



*Richfield Historical Society
Box 268
Richfield, Wisconsin 53076
RichfieldHistoricalSociety.org*

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**Native Americans in Wisconsin: Part III
Into the 21st Century** – by Susan Brushafer

Boozhoo! Hau! Haho! Aquai, Posoh! He! She-ko-lee! Ho! This article starts off with a warm native greeting to you in the tribal languages of Wisconsin!

As the last of three articles devoted to Native Americans in Wisconsin, it covers information pertinent to the most recent 100 years of Wisconsin's Native American tribes. Revisit the Prehistoric to Late 1800s, and Daily Life from the Late 1800s to Early 1900s in the first two articles, found on the Richfield Historical Society's website.

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – located in Ashland County
- Ho-Chunk Nation – covering several counties: Jackson, Monroe, Sauk
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – located in Sawyer County
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – located in Vilas County
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin – located in Menominee County
- Forest County Potawatomi – located in Forest County
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – located in Bayfield County



www.travelwisconsin.com/article/native-culture/native-american-tribes-in-

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- Oneida Nation – located near Green Bay in Brown and Outagamie Counties
 - St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin – located in Burnett, Polk, and Barron Counties
 - Sokaogon Chippewa Community (Mole Lake Band) – located in Forest County
 - Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians – located in Shawano County

Each of these 11 Native American tribes has its own flag. The items displayed on the flags represent important cultural references. To see the individual tribal flags and short, succinct accompanying information on each tribe, go to:

[Current-Tribal-Lands-and-Facts-8.5x11 PDF.pdf \(wisconsinfirstnations.org\)](#)

When you open this PDF, you will see 12, not 11, tribal flags! The chart includes the tribal flag for Brotherton Nation, with a seat of government in Fond du Lac. “The Eeyamquittoowauconnuck is the only First Nation of Wisconsin without federal or state recognition. The seven feathers on their flag represent the six tribes from seven communities who banded together to become the Brothertown.” What caused this? The Brothertown Indian Nation lost federal recognition in 1839 by accepting U.S. citizenship. Efforts to regain it face historical and bureaucratic challenges. Only an Act of Congress can restore their status. Interesting!

Wisconsin Native American ‘Reservations’ and ‘Restoration’

During the 19th century negotiations between Native American tribes and the U.S. government often resulted in land cessions. Some tribes ceded large sections of their ancestral lands in exchange for smaller, designated areas. Those were referred to as reservations. Some tribes were relocated to Wisconsin in the 1830s from other regions.

In 1887, the federal government implemented policies like the Dawes Act. Its purpose was to assimilate Native Americans by allotting individual land parcels within the reservations. Over decades, 11 tribes in Wisconsin gained federal recognition. This provided them with certain legal rights and protection.

In 1934, the goal of the Wheeler-Howard Act (Indian Reorganization Act -IRA) was to reverse harmful policies toward Native American tribes. Several features included: stopping division of tribal lands into individual parcels, helping tribes regain land ownership, encouraging tribes to form their own governments, and providing funds for education. These funds also prioritized hiring Native Americans in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The situation regarding reservations changed in the 1950s as critics began to strongly oppose the IRA. They wanted to break up the reservation system. This would free the federal government from the cost of protecting Native Americans and their property.

The House Concurrent Resolution 108, which passed in 1953, stated goals of ‘termination and relocation’. The intent was to move Native American populations from rural reservations to urban areas. This would be accomplished by job training programs and housing assistance.

Tribes resisted this termination by forming grassroots groups, challenging policies in courts, lobbying in Congress, and raising support from the public by increasing awareness through campaigns. Efforts like these helped to preserve a tribe’s identity and sovereignty. Most of the Wisconsin Indians who opted in for this received one-way bus tickets to Chicago, Milwaukee, or St. Paul. The termination policy ended the federal recognition of more than 50 tribal governments. This included the Menominee, one of the first Wisconsin tribes to undergo ‘termination.’

As you might imagine, the process of termination had disastrous effects on Wisconsin tribes. Due to activist efforts, the Menominee were able to restore their status by 1975. Other tribes slowly were able to do the same.



Adding another piece of history, Wisconsin held a referendum in 1987 that approved the creation of the state lottery. It gave Wisconsin tribes the right to establish casino gambling. Many tribes taking advantage of this right have found it to be an opportunity to bring economic benefits to reservation communities. Currently, casinos have been created by the Ho-Chunk, Ojibwe, Mohican, and Potawatomi tribes.

(left) Prize Payout Flare Card for Wisconsin Lottery, 1988 vintage press photo print - Historic Images

Native American reservations in Wisconsin interact with the state government through a variety of formal and informal mechanisms, reflecting their unique status as sovereign entities. Executive Order #18, issued in 2019, reaffirms the government-to-government relationship between the state and the tribes, promoting regular consultation and collaboration.

Author's note: The above section entitled Wisconsin Native American 'Reservations' and 'Restoration' specifically tries to present facts on the establishment of reservations. There is also another, more personal side to the story. You can listen to the documentary "*Uprooted: The 1950s Plan to Erase Indian Country*" on APM Reports. It's available as a podcast, providing a detailed account of the U.S. government's relocation program and its impact on Native American communities. [The 1950s plan to erase Indian Country | Uprooted | APM Reports](#)

Daily Life on a Reservation

Daily life on a Wisconsin Native American reservation varies significantly depending on the tribe and the specific reservation. There are some aspects that many residents have in common. Join me in what might be a typical day as a Wisconsin Native American living on a reservation. As you read this short walk-through, imagine yourself as a Native American living on the Menominee Reservation.

Morning brings a cool breeze through the dense forest. You think about your ancestors' connection to this hard-earned land. Day starts with a prayer to the Creator, expressing thanks for the new day and strong community. You head to the community center for a morning wellness program. Elders and young folks are taking part in traditional dance and exercise, a great blend of cultural preservation and health. By mid-morning, you're at the local grade school where you work as a teacher. Education is a cornerstone of the community; you enjoy teaching the Menominee language, traditions, and the "3Rs": reading, writing, and arithmetic.

During lunch, you meet with fellow teachers and talk about the upcoming cultural festival. The plan is to showcase traditional crafts, music, and storytelling. Festivals like this ensure that the rich history of the Menominee Tribe is passed down and shared with visitors.

When the school day ends, you visit the tribal clinic for a yearly check-up. The clinic, a vital part of the community, provides healthcare services that blend modern medicine with long-standing healing practices. Many of the healthcare team are from reservations and understand the unique challenges of their people. Following your appointment, you head to the tribal office where you help on sustainable development projects. Today's focus is on expanding the community garden that grows food for the community and promotes sustainable agriculture.



Foxvalleywebdesign.com

Community residents find the garden to be a great meeting place.

There's one more meeting before dinner. Although the reservation faces economic hurdles, the people are resourceful. Today, the community is discussing ways to support local businesses and create job opportunities. The continuing goal is to support the economic stability of the community.

Dinner time! You share a meal with your family. Dinner includes ingredients grown in your own garden and from the community garden. As usual, you laugh with the kids and listen to news about what's going on in the community. You enjoy stories that show the strength of the community's bond.

You drift off to sleep reflecting on your day. You feel pride in your heritage and in the strength of the community. When dawn arrives, so do new opportunities to teach, learn, and grow while honoring the traditions of your ancestors.

Contributions of Native Americans

If one were to ask the typical Wisconsin citizen to name the first thing that comes to mind when asked to identify a Native American contribution, the response might be 'corn' or 'maize'. True. However, there are so many contributions our world makes use of due to the ingenuity or knowledge Native American people shared. Consider the following:

- **Agriculture:** Yes, corn, including beans, squash, and potatoes. Native Americans taught European colonists how to grow the corn. Native Americans also developed advanced farming and irrigation systems.
- **Medicinal Knowledge:** Native American herbal remedies formed the basis for many modern medicines. One example is their use of willow bark, a plant that contains salicylic acid, the active ingredient in aspirin.
- **Inventions, Tools, Technology:** Native Americans contributed kayaks, snowshoes, and toboggans to the items the world regularly uses. Canoes were critical for transportation and trade, especially due to their light weight and ease of maneuvering. Kayaks were originally designed by the Inuit people and were used for hunting and transportation. Snow goggles protected their eyes from the bright glare of the sun on pristine snow.



Native Americans were the first to process rubber from latex. This product was later adapted by Europeans for various uses. Early syringes were made from hollow bird bones and animal bladders. Native Americans used them to administer medicines. Native Americans hollowed out gourds and other natural materials to create early versions of baby bottles. Interestingly, Native Americans also created the first forms of birth control!

- **Cultural Practices:** Native American traditions originated sports like lacrosse and games like tug-of-war. Storytelling, art, and music have greatly influenced the American culture.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Native American tribes had a deep respect for nature and practiced sustainable living. Their knowledge of the land and ecosystems contributed to conservation practices, many of which are still relevant today.

Let's not forget the contribution of **Maple Syrup**, especially since it is the basis for the Richfield Historical Society's Maple Syrup Family Day, usually celebrated in March. Native Americans were the first to harvest sap from maple trees and boil it down to make syrup.

Specific Contributions of Wisconsin's Native American Tribes

The Woodland Indians refers to the Native American tribes that lived in the forested regions of the eastern United States, including the Great Lakes area. Wisconsin's 11 federally recognized Native American tribes have made significant and unique contributions to the United States' culture.

- **Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa:** known for their stewardship of the environment, particularly in protecting the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs, which are vital rice wetlands.
- **Ho-Chunk Nation:** famed for their resilience and cultural preservation; the Ho-Chunks have maintained their language and traditions in the face of numerous relocations.
- **Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa:** this tribe has a strong tradition of arts and crafts, including beadwork. They also had expertise in building birch bark canoes.
- **Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa:** famous for their fishing and spearfishing rights, which they have fought to maintain and protect.
- **Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin:** this tribe appropriately boasts being pioneers in sustainable forestry. They have managed their forest lands for over 150 years, which balances economic needs with environmental conservation.
- **Oneida Nation:** their rich history of agricultural innovation includes the introduction of white corn, an integral complement to their culture and cuisine.
- **Forest County Potawatomi:** best known for their efforts in environmental conservation and renewable energy projects; they have developed both wind and solar energy.
- **Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa:** significant contributions by this tribe include the preservation of Lake Superior's natural resources and fisheries.
- **St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin:** known for celebrating and preserving their rich heritage through their cultural festivals and powwows.
- **Sokaogon Chippewa Community (Mole Lake Band):** this tribe has played a crucial role in protecting water resources, particularly in the fight against mining projects that threaten their lands.
- **Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians:** their strong tradition of storytelling and historical preservation have contributed to the broader understanding of Native American history.

Each of these Wisconsin tribes continue to have an ongoing impact on the culture of the United States.



Wisconsin's Federally Recognized Native American Tribal Flags
wisconsinexaminer.com

Notable Native American Leaders from Wisconsin

Unless one hears updates on Native American culture and news in Wisconsin, it's good to learn that our state has fostered several historical leaders in the last 100 years.

Ada Deer, born on the Menominee reservation in Keshena, Wisconsin, was the first woman to lead the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She was a key proponent in reversing the 1950s House Concurrent Resolution 108, the policy that took away the Menominee people's federal tribal recognition.

Ada was the first member of the Menominee Tribe to graduate from UW-Madison, and the first Native American to obtain a master's in social work from Columbia University. She unsuccessfully ran twice for Wisconsin's Secretary of State, and in 1992 narrowly lost a bid to become the first Native American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Before her death in 2023, Ada Deer was inducted into the National Native American Hall of Fame (2019).

Walter Bresette was an Indian rights activist and a member of the Red Cliff Ojibwe Band. He campaigned for Indian treaty rights involving hunting and fishing and the possession of the feathers of migratory birds for ceremonial and cultural purposes. He was a founder of Witness for Nonviolence, which monitored the Wisconsin spear fishing controversies of the 1980s and was a member of the organizations that opposed sulfide mining in northern Wisconsin. With Rick Whaley he wrote "*Walleye Warriors: The Chippewa Treaty Rights Story*."



The eagle feather is widely respected across many Native American tribes. It represents honor, bravery, leadership.

Learn more about the most influential Wisconsin Native Americans in 2024 in this March 2024 article published by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay:

[Wisconsin's 32 Most Influential Native American Leaders for 2024 | Madison365 – Inside UW-Green Bay News \(uwgb.edu\)](#)

Historically, Wisconsin Native American leaders like Ada Deer and Walter Bresette, contemporary leaders like Carla Vigue, Ashley Hesse, and Dr. Nicole Bowman, and emerging leaders like Micaela Salas Livingston and Stephanie Lozano, have shown the resilience and contributions of Native American communities in Wisconsin by their outstanding work.

Want to Know More?

Has this series on Native Americans in Wisconsin piqued your interest? Think about visiting some of the 11 Wisconsin Native American locations during your upcoming trips. How about ... this Fall?

- September 16, **47th Annual Northland College Pow Wow**, Ashland, WI
- October 18-20, **Hunting Moon Pow Wow**, Potawatomi Casino Hotel Event Center, Milwaukee, WI

If travel is not in your plans or budget for the remainder of 2024, check out these references, and plan to visit in the future some of the sites that hold Wisconsin's Native American history:

- ***Tribes of Wisconsin Reference Book*** [Wisconsin State Tribal Initiative](#)
- ***The Ways - The Ways - Wisconsin First Nations*** (stories from Native Communities)
- ***Gather - Home | Gather Film*** (nativefoodsystems.org) (ways American Indians are building resilient local food systems around Indigenous traditions and agriculture)
- ***Seeking Native American Spirituality - Seeking Native American Spirituality and Traditional Religion: Read This First!*** (native-languages.org) (Written by Cherokee Orrin Lewis)
- ***Myths and Legends of Wisconsin Indians*** (article published in Milwaukee History: The Magazine of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, Spring 1992) accessible via: [Milwaukee History Magazines Indexes · MPL](#)

President**Pete Samson**

As I reflect on the past few years at the Richfield Historical Society, I am proud to share the significant milestones and memorable events that have brought our community together and enriched our historical preservation efforts.

- **Remodeling of the Mill House Exterior**

Under the leadership of our dedicated team, the Mill House has undergone a complete exterior renovation. This project not only restored the historical integrity of the building but also enhanced its aesthetic appeal, making it one of the centerpieces of our park.

- **New Pole Building**

To support our growing collection and activities, we added a new Pole Building. This structure provides much-needed storage space, ensuring that our artifacts and resources are preserved in optimal conditions. It also supports our operational needs, allowing us to organize more efficiently.

- **Memorable Events Added**

Blacksmith Day

During my presidency, Blacksmith Day has become an annual event that people look forward to. This event offers live demonstrations of blacksmithing techniques, providing visitors with a hands-on experience of this historic craft. It's a fantastic opportunity for families to engage with our history in an interactive and educational way.

Luminary Hike

Another addition to our event lineup, the Luminary Hike, has quickly become a family favorite. This enchanting evening event leads participants through our beautifully lit trails, creating a magical atmosphere that highlights the natural beauty of our park. It's a perfect way to experience the serene charm of our historical grounds.

Maple Syrup Family Day Pancake Breakfast and Tasting Contest

We enhanced the ever-popular Maple Syrup Family Day by adding a pancake breakfast and a Maple Syrup Tasting Contest. This addition has been a hit, drawing in crowds eager to enjoy delicious pancakes drizzled with our very own homemade maple syrup. The breakfast not only satisfies appetites but also fosters a sense of community as families gather to share a meal and celebrate the season. The tasting contest had over 25 entries and will continue to grow in future years.

A Tribute to Our Volunteers

None of these accomplishments and events would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our incredible volunteers. Their passion and commitment to preserving our local history have been the driving force behind our success. Whether they are assisting with events, helping with renovations, or supporting our day-to-day operations, their contributions are invaluable.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue building on these achievements and creating new opportunities for our community to connect with and appreciate our rich history. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Richfield Historical Society. **Our November 21st Meeting will be the Richfield Historical Society Annual Meeting. Please try to attend.**

Blacksmith Shop**Kathy Lauenstein**

With the smell of coal in the Park, the forge is hot and ready. The smiths are busy at work.

Fall brings two great shows to the Park. The Thresheree and Blacksmith Day. Come see how they made the items needed by early settlers.

More great smiths have been coming to the Park with each show. So don't miss the next show. Stop in. See what's new.

Collections**Deanna Einwalter**

The first barns were not American by design, but were European-style longhouses that included stables and sleeping quarters. Brought to America along with the first settlers, the oldest style of barn still graces our landscapes in the classic "English barn" style.

English -style barns were built from the 1600s through the 1800s and had a large open central floor for wheat threshing. On either side were small stabling areas for the family horse and hay storage. In the Mid 1800s the connection between plentiful light and healthy farm animals was made and windows became more common. Then the first major change was the addition of basements.

Farmers began building barns on hillsides to allow for a full basement with lower-level ground access on one side while the hillside allowed access to the upper level. This particular style was called the "bank barn."

Come by and look at our Messer/Mayer BankBarn and the artifacts we display inside.



Messer/Mayer Barn

Education**Kathy Weberg**

Thresheree time is upon us! The last couple of years, the Education Committee has made an attempt to enhance the Grist Mill tours by providing introductory information prior to entering the Mill. This includes a discussion of what "grist" means (answer is grain - which many people DO NOT know). Displays of various grains that would have been processed in our grist mill are there for you to check out. There are samples of the plants as they grew in the fields with the stem and grain heads intact prior to threshing.

The actual grains are the edible seeds which have gone through the process of threshing, separating the chaff from the grains. People can dip their hands in the grains (or berries in the case of wheat) to touch and feel. Especially for the kids, a container of flour (the finished product from our mill) provides an activity to sift out the "middlings" with kitchen sifters. This process replicates what actually happens in the Grist Mill.

Before you go into the Grist Mill, stop by the shade fly area near the Mill and become enlightened on the process of "milling." Edible samples of products made from various grains are handed out to further connect the process and make it more understandable and useful to the consumer.

Events Coordintor

Daryl Grier

Linda Aicher - Art Chairmen - Art at the Mill Saturday on June 15, 2024 was enjoyed by over 1300 attendees plus 93 artists, helpers, and volunteers. The weather was perfect to browse the booths and purchase one or numerous creations the artists displayed.

The Mill, Mill House and Welcome Center were also open to visit for everyone's enjoyment.

When you wanted a break, food was available from the Richfield Lions along with soda, water and ice cream from Richfield Historical Society.

New this year - Richfield's Belshire Brewery had beer and seltzer available to purchase. While enjoying a beverage or food at the Food Tent, you could relax and listen to the live band, Vivo. Also new this year our Blacksmith Shop was open with Blacksmiths doing demonstrations.



Art at the Mill

Everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves and mentioned they were looking forward to next year's Art at the Mill. Thank you to all the volunteers and artists that made this event a success.

Daryl Grier

The Events Committee reviews the worksheet and volunteer list for each event to determine what we can do to provide more interesting and fun things for visitors to take part in. This time of year is particularly busy as we have the Harvest Festival/Threshere, Blacksmith Day and the Luminary Walk close together. We also sell food at the Cyclocross Race a week after Blacksmith Day. Whew, but we have a good time working together!

Your Events Committee met on, August 20, at the Village Hall. We went over the worksheets for the upcoming events. If you have ideas for an event, please join us or contact me, 262 628-4221 dgrier@charter.net

Reminder – Rummage and Silent Auction Items

Silent auction items, household treasurers and books are needed for the Silent Auction and Sweets 'n Stuff tents at the Threshere:

- Silent auction will be on both Saturday & Sunday
Household treasurers (rummage) & books will be sold at Sweets 'n Stuff

Items can be dropped off at Daryl Grier's dgrier@charter.net 262 628-4221, 1179 Wejegi Dr. or Delores Parson's dapars1956@gmail.com, 4290 Belltower Pl., (262) 628-1070

Time to Make Your Favorite Baked Goods!

Once again, baked goods will be sold at the Sweets 'n Stuff Threshere Tent. You will receive an email where you can access a sign-up sheet. If you don't have email, please call me.

- One brownie or fudge, **about 3"** square to a bag
2 cookies to a bag

Please mark whatever you bring them in with the general ingredients, e.g., oatmeal raisin, ginger snaps, etc. as visitors ask what they are.

Drop your sweets off at Daryl Grier's, 262 628-4221, 1179 Wejegi Dr. or bring them to the Threshere on Saturday or Sunday A.M.

Historic Sites

Quint Mueller/Herb Lofy

In a previous newsletter, we discussed the need to replace several roofs on buildings in the Park, the highest priority being the Mill House. The Granary and Horse Shed are also intended to be addressed this year by the RHS crew. The process has proven to be a bit more involved than initially anticipated, as costs have risen since our original estimate. The initial set of quotes came in significantly higher than expected, as high as \$82,000. Never fear, the Sites team is working to keep these costs to a minimum, while still providing the best value possible to RHS. While we haven't settled on a contractor for the Mill House roof quite yet (as this is being written), we have a very promising prospect that will help the project come in within budget, address the need in a timely basis, promote community involvement, and keep the RHS crew safe and available for other important projects.

As anyone that has owned a home for a couple of decades knows, roof maintenance/replacement is an inevitable expense. Many of the RHS buildings were constructed or roofed within a short period of time during the late 1990s and early 2000s. That means they are all coming due for replacement now or in the very near future. If you would like to see these buildings preserved for the next generation, please consider donating to RHS to help with these expenses. Look to the next newsletter for an update on this project.

On a lighter note, some of you know that RHS has a tractor of its own that comes out for events. But do you know its history? Here is a short summary of its lineage and how it came to be with RHS.

In August of 2018, the family of Calvin and Lorraine Schmidt donated a 1939 McCormick Farmall M tractor to RHS. In a several year process, it was restored by son-in-law Wayne Madore while living in Connecticut. Wayne and his wife Carol moved back to Wisconsin, so the M came home to the Schmidt farm. The M is now used to pull a people mover for RHS events in the Park.

Calvin was raised on the family farm in Richfield. He settled on a farm near West Bend where Calvin and Loraine raised a family of two girls, Ruth and Carol, and son Paul. Wayne said that Calvin always had a special connection to the tractor.

In 1939, he purchased this Farmall M new from the John P Lochen dealership in Newburg. The M, introduced in '39, replaced the F-30 Farmall. It set a new industry standard for design and productivity and quickly became one of the most popular tractors. Of special interest with Calvin's tractor is that its serial number is FBK525. The first M number was FBK501. That means that his tractor was the 25th one built a total fourteen-year production run of over 270,000.

Library/Newsletter/Program

Marge Holzbog/Connie Thoma

RHS Monthly Program Dates 2024 – Connie Thoma

September 26, 2024 - "Blacksmithing" - Jeff Beegle

October 24, 2024 - "1950s Richfield" - Sue Schmitt

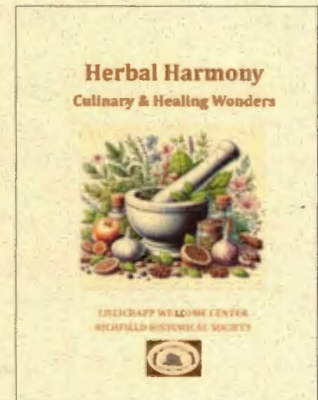
November 21, 2024 (Annual Meeting) - "Women Who Dare" – Jessica Michna

As you come up the steps to the Welcome Center you will be greeted by the pungent smell of barrels filled with culinary, medicinal and fragrant herbs. In the History Room, you will be able to purchase for a small sum a booklet featuring the history and recipes of these herbs which have always been a part of the homestead farms of Richfield. The booklet will be available for sale for \$6 or 2 for \$10 at the Boutique and Welcome Center.

As you approach the Welcome Center on Thresheree afternoons enjoy the music of Rick Kokan singer and songwriter in the genera of John Denver, Gordon Lightfoot and James Taylor. You can watch calligraphy skills Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. providing a keepsake memory of your visit while the kids try their hand at old time games such as hoops and bean bag.

The History Room at the Welcome Center is featuring photos of all the old barns of Richfield, many of which physically have been lost to history.

We are also privileged to have access to the photo album of Bob and Carol Woods (Carol is the daughter of the last Messer/Mayer Mill miller, George Mayer, and spent her youth growing up at the Mill House.) A selection of their collected photos will be available for viewing in the History Room at the Thresheree.



LWC Welcome Center

Ruth Jeffords



The front yard of the Welcome Center is looking mighty nice these days! The Thursday Crew have completed painting the ramp and railing around the side and front of the LWC. The rich brown color really compliments the yellow building. Thanks guys!! (See Project Coordinator article for a photo of the newly stained ramp.)

And the new plantings (Boxwoods and Potentillas) have grown well with all the rain we have had this year. A surprise, uninvited guest (see arrows) planted itself among the new plantings, the Mullein plant.

The “**Mullein Plant**” is incredibly old, going back thousands of years in Europe, and it became prevalent in the US Midwest in the early 1800s. While the plants can cause allergies for some people, the Mullein (see arrows) is widely known for its medicinal purposes: namely calming, reduction of swelling, earaches and useful for coughs and congestion. It has also been used to treat tuberculosis. Stop by and enjoy the view!

Marketing/Long Range Planning

Doug Wenzel

In addition to my role in Marketing, this year I have the privilege of serving as facilitator for the RHS Long Range Planning Committee. This is an ad hoc committee that is formed every five years to provide recommendations for the direction of RHS future activities. We’ve been meeting twice monthly since April

with the goal of presenting our report to the RHS board in September. This has been a great learning opportunity for me, and I'm thankful to the committee members for their excellent contributions.

Fall brings up three events in rapid succession – the Thresheree & Harvest Festival, Blacksmith Day, and the Luminary Walk. I've been busy with press releases, ad placements, and event calendars, among other marketing tasks.

For those of you on Instagram, please note that we do now have an Instagram page. Please have a look and follow us. It helps to build our presence!

Membership

Dorothy Marks

We, the ladies of the LWC, are gearing up for our third year of our Boutique at the Horse Shed. So far we have the majority of our vendors returning.

We will again have our coffee table which is outdoors where visitors can relax with a cup of coffee. All we need is Mother Nature's cooperation by giving us another beautiful weekend of perfect weather just like last year. We are located in the area of the Grist Mill.

We also have the RHS t-shirts, caps, maple syrup cruets, etc. We have beautiful jewelry, pottery, hand knit hats, socks and mittens, note cards from a professional photographer, a wide variety of items from two different seamstresses and beautiful quilt squares crafted from wood to beautify your garden shed. We have one table dedicated to RHS items where we have available our maple syrup recipe booklets and, this year we will have booklets featuring herbs. This is a wonderful place to begin your Christmas shopping. So stop by and see the lovely things we have to offer. (Twenty-five percent of our sales is donated to the Richfield Historical Society.)

If you have a passion for yard work, we do have a volunteer opportunity in helping to tidy up the Welcome Center grounds. Give Dorothy Marks a call.

Mill House

Clare Birkel/Cindy Schmechel

Soon the Thresheree of 2024 will be upon us, and the ladies at the Mill House are in the process of getting ready to welcome back guests to see our newest display and enjoy tours of the Victorian era farmhouse.

Since we were not open for the Thresheree last year, we have been busy accumulating a lot of antique toys and games for our display for this year. These will be toys that the kids can actually touch and play with, and maybe they will learn something new about how kids from previous generations enjoyed their play time. It should be another fun Thresheree weekend, and we hope that all of our visitors, including the kids, will have a great time.

After ten years of being co-chairs of the Messer/Mayer Mill House, it is with heavy hearts that we announce Clara and Cindy are "retiring." Following the 2024 Thresheree, we will be hanging up our co-chair aprons and turning the care of the Mill House over to its new chair, Tonya Kleppin. We are not going away altogether, but we will be around to help Tonya during the transition. We will still be available to give tours, help with cleaning and decorating or whatever else we can do to make her job a bit easier.

We would also like to say that being co-chairs of the Mill House has been one of our greatest pleasures, and we will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have served in that capacity.



Cindy Schmechel & Clara Birkel

We have become the very best of friends, working together to make the House look its finest for all of our events. We always tried to make the history of the Messer and Mayer families our priority and to set up our special displays.

Mill Restoration

Al Mayer

The Messer/Mayer Mill has experienced decades of grinding different grains into flour for generations of families, and through this time the Mill has also had many generational changes of its own.

The making of flour involves grinding the wheat kernel to a fine powder and then sifting or "bolting" it to remove the undesirable parts to create the fine, consistent staple we all know as flour. To perform the task of separating the preferred flour from the unwanted ingredients, such as bran and chaff, a machine called a bolter was invented to make this happen.

The original bolter installed during construction of the Mill consists of a large wooden box containing a round drum 28" around, and 21 feet long. The drum (reel) is covered with a fine silk screen that sifts out the fine flour as it rotates. The reel is mounted at a slight incline, so that as it rotates the meal drops "downhill" and eventually finds its way to the far end where the unwanted chaff that is too coarse to fall through the silk screen exits the bolter. The product that has sifted down through the screen is collected, bagged and then sold as the finished flour.

You'll find the original hexagon reel bolter in the Mill at the top of the stairs on the second floor. In fact, most mills have their sifting machinery on the upper floors of the building so that once the elevator takes the meal to the highest level in the building, gravity will take it through the bolting process without human effort.

When the Messer- Mayer Mill was upgraded with four state of the art double roller mills in 1896, George also added the latest technology of bolting equipment. These reel bolters resemble the original unit but are shorter in length and incorporate two horizontal augers that better separate and refine the sifted product. We have five variations of this kind of bolting technology.

A third type of bolter added to the Mill is referred to as a centrifugal bolter which looks the same as the reel type from the outside. However, inside the screen is mounted on a round frame and inside of that is a metal cage that rotates seven times faster than the screen forcing the meal around inside the drum. This causes the entire surface of the silk cloth to constantly sift making the bolting process much faster. In our mill, we have two of this type of bolter. One is positioned below an improved standard reel bolter described above, the other stands by itself.

All of this equipment is unique and original to the Messer/Mayer Mill and is in its original position. We hope to soon have these machines of years ago operating once again!

If you have some time, come on out to the Park on a Sunday and see what we're up to. We'd be glad to show you around!

Pioneer Homestead

Susan Sawdey

Visit the Pioneer Homestead during the 2024 Threshere to see apple butter being made the "Old Fashioned Way" and read full steps below to make apple butter.

OPEN FIRE APPLE BUTTER MAKING by Leslie Alvis (partial excerpt)

(Reprinted with permission from www.runwildmychild.com and Leslie Alvis)

Peeling the apples - The process of making apple butter begins with peeling the apples the day before. We bought several bushels of "seconds" apples from a local Amish orchard. Nanny taught me to get several different varieties of apples to give our apple butter the best flavor. Several family members came over and helped us peel apples all afternoon. I found my children out peeling apples while I made supper, and they filled a half a bucket of apples by themselves. Then my sister-in-law and I picked up our paring knives again that evening and peeled until late into the night.

The apples can sit in covered pans or buckets in a cool place overnight. Nanny assured me it wouldn't harm the apple butter if they browned a little. A few of us took some apples home to pre-cook before putting the apples in the big copper kettle.

Weather challenges - Although the weather was beautiful and warm the day we peeled our apples, a stormy cold front blew in overnight. Saturday morning dawned gray, raw, and blustery. We tried to set up our cooking fire in our backyard and found that the wind made our project impossible. We had the apples all peeled—people invited—cinnamon rolls ready to eat. Somehow we had to save our apple butter making day.

My husband and I walked across the road and down the farm lane to a small clearing at the edge of my dad's pine woods. It was a little farther from our house, but the trees gave us just enough protection to start a fire and spend the day in relative shelter from the wind. We were still chilly, but it was bearable. We built a second fire to heat water over for hot chocolate and cooked soup over it for lunch.

Apple butter equipment - This cuts down significantly on cooking and stirring time over the open fire. We worked off an old photocopied recipe with Nanny's handwritten notes and instructions on it. She thinks perhaps this recipe is for a 30-gallon kettle, and we only had a 20 gallon one. We modified the ingredients based on the amount of apples we could fit into the kettle.

A copper kettle is essential for open fire apple butter making because it conducts heat so evenly and helps keep the apple butter from scorching. You can buy a copper kettle new, if you have several hundred dollars for it. They're a pretty major investment. If you're really interested in making apple butter this way, I'd recommend watching farm auctions or antique stores. Or go in together with some friends and begin your own apple butter tradition together!

Fire it up - We had a hard time getting the fire the right temperature at first. Too much flame and the apple butter will bubble right out of the pot. When it's really bubbling, you also need to watch out for it popping out. It can burn if you stand too close!

The apple butter has to be stirred constantly with a long-handled paddle with holes drilled through it. Nanny and Grandpa bought theirs at Lehman's Hardware, a local store that has made it big by specializing in old-fashioned equipment. You can find one online at www.lehmans.com. Again, buying one new is pretty expensive. If you know someone with rudimentary woodworking skills, you could probably get them to make you one for a fraction of the price.

Finishing the apple butter - After the cinnamon candies comes the sugar, 15 lbs. of it! (That's about 1 lb per gallon of finished apple butter, so that's not quite as alarming as it sounds!). We stirred it in gradually, then cooked it for a couple more hours.

The girls and my husband took turns stirring, and we drank coffee and hot chocolate while we waited. We also set up a sawhorse table for the finishing assembly line. When the apple butter is finished, it will appear "set up" when you dab a bit onto a glass dish and turn it from side to side. No water runs out from the edges,

and it holds its shape. At that point, you add cinnamon oil and stir for another half hour while preparing to can it.

Canning apple butter - Hot apple butter can be canned with the cold pack (or hot seal) method. We set up our assembly line, and Nanny assigned us all our jobs before we moved the kettle off the fire. Then, as fast as we could, we ladled our apple butter into clean canning jars. One person ladled and the next wiped the rims. Another person pulled canning lids out of hot water and set them on top, and the last one screwed the rings on. I moved the hot jars off the table to keep the workspace open. You have to work quickly to can the mixture while it's still hot. The apple butter will create a vacuum and seal itself in the jars as it cools.

Cleaning the kettle with biscuits - It was at this point, as we began filling jars, that I realized I had totally forgotten about another important tradition. Nanny had told me we needed to have hot biscuits ready to eat as soon as the canning was done. Hot biscuits are how we would clean out the copper kettle. I raced across the road to our home and whipped up the fastest batch of biscuits I'd ever made! Then, I set a timer on my phone and ran back to join the assembly line again while the biscuits baked.

Thankfully, the timing worked out. There was a tray of hot biscuits waiting when we were ready to scrape the last bit of apple butter out of the kettle. Everyone spooned apple butter onto their biscuits and we got to enjoy the fruits of all our labor. The kids broke off pieces of biscuit and wiped the kettle clean. It was a perfect way to end a long day of work on a chilly fall day. We all enjoyed the experience, the apple butter, and the memories we made together.

Project Coordinator

Al Mayer

All through Spring and Summer, the Thursday Crew has been busy with a host of projects at the Park.

- One of the long overdue projects our volunteers were able to complete, was to treat the inside of the log house, log barn, and the basement of the bank barn for powder post beetle infestation. This is a job we've been trying to accomplish for a few years and finally were able to remove it from our "to do" list!
- Another notable task was to apply a coat of protective stain to the ramp we replaced last year at the Welcome Center. Almost half of the stain was generously donated to us by Hallman Lindsay. Once we picked up the stain, it took a couple of weeks to do the work because of the frequent rains this summer.
- If you have a chance to visit the Museum in the Bank Barn, you'll notice a different look. The items displayed are re-arranged, and the lighting has been upgraded. The museum crew has acquired a lot of interesting local items that are really unique! Stop in and check it out!
- In our new storage shed over at the Lofy farm, we have electricity and lighting installed; and we've been able to control the humidity in the building in large part because of the work of our volunteers.
- We've also have erected a new sign near the metal culvert bridge, provided by the Oconomowoc Watershed Program, that explains the history and purpose of the organization as well as explaining the pathway of the creek down to the Waukesha County lakes



Welcome Center Ramp

Luckily, we have a great bunch of people, with a truck full of talent, that pull together and help get things done.

If you feel you have a skill to offer or would like to be involved in a hands on, community minded group, contact someone listed on page one of this newsletter! All would be happy to help you find your niche.

Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Lofy

The Richfield Historical Society Annual Thresheree and Harvest Festival is going to celebrate its 25th year this year on September 21 & 22. Thanks to your talents and help the Society has grown a half- day event into a two- day event. There are also many volunteers that have helped us accomplish this goal.

A special thank you goes to all our Thresheree Sponsors throughout the years. This year we thank: DR. Don & Janis Crego, E. H. Wolf & Sons, Forte Bank, Wissota Sand & Gravel, William D. Gehl, Wisconsin Steam Cleaner, Legend Seed, Gehring Sales & Service, United Cooperative, Helena Agri-Enterprises.

AT OUR 25TH THRESHEREE:

- ❖ See how the Messer/Mayer Mill and Engine Shed have progressed. Check out the Messer/Mayer House after its new makeover. (Behind the house there will be museum items to view located in the Barn.)
- ❖ At the Welcome Center, you will be able to view the interior of an actual General Store.
- ❖ At the Welcome Center History Room view a photo display of Richfield Barns of days gone by and photos from the Mayer/Woods photo album.
- ❖ Located in the Horse Shed is the Boutique filled with unique items from area crafters. (You will be able to ride the covered wagon from the Welcome Center to the Boutique.)
- ❖ Be sure to check out the Silent Auction Tent filled with wonderful donations from area businesses.
- ❖ Sweets 'n' Stuff has a variety of household items and homemade baked treats.
- ❖ The Pie Contest is Saturday and Sunday. Enter by 10 a.m. and judging by 10:30 a.m. (NO CREAM PIES – no refrigeration is available.) Be sure to enjoy a delicious slice of homemade pie after judging.
- ❖ Check out the hammering and demonstrations in the Blacksmith Shop.
- ❖ The Maple Sugar Shack will be selling Richfield Historical Society's maple flavored cotton candy.
- ❖ The Pioneer Homestead will be making apple butter this year along with demonstrating many household tasks from the era.
- ❖ There will be activities for children at the Mill area. Also, a Kid's Zone will be available for your children to enjoy.
- ❖ Food will be prepared by the Richfield Lions. Beverages, Ice Cream, Kettle Korn, and sweet corn will be on the grounds.
- ❖ Check out the threshing (Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.) log sawing, horse demonstrations, gasoline engines, Boom Town, encampments Gehl Equipment display, tractor plowing, antique cars, tractors and trucks.
- ❖ The Tractor Parade will be at 1 p.m. both days.
- ❖ WTKM will be on the grounds on Saturday morning.
- ❖ On Saturday, The Ed Hause Band will perform in the morning followed by the Kettle Moraine Musicians in the afternoon. Sunday morning Tale Spin will perform (take a break for a Devotional at 9:30) and resume following the Devotional. Jefferson Davis will be performing in the afternoon.

You will be receiving an email with all the volunteer opportunities available for you to check out and sign up for (if your schedule permits). Maybe someone you know would like to help or even work with you in a certain area. This is a great opportunity for students to volunteer for community volunteer hours. If you do not have email, please call me (262-297-1546). Thank you for all your help!!!