



Richfield Historical Society
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 richfieldhistoricalsociety.org

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THE MILL HOUSE

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Mill House
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Mill Restoration
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The Mill House

Herb and Sharon Lofy and Dan Wittenberger brought the availability of the Messer Mayer Mill property to the attention of RHS. RHS then contacted the Richfield Township Board, and the project was eagerly embraced by Township Chairman Ralph Schulteis. Purchase funding for the Park came from the Township impact fees. (Village taxpayers did not contribute much because of this.) Today, the RHS Society obligation under the Management Agreement with the Village is to restore and maintain the Mill property.

Leila Schulteis was a driving force in getting the Mill House to the beautiful place it is today. Work at the Mill House took place from 1997-2010. Jan Oestreich from Hartford and her friend Ruth Knetzger from Richfield helped with some of the original cleanup. Leila Schulteis developed a "House Committee" which performed much of the "grunt" work. When the House Committee came in, they started cleaning the kitchen. All walls were scraped and washed. "Bloody" pails of dirty water were taken out of the house, colored from the Calcimine paint on the walls. The original stenciling in the second parlor was uncovered and faithfully reproduced around the ceiling perimeter. Thereafter, Leila's team moved on to other rooms and the upstairs; and one by one the grueling task of bringing the Mill House back to its original historic appearance continued. Today, many original Mayer family furniture pieces are back in place, and one can view the House and contents by taking a tour when open at one of our park events or by special appointment.

MY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES by Leila Schulteis

Two miles north of Hartford Wisconsin on County Hwy. K is where I lived for thirteen years with my parents, one brother, a sister fifteen months older, and a sister eight years younger. When I was very young, a brother died in infancy. We lived on the farm known as the Schellinger Farm. At that time, farms were identified, in conversation, by the ancestors who owned the land. The addresses for farms were the Rural Route number or RFD (Rural Free Delivery), our address was Rural Route Two, Hartford, Wisconsin.

The Schellinger Farm was a dairy farm. My father bought the two hundred forty acre farm from his father. We had a large herd of Holstein cows. I remember my father was a very good herdsman and was continually working toward production of quality milk. Crops grown on the farm were for quality milk production -hay, corn, grains (oats, and wheat.) Alfalfa was an important crop for hay. One crop which was valued was white clover, a very intensive labor crop. Thoughts go back to how my father valued the harvested white clover. The bags were stored in the summer kitchen under lock and key. Hemp was a crop grown in the 1940s. I remember hearing people talk about hemp being needed for making rope and twine. Hemp was an important product for the war effort. The plant leaves were very sharp, and the stems were tall, rough and strong. It was years later that I became aware of the history and the reason for raising that crop.

The war was not discussed real often at the family meals. When it was mentioned, it usually was concern for family members serving in the military. Yet, I'm sure my parents were very worried. I was nine years old when World War II was declared over. That day I remember as though it was yesterday. My sister and I were helping with farm chores. We were throwing hay out of the hay mow down to the lower level of the barn. My dad came running in the barn yelling, "The war is over, the war is over." Of course, since this was not talked about real often, it was quite an indication it was very important.

Peas were grown as a cash crop. The local canning company would harvest the peas from the field. The pea vines would be stacked in a pile similar to a straw stack. These vines would be used as forage for the cattle. This crop was important for the farmer because the canning company would pay the farmer directly after harvesting. This ready cash would be used for the purchase of the next year's seed, fertilizer and farm expenses. Thus the name "cash crop."

All the crops mentioned above needed to be harvested. Harvesting was very labor intensive. The oats and wheat were two such crops. Hot dry weather was conducive for harvesting these crops. Therefore, it could be very uncomfortable. The machine called a grain binder was pulled by a tractor. This machine would cut off the oats or wheat plant, then twine would wrap around it to make a bundle. These bundles (aka: sheaves) would be placed into shocks. The bundles were meticulously set into rows of shocks throughout the field. Each bundle was picked up and put onto a wagon. On our farm, the wagon was pulled by a Farmall tractor. The wagon was then taken to the farm where the threshing machine was "waiting" to separate the seeds from the stems. The stems (stalks) made straw. Many neighbors were involved with this procedure. All farming neighborhoods had one farmer who owned this threshing machine. This procedure was done from one farm to the next until all had their grains harvested. While the men were busy with threshing, the women worked to put an unforgettable meal together for fifteen to twenty men.

My father was the first farmer in the neighborhood to buy a combine. My generation, unknowingly at that time, was witnessing a change for the farming industry. The combine eliminated threshing. The combine harvested the wheat and oats by cutting it completely off leaving stubbles with a row of straw in the field. The oats or wheat seeds were separated from the stem and elevated to a bin on the combine. When the bin was full of seed, it would be transferred through an elevator spout into a sealed wagon or truck. The grains were hauled to the barn where it was stored in the grain bin, leaving the straw ready in the field for baling. That process was done with the baler. The baler would pick up straw directly from the rows left in the field by the combine. The baler was used for several different harvestings, one for baling straw and two for baling hay. Hay was important for the production of milk, and straw was used for bedding the cows, heifers and calves. Yes, the animals were "bedded down" daily in winter when the weather was too cold for them to be outside.

Since my father was a believer that "women belong in the house," my sister and I very rarely had responsibility to help with chores or work in the field. His rule was not enforced in spring when the land was ready for planting. Every kid was put to work picking stones, and every spring we went through the same argument. Stone picking was not a popular job, but it was an important job because stones were destructive to the machinery. We also did help with throwing hay down the hay shoot or corn silage down the silo shoot.

Two miles from Hartford was not considered a distance in those days. Friends would come to the farm periodically and help with the chores. I remember one friend had "an eye for my sister." Yet she considered him a "pest." With a little mischievous humor, she instructed him to throw down the corn silage. Every time he would call questioning whether he was finished, she would say "no." By this time the silo shoot was filling. So when it was time for him to come down, it was filled with silage. To get him down from the silo, we needed to work moving that silage to open the shoot. Her mischief was not appreciated by our father.

The Schellinger Farm has memories of tragedy. August 9, 1944 the barn burned with many of the other buildings. In the fall of 1949, a tornado went through the farm and destroyed a new machine shed. (At that time the Schellinger Farm was in the process of being sold.) These tragedies took a toll on my parents. As a child, I knew it was terrible; but now I can imagine the heartache they went through.

My older siblings and I went to school in Hartford at St. Kilian Catholic Grade School, all eight grades. Most of our neighbor kids went to school there also. We have a lifetime of wonderful memories of playing baseball Sunday afternoons, riding a neighbor's horse, riding bikes and roller skating. Spring, summer, fall and winter - every season we had some active activity. Cold weather never stopped us from ice skating or sleigh riding. We could sleigh ride on the road day time or night time in the moonlight. Seldom someone would come driving on the road; but we would take turns staying on top of the hill to warn the sledders of any oncoming car. Remember this was in the 1940s, and in those days sand or salt was not used on the roads. So, we could go very fast. Of course, the neighbor boys were always teasing and pestering the girls.

Often I was invited by classmates to stay at their house in Hartford. Sometimes, I believe now, I was a social kid. The comparison of their lives and mine on the farm showed a significant difference. When I reflect on those memories as an adult, I was always torn between the city and the farm. It took many years to understand myself enough to realize I might not totally love farming.

In 1950, my parents sold the Schellinger Farm. We moved to the little unincorporated St. Lawrence, not far from the farm. The highway past our house was the old US Highway 41. Late Sunday afternoon vacationers would be traveling back from northern Wisconsin. The traffic would stop and go bumper to bumper for hours. St. Lawrence was a culture change not only for myself but everyone in the family. My dad went to work daily. My mother's health was not real good. So, I helped with household chores. My little sister was meeting new friends from St. Lawrence. My older sister did not come home for the summer. She was helping at the farm where she boarded her freshman year.

The fall of 1950, I started high school at a catholic high school. It was the same school my older sister went to as a freshman. My little sister would start school at St. Lawrence Catholic School. My sophomore year (1951-1952) I did not go back to catholic high school. (Homesickness was not for me any longer.) I started Slinger High School and found I liked high school. I liked the subjects offered, and it was more social. It probably helped because that's where I met Ralph Schulteis.

A Wonderful Weekend – by Norb Berres

May 19th and 20th, spring is grudgingly beginning to ease into summer. What a time to celebrate new life: green grass, burgeoning pastures, wild-flowers poking out, ground breakings for new homes and schools. There are wedding parties in the Park, using our restored buildings to highlight their joyful day; and mom's with babes in strollers enjoying the quiet and serenity of the views from the past. All the while, a part of the past of the Town

of Richfield was awakening quietly and mostly unnoticed by the citizens of our village. An aged resident, known to those who cherish him as "Walter," was having his own photo session with those who have worked to reinvigorate him. "Walter" first came to Richfield in 1913 and worked for the Lemke Electric Co., a dealer of magnetos, generators, electric motors and things of that sort. He had become disabled due to some over stressing and was retired from normal duties.

Sometime in 1914, Joseph Aloysius Schuster brought him into his world. (Since there were other Josephs in his family, they abbreviated his middle name; and thereafter he was known as Ally, pronounced "Ollie.") It was at Schuster's Garage in the crossroads hamlet, then known as Goldendale, where "Walter" was intended to be put to work. For the promise of future repair work on Lemke's vehicles, and a mere \$20, "Walter" became part of the Schuster family. Because of his injuries, he was not immediately put to work. Then came the Depression of 1920, and his activity became further delayed.

In the spring of 1964, "Walter" finally came down from the hayloft that had been his home for 44 years or so to begin a long recuperation, 40 years in fact, most of which took place in the years 2004 to 2006 and in 2013. He had not always been "Walter." In the early times, Grandfather Ally referred to him as "The Motorcycle." It was in researching for the rebuild and restoration that Ally and his tag-a-long 12 year-old grandson, Michael, got to meet Walter C. Davidson, the President of Harley-Davidson. They were "treated like royalty" by the company when they learned of the treasure that still existed. Mr. Davidson even offered \$20,000 for "the motorcycle" and choice of accessories, plus a new Harley. Ally wasn't quite ready to part with the cycle yet, so they left the meeting, still on friendly terms; but they never met again. It was after that, that "the motorcycle" became "Walter."

Months of hand sanding, scraping and wire brushing eventually revealed the original gray paint, all the decals, their colors and locations, the pin striping and lettering. Mr. Davidson was NOT going to get this jewel yet! It was indeed a treasure because it was made so long ago in such few numbers, just a bit over 300 were produced. It had escaped all the scrap drives of two world wars and lived on with broken transmission gears and as well it was the sole survivor of its type, the 9G ForeCar. It was unfortunately far too heavy for the transmission gears that they used, and they were soon strained beyond their strength and had failed. But, being the only one, the insurer appraised it at between \$600,000 and \$1,200,000. Gasp!

Many talented people were called upon to help bring "Walter" back to life. Forty years in a hayloft with a broken transmission, the forward cylinder badly scored by a loose wrist pin, and a missing freight box and headlights and front fenders, did not leave a pretty beginning. Michael referred to it as "the motorcycle-world's version of Jurassic Park."

That Saturday and Sunday in May, fascinating things were happening in Richfield that most of its residents were missing. A few folks were gathered in the Park for a quiet walk among the history and quaint beauty of the old buildings. They were startled and amazed by "Walter," securely strapped to a flatbed trailer, with Michael astride the formerly "missing" saddle, being towed through the Park. A camera crew and several cameras were all "filming" the journey from angles that would simulate a solo ride. (Harley's potato-potato sound track would be dubbed in later). A good bit of camera time was used on a leisurely tour of Kettle-Moraine roadways, in plain sight of anyone who took the time to notice.

Sunday was spent in the soon-to-be-famous film studio, formerly known as Lofy's barn. There Michael Schuster eloquently ad-libbed his way thru scene after scene in a sterling presentation of the fine points and, to most modern-day cyclists, mysterious detail of a very complex process of preparing to start, then driving a 1913 Harley-Davidson 9G ForeCar motorcycle. It was all done in methodical precision and professional film making standards, except for the hilarious quips after the Producer/Director said "Cut." You would not believe how difficult it is to retake, over and over, a scene in which the dialog is ad-libbed, without script, accurate sequential directions to set, and to adjust and refine a series of functions that were necessary just to start an engine. It seems the human mind wants to discard all the words and phrases used in this sort of precise discourse, and it is very

difficult to repeat accurately. Surely after the feature-length version is seen on TV, there will be a myriad of calls for Mike to narrate all sorts of technical film-fare.

For certain, you will not want to miss this fine presentation when it is, at last, released. You are sure to appreciate the fine restoration of a unique vehicle. Note in particular the fabulous head lamps which Mike reproduced himself, because the originals had vanished. The story is far richer than could be given here in a Reader's Digest version. It is a rare piece of history brought to you by a Richfield kid who lived upstairs from the first Richfield fire-house.



Schuster's Garage – Goldenthal, Wisconsin



“Walter”

President

Del Schmechel

As President of the Richfield Historical Society I feel it is my duty to look for ways to serve our community by keeping history alive. That requires getting our membership involved and asking them to take on responsibilities. It is very true that the more hands the easier the work.

I would ask everyone who reads this to think of getting involved. That might mean joining our work crew and helping to maintain the Park and its buildings. It might also mean becoming a tour guide to educate our visitors about life in the early days of Richfield. The list of our needs is very long, and it seems to get longer each year.

Our society operates through a board of directors and a long list of committee chairs. Each of these people are dedicated and spend a lot of their time to make the Richfield Historical Society stand out as one of the best. I'm sure my reasons for being involved are similar to most of our members. It's knowing we are doing something that is important. We pass along our understanding of local history to young and old. We do it for the smile we see and the occasional “thank you” we hear.

Soon our star attraction will be here. The 20th Annual Thresherec is a two-day event that provides an amazing list of offerings. Where else can you see draft horses plow a field or threshing equipment in operation? Our grist mill is on the National Register and has all of its original equipment. Our mill house has its original furniture and personal items from those who lived there. Our guides are knowledgeable about the history of these buildings.

This will be the second year for our blacksmith shop, and it's even better than last year. Our unpaid volunteers work throughout the year constantly making improvements. If you visited last year, you will notice the changes. It's full of one- of-a-kind examples of the art/craft of the blacksmith trade. You will see an extensive display of tools used by these skilled people.

If this list isn't enough, we have a beautiful setting. The Cooney Creek that flows through the Historical

Park is the head waters of the Oconomowoc River. (The Oconomowoc River flows thru Friess Lake, then into the Rock River and finally thru the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.) At one time the Cooney Creek powered our grist mill and the saw mill that once stood here.

For more information, please follow the Richfield Historical Society Facebook page and Web site. Both are kept current with Park projects, free community programs and future park events. It is also a place to ask questions and offer suggestions. We want this to be your Historical Society now and into the future.

Blacksmith Shop

Kathy Lauenstein

Gary Gade, John Schmidt and Tom Jordan have been working two days each week using recycled lumber with a great aged gray patina on it. The walls inside the Blacksmith Shop now have a nice aged look. Excitement is building for the Thresherec. Plans are being made to show you how to make the tools needed to start smithing along with hooks and other fun items. Come check out the shop. You will be amazed.

Collections

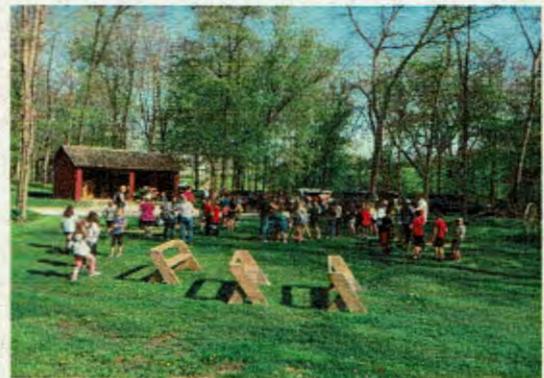
Jean Happel/Norb Berres

An update of the RHS Registrar is as follows: there are 515 Accessions which is the number of donations received. There may be one or more item in each Accession record, and each item receives a catalog number. There are 3658 items. These numbers along with a description, donors name and present location are entered into the Registrar. There are 45 items not for sale. There are 188 items because of sale or damage which have been disposed of. The Registrar is updated once a year.

Education

Kathy Weberg

The Historical Society's two education days were held this year on May 17 and May 23. The weather gods were shining down on us as the weather was absolutely perfect both days. Our talented volunteers were able to accommodate the very nice increase in participants – 193 students plus teachers and chaperones. This was the largest number of third graders to enjoy the day-long field trip at our beautiful historical park since we began this outing several years ago. Twenty-eight volunteers contributed over 300 hours, and again we heard many favorable comments as the youngsters were boarding the buses to return to their schools.



A Day at the Park



Jane with a School Group



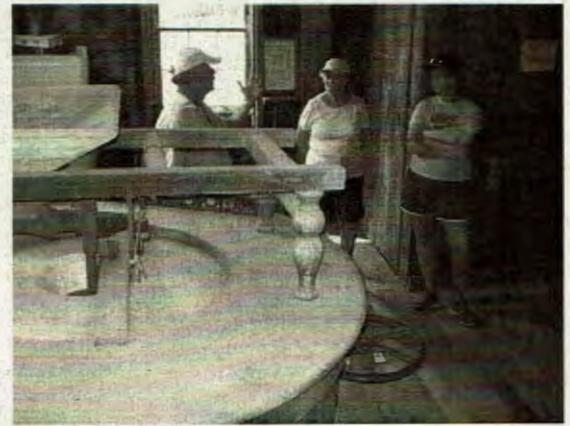
Debbie at the General Store

Step Back in Time

During the months of May, June, July and August on the afternoons of the second Sunday of the month, the Richfield Historical Park opened its buildings and provided building tours with many hands on activities.



Susan at the Mill House



"Buzz" at the Mill

10th Annual Art Fair – Laurie Ward

Our 10th Annual Richfield Art at the Mill was a great success! We were blessed with warm, sunny weather; and the Richfield Historical Park looked as beautiful as ever thanks to the efforts of the hardworking grounds crew and the many volunteers that helped before, during, and after the event. There were new co-chairs this year and; to be honest, I think we were both a little nervous - but with Lois' expert guidance and that of the Events Committee members, it all came together beautifully!

We had approximately 70 talented artists and vendors displaying their unique and well-crafted items. We received many compliments on our venue, organization, and willingness to help. Many indicated that they would be back next year!

The food was provided again by La Cabaña Mexican Grill and was a success as well. Choosing an "easier to prepare" menu certainly improved the wait time, and the food was great! We received a few comments about having one or two American food options on the menu, so we will take that into consideration for next year.

Many attendees and vendors complimented us on the fact that we had music. They felt that it created a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere for the entire event. Thanks again to Cheryl Kuhaupt and Nancy Schultz who entertained in the morning and the Eric Schoor Jazz Trio in the afternoon. The musicians seemed to like the large tent, and it was nice to have the picnic tables under the same tent, so our guests could listen to music while they ate or relaxed for a few minutes.

Other highlights of the event were the Silent Auction, the tours of the historic buildings, the Welcome Center, and the maple cotton candy. Many of our artists and vendors donate items and gift certificates to the auction which is truly fortunate for us!

Proceeds from the Richfield Art at the Mill will go toward Richfield Historical Society projects - in particular, the restoration of the Messer/Mayer Mill to "Get It Grinding." Thank you to the many exhibitors, attendees, and volunteers who made the 2018 Art at the Mill a success.



Art Fair Venue



Fine Craft Display



Maple Cotton Candy Treat



Music

Books - Reminder to save books to be sold at the Threshere in the Sweets 'n Stuff tent. Contact Daryl Grier, dgrier@charter.net 262 628-4221 with any questions. All proceeds benefit the Society!

How to Get Rid of Stuff? - At the Threshere, we can help with that! Just donate auction items for the Silent Auction or household treasurers (rummage) for Sweets 'n Stuff. Contact: Daryl Grier, dgrier@charter.net 262 628-4221 about donations. All proceeds benefit the Society!

Sweets - 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. All items can be dropped off at Daryl Grier's or Sharon Lofy's. Baked goods may also be brought to the Threshere on Saturday or Sunday A.M.

Note: 2 cookies to a bag and 1 brownie or fudge, about 3" square to a bag.

Contacts: Daryl Grier dgrier@charter.net 262 628-4221, 1179 Wejegi Dr.

Sharon Lofy 4434 Pleasant Hill Rd. hsl1725@yahoo.com (262) 297-1546

Historic Sites

Quint Mueller

In the last newsletter, we reported that the Mill foundation construction was nearly complete, but waiting for warmer weather to finish the last few details. The final parging and back filling is now complete. The landscaping and seeding will be done by RHS volunteers to reduce expenses. The Mill project is far from done though. Much of the equipment in the basement of the Mill was removed to facilitate the foundation construction. That equipment now needs to be refurbished/restored, reinstalled and aligned with the existing machinery. This sounds simple and quick in print, but the reality is that it is going to take many, many volunteer hours to accomplish this task. In addition, the Engine Shed still needs to be constructed. You might recall that the Engine Shed was deleted from the foundation project to keep the cost under control and within our budget. Now that the main foundation is complete, we can turn our attention to constructing the Engine Shed with in-kind donations, volunteer labor, and small contracts to control the cost. The Engine Shed is key to one of the modes of power the Messer/Mayer Mill ran on (water, gasoline engine, or electricity.) Eventually, the engine that is south of the Mill will be housed in this building.

The Mill project is exciting and is certainly a priority, but we must not lose sight of other projects and tasks around the Park. Some of the buildings in the Park are now getting to the stage that they are requiring maintenance. Part of the RHS mission is to preserve. That means that some projects are not of an exciting nature, like replacing rotted siding, or roof shingles, or repainting previously painted buildings but are equally important. Just like our own homes, the historic buildings require constant maintenance. What this comes down to is that we're asking for everyone's patience when it comes to popular and high profile projects, like the Mill and Engine Shed. We will keep our eye on that ball, but we can't do that at the expense of losing sight of the other balls in play....and there are many!

Well, enough of that. It's Threshere time of the year again. And so, our crew will largely be preparing for the big event from now through September. For some of us who have been involved since the beginning, it's hard to imagine; but this is the 20th year. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into this event to make it happen, and we've come a long way from that first afternoon show in 1999. It's all done by volunteers like you! If you can lend a hand, please do. Every little bit helps!

Obviously, the Hwy 164 project that I spoke of being moved ahead in the schedule in the last newsletter didn't happen this year. That means we shouldn't have any road construction issues to deal with for the Threshere this year. 2019 will be another story though. Stay tuned for that. See everyone at the Threshere (or better yet...come and volunteer.)

Lllicrapp Welcome Center

Aerona Smith

New and on display, at LWC, is an 1873 – 1874 Washington/Ozaukee County Plat Map. This large (approximately 4 feet x 4 feet) colored map illustrates the different townships and includes the landowners' names with their property location. Business directories of the towns are also shown on this 144-year old map. Norb Berres, co-chair of the RHS Collection Committee, took on the restoration of this map. (The map was generously donated by Mike Schuetz.)

In addition to the map project, Norb designed and built a rotating display which features early 1900s calendars. A lot of hard work and time went into both of these projects.



Early 1900s Calendar Display at LWC

Store owners sometimes gave gifts called premiums to advertise and promote their businesses. Showcased in the General Store are a few Richfield Premiums. These premiums include kitchenware, calendars, business advertisements, and pictures. Stop in. Our location is just north of the Mill and Mill House.

Library/Program/Newsletter

Marge Holzbog

The Library Committee is happy to announce the availability at the Thresheree of a limited number of paper perfect bound copies of "Richfield Remembers the Past." Cost will be \$50 for this 500 plus page book inclusive of some 700 photos and the geneology of over 100 Richfield homesteaders. Its focus is early and 19th century Richfield. It was originally printed and available for the 1996 Richfield Sesquicentennial. It will be available for sale at the Welcome Center, first come first served.

Other RHS books available at the Welcome Center include our cookbook with many Richfield homesteaders' recipes and released last year "Life On the Farm" based on interviews with Richfield senior farmers. At our Christmas event later this year, our newly published "Downtown Richfield" will be available for purchase at the Welcome Center.

Long Term Planning

Jim Metzger

Long range planning, for this article, is defined as looking out for a period of three to five years. Phase three of the Mill foundation restoration was completed this spring with landscaping restoration around the construction site to be completed soon.

The following Mill tasks, in no particular order, can be carried out by the men of the Thursday crew for the most part. The water turbine is presently being restored and can be set in place anytime as that provision was considered during phase three construction. Engine Shed construction, on the south side of the Mill, will begin this year and hopefully will be ready to welcome the installation of the 25HP Superior hit and miss flywheel engine next year. The engine gear box and drive shaft then will be coupled to the main drive shaft that provides the power to turn the overhead line shafts in the Mill. Before the line shaft can be operational, it will need to be taken down, disassembled and restored replacing worn or broken parts. The material and apparatus that was removed from the Mill basement, before the wall restoration started, will be returned and put back into place. Our first goal is to get the millstone grinder operational as it was in the late 1800s.

Soon after the basement is put back into place Mill tours, conducted during our events, can start there revealing all that goes on and then progressing to the first and second floors as before. It is still a long, long term goal of the RHS to power the Mill with water someday. A dialogue will be conducted with the Wisconsin DNR to determine the process that needs to be considered in restoring the Mill pond water routing its water to the Mill turbine entrance.

Other topics that will be considered under our long term planning will include the buggy shed and pig barn after determining their locations and associated cost. Now that the Lofy property transfer has taken place, discussions can evolve on how the RHS can best utilize this asset when the time comes in the future.

The Long Range Planning Committee, consisting of Norm Greir, Jim Metzger and Warren Wiedmeyer, will be meeting periodically putting a plan into place for going forward incorporating the contributions from committee chairs, officers and directors. A meeting will be scheduled with the entire RHS board, early in October, to present a plan for discussion. The next RHS Newsletter will share the results of the entire Board of Director's decision as to a long range plan.

Membership

Warren Wiedmeyer

Who are our RHS Members?

The Richfield Historical Society's primary mission is to preserve our local history and also to educate everyone who lives in this area, as well as all visitors, about what it was like to live in Richfield in the "old days." It is easy to fall into the belief that our "reach" is purely local and no one outside of Richfield really cares about the RHS or our park. Why, for example, would anyone outside of Wisconsin be interested about the history of our little corner of the state? Interestingly enough, when you look at the membership rolls of the RHS, you quickly see that while the vast majority of our members are indeed from Wisconsin; there are also folks from twelve other states that are members of the RHS! And this list is not just comprised of the Midwest states. Here is the list of states, other than Wisconsin, where our supporters reside: **California, Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Texas, North Carolina, Minnesota, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan.**

This tells me that even though a family or person may move to Florida, for example, they still have very strong ties to Richfield; and they want to stay involved with and support the mission of the Society. This kind of reminds me of my own family where two of our three kids live in Denver and the third lives in Green Bay. We stay connected as a family as best we can and are always interested in supporting each other. So, I guess the members of the Richfield Historical Society are like one BIG family that lives across America who support each other and the mission of the RHS no matter where they live!

Mill House

Clara Birkel/Cindy Schmechel

Quilt History and Vintage Quilts Featured at the Mill House *by Linda Derrick with excerpts from "Wisconsin Quilts" by Ellen Kort*

Quilt making is centuries-old and a big part of American history. Through the ages, quilts have served as warm blankets, cabin doors and window covers as well as crop protection against freezing weather and grasshopper plagues. They have been used to celebrate weddings, to comfort the sick, to bundle babies and shroud the dead. They have been made of sugar, flour and tobacco sacks, as well as ribbons, ball gowns, christening dresses, old shirts, jackets and fabric scraps that were as dearly traded and as valuable as money.

In the 1800s, a woman's place was in the home with little-to-no voice in history. The making of quilts evolved as an art form that helped define and express women's experiences. Today, only a small percentage of quilts made in the last two hundred years survive. Many are valued as family heirlooms and serve as personal remembrances from generation to generation.



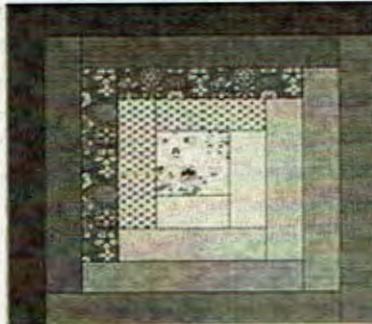
The Richfield Historical Society is very fortunate to have a number of vintage quilts, and we proudly display them within the buildings at our historical park. **At this year's Thresheree (September 15th and 16th) we are featuring many of these quilts as part of a special exhibit at the Mill House.** So, be sure to stop at the Mill House while you are at the Thresheree to learn more about quilts. If you take the Mill House tour, you will see first-hand many of our vintage quilts. Many of these quilts belonged to families that lived in the area. Some of them are over a hundred years old. All of the quilts on display were made by women who lived in Wisconsin.

Kids (young and old) can pick up “FREE” quilt patterns and crayons at the Mill House to create their own beautiful quilt designs. Everyone is invited to vote for his or her favorite quilt on display. Don’t miss it. This special Mill House quilt exhibit will only be featured during the Thresheree, September 15th and 16th. See you there!

Quilting Patterns

Over the last 200 years, many patterns became popular.

Do you recognize these?



Log Cabin – Among the most popular and easily recognized pattern.

Wedding Ring – Rumors speculate this pattern reached America through German immigrants and has since become popular.

Interested in learning more about quilts?

Visit the Wisconsin Museum of Quilting and Fiber Art, located just east of historic downtown Cedarburg. They are dedicated to educating the public about the artistic, cultural, historic and social importance of quilts and fiber arts.

Check out their website: wiqiltmuseum.com



Mill Restoration

Harry Niemann

Glory be! Our mill foundation has finally been restored. After years of worrying that it may collapse, it is done. Now, we have to put the line shafts and elevators back in place. This will be a good winter job for our eager Thursday crew. Work is also being done on refurbishing the water turbine unearthed during the foundation reconstruction.



The Water Turbine

Our next major project will be the reconstruction of the Engine Shed on the south side of the Mill. This will begin in 2019. It will house our restored Superior Engine which we have had outside near the Mill for several years.

A bit of research regarding wheat growing in Wisconsin brings to light some interesting things. Back in the mid-1800s Wisconsin was known as the “bread basket” of the nation; and for a period in the mid-1800s, Milwaukee was the largest wheat shipping port in the entire world. Several things led to the demise of wheat as a profitable crop for Wisconsin farmers. Overworked soil and fluctuating wheat prices had their effect; but in large part, it was due to a tiny black and white 1/8th inch long bug, the chinch bug. Using their needle like mouth parts, they sucked the life out of the plants leaving nothing but wilted yellowed stems. Farmers then began looking for other ways to be profitable, and thus began the dairy industry in Wisconsin. The rest is history.

Pioneer Homestead

Susan Sawdey

FALL IS IN THE AIR AT THE PIONEER HOMESTEAD

A changing season is upon us, and you won't recognize the Pioneer Homestead at the Richfield Historical Park. Visit us and witness the arduous process of a pioneer harvest and preparations for the long winter ahead. Let us take you back to the mid-late 1800s as winter preparations are happening both inside and out. We have firewood to cut, hay to store and corn to weigh before taking it to the Mill. Soak in the sights, sounds and smells at the Motz cabin as we prepare our slow cooked apple butter over open fire coals. Inside, watch as we take our harvested cabbage and turn it into an old German favorite, sauerkraut! Weaving is an amazing craft utilizing beautiful wooden tools: looms, shuttles, frames and more. These tools are works of art in and of themselves! Most people are unfamiliar with a loom or the textile creation process. Come watch our large floor loom in action from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. We are excited to show you what's new at the Pioneer Homestead.

PIONEER HOMESTEAD MAKEOVER

To assist in the Pioneer Homestead's new look we are looking for a few items to help with our living museum.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| A sheep's fleece | Cabbages |
| Apples (home grown "seconds" will work) | Operational box or laundry stove |

PIONEER HOMESTEAD RECIPE

Caraway Chicken

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 Large Hen cut into serving size pieces | |
| Flour | Salt and pepper |
| Lard or shortening | 2T. Caraway seeds |
| ½ cup chicken stock | 2 cups sour cream |

Flour and season chicken; brown in hot lard. Crush Caraway seeds to release a bit of flavor; add seeds, chicken stock and 1 cup of the sour cream. Have cream at room temperature to avoid curdling. Bake in a dutch oven for 1 ½ hours. Just before serving, add the rest of the sour cream.

(Pioneer Cookbook, Volunteers of the Norwegian- American Museum, Decorah, Iowa, 1969)

Project Coordinator

Del Schmechel

Our park is constantly being improved. Some changes are small while others are hard to miss. Here is a brief list of what we have been up to:

With help from Bob Woloszyk and Pieper Electric, we now have electricity in all of the buildings at the south end of the Historical Park. Those buildings are the Granary, Sugar Shack, Blacksmith Shop, Log Cabin and Log Barn. In the past, generators were required for maintenance and events.

With help from Weyer HVAC and donated equipment, we have added air conditioning to our Mill House and Welcome Center. Currently only the Mill House is operational, but the Welcome Center will soon follow. This will make it a much better environment for our staff and visitors.

We have added a loft in our mill barn to store some of our excess display items. This will allow more space to display items in the museum portion of the Mill Barn.

The south wall of our nationally registered Grist Mill has been rebuilt and that completes the foundation restoration. Next, we will rebuild the Engine Shed that stood at the southwest corner of the Mill. It will

house the engine that is capable of operating the large mill stone. Potentially that will allow wheat to be ground into flour.

Our Mill House has a new porch floor and stairs to great our guests. And, the Grist Mill has a fresh coat of paint.

Sadly, we have lost many of our Ash trees and more are scheduled to be removed this fall. Our plan is to plant a variety of trees that we know will require time to grow to provide the shade we now have.

As custodians, we feel we have a duty to leave the Historical Park better than we find it. I believe we are doing just that.



The Lawn Crew



Bob & Harry Working on a Timber



Warren & Connie Working on the Mill House Porch



Bill & Dave Working on the Lawnmowers

Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Lofy

Is your answering machine flashing? Maybe it's a message from me. If you happen to be busy when I call, I'll leave a message. So check your calendar and give me a call back. There are many ways to volunteer for the Threshere. Together we'll find a day, time and area where you would like to help.

Areas requiring volunteers include food (grilling, making sandwiches, taking food orders, cashiering), taking admission and parking our many visitors, driving tractors, conductor on people movers (giving information to visitors about the event.) We are always in need of tour guides for the Messer/Mayer Mill,

Mill House, Lillicrapp Welcome Center, Pioneer Homestead, plus other stations requiring helpful volunteers. Maybe you would like to help in the Silent Auction Tent, Sweets 'n' Stuff Tent or Pie Tent. It takes 12 tractor drivers, 12 conductors, 12 admission takers, 12 parkers and over 50 for food /beverages for the two day event. This does not include tours, buildings open, silent auction, threshing and log sawing. There are so many working behind the scenes to keep the Thresheree running smoothly.

For threshing, it takes volunteers to run the tractor or steam engine that runs the threshing machine. Someone has to lineup the tractor and wagon with the grain bundles next to the threshing machine. Next a few people have to climb on the bundle wagon and feed the bundles onto the conveyor belt of the threshing machine. The threshing machine blows the straw (stems of the grain) out one pipe and the grain out another pipe into the grain wagon. The pile of straw has to be baled and loaded onto a wagon. The bale wagon and grain wagon have to be put away out of the weather.

Log sawing needs the guidance of a sawyer to run the Saw Mill. Helpers get the logs stationed properly for sawing. Slabs are cut off to make the log square for sawing planks. The log needs to be turned in order to do this. Volunteers put the slab wood on a pile and planks on another. A tractor or skid loader helps move the logs and wood into the right area. A steam engine powers the Saw Mill.

The horses for field plowing have to be harnessed to the implement that they are going to pull (plow, seeder, etc.). Helpers are needed according to the number of horses and work that will be done.

Calling all BAKERS!!! We are always in need of pies for our pie contest. Pies should be cooled and set up. If the pies are still warm, they cannot be sliced properly for judging and serving. Please, NO cream pies – we do not have a way to refrigerate them. Please check with neighbors and friends who might have an interest in baking a pie. The pies need to be at the Pie Tent by 10 a.m., and the judging is at 10:30 a.m. both days. You do not need to enter the Pie Contest to bring a pie.

Sweets 'n' Stuff is always looking for bakery (bars, cookies, candy) books, and household items. Give Daryl a call (262-628-4221) if you have items to donate or can help as a volunteer.

Let's not overlook the Thursday Crew who can be found throughout the grounds keeping the grounds in order.

I gave you a glimpse of what it takes to present the Thresheree for two days to our visitors. There are also many involved in planning the event. Another phase of the Thresheree is setup (about a week before) and take down (about a week after.) Anyone interested in helping with tents, tables, chairs, displays, signs, etc. give us a call.

As you see, it takes many helping hands to make the Thresheree a very successful and enjoyable event. I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU!!! for volunteering for all our events and answering our calls for help throughout the year. I appreciate a call-back whether you can help or not help at the Thresheree. If you can help, we can pick an area and time that works for you. If you cannot help for the requested event or are no longer able to help at all, then I will know and not bother you with a follow-up call. Be sure to talk with neighbors, relatives and friends about giving us a helping hand. It's even more fun to volunteer with someone you know. Give them my number if they would like to volunteer, or let me know when I call you. It's also a great way for the youth to acquire community or service hours. Call 262-297-1546.

Our events are successful and enjoyable for all because of your talents and time. See you Sept. 15 & 16. Be sure to check out the enclosed Thresheree flier for all that there is to see and do.

COMING PROGRAMS – Free - Highway 175 - Richfield Fire Hall 7:00 p.m.

September 27, 2018 Sally Jacobs - “McCormick & International Harvester Farming Equipment”

Sally Jacobs is the archivist for the McCormick/International Harvester papers in the Wisconsin Historical Society's Library, Archives and Museum Collections Division. She gives presentations about the collection. Ms. Jacobs, being the archivist for the McCormick/ International Harvester papers, will be able to provide a detailed accounting of the company mergers and subsequent activities in the manufacture of farm equipment by International Harvester.

October 25, 2018 Richard Carlton Haney - “When is Daddy Coming Home? An American Family During WWII”

World War II was coming to a close in Europe, and Richard Haney was only four years old when the telegram arrived at his family's home in Janesville, Wisconsin. In his emotionally powerful book, he explores the impact of war on an American family. **Richard Carlton Haney**, is a professor emeritus of history at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

November 15, 2018 Jessica Michna - “Margaret Cummins - Christmas at Balmoral”

Join the Christmas activities at Balmoral Castle. Meet Margaret Cummins, head housekeeper of Balmoral during the reign of Queen Victoria, as she prepares for the arrival of the royal couple and their nine children. Margaret served the royal family for seventy-eight years, working her way up from scullery to a position of trust and management. She was a personal confidant of the Queen, very rare in class conscious Victorian England. In this program, the audience is the staff, being instructed on the do's and don'ts of Royal service.

COMING EVENTS – Richfield Historical Park



Richfield Historical Society 20th Annual
Thresheree & Harvest Festival
September 15 & 16, 2018
9 am—5 pm
Adults: \$6; 12 & Under, Free
Featuring 20 years of RHC AH Restoration Progress

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

Pastries & Beverages: Sat & Sun ~ 9am-10:30am
Lunch Menu: Sat & Sun ~ starting at 10:30am
Steam Engine Threshing & Log Sawing ~ Historic Building Tours
Antique Tractors & Cars ~ Draft Horse Plowing
Music ~ Kids' Activities

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

Information: Call (262) 297-1546 or (262) 644-5857
Website: richfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest icons and logo: Milling Around Memories

**Thresheree & Harvest Festival –
Saturday & Sunday,
September 15 & 16, 2018**



**Christmas in Richfield -
Saturday, December 1, 2018**