



Richfield Historical Society
P.O. Box 268
Richfield, Wisconsin 53076
www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Officers

President	Vice President	Recording Secretary	Corresponding Secretary	Treasurer	Past President
Jim Metzger	Del Schmechel	Jane Kyle	Dawn Mueller	Lois Hessenauer	Frank Buzz Carr

<u>Directors</u>	Clara Birkel	Norm Grier	Harry Niemann	Pete Samson	Diane Pedersen	Connie Thoma
-------------------------	--------------	------------	---------------	-------------	----------------	--------------

Fall 2017 – V20N2

Committees

Blacksmith Shop
Kathy Lauenstein

Collections-
Jean Happel/ Norb Berres

Education
Kathy Weberg

Event Coordinator
Daryl Grier

Historic Sites
Quint Mueller

Library/Program
Newsletter Editor
Marge Holzbog

Lillicrapp House
Aerona Smith

Long-Term Planning
Jim Metzger

Marketing
Frank "Buzz" Carr

Membership
Judy Lehman

Mill House
Clara Birkel/
Cindy Schmechel

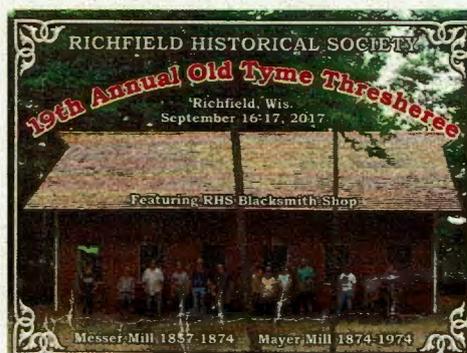
Mill Restoration
Harry Niemann

Project Coordinator
Del Schmechel

Volunteer Coordinator
Sharon Lofy

Thresheree – 19th Annual – Featuring the RHS Blacksmith Shop – Norm Grier

Visit the RHS recreation of a historic business, the backbone of every 19th century community. More than a predecessor of a hardware store, big box store or implement dealership; the village blacksmith provided most of the manufactured items required for rural and village life.



Much of the smith's production was utilitarian; horse shoes, nails, plus farm and household implements and custom implements and custom made parts to repair them. Other items required an artistic eye, transcending the volume production of utilitarian items; decorative railings, gates and building accents. Not just a static display, you'll be able to watch demonstrations as modern blacksmiths create a decorative piece that will hang in the shop as the first item created in it. A dedication of the Blacksmith Shop will take place on both Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

The "To Do" list at the 19th Annual Thresheree is long with traditional and not to be missed activities: Eating food, of course: Pancake Breakfast both days, Pie from the annual Pie Contest, Brats, Burgers, Walking Tacos, Chicken, Baked Potatoes, Sweet Corn, Ice Cream and Cotton Candy – new at this year's Thresheree. When not eating, be sure to take in the tours of the Mayer Family Home, the Grist Mill and the Lillicrapp Welcome Center General Store and farming photo display – located on the north end of the grounds. At the Welcome Center, you'll enjoy period displays inside and the walk outside which features bricks and pavers acknowledging contributions to the "Get It Grinding" capital campaign. Up the hill at the Threshing Area, highlights include historical farm equipment, threshing machines, tractors, and horses as well as the implements they pulled. Throughout the grounds you see a steam tractor powered saw mill cutting logs, many displays of historic crafts and agricultural equipment (with enthusiasts eager to chat about their stuff) and activities for kids including making your own scarecrow and building your own log cabin.

Living into the 20th century in the Mill House

The third in a series

Our first article was about the Messer's – The original owners of what is today the Richfield Historical Park. The Messer family built the saw mill, the grist mill and the mill house. The second article in our series was about the next owners of the property; i.e., the Mayer family. This third article continues the Mayer Family story.

The time is 1892. Both mill operations are prosperous. Charles Wilhelm (C.W.) and his wife Marianna have been living in the mill house for several years now. In addition to the mill operations, they are managing a full working farm; and their family is growing. They have a 4-year-old daughter named Louisa, a baby son named George and another baby due before the end of the year. Construction is underway to build an addition to the mill house which will double the size of the house. They don't know it yet; but over the next 11 years, their family will grow even bigger to include seven children. After daughter Louisa and son George, four more boys follow; and last of all, little Marie arrives in 1903. All the children are to be born and raised in the mill house.

As the children get older, the boys help their father with the daily workings of the farm. They have crops in the field, as well as cows, chickens and pigs in the barn. There is an endless need for firewood to be chopped and stored in the woodshed. The boys need to haul wood into the house daily since it is their only source of heating and cooking. Each day they pump water from the well that stands outside the woodshed and take it into the house bucket by bucket. There is no running water inside.

As the girls get older, they help their mother Marianna. There are household chores and a big vegetable garden that needs tending throughout the summer. It takes an entire day to wash the weekly laundry and hang it out to dry. Another day each week is needed to iron clothes, and yet another day to get all the baking done. Bread and desserts are homemade, butter needs to be churned, eggs are collected and cows need milking as well. In the fall, it is harvest and threshing time. This is when they spend additional days canning fruits and vegetables.

The Mayer family is better off than most families in the community, but they still work hard to make a living for themselves. However, it isn't all work and no play.

- C.W. and Marianna love music. They have a record player which sits in their parlor. Many evenings the family enjoys listening to music that is recorded on wax cylinders and played on their Edison Victrola.
- Growing up next to a mill pond, the children have lots of opportunity to go swimming and fishing in the summer and skating in the winter.
- Sometimes the farmers who come to the mill to get their grain processed bring their children, and they visit and play with the Mayer children while the adults catch up on the latest news.



Dressed in their Sunday best, the seven children of C. W. and Marianna stand on the Mill House porch. (circa 1907)

As life progresses into the 20th century, C.W. continues to do well operating the mills; and a few of his sons are helping to run them. C.W. is getting up there in years; and after a long and prosperous life, he dies of natural causes in 1917. Upon his death, two of his sons (George the oldest and Charles the youngest) take over operation of the mills. Marianna and the children continue to live in the mill house.

In 1922, at the age of 30, son George gets married. George's new bride Martha joins him and the rest of the family to live in the mill house. George continues to run the mills with his brother Charles. Two years later, Martha gives birth

to a son whom they name Vernon; and daughter Carol follows a few years after that. By this time, most of George's siblings are grown and gone; but his mother Marianna continues to live with them in the mill house.

The 1920s are coming to an end, and there are changes ahead. New technology is on the horizon for the mills and the Mayer family. *To be continued in our next newsletter... "The next 50 years in the Mill House (1930s to 1970s)"*

Alice in Dairyland

From its wholesome and pastoral beginning following World War II to today's high-tech age of instant communication via social and traditional media, the Alice in Dairyland program has grown and changed with time.

In 1948, Alice was a beauty queen fresh out of high school. Today, she is a public relations professional with at least four years of experience or education in agriculture, public relations, communications or related fields. Beyond individual communication skills, the list of job requirements includes knowledge about Wisconsin's diverse agriculture and products, history, resources and rural-urban issues. Alice is expected to work effectively with colleagues, the media, and the public. She develops her own educational materials, speeches and presentations.

The early Alice traveled nationwide with a chaperone logging 150,000 miles a year – most of it on airplanes – and making 1,000 appearances annually. Today's Alice spends much of her time driving Wisconsin's highways and byways, accompanied by her cell phone and GPS. However, she continues to travel both nationally and internationally and still logs tens of thousands of miles.

Today, Alice in Dairyland is a marketing professional by any and all standards. In the first round of the selection process, applications are evaluated on resumes, personal interviews, and communications abilities. If she meets these criteria, she still has to impress a selection panel during the three-day finals where she is evaluated on public speaking, personal interviews, TV and radio interviews and agribusiness tours. Once hired, Alice garners over a million dollars-worth of free airtime and print space for Wisconsin's food, fiber and natural resources industries. In return, she earns a salary of \$40,000 plus travel and health expenses, along with valuable professional experience and contacts.

Over the years, Alice in Dairyland has indeed grown to adapt to the changing face of agriculture and the contemporary world. Even so, she remains a unique custodian of Wisconsin's proud agriculture tradition and dynamic voice for agriculture's future – serving as Wisconsin's agricultural ambassador.

In 1967, Kristin Williams, a Colgate, Wisconsin girl, was picked as the 20th Alice in Dairyland. The year as Alice was a pivotal year in the life of Kristin Williams-Gramando. It opened many doors for her and changed her life forever. Kristin did go back to college after her year's reign, but the Wisconsin State Fair wanted her back even after she had served her year. She became a sort of executive secretary to the managers of the Fair. Today, Kristin lives in retirement with her husband in Arizona.

(Research and contacts by Joy Kuenzi.)

**Kristin Williams
Alice in Dairyland
Queen 1967**



**Kristin Williams-Gramando,
daughter of Philip and Norma Williams**

It's a Wonderful Day in the Neighborhood, a phrase made famous by Fred Rogers from Mr. Rogers Neighborhood children television show fame. The Richfield Historical Societies (RHS) favorite neighborhood is the Historical and Nature Park in Richfield. The Parks this year have experienced a very wet spring and summer leading to an unusually lush canopy in the woods with many wild flowers and colorful plants out of place (weeds) that help give the Parks their unique character.

The RHS will be dedicating the recently completed Blacksmith Shop during the Threshere in September. This building turned out to be an absolute gem complimenting the other gems in the Park. The project exemplifies what can be done with very little financial impact to the RHS compared to its anticipated value to the Park. Tim Einwalter, along with various members of the Sites Committee, conceived the idea for the look of the building and designed the plans used for construction. The Thursday Crew, led by Vice President/ Project Coordinator Del Schmechel, crafted the building from beams and lumber donated by Richfield resident Brian Kazmierzak from a nearby defunct barn. Just about all the rest of the materials were either donated or sold to the RHS at a considerably reduced cost. Del also came up with a fund raising mechanism of selling personalized horseshoes, which are displayed on the walls, for one hundred dollars each also helping to defray costs.

Gary and Judy Gade, of Windsor, Wisconsin, very graciously donated much of what will be needed to make this a working shop capable of turning out items during RSH events. Others in the area also contributed many blacksmith tools and pieces of equipment. These contributions alone represent many thousands of dollars in value. Kathy Lauenstein, the Committee Chair for the Blacksmith Shop, along with her committee members, is responsible for placement of the various blacksmith tools and equipment to make this a working shop. Kathy's passion for everything "blacksmith" was also one of the driving forces in this endeavor. She will be supplying seasoned blacksmiths who will be turning out small items for sale at our various events. Her expertise also extends to what is needed to make this a safe environment for spectator enjoyment.

The above project is a welcome respite in contrast to the restoration of the Mill foundation and the Mill itself. The blacksmith project is an excellent example of what can be accomplished with a few funds and a lot of hard work by many RSH people and others in a relatively short period of time. Anything to do with the Mill project requires a huge outlay of funds gathered through fund raising events, donations and our capital campaign taking years to accomplish. These are two completely different types of projects in scope but denote the versatility and huge undertaking by the RHS in developing the Historical Park into becoming the prime destination in the Village of Richfield.

Speaking of the Mill, the anticipated execution of the phase three contract to C. G. Schmidt Construction Company will be in the third week of August. Construction should start almost immediately and well on its way when you read this with the completion due date late this year. As I mentioned initially: It is a Wonderful Day in the RHS Neighborhood.

If you can picture yourself as someone that may have an interest in joining the RHS and being a part of this energetic group that makes things happen, contact any member shown on page one of this newsletter for information or a personal tour. Your participation can be as much as or as little as you may have time for.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Blacksmith Shop

Kathy Lauenstein

Do you know what a forge is? Coal? Too young to remember?

Years of reading about the Richfield Historical Society Blacksmith Shop, and now it is here. It's finished! A dream come true. Come and enjoy the opening of the Shop at the Threshere September 16th & 17th. The coals will be in the forge, the fire will be hot; and when the smithy strikes, he will be working on a special project. The dedication of the Blacksmith Shop will be Saturday and Sunday at the Threshere at 1:00 p.m.

Collections

Jean Happel/Norb Berres

An update on the Museum Registrar. What is the Museum Registrar? The Registrar is a record of donations by accession number, catalog number, location, category, item, description, original to the Mill house, value if known, date of donation, and donor's name.

An accession may be one or more items. Currently the Registrar has 485 accessions; 3386 catalog items; 179 disposed of items by sale or damage; 33 items with a restriction of "Not for Sale" and 131 items original to the Mill House.

The Grunow Brand Refrigerator at the Lillicrapp Welcome Center

Mankind learned fairly early how to add warmth to life when the weather was cold, by making fire. Cooling things has been a little more of a challenge, though even that has been met with some cool solutions. Around 1800 B.C., folks in Mesopotamia had found ways to save snow and ice in caves and pits. The Romans, in the third century, were preserving ice and snow from the mountains in straw covered pits. The English imported ice from Scandinavia by ship for hundreds of years, up until the 1950s; and stored it in thick brick structures. In America, ice was harvested from northern lakes and stored in ice houses or shipped to the south in railroad cars. Ice houses often made use of saw dust from nearby saw mills to insulate the layers and layers of ice blocks.

By the 1820s, refrigeration was being developed to cool food storage and to freeze ice. It was still a rather crude process and quite dangerous. Initially, it was not readily accepted for home use because of the pressurized poison gas involved. Lake sawn ice and commercially frozen ice was made and delivered to homes across America by local companies. The wooden icebox was a common appliance in the kitchens of America, along with the numbered card placed in the front window to advise the iceman of what size block you wished to purchase. Neighborhood kids would gather behind the ice man's horse drawn wagon and later the truck to beg or snatch a sliver of ice to suck on.

Slowly home refrigerators were being perfected and purchased by those who could afford them. A variety of systems were developed. One offered by Servel Corp. used a gas flame to move the refrigerant. Others used electric motor driven compressors to work the magic. At the Lillicrapp Welcome Center, we are privileged to have a rare Grunow brand refrigerator, manufactured in Brighton, Michigan in 1936; and it is still in working condition. It fits snugly in the northwest corner of the mini-kitchenette just off the "General Store" room. It is a wonderful device that uses a unique vacuum system which will not leak refrigerant to the atmosphere as pressurized systems are prone to do. It uses a proprietary refrigerant called Carrene. It has not taken on air after 80 years, so perhaps the idea was abandoned too hastily.



Education

Kathy Weberg

The Education Committee's main focus is to provide an experience for area third graders during the two education days in May which focuses on Richfield's rich history in a way that makes history "fun." Our outreach doesn't stop there, though. The Historical Society is eager to help local scouts with their goals and badge requirements, usually "for free." This is vital part of our mission to promote the history of Richfield.

On Wednesday, August 16, Lois Hessenauer and I, on behalf of the Education Committee, spent the day at Camp Winding River, telling the story of what living about 100 years ago was like. Approximately 175 Girl Scouts participated. They listened as transportation by horse and sleigh was discussed and winter clothing and fun activities – a beaver coat and old ice skates - were displayed. Trying on the coat proved to be a “hot” topic. Switching to summer time, the girls got a hoot out of the old-fashioned swim suits made out of wool. The man's suit, in particular, brought many laughs. The girls actually thought the chores of the era may have been fun. Beating carpets seemed to draw the most interest with laundry done with a scrub board and ironing with a five-pound iron right behind.

Scouts also come to the Richfield Historical Park, home of the Messer Mayer Grist Mill, where volunteers share the past with any number and age range of both boy scouts and girl scouts. This proves to be a win-win situation as the Park has benefited from many Eagle Scout projects and, of course, the step-saving bridge built by a Girl Scout troop. We are pleased and proud of our connection with Scout troops.

Event Coordinator

Daryl Grier

Step Back In Time

You’ve enjoyed our buildings and activities; next summer share them with your kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends! You can do this and do many of the day-to-day chores as they were done years ago by taking a **Step Back in Time**. In 2018 Step Back in Time will once again be held on the 2nd Sundays in May, June and July.

Some of the activities included:

- Washing clothes using a scrub board and ringer
- Grinding coffee
- Hauling grain
- Ringing a dinner bell
- Playing “What’s that sound?”
- Tasting free apple cider



Have An Anchor But No Boat?

What other treasures do you have that you look at and think “when is the last time I used this?” Some call it a garage sale. At the Threshere, we call it Sweets ‘n Stuff. Lighten up your load by donating auction items or household treasurers (rummage). **All proceeds benefit our society!**

- Donate for - Live auction: new this year (We'll have a live auction on Saturday after the Tractor Parade.)
- Donate for - Silent auction: on Saturday & Sunday
- Donate for - Household treasures: at Sweets 'n Stuff

Contact Jane Kyle: ekyle@wi.rr.com (262) 255-4119 or
 Daryl Grier: dgrier@charter.net 262 628-4221 about donations.

Sinful Temptations

That's what you could make to be sold at the Sweets 'n Stuff Threshere tent. Let Daryl Grier know if you are able to bake: cookies, bars, brownies etc. (Note: 2 cookies to a bag / One brownie or fudge, about 3" square to a bag)

All items can be dropped off at Daryl Grier's (dgrier@charter.net 262 628-4221, 1179 Wejegi Drive.) or Sharon Lofy's (hsl1725@yahoo.com (262) 297-1546, 4434, Pleasant Hill Road.)

Baked goods may also be brought to the Threshere on Saturday or Sunday a.m.

Richfield Art at the Mill - July 22, 2017 - Lois Hessenauer

What went on at the 9th Annual Richfield Art at the Mill held at the lovely Richfield Historical Park? This was an art and fine craft fair and much more - live music, tours of historic buildings, tasty food.

70+ talented artists and vendors proudly displayed their works and wares. You could find handmade ukuleles, carved birds, whimsical garden art, intriguing paintings, unique clothing -- just to name a few items displayed in the artists' tents. Samples of nuts, fudge, jam/jelly, and butter enticed visitors to the vendors' tents.

Two "Firsts" for this year's event: wonderful food supplied by Richfield's own La Cabaña Mexican Grill -- burritos, tacos, loaded fries to satisfy your south-of-the-border craving. But, you could still get a burger or pulled pork sandwich. The 2nd "First" was the Society's very own maple cotton candy. This was popular with both adults and kids -- a real treat.



Two talented guitarists, Cheryl Kuhaupt and Nancy Schultz, entertained the morning crowd with their soothing, memorable music. In the afternoon, the well-known Eric Schoor Jazz Trio held the attention of those sitting to relax.

Most of the artists and vendors provided an item for the Silent Auction for which the Society is very grateful. A high bid would get you a treasure for your home or a gift for someone special.

The tours of historic buildings in the Park are always an added amenity to the Fair. There were many more visitors to the historic buildings than last year. The reason could be there were a lot of people at this event for the first time.

The proceeds from Richfield Art at the Mill will go toward Richfield Historical Society projects, in particular the restoration of the Messer/Mayer Mill foundation and *Getting the Mill Grinding*. Thank you to all of the exhibitors, attendees, and volunteers who made 2017 Art at the Mill a success. **Mark Your Calendar for Art at the Mill on July 28, 2018**



Library/Program/Newsletter

Marge Holzbog

Over 2016/2017, a small group of dedicated volunteers ventured out to interview a number of Richfield’s senior citizens who have spent much of their 20th century working lives in farming.

This effort was much in keeping with RHS’s mission to capture the history of our Richfield community. These interviews will now be available in book form for purchase at the Lillicrapp Welcome Center at the Thresheree. Several follow up topics will be pursued in the future – next “Downtown Richfield.”

We give our heartfelt thanks to all those who shared their farming information and stories and those who gave their time to help capture these memories.



Life on the Farm
A Collection of Thoughts by Richfield Farmers

Historic Sites

Quint Mueller

Shortly after this reaches you it will once again be time for the annual RHS Thresheree. While it is an exciting time, it’s also a huge amount of work for many volunteers. We really never stop planning for the show. The page is just turned to the next year. We also try to note needed improvements from the Thresheree that just ended and incorporate them in next year’s show.

One of the changes you’ll see this year is a minor, but much needed, expansion of the drive between the creek and the Pioneer Homestead. The road has been widened in a couple of key spots to allow vehicles to pass each other. This has always needed to happen, but in the past one vehicle had to pull off in the grass, or even

back up. Now there is a space to pull aside to let another vehicle pass without getting stuck in the soft ground. In addition, some of the underbrush has been cleared on the hill near the drive to provide better visibility of approaching traffic. Please make use of the increased line of sight by looking as far as you can up or down hill as you approach this corner. It makes life a lot easier for everyone, and safer too!

On the subject of underbrush, the north end of the park has seen some additional clearing as well. In addition to just making the area look nicer, it allows better visibility of the Lillicrapp Welcome Center, Mill, and Mill House. We don't want anyone to miss seeing these treasures.

Some projects tend to be less visible than others. In this case, the project is extremely visible though. Hopefully, the Mill will have seen a new coat of red paint by the time of the Threshere. The planets have not aligned perfectly this year though, so this may not be able to happen until later. Originally, it was scheduled to be painted early this year but due to a busy contractor, scheduling difficulties and Mother Nature refusing to let things dry out when needed, it hasn't happened as of this writing. Once again the Richfield Volunteer Fire Company has helped us out by washing down the building in preparation for painting. We very much appreciate their assistance. Now that we are anticipating the construction of the Mill foundation to start soon, the painting might end up being put off longer. If that's the case, seeing the reconstruction of the foundation is worth a delay in painting.

The months of August and September are filled with almost constant preparation for the Threshere. We always get it done, but also always feel like we are short-handed for set up and cleanup after the show. If you, or someone you know, can give us a hand, please give Sharon Lofy (262-297-1546), Del Schmechel (262-628-0919), or me (262-644-5857) a call. We always appreciate extra help this time of the year, even if it's only a couple of hours.

House Committee

Cindy Schmechel/Clara Birkel

The Mayer family used several different ironstone china sets and patterns during the time they lived in their home, one of them being the "Tea Leaf Lustre" patterned china. According to George Mayer's daughter, Carol Mayer Woods, the china used in the Mayer home was likely made by the Meakin Company

Reading through a variety of history books and articles written on the subject, we learned that ironstone was originally introduced by an English potter. Skilled potters in England produced ironstone from the mid-1850s through the early 1900s. Most china in America in the early 1800s was the popular English ironstone because it was very heavy, durable and could withstand an ocean voyage or overland journey. It came in a variety of sizes and patterns. American potters began incorporating different designs and motifs in the manufacturing process in the 1870s and, by the 1880s, began using simpler body styles that were lighter in weight. Clay for some of this china actually came from Cherokee lands in present-day North Carolina.



Ironstone china was not the fancy china used on lace-covered tables in the homes of the rich, but instead it was used in the simpler homes of farmers, miners, millers or other people of working classes and was embraced mainly by folks of modest means. It was prized for its simplicity, beauty, durability and style. It came in several different patterns, but the one that became very popular in late Victorian homes was the "Tea Leaf Lustre" pattern.

Just how the motif came into being is still a mystery. The source is not the botanical tea leaf at all, but just some potter's stylized version, probably taken from the areas surrounding Staffordshire, England where ironstone was originally produced. English potter, Anthony Shaw, is credited with designing the first true Tea Leaf pattern and what he named "Lustre Band and Spray" or "Lustre Band & Sprig" first appeared on a registered ironstone blank in 1856. Due to its popularity, by 1900, almost the entire output of roughly 30 Tea Leaf ironstone makers had arrived on American shores. Tea Leaf patterned china traveled unscathed in 100-pound barrels and reached homes all across America via riverboats, peddler's carts, backpacks and appeared in Sears or Ward's catalogs. A complete service for 12 sold for about \$10. There were several different English & American companies who manufactured various versions of the "Tea Leaf Lustre" pattern on their ironstone, including J & G Meakin, Wedgewood, Shaw, Clemenston, & Mayer & Grindley.

(Source information; "Grandma's Tea Leaf Ironstone, History & Price Guide" 1981, Har-Ber Village; Country Home Magazine article, 9/1986.)

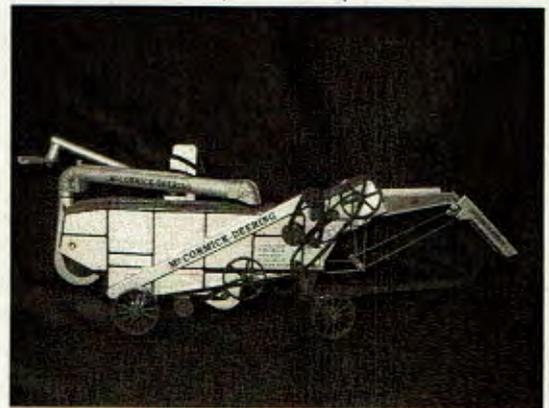
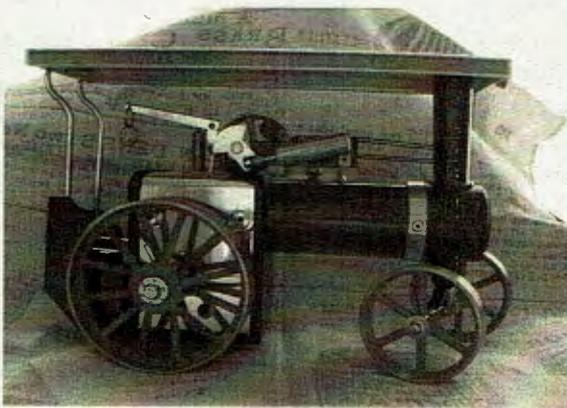
Lillicrapp Welcome Center

Aerona Smith

For most of the day, Lillicrapp Welcome Center had a steady flow of visitors for the Richfield Historical Society's 9th annual Art Fair. Many were first time visitors. The children especially enjoyed the sights and sounds in the General Store. "Lilly," our animated cat, greets everyone who enters with an occasional meow and a wave of her paw.

As summer comes to an end, we are all gearing up for our largest event of the year, the RHS 19th Annual Threshereee. A new exhibit in the photography room features 20th century barns in the Richfield area. Different barn styles are pictured. Unfortunately, many of these barns are no longer standing today.

On loan from Herb Lofy, another special exhibit is showcased in our General Store area. In this special exhibit are models of early farm equipment. These models include gasoline and steam engines, a sulky plow, a corn sheller, and a threshing machine. An important contribution to farming was the threshing machine.*



Please stop by and visit these exhibits in the Welcome Center. The Welcome Center is handicap accessible and our location is just north of the Mill and Mill House.

(*Harvesting grain was labor intensive. On barn floors, grain was beaten and trampled by oxen, horses, and even people to remove seeds from the stalks and husks. The invention of the threshing machine made this task easier for the farmers. A threshing rig with steam or gasoline engine required a crew of at least 15 men backed up by 24 horses for hauling. In the days before the combine, threshing became a neighborhood operation.)

Long Term Planning**Jim Metzger****Messer/Mayer Mill South Wall Restoration Gets Village Approval****Diane Pedersen**

The long awaited date arrived in July of 2017 regarding approval of a bid to re-construct the south wall of Messer/Mayer Mill. Many of you know the west, north and east walls of the Mill have been restored leaving the most difficult and important south wall. Over the past few years, RHS has been allocating funds from donations, events and other fundraisers to ultimately pay for the south wall restoration. Along with donors and capital campaign drives, enough money is now available.

The Village of Richfield owns all buildings in the Historical Park. So on April 20th, the Village Board authorized Bloom Companies, an engineering company, to solicit bids for the reconstruction. On May 12th, the first bid opening occurred; but the price was more than RHS could afford so the bids were rejected. A new set of bids were authorized modifying some of the reconstruction work. On June 23rd, the second set of bids were opened and surprisingly C. G. Schmidt came in with a bid price RHS could afford, \$337,392.00.

On July 27th, the Richfield Village Board, responded to desires of RHS and awarded the bid to C. G. Schmidt. RHS funds will cover the cost of reconstruction and, as appropriate, have been donated to the Village so payment can be made as work is completed. RHS hopes the work can be started in August. If you attend the Threshere in September, you will be able to see some of the reconstruction.

Capital Campaign**Norm Grier**

It would be amazing to see all of the money our household has spent in the past several years stacked up in piles of cash. The discouraging aspect of this exercise would be to realize how little of that pile we even remember handling. Easy come easy go, although I don't recall it being all that easy. BUT, I do remember and feel good about the contributions we've made, along with those from so many others, that have enabled the creation and restoration of Richfield's Historical Park, our community treasure.

It is because so many have cared that the initial phases of the Mill restoration, the foundation repair and reconstruction, are nearing completion. Although most of the work at the Park has been accomplished by the dedicated RHS volunteers, this job is well beyond the pay grade of our team. Your donations have bought both the professional skills and materials this project requires. Most of that money has come in small amounts from individuals who have demonstrated that they care. Heartfelt "Thanks" to each and every one of you for each dollar you've provided. Together we've been able to accomplish a lot!

As of the end of July, 2017, \$762,000 has been raised and \$732,000 has been spent toward our goal to "Get It Grinding," and we're not done yet. Soon our team will start constructing the engine shed on the south side of the Mill to house a historical gas engine very much like the one used around the turn of the 20th century to power the Mill. The team will next address the internal drive mechanism of the Mill, and the task of refurbishing the milling equipment. Further down the road, a recreation of the 1856 Saw Mill on the east side of the Grist Mill is anticipated. In fact, the longer we talk about it, the greater are the plans and hopes for the Richfield Historical Park. We hope that you'll be able to participate along the time line.

Be sure to find a couple of minutes to stop at the walkway right outside of the Lillicrapp Welcome Center, on the north end of the Park, to see the recognition pavers and bricks recognizing noteworthy contributions. If you'd like to have a brick on the walkway, check our web site to ensure that your contribution is properly recognized. Should you want additional information or personal assistance, please see the RHS web site at richfieldhistoricalsociety.org or talk with one of the RHS volunteers. You'll find us at the Messer/Mayer Mill conducting tours at RHS events and are generally around the Park.

Your support of the Richfield community is money spent about which you can feel good. Being part of something bigger seems worthwhile. Feeling good while doing good works for me and can for you.

Marketing

Frank "Buzz" Carr

Not much new in the marketing arena this time. We have been advertising in the Conley Newspapers and on the Washington County Insider blog and in free publications, and it seems to be working. These efforts and the flyers and the yard signs helped to increase the attendance at the Art Fair to about 1200-1300 people. That is about a 20-30% increase in attendance from last year. Our efforts in getting folks to our new Step Back in Time events (monthly park events this summer) have not been as successful, but new events always take a while to blossom. Please encourage all your friends and neighbors to come to the Threshere on September 16 and 17. It has some new features that are covered in other sections of this newsletter. Should be fun for all as always!

Membership

Judy Lehman

Membership Reminder, the Richfield Historical Society is the Best Deal in Town! AND we get a full year to be an integral part of documenting the past, preserving the Park and farm land, remembering and sharing stories, leaving a path, a legacy, for today and for those who follow.

For \$20 we get the following:

- * we get a full year to have opportunities to give information and pleasure to the Richfield community;
- * we get a full year to gain new knowledge and perspective from interesting programs;
- * we get a full year to research our past and our community's past, and connect this learning to the present and the future;
- * we get a full year to enjoy fellowship with other members;

(To date: The Richfield Historical Society has 225 memberships, comprised of 383 people; and 14 are Life Time Memberships.)

Mill Restoration

Harry Niemann

In 1857, John Messer built a saw mill just east of where the Grist Mill now stands. He built a log dam on the Cooney Creek and dug a 400 foot water chase to bring the water to the Saw Mill. The water flowed over a 20 foot diameter overshot water wheel to power the up and down mulley saw blade. A circular saw driven by a steam engine and later by a tractor was installed just north of the Grist Mill in the mid- 1890s.

Many of the buildings for miles around were built with lumber from these saw mills. In 1873, the Grist Mill was added. We believe the Mill was built in part by a kit purchased through the E. P. Allis Co. in Milwaukee. As the water from the chase entered the Mill on the southwest corner, it dropped down into a pressure box about 20 feet below and flowed through a rotary turbine at the bottom. The Lefelle turbine developed approximately 25 horse power. Through a series of shafts this powered both the machinery in the Mill and the mulley saw.



Superior Engine

Many times during the late summers, the millpond was so low that there just wasn't enough water to operate the machinery. In October of 1895, it was decided to install one of these new-fangled gasoline engines to supplement the turbine. It was a 22 horsepower Chicago engine. It lasted about two weeks before breaking down. Another one of the same type was installed. This one made it only one week before failing. In February of 1897, Chicago Engine replaced it with a 35 horsepower Norman engine. (To date trying to trace the Norman engine company has been unsuccessful.) This engine lasted many years. Unfortunately we don't know what happened to it after the Mill closed.

A lean-to shed was built over the engine on the southwest corner of the Mill to protect it from the weather. In our quest to "Get It Grinding Again," we searched for a suitable engine. A 25 horsepower Superior engine that had been used in a Texas oil field was located and purchased. It arrived here in December of 2006. It was built between 1912 and 1915. It has a bore of 12" and a stroke of 19" with a 63" flywheel. It weighs about 8000 pounds. With lots of help from Kevin Maltby and others, it has been restored to running condition. The plan is to reinstall it on the southwest corner of the Mill and build a shed over it. Hopefully, we will be able to start this as soon as the Mill foundation work is completed.



Engine Shed

Project Coordinator

Del Schmechel

Our Blacksmith Shop that will be dedicated at the 19th Annual Threshere is the fruition of a dream. Projects such as this, start as an idea and then progress to a conversation that continues through many steps until we reach the point where we now find ourselves.

A very important issue in the construction of our blacksmith shop was our budget that made it necessary to come up with imaginative ways to obtain the materials. We understood from the beginning that we would have to ask for help along the way. A few examples are as follows.

Our plan called for using mostly hand hewn materials which can be very costly. Fortunately, Herb Lofy set up a meeting with Brian Kazmierczak, who owned a large barn that was scheduled to be demolished, and Charlie Mayhew who dismantles barns and sells the materials. We offered Charlie a trade of our labor for materials from this barn. A conservative account of those hours comes to 523. To offset the cost of the cedar shingles, we also traded over 200 hours cutting shingles to reduce the cost. This brings the total man hours to over 5,776 as of August 3rd 2017. I can't stress enough that the hours to build and install many components such as the side draft hood, chimney and all associated sheet metal never made it to this list.

Here are a few words from Dennis Kanten who was instrumental with this project: "The thing that impressed me was that there is such a talented group individuals, each with a unique set of skills and talents, each of great benefit in the construction of the shop."

I would also like to acknowledge the donation of truckloads of used utility poles from WE Energies, all primer and paint from Hallman Lindsay, use of a telehandler forklift and countless other items from Bob Steinke, use of skid steers from Herb Lofy and Tim Einwaller, and a dump truck from Jerome Hansen. Then there are items such as hinges, window latches, the forge hood with chimney and associated flashing. I can't leave out the help

of Adam Schmitt, Richfield's Public Works Supervisor, for the delivery of many truckloads of donated crushed stone from Wissota gravel. I apologize for anyone who has been omitted.

But, there is always a chance that someone will be overlooked when you make a list of who worked on this project. Here is our team. Bill Aicher, Bob Laubenheimer, Bob Steinke, Chris Nagy, Conrad Hannula, Dave Derrick, Dave Reich, Del Schmechel, Dennis Kanten, Don Robb, Donald Knippel, Ed Kyle, George Piontek, Jerry Perkowski, Harry Niemann, Herb Lofy, Jeff Bocher, Jerome Hansen, John Schmidt, Mike Schuetz, Pete Samson, Dick Rogahn, Tim & Deanna Einwalter, Tom Jordens, Warren Wiedmeyer, Colleen Baker, Kathy Lauenstien, Jim Markiewicz, Charlie Mayhew, Charlie Schmitz.

We now have a wonderful place to showcase the blacksmith trade. For many years, our blacksmiths had to set up outside under a tent. They drove hours with their hand tools including an anvil in their trunk. If that wasn't enough, they also brought a portable forge, coal and iron that was worked for the visitors. At the end of the show, they waited for their forge to cool so they could load everything up and drive home. Now, they have a secure place that is protected from the weather and has a permanent forge. We will have a supply of coal and iron that can be worked along with several anvils and a selection of tools.

I'm confident that this blacksmith shop will be a buzz of activity at all future events. It may allow some of our members to get involved with our professional blacksmiths. This shop will also provide storage for some of our "people haulers" between events. All things considered, I believe this is an important addition to Richfield Historical Park.

I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to work with a wonderful group on this project. We all look forward to watching our visitors enjoy what we have built.



The Completed Blacksmith Shop



The Crew!

Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Lofy

The oats have been cut into bundles, bundles have been shocked, shocks have been pitched onto wagons and put under cover for the Richfield Historical Society's 19th Annual Thresheree September 16 & 17. The Thresheree takes many talented hands and volunteer hours to make it the great success that it is. Not only are volunteers needed for the two day event, but there are days before Saturday's opening for setup, Saturday night for reorganizing for Sunday and after the event for take down. This wonderful event does not just appear for Saturday and disappear after Sunday. Thanks go to the Thursday Crew and all other volunteers.

We are always in need of more delicious pies for the Pie Contest on both days. (Pies need to be there by 10 a. m. – judging at 10:30 a.m.) Please NO CREAM PIES (lack of refrigeration). Please bake ahead (PIES MUST BE COOLED – NOT HOT. (If the pies are hot and not set, they cannot be handled, sliced or judged properly.) You do not need to enter the Pie Contest to donate pies. Let the baking begin!

This year we are going to have a LIVE AUCTION!! It will be Saturday following the 11:30 Tractor Parade. Call Jane Kyle (262 255 4119) if you have anything for the Live Auction or the Silent Auction Tent. The Silent Auction will be held both days. Give Daryl Grier a call (262 628 4221) if you have anything to donate for the Sweets ‘n Stuff Tent (books, small household items, bakery).

If you haven’t received a call from me for volunteering at the Thresheree, please give me a call (262 297 1546). There are a variety of areas to consider helping: tours for the Mill, the Mill House, the Welcome Center, the Pioneer Homestead, admission, parking, people mover conductor, Food Tent, Pie Tent, Silent Auction, and Sweets ‘n Stuff.

Working with family and friends makes it all the more fun. So check with them and find out their interests. The youth can use this for community time or service hours. We always appreciate the Girl and Boy Scout participation. Thanks to all who have family and friends helping as volunteers.

Keep in mind the Live Auction, the Dedication of the Blacksmith Shop, see the progress at the Mill, check out the scavenger hunt at the Mill House, visit the Welcome Center’s General Store and photography (Richfield’s threshing and barns) and enjoy a maple cotton candy. Thank you for continuing to volunteer your talents and time!!

Remembering Ken Kuenzi – Once again we pause at the Thresheree to remember someone who played an active role with RHS. A lifelong resident of Colgate, Ken passed away on April 5, 2017 at age 83. He volunteered at past Thresherees, was a member of our industrious Thursday Crew and is missed by all who knew him.

Late Incoming News – Harry Niemann

We got 5th place out of 76 in the Richfield Days Parade! Great job, Harry, and team!



EVENTS

Events: check our website - www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for details

September 16 & 17, 2017 – Thresheree
December 2, 2017 - Christmas at the Mill

General Meetings: at the Richfield Fire House on Hwy 175, at 7:00 P. M.

September 28, 2017 – “Wisconsin’s Most Haunted Places” – Chad Lewis
October 26, 2017 – “Hensler Petroglyphs” – Dale Van Holten
November 16, 2017 – “Milwaukee’s Holiday Traditions”

Mill House Book Club: at the Nutman -3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 P.M.

September 20, 2017 – “The One-Eyed Man” by Ron Currie
October 18, 2017 – “Edgar & Lucy” by Victor Lodato
November 15, 2017 – “Moonglow” by Michael Chabon
December 20, 2017 – “Commonwealth” by Ann Pratchett

Richfield Historical Society 19th Annual
Thresheree
September 16 & 17, 2017
9 am—5 pm
Adults: \$6; 12 & Under, Free



Featuring
RHS Blacksmith Shop

Richfield Nature/Historical Park
1896 State Rd. 164 (Nature Park Entrance)

Pancake Breakfast: Sat & Sun ~ 9am-11am
Steam Engine Threshing & Log Sawing ~ Swap Meet
Historic Building Tours ~ Antique Tractors & Cars
Music ~ Kids' Activities ~ Good Food ~ Live Auction (Sat)

Sponsors
Dr. Don & Janis Crego; Dr. Dan Kopesky & Family; E.H. Wolf & Sons
First National Bank of Hartford; John P. Gehl; Oarsman Capital
Rebecca Richardson, CFP-Baird; Wissota Sand & Gravel

Thresheree (262) 297-1546 or (262) 644-5857; Swap Meet (262) 252-4328