup>th</sup> annual event will be September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This year's feature is the Red E Tractor which was manufactured right here in Richfield. The first tractor was built by a student of Earl Welbourne in 1918. Welbourne was a professor of Mechanical Engineering at Marquette University and took an interest in this early garden

tractor. Welbourne put the machine into production in the early '20s in Milwaukee. By the mid '20s, the company was known as the Pioneer Manufacturing Company. A factory was built in West Allis in 1927.

The first tractors were painted "olive green," and the name Red E stood for "ready." The red color came about sometime in the '40s. Tractors were designed for simplicity. Model T parts were used for the engine since they were very available. Pioneer Manufacturing moved to Richfield in 1946, and the name changed to Red E Tractor Company. The tractor design changed since Model T parts were becoming scarce. Since Pioneer had purchased Page Dairy and Farm Equipment Company located in Milwaukee sometime in the '40s, many Page parts were incorporated in the new models. The company expanded with a line of attachments thru the '50s. However, the company closed its doors for good by the mid '60s.

In closing I wish to say that we understand that all projects are not the favorites of the Thursday Crew. However, everything gets done eventually. This all seems to be part of the "can do" attitude the RHS is famous for.

**LIBRARY/PROGRAM/NEWSLETTER**

**Marge Holzbog**

Over the years, RHS has acquired an outstanding collection of vintage photographs. It is housed in a searchable electronic database. It is RHS's plan to have this database available for search in the Library at the Lillicrapp Welcome Center in 2016. In addition to many family photographs and scenes from early Richfield are our vintage wedding photography collection, we have an assortment of general advertising memorabilia. This photo collection began in the early days of RHS when several "Photofests" were held at the Richfield Fire Hall. Lois and Will Hessenauer, with the assistance of Jason Villolobos, have made this collection electronically searchable. We are in hopes that in 2016 we will be able to have it available at the Welcome Center on special days or by appointment. Watch for more details in your early 2016 newsletter.

**LILLICRAPP HOUSE/WELCOME CENTER**

**Aerona Smith**

On July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Richfield Historical Society Art Fair, the Lillicrapp Welcome Center was open featuring the "general store" theme. Our visitors were very receptive and enjoyed the new look. Our location is just a short distance north of the Mill and Mill House. One of the first things you will see when you walk towards the house is an antique horse-drawn wagon with the "LOFY GROCERY" advertisement sign. In earlier times, deliveries were made to-and-from their general store.

Once inside the Welcome Center, the general store theme comes into view. The counter, showcase, shelving, along with can goods, and textiles are but a small sampling. A special display features Enamel Ware / Granite Ware. This early cookware came in a variety of colors and served many purposes. Some of the more unusual items showcased are; a cocoa dipper, a blue swirl muffin tin, and a brown swirl berry bucket. Another feature of the general store is a colorful 1920s thru 1930s seed display from Manitowoc, WI along with an 1899 seed box. Seeds were an important staple for many of the early homesteaders and remain so today. An exhibit of general store pictures in the Richfield area will take you back in time.

Our Welcome Center includes information and items from our Historical Society archives such as banners and awards. Not to be missed is our delicious maple syrup which is for sale: \$7.00 for half pints or \$12.00 for pints.



The RHS Traveling Trunk Program has on display a sampling of items of interest to seniors and youth attending their presentation. A wall display features a beautiful handmade quilt done as a raffle item for the Society's first Thresheree. A "Richfield Remembers the Past" (1846 thru 1996) sign distributed to homestead dwellings during the Richfield Sesquicentennial is a wall display. Just below the quilt is a wonderful child's antique horse, donated by Betty Kindem. The Kindem family was the last family to occupy the Lillicrapp House. They lived there from 1974 until 2007. The 'summer kitchen' includes; pictures of Richfield's beautiful lakes and lake living and some of RHS awards from earlier years.



Lillicrapp House Entry



Seed Display



Raffle Quilt



Lake Living

I wish to give a special thank you to all those who have contributed to the Welcome Center. We are always interested in obtaining items for the General Store. Most of our items displayed are on short-term loan. We still are actively looking for a large wheel coffee grinder, cash register, and display cases. If you know of anyone willing to donate these items, please contact me at 262.628.9909. A 'wish list' for the Lillicrapp House is on the RHS website Home Page. A copy of the 'wish list' is also available at the Welcome Center.

We will be open for the 2015 Thresheree, Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please stop and visit us. We are a handicap accessible facility.

**LONG TERM PLANNING**

**Jim Metzger**

**NEW THIS YEAR – RECOGNITION WALK AT THE LILLICRAPP HOUSE – Norm Grier**

“Impressive” and “well done” are frequent reactions upon seeing the new recognition walk outside of the Lillicrapp House Welcome Center. Bricks and pavers in the walkway recognize the many significant financial contributions to the Messer/Mayer Mill restoration project. When entering the Historical Park from Pleasant Hill Road, you will notice the new parking lot to the left at the Lillicrapp House. Pull in and walk up to the house, and be sure to notice several improvements including new landscaping in this area. Stroll up the steps and examine the recognition walkway. Then, upon entering the house, you’ll be treated to a general store display of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. If you enter through the Nature Park during one of the RHS summer events, walk north from the Mill to the new parking lot, then to the recognition walk and into the Lillicrapp House.

During this year’s Thresheree, the 17<sup>th</sup> annual, a formal presentation of the recognition walkway will be held both Saturday and Sunday at 1:30. It is appropriate to pause to recognize the financial contributions that have enabled the RHS capital campaign to raise in excess of \$500,000 to date. In the coming months or years, if necessary, we expect to complete this fund drive, complete the mill foundation restoration and move on to running the historic equipment and “Get It Grinding.” In the coming months, we hope to add many more recognition bricks to the walk. If your name is not there yet, you’re not too late to be part of the walk. If your name is there, additional bricks and pavers are available. Please join with our many friends and neighbors and help bring our efforts to a successful and timely conclusion. It’s really not an option; we must preserve the center piece of Richfield history, the Messer/Mayer Mill. It can be completed only after the required money has been raised.

While the current conversation turns on the required financial contributions, it would be absurd to neglect to recognize the many thousands of volunteer hours and the countless contributed goods and services over the past 17 years. Each year at the Thresheree, we recognize members and friends who have passed on but were instrumental in helping make RHS and the Richfield Historical Park the important elements of the Richfield community that they have become. This year our Thresheree is dedicated to the memories of Ken Schmidt and Charles Holzbog. Please see the 2015 event program book for photos and additional comments about each. *Let’s get it grinding.*

**MARKETING**

**Kathy Weberg**

The two education days sponsored by the Richfield Historical Society were a huge success once again. Third grade students from five area schools – Richfield, Erin, St. Gabriel, St. Peter and Friess Lake – spent a day in May at the Historical Park participating in hands-on events at ten different stations. See how well you would do on their follow-up quiz by answering a few of the questions:

1. A crossroads community usually included a) a general store b) McDonalds c) Wal-Mart
2. A railroad depot would be a place where you could buy a) lumber, hammer and nails b) envelopes, paper clips and staplers c) train tickets
3. Which of these would you probably NOT find near a grist mill? a) waterwheel b) bags of grain c) cheese
4. Where would a farmer go to repair his plow or get shoes for his horses? a) the general store b) the blacksmith shop c) creamery
5. Most immigrants arriving at New York had to go through processing at a) Liberty Island b) Yankee Stadium c) Ellis Island
6. When it was very hot in the summer, people would a) buy TV dinners and heat them in the microwave b) cook in a summer kitchen c) grill out

7. The first crop that farmers grew in this area was a) soybeans b) wheat c) lettuce
8. The railroad brought two main “things” to Richfield. What were they? (I'm not telling!)

As usual, a huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who participated in educating our young people about the history of Richfield.



Kathy Weberg Making Introductions



Ed Kyle at the Hand Pump

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Judy Lehman**

Thank you for your continuing support! We are 369 committed members. Think about what we have accomplished, and imagine what we will do in the future. We can enjoy our general meetings and presenters and show our support by attending our events and, if possible, volunteering. We need every one of us to keep our organization strong. Please share your ideas and help out as you can.

Contact a Board Member or call Sharon Lofy, Volunteer Coordinator. Information is on the website : [www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org) If you have a friend who you think might like the Thresheree - invite her or him. Share the fun!

**MILL HOUSE**

**Clara Birkel/Cindy Schmechel**

**MILL HOUSE FEATURES SPECIAL MAYER FAMILY FURNISHINGS**– Linda Derrick

This year at the Thresheree we are featuring a special exhibit celebrating the return of several pieces of Mill House furniture that date back as far as the 1880s. Please stop at the Mill House to see an outside display (near the porch) to learn more. And, be sure to tour the Mill House itself to see the actual furnishings of the Mayer Family that once lived here.

Charles W. Mayer (known as C. W.) married Mary Anna Kurtz in 1880. They moved into the Mill House in 1885, raised seven children and lived there for the rest of their lives. The Mayer family farmed the land and ran the Grist Mill. It was a busy life back then. They all worked hard, and the Mill and the farm prospered. By the 1890s, they were able to build an addition that more than doubled the size of the house for their growing family. They were also able to acquire some luxuries that not all families were able to afford back then.



Edison Wax Cylinder Records for the Edison Victrola

The Parlor of the Mill House became a place where the family could relax and enjoy some of the simple pleasures of life. They had nice furniture and an Edison Victrola. C. W. loved to play the wax cylinders on the Victrola, and the family had many enjoyable times together listening to the music. The family could also afford the luxury of hiring a photographer over the years to take family portraits. A beautiful wedding portrait of C. W. and Mary Anna hangs at the top of the stairs. In the sitting room, large oval frames hold photos of C. W. and Mary Anna in later years, along with a gold-framed family portrait that includes all seven children.



Photos of C. W. and Mary Anna Mayer later in life.

That was long ago, and now many of these nice furnishings and photos that once belonged to the Mayer family have returned to the Mill House to be displayed for everyone to see and enjoy the generous donations received from Kent Mayer and his sister Gail Goodrich, as well as Carol and Bob Woods. As descendants of C. W. Mayer, they kept and preserved these family heirlooms, and last fall they generously donated them back to the Mill House. Come tour the Mill House, step back in time and see what has been returned as it once was more than 100 years ago.

The Mill House Co-Chairs are seeking anyone interested in becoming a tour guide at the House during our events. Training, mentoring, and any materials you will need are provided.

Our events are Family Day (March), Art at the Mill (July), Vintage Base Ball and Car Show (August), The Thresheree (September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) and the Swap Meet (October 4<sup>th</sup>). We try to keep each shift no longer than 3 hours.

If you are interested, please contact Clara Birkel (262 622 3191 or birkelgc@gmail.com or Cindy Schmechel (262 628 0919 or miztaz@charter.net.) Thank you for considering this GREAT opportunity!

**MILL RESTORATION**

**“Buzz Carr**

One of the significant changes that we made when we started the mill foundation repair, was to open a door into the lower level of the mill so that we could conduct tours of that important area. The door is in place, but access has been limited. We have recently started a project to build a retaining wall and walkway to allow an access ramp at the northeast corner of the Mill that will lead to the lower level. Once

this project is completed, we will be able to start tours in the lower level, and thus show three floors of the mill machinery. This will not be finished by the Threshereer, but should be ready for our 2016 events.

**MUSEUM**

**Jean Happel/Norb Berres**

**THE RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY EARLY WAGON COLLECTION –Ken Martins**

(1) Hubertus Mail Delivery Wagon used in the early 1900s. (2) Doctor’s Buggy used locally for house calls in the early 1900s. (3) Bain Wagon likely built in Kenosha, Wisconsin and used in delivering supplies to military units. (4) Gehl Manure spreader, or at times called the “Honey Wagon.” (5) New Stoughton Wagon built in Stoughton, Wisconsin in 1889. This Model 26 was used in the 1930s. It is on loan. (6) Leah Christiansen Buckboard Wagon manufactured in Hartford, Wisconsin and was used to transport ground flour to West Bend, a distance of fifteen miles. (7) Single Horse Buggy used as a pleasure vehicle.



**Hubertus Mail Wagon**



**Doctor’s Buggy**



**Bain Wagon**



**Gehl Manure Spreader**



**New Stoughton Wagon**



**Leah Christiansen Buckboard**



**Single Horse Pleasure Vehicle**

**Richfield Historical Society Events**  
Richfield Historical/Nature Park  
1896 State Road 164  
Richfield, WI

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Thresheree**  
Saturday and Sunday  
September 19 and 20  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Iron Swap Meet**  
Sunday, October 4  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas at the Mill**  
December 5  
(time to be announced)

**Richfield Historical Society Programs**  
Richfield Village Hall  
4128 Hubertus Road  
Hubertus, WI

**“Lights on the Lake” – Phillip Block**  
Great Lakes Light Houses  
September 24

**“History of Sussex/Lisbon” – Fred Keller**  
Including railroad lines  
October 22

**“Hi Horn Quartet”**  
Civil War & Earlier Music  
November 24

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**Mill House Book Club - The Nutman - HWY 175 & Hubertus Rd. 1:00 p.m. – All Welcome!**  
**September 16th** - “The Narrow Road to the Deep Horizon” – by Richard Flanagan

**Richard Flanagan’s new novel has just been shortlisted for the Man Book Prize. The book is a story of the Thai-Burma Death Railway and an Australian surgeon. The main character, Dorrigo Evans, is an Australian soldier-surgeon who is haunted by an affair he has had with his uncle’s young wife. The story moves from contemporary Australia to Evan’s experiences with his comrades in a POW camp and includes the lives of several Japanese guards. This a profoundly moving novel!**

**October 21st** - “The Wolf at Twilight” – Kent Nerburn