



*Richfield Historical Society*  
 Box 268  
 Richfield, Wisconsin 53076  
[www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org)



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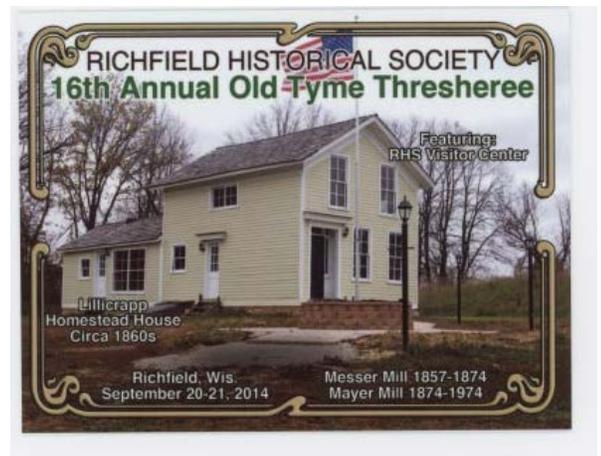
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**LILLICRAPP HOUSE WELCOME CENTER DEDICATION**  
**Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.**

Now that the Lillicrapp House renovation has mostly been completed with the work of the very dedicated "Thursday Work Crew," the Museum Committee and others have begun the task of bringing it back to life. We hope to make the walls speak of the history of Richfield, its people, its lakes and its growth as a community. We can now showcase some of our collection of vintage furnishings and furniture as well as selections from our old photos displaying life and property from the past.



The best of our camera collection is already on display. There are examples from 1885 (a glass plate view camera originally owned by a personal friend of Thomas Edison in East Orange, N. J.), through the early 1900s's folding Kodak era. The '30s, '40s, and '50s of simple box cameras, into the '60s, '70s, and '80s of 35mm instamatics and poloroids. We plan to have rotating themes in the photos we display to keep the presentation fresh.

During the Threshere, we will be having a display of "women's working tools" such as old irons, a very unique lacemaking machine, etc., weaving demonstrations on our old Swedish floor loom and on the walls the original art of Linda Derrick pertaining to mill and park themes. The old summer kitchen will be focused on lake living with artifacts from the era when life was slower and leisure was quite different from today. Because of limited space, we will need to rotate the treasures of that era as well.

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We'd like this product of the labor of many volunteers to become a feature attraction of the Park and a resource for local history. Even though it is a relic of the past, it should always be a work in progress by and for the people of Richfield.

The Lillicrapp home is an adaptation of classic Greek architecture in vogue in America from 1820-1860 and was moved to the Historical Park by the Historical Society from Amy Belle Lake where it was built around 1860. In its lifetime, it has had numerous owners from those engaged in farming, carpentry, apple growing, medicine and religion.

### **RICHARD LILICRAPP ERA - 1844 – 1876**

On August 1, 1846 a land patent (original certificate of purchase) under the signature of James K. Polk, President of the United States was issued to Richard Lillicrapp for a 40 acre parcel which was mostly lake. The property was located in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 25 in the Town of Richfield. The cost of the 40 acres was \$50.00 or \$1.25 per acre. The 40 acres was mostly water, a lake that became known as Lillicrapp Lake and later Amy Belle Lake.

The 1850 census lists Richard Lillicrapp and wife Mary Pearse Lillicrapp and their 6 children (James, Robert, Edward, Elizabeth, Amelia and Adolphus) as living on the property. Richard Lillicrapp was a farmer 52 years of age with real estate valued at \$2,000.00 at the time he immigrated to America with his family, reportedly from Stockwell, England. An abstract indicates the family of eight lived on this 40 acres for 11 or 12 years. It is presumed their home during these years was a log structure like that of many early pioneers.

On November 29, 1856 Richard Lillicrapp added 160 more acres to his holding, an 80 acre parcel to the south and another 80 acres attached to the east of his original 40 acres. Both parcels were purchased from Harvey and Matilda Birchard for \$100.00. From this time forward, the lake was known as "Lillicrapp" lake.

The 1873-1874 Township map shows two dots are shown on the original 40 acres side by side. This is the earliest confirmation of the existence of the frame farmhouse erected east of the original log cabin.

### **ADOLPHUS LILICRAPP ERA – 1873 - 1886**

Adolphus, the Lillicrapp son, and wife Adelia were successors to the Lillicrapp property. Richard died January 1, 1876. Mother Mary died in the spring of 1884 and presumably lived out her days in the old log cabin west of the frame farmhouse. Adolphus is listed as a farmer in the 1870 and 1880 census. After his move from the property in 1886, he became a practicing veterinarian and is known to have practiced in Waukesha as reported in his 1908 obituary.

The 1880 census shows Adolphus and first wife, Adelia, as having four children: Maud (age 8), Theophilus (age 7), William (age 5), and Mary (age 3). Later documentation shows both boys, Theophilus and William dying within a month of each other the following year, 1881. Daughter, Maud, married George E. Gerken of Waukesha and daughter, Mary, married C. A. Biebler of Chicago. Ida Wilhelm became the second wife of Adolphus after the death of Adelia in 1887.

The graves of Richard (1798 – 1876) and Mary (1799 – 1884) Lillicrapp and Adolphus (1837 – 1908) and wife Adelia (1844 – 1887) as well as several children that died at a young age are located at Union Cemetery south of County Hwy Q on Town Line Road – an extension of Amy Belle Road to the south never completed and known as "misery hill" due to its steep terrain.

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## **HADFIELD ERA - 1886 – 1893**

An Abstract of Title dated December 23, 1886 indicates that Adolphus and Adelia sold the entire 200 acre Lillicrapp property for \$11,000 to the Hadfield family of Waukesha and Milwaukee. Immediately following the purchase, the Hadfield Company was formed as a partnership between Joseph and Abram Hadfield of Waukesha and George Hadfield of Milwaukee.

The business purpose of the Hadfield Company was “the quarrying, manufacture, buying and selling and dealing in stone as well as the manufacture of lime, building materials and the buying, selling and exchange of real estate, coal fuel and general merchandise.”

The Hadfield brothers, Joseph and Abram, built summer cottages directly across Amy Belle Lake from the Lillicrapp property in the spring of 1887 at which time A. H. Hadfield platted property around the shores of the lake and named the area “Beechwood” (The 40 acres east of the lake had many beechwood trees which could be used in their Waukesha lime kilns) He renamed the lake “Amy Belle” after his eldest daughter who had died as a child. The Lillicrapp frame farmhouse is not known to have been occupied by any of the Hadfields. By 1891, the Hadfield Company had become insolvent; and on March 1 1893, the property was sold with the exception of lots 4 - 7 of the “Beechwood Addition ”to Frederick Kufahl.

## **KUFAHL ERA - 1893 – 1939**

Frederick Kufahl as remembered by his grandchildren, Roger Stahnke and Dorothy Stahnke Braeger, had a long grey beard and was very hard of hearing. He had fought in the Civil War in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment Company G, had been mustered in in Milwaukee 11/10/1861, been held a prisoner at Newtonia and mustered out 12/3/1864. Frederick owned the 200 acre property from 1885 – 1908. He farmed the property and planted the whole south side of the lake in an apple orchard. It is known that William Kufahl (son) owned the property from 1908 – 1914. Frederick Kufahl gave his daughter Grace the lot with the log cabin on it. Grace Kufahl was the mother of Roger Stahnke and Dorothy Stahnke Braeger. Their father was Emil Stahnke. (Although unconfirmed at this time, it is possible Grace Kufahl Stahnke was the daughter of Edward Lillicrapp.) Frederick Kufahl is known to have had another son, John, and daughter, Josephine Kufahl Pickhardt.

## **SARGEANT ERA 1939 - 1974**

Dr. and Mrs. Harry (Katherine) Sargeant purchased the property with the frame farmhouse from Josephine Pickhardt, daughter of Frederick Kufahl in 1939. The Sargeants had two children (Helen Sargeant Zentner and Tom). Dr. Sargeant was a physician on the staff at Froederdt Hospital in Milwaukee.

In the 1940s, the Sargeants engaged architect Louise Gottschalk and landscape architect Walter Holzbog to renovate the property. At that time a large living room was created out of a parlor and dining room. The separating partition was taken out, a window removed and fireplace added. New coving was installed which had been taken from an old house being torn down. The former pantry became the kitchen and the original four upstairs bedrooms reached by entry stairs with a black walnut banister became two bedrooms and a bath. In 1958, a screened porch facing the lake was added, and the south side of the house became a bathroom and utility room.

Katherine Sargeant (known to everyone as Katie) was fond of a Rudyard Kipling quote:

“God gives all men earth to love, but since man’s heart is small  
Ordains for each one spot shall prove, beloved over all.”

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## **KINDEM ERA - 1974 – 2007**

Ingolf (“Hitch”) Kindem, a Milwaukee Lutheran minister, and wife Betty Kindem purchased the frame farmhouse at 751 Amy Belle Lake Road in 1974. They purchased the property from Katie Sargeant, widow of Dr. Harry Sargeant. The Kindem’s four children (Paul, Hap, Christopher and Heather) were already grown when they moved into 751 Amy Belle Lake Road. However, during the 33 years of the Kindem Era, their children and seven grandchildren (Peter, Tommy, Paul, Mark, Tim and Sam and Laura Bachus) spent many happy hours at Amy Belle Lake.

In the words of Betty Kindem: “We can care for the land, even pay taxes, but in the final analysis we are only privileged caretakers, privileged to be close to the earth, the sky and the water.” Much of the Kindem philosophy was expressed, according to “Hitch” Kindem, in 1794 by Tecumseh, the articulate Shawnee Native American leader, who said: “land could no more be sold in parcels than the air, the clouds and the great sea.”

## **KORONA ERA - 2007**

Betty Kindem, widow of Ingolf Kindem, sold the frame farmhouse with its remaining orchard trees to neighbor Carolyn Korona in the spring of 2007. A new house was planned for the property, and the historic frame farmhouse was offered to the Richfield Historical Society for removal to the Richfield Historical Park where it could be preserved for many generations to come.

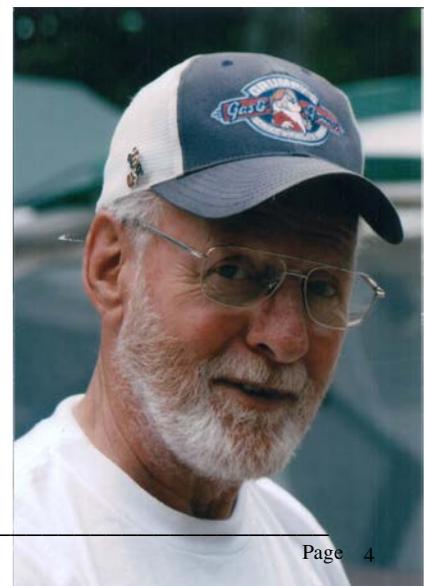
## **IN LOVING MEMORY – by Linda Derrick**

*On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, a very dear friend of RHS lost his battle with lung cancer. Bob Bayer touched many lives. He will be greatly missed, but his memory will live on. Here is a brief recap of the life of this wonderful man we were so blessed to have known.*

Bob was born in Milwaukee and grew up on the south side around 23<sup>rd</sup> and Greenfield. A year out of high school, he was working for the U.S. Post Office; and soon after he married his high school sweetheart Mary. They lived in Pewaukee for a while before settling in West Allis to raise their two daughters, Beth and Cindy, for 35 years. Bob was that friendly mailman who faithfully walked house to house in all kinds of weather through the neighborhoods of Milwaukee. When Bob retired from the Post Office, he was not yet ready to stop working. He spent the next five years at Dynamic Tool and Design as their maintenance man.

About this time, Bob and Mary moved to Hubertus to be close to their daughter’s family which included two grandsons, Nick and Tyler. Bob left his maintenance job to spend a few years working with their son-in-law Mark Kazmierski in his building contracting business before he officially retired. But, even in retirement neither he nor Mary could just sit back and relax, and that’s when Richfield Historical Society came into the picture....

Mary recalls how she and Bob got involved in the Society, “I went to Richfield Days and visited the RHS booth. I signed up that day for a family membership, and the rest is history. Within days, Bob got a call from John Dumke and joined the Saturday work crew at the Park. Soon, I too was very involved volunteering at the Mill House.”



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Now is the time to mention that Bob is the kind of guy who puts his heart and soul into anything he does, and his grandsons will be the first to tell you all about that. Grandson Tyler recalls, “Grandpa spent lots of time with us. He took us fishing, deer hunting and camping with the entire family. As little boys, we’d just hang out in the yard with him. If we were outside, he’d come out and play basketball with us. He took us ice fishing and skating, and he built this awesome ‘sled shoot’ on our property. We would spend hours flying down the hill on our sleds and running back up to do it again. Grandma and Grandpa took us to Nick’s football practices and my volleyball games. They spent many hours in the bleachers and on the sidelines cheering us on.”

As this was all going on, Bob continued to get more and more involved at RHS. A few work crew members said they preferred to work during the week. So, Bob made it happen. Soon he was leading the Thursday crew. And, to the delight of everyone on the crew, he recruited Mary to bake goodies each week to enjoy at with their coffee break.

Bob was instrumental in starting maple syrup making at the Park. He and Ed Boldt began with just a barrel and supplies that Ed provided. They tapped a few trees to start with and the process grew from there as they worked outside often battling snow, rain and cold. The Sugar Shack was built a few years later by Darin Dumke (John’s son) as an Eagle Scout project. With a building to work in, more and more equipment was donated -- a milk tank to store the sap, a wood-burning stove, a sap pre-heater and a cook-down boiler. As maple syrup making grew to be a bigger and bigger effort, Bob continued to research and coordinate the process. He provided demonstrations on maple syrup making. Family Day became an annual event attended by hundreds who came to try their hand at collecting sap and to learn firsthand from Bob.



As Bob’s involvement at RHS continued to grow and he became the “go-to guy” for many things, he added another volunteer effort to his busy life. Bob joined Daniel Boone Gun Club with his son-in-law and grandsons, and it wasn’t long before he was one of the “go-to guys” there as well. He was involved in sight-in clinics, hunter safety training, swap meets and setting up displays at the Sports Show. Whether at RHS or Daniel Boone, whenever there was a question about something, it was not uncommon to hear it said, “Call Bob, he would probably know.”

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When asked to talk about Bob, Mary had the following to say, “We did not realize how many friends Bob had and how many lives he touched. We received over 150 get well cards while Bob was sick. Even as Bob was getting sicker and going to chemo treatments, he continued to reach out and make new friends at the chemo center. He made friends with a guy who’s son needed an Eagle Scout project; and Bob, being the guy that he is, connected him with RHS. Bob loved helping people and doing things for people.”

When asked what she wanted Bob to be remembered for, Mary had this reply: “I don’t want him to be remembered for all the work he did. Remember him for the man he was; kind, caring, passionate about everything he got involved in and compassionate as well. He was sensitive to the fact that not everyone is the same; and some people need a little more TLC, maybe a word of praise. And, he made sure he took the time to provide it. Del Schmechel from the Thursday work crew told me that Bob took him under his wing and made him feel welcome, and that was the way Bob was with everyone. Chuck Boesel said that Bob was like a brother and a dad to him.”

Bob leaves a big void in the lives of many. His legacy is that he touched many of us, and we are all blessed to have known him. He leaves many great memories.

*The 2014 Thresheree and the Sugar Shack are dedicated to Bob Bayer. When you are at the Park for the Thresheree, please take a moment to stop at the Sugar Shack to see the plaque that has been added to the building in his honor.*

**PRESIDENT**

**Frank "Buzz" Carr**

Greetings to you all. We have had a fine summer of activities and events at the Historic Park this year.

Our education day where we work with the school children from local schools was well attended, and the youngsters reported that they really enjoyed getting away from their indoor activities to engage in some outdoor fun at the Park. History can be fun when it consists of hands-on experiences led by interested teachers.

The Art Fair was bigger and better than ever with 75 artists selling excellent works, and 13 plein air artists painting various scenes in the park during the event. The food and music were terrific, and Kohls provided a children’s event in conjunction with the Milwaukee Art Museum. Look for this event next summer, and be sure to tell your friends about it.

Our next event is the Old Time Baseball game and Car show on August 17. This, of course, will have happened by the time you read this, and I hope that you attended it and had a great time.

The Thresheree is scheduled for September 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>. Most of you have been there in the past, and we hope you will attend this year. It seems to grow every year in terms of activities and attendance. So come out, enjoy yourselves and bring friends. We have finally finished restoring the Lillicrapp House, and it will be featured this year at the Thresheree. Come and take a look.

In closing, we hope that you are all aware of the real treasure that our park and the mill and other buildings in the park are to Richfield and the surrounding area. You are all RHS members, and I thank you for that. But, I ask you all to try and get your friends interested. Bring them to the events. Bring them to the Historical Park for a look even if there is no event going on. One of our goals is to get more folks aware of the Historical Park and the Nature Park so that they can enjoy all that we have to offer. Come one, come all and enjoy.

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**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****Sharon Lofy**

Thank you for participating in RHS's "Green Thumb Gift Certificate" plant fundraiser. Nehm's Greenhouse and Floral helped make this event possible. Your purchases greatly helped the Society.

An added bonus was that you got to enjoy the beautiful flowers, or the plants brightened someone's day as a gift from you. In spring, you will be receiving information about our next plant fundraiser.

Be sure to check out Richfield Historical Society's 16th Annual Threshere poster included with this newsletter. Our feature this year is the Richfield Historical Society's Welcome Center (Lillicrapp Homestead House). Dedication will take place at 2 PM on Saturday, September 20th during the Threshere. As always, the Messer/Mayer Mill, the Miller's House, Barn, Woodshed, Pioneer Homestead (Log Cabin and Log Barn) and Sugar Shack will be open for tours and viewing. Breakfast will be served both mornings (9 - 11 AM). After 11 AM, burgers, brats, chicken sandwiches and the "walking taco" will be served. Don't forget to top off the menu with a slice of pie from our pie contest. (The pie contest is open to everyone. Enter pies by 10 AM each day- NO CREAM PIES.) An ice cream treat and kettle korn are a must.

Now you are ready to see all that the Threshere has to offer. Threshing, log sawing, horses doing field demonstrations, tractors plowing, steam engines, gasoline engines are on your list. Check out the Silent Auction, Sweets 'n' Stuff, and the Museum tent. Saturday WTKM (Hartford radio station) will have a live remote from 12 - 2 PM. Be sure to enjoy the music. The Gehl Tent is always a point of interest. Look for the blacksmiths, encampments (Boom Town and others), shingle making, Model A and Model T cars, wood carvers, rope-maker, weaving, spinning, quilting, kid activities, horse information (located near the horses), mini displays of the Mill and a Civil War battle. Sunday morning there will be a devotional service at 9 AM at the Gehl Tent. The tractor parade starts at 11:30 both days. You have to make your own scarecrow to take along home with you. New this year, you will be able to take a turn at building your own Lincoln log building.

Let's not forget all the volunteers that you will see before, during and after the event. Some you never see because they are on the go continuously. Without their help our events would not be possible. The Art Fair, Vintage Baseball and Classic Car Show, Swap Meet, RHS's 2-day Threshere and other events require a lot of preparation. So please check your calendar and give us a helping hand. Volunteering can be a very enjoyable time. Working with a great dedicated group makes your scheduled time pass quickly. Be sure to share volunteering information with relatives and friends especially youth that need community volunteer hours. Thank you everyone for your time and talents.

This year the Threshere will be dedicated to Bob Bayer. We were privileged to know him. He and his wife, Mary have been greatly involved as Richfield Historical Society members. Bob's dedication to the Sugar Shack and the Thursday work group will be missed. All our events were setup and taken down with his oversight. Mary and their family are in our thought and prayers.

Dorothy Kohl will also be remembered at this year's Threshere. She and her husband Ralph were truly helpful as members of the Richfield Historical Society, volunteering, supportive of our many efforts and Ralph served on the Board. Dorothy was a very kind and thoughtful person. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ralph and all the lives that Dorothy has touched.

**EVENTS COORDINATOR**

**Connie Thoma**

We are looking forward with anticipation to the 16th Annual Thresheree. Every year it gets bigger and better. Tell everyone you know to come out to see our beautiful park and partake of the many activities we plan for the Thresheree.

I want to give a shout out to the wonderful volunteers who have been working all year to make all of our events very successful. Lois Hessenauer leads up the Art Fair. She spends countless hours going to art shows, getting the names of artists, talking about our event and encouraging them to buy a booth at our show. She also puts in many hours e-mailing, sending out applications, printing flyers and planning all the details of the event. No small task!

Daryl Grier heads up the Vintage Baseball and Car Show. She also puts in many hours and miles visiting car shows. She talks to car owners to get information and ideas about how to make our event more successful, plus working on all the planning with the baseball teams. She has to line up participants for surveys, awards, singing, coin toss along with many other items too numerous to mention.

Kathy Weberg is our “Ad Man” so to speak. For all the events she has to get the ads to newspapers, radio stations, on-line etc. She sees to it that flyers get printed and distributed in all the local areas. Needless to say she also puts in many miles, hours and phone calls.

Last but not least is Sharon Lofy. Sharon is responsible for recruiting volunteers for ALL the events. Can you imagine how many phone calls she has to make? So when Sharon calls to ask for your help please say “yes” to make her job a little easier. She has been at this for the 16 years that we have been having events.

Our President, Buzz Carr, also spends countless hours in helping with the planning of all of the events. As the Events Chairperson, let me say a big thank you! We would not have these events if it were not for you and all the others that work behind the scenes.

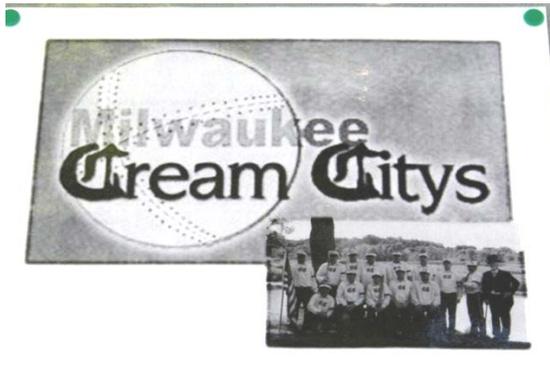
**SUMMER EVENTS AT THE PARK**

**RICHFIELD ART AT THE- MILL – July 26, 2014**  
**Fine Arts Fair & Plein Art Painting Event**





**VINTAGE BASEBALL/CLASSIC CAR SHOW – August 17, 2014**  
**Two games between Milwaukee Cream Citys and Milwaukee Greys**



**SUGAR SHACK DEDICATION**

**On Sunday, August 24, 2014 the Richfield Historical Society “Sugar Shack” was dedicated to Richfield Historical Society member Bob Bayer.**



**FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Herb Lofy/Jeannie Engel**

The Capital Campaign continues on its mission to "Get it Grinding"- raising money to complete major repairs on the Messer/Mayer Mill foundation. Members of the Richfield Historical Society and donors to the Capital Campaign can be proud of the progress on the foundation of the mill. Three of the four sides are repaired or rebuilt but the most costly repairs to the south walls still need to be done.

As I explained in the last newsletter, this is the area where water traveled thru the structure to drive the turbine. There is the exterior as well as the interior wall in this section of the foundation. It's also the tallest section of the mill foundation with walls estimated to be at least twenty feet tall. This will require major excavation to remove and rebuild the foundation. Although our volunteers have tackled almost all park projects, this is beyond our capability because of the dangers and expertise needed.

A recent mailing went out to Richfield residents to again explain the project and progress made. Local residents especially need to know that all money raised will be used here in Richfield for historical preservation of the mill. If you are interested in more information please contact me at 262-297-1546 or Jeanne at 608-442-0546 or Norm at 262-628-4221. We can send more information or meet with you at your convenience.

Something else you might consider - making a contribution to RHS that costs you little in your lifetime - Are you maintaining a life insurance policy that has outlived its original purpose? Perhaps your spouse no longer needs its benefits or your children are now financially independent or the policy protected a business that no longer exists. Name the Richfield Historical Society as the beneficiary of that policy for which you are still paying premiums. A gift of life insurance allows you to make a much larger gift to RHS than would otherwise be possible for a relatively modest cash outlay. And you can always change the beneficiary anytime on a policy you own to address your changing circumstances. If you decide to name RHS as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, consider the following: the legal name you should use is the Richfield Historical Society, Inc., PO Box 268, Richfield WI 53076 and the federal tax ID is 31-158978.

**Please help us "Get it Grinding".**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE**

**Clara Birkel/Cindy Schmechel**

We had a good showing for tours for both the Art Fair and the Vintage Baseball/Car Show and are busy lining up Tour Guides for the Threshereee.

Our list of Tour Guides is getting slim and some are getting older and no longer able or want to participate. So we are looking for anyone interested in becoming a Tour Guide for the Mill House. If interested, contact Clara ((262 622 3191 or Cindy (262 628 0919).

**LIBRARY/ PROGRAM/ NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

**Marge Holzbog**

The Mill House Book Club meets every third Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. at the Jaza Dancer on the NW corner of Hubertus Road and Hwy 175. All are welcome! The books that are to be read and discussed through the end of the year are:

- “Local Souls” by Allan Gurangus (September)
- “The Good Lord Bird” by James McBride (October)
- “The Son” by Philipp Meyer (November)
- “Driftless” by David Rhodes (December)

The Library Room off the NW corner of the Lillicrapp summer kitchen in 2015 is to become a display of literary works of local and Wisconsin writers as well as historical materials on Richfield and its families.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Judy Lehman**

Hello fellow members of the Richfield Historical Society. What an interesting year this has been - filled with the stuff of life - successes and challenges - joys and sadness - but at the core, strong friendships and good spirited work.

As we all look forward to the upcoming events, I would like to remind you to invite a friend or relative to join in the fun. Invite them to become members of the Society and come along on this marvelous adventure. Think how exciting it would be to double our membership - more support for the Society, more volunteers to help keep things happening at the Richfield Historical Park and at our many events. Are there things you would like to see highlighted this year? Tell a Board Member. Meanwhile, enjoy a visit to the Park and relax on one of the many beautiful benches that are now available at many spots.

**MUSEUM COMMITTEE**

**Jean Happel**

Museum records begin with a donation of an item or items. The donor is given an Accession Record to sign, and the item is assigned an Accession number. The item is listed on the record and assigned a Catalog number beginning with the year followed by an item number such as .01, .02 etc. The first number this year is 2014.01. A Document file is created for each item with the Accession number, Catalog number, donor name, date of donation and description of the item. A picture is taken and the numbers marked on the item. Then a Registrar record is created which lists the Accession number, Catalog number, name of the item, location of the item, date received and name of donor. As of October 31, 2013, there were 401 Accessions and 2932 Catalog items. Our first Accession was in 1997.

**MILL RESTORATION**

**Buzz Carr**

Our fundraising activities are still going strong, with the Capital Campaign to raise funds for the rebuilding of the mill foundation. Remember that when we get the foundation rebuilt, we will bring the mill up to an operating level. We will then have the only operating grist mill with all its original equipment in the Midwest. This will bring many history buffs and mill enthusiasts to Richfield. Let's all help to get this to happen soon and **GET IT GRINDING!**

One of the reasons our mill has been given national and state historical recognition is because of the many pieces of original equipment still intact in the mill. Despite the fact that numerous mills have been restored, very few, if any, have been blessed with all their original equipment. One of our most important pieces and one of the first we will put in operating order is our E. P. Allis Millstone.



In the United States, the early mills were mostly equipped with stones brought from Europe. French millstones were used throughout the United States, mainly for grinding wheat flour and corn meal, particularly after about 1750. There were many firms engaged in importing blocks of French stones and making these stones into millstones. For many years this was an extensive industry. The advertisements by some of these millstone makers in American trade journals claimed they had their own men in constant

attendance at the quarries in France. By having this personal supervision over the quarrying, the makers stated that only the very best quality burrs were selected for use in their millstones. Edward P. Allis was one among a few companies engaged in building French millstones in the USA.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Kathy Weberg**

Once again, the Education/Activity Days sponsored by the Richfield Historical Society were a great success. The weather cooperated nicely on both days, and so 108 third graders had a great time learning about days gone by and enjoying the great out-of-doors. History! Ah, yes. Thanks to all the talented volunteers who shared their expertise and knowledge and donated a grand total of 281 hours to ensure that the youngsters in our community experience "history come alive." Children from Erin school, Richfield school, Friess Lake school, St. Peter's and St. Gabriel's circulated amongst ten stations in the mill house, the woodshed, the Messer/Mayer Mill, the Motz log house, the Messer log barn and the Sugar Shack learning how things were done in "the olden days." Information was shared about the importance of the Coney Creek.

One teacher commented that this was "one of the best field trips I have experienced. All of you were friendly, knowledgeable, interesting and kind. The way you incorporated hands-on learning, visual examples and anecdotes was fantastic." Congratulations, RHS, for a job well-done.

**SITES COMMITTEE**

The Society has been very fortunate to have the help of several Eagle Scout candidates over the years. The most recent are David Rashid and Brandon Parsons.

David is from Troop 139-St. Gabriel and worked with Harry Niemann to design and construct the handicap ramp at the Lillicrapp House.

Brandon Parsons is from Troop 167-Friess Lake and worked with me on design and construction of twenty benches for the Historical Park. My experience with Brandon showed me that he is a "Get it Done" kind of guy. He was very motivated, and the quality of construction is outstanding. Brandon is seeking monetary donations for the materials used in the benches. If you are interested in donating, contact him at 262-628-1070. Thank you to all the Boy Scouts for their help over the years at projects in the Historical Park.



The Sites Committee is working on plans for a blacksmith shop in the Historical Park. I've been asked why we'd consider this project since the mill foundation should be the focus at this point in time. My answer is "YES" the foundation of the mill is the priority and money raised for the Capital Campaign goes solely for those repairs. The mill and associated buildings are the main focus for the Society. However we need to consider and move forward with limited projects in other areas. A blacksmith shop will fit into the era of the mill and be another educational piece in the Historical Park.

The 16th Annual Thresheree will soon be happening on September 20 and 21 in the Richfield Historical Park. We're hoping for good weather for our major fundraiser. Our weather track record has been great, but we can never take good weather for granted. It's a great family event, and you get to learn some local history to boot. SEE YOU THERE!

**Fellow Members of the Richfield Historical Society - Del Schmechel**

There are many opportunities available for both men and women at our wonderful Historical Park. I have been a member of what is called the "Thursday Crew" for a couple of years now and hope we can get more people interested in joining us.

When you visit our park and notice that the buildings are maintained and in good condition, that work has been done by the Thursday Crew. If you notice the grass is cut, it was cut by the Thursday Crew. When you come to any of our events and see several tents erected and tables and chairs available for use, it was due to the Thursday Crew. And when everyone has gone home, the Thursday Crew puts everything away so it will be ready for the next event.

We have around 15 men who provide this service year in and year out. There is always something that needs a coat of paint, a window to be repaired, grass to be cut or other projects to be taken care of. Most of this work goes unnoticed, but we are more than happy to do this work.

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Our normal work day is from 8:00 am to noon each Thursday weather permitting. I try to e-mail our crew in advance with a list of projects that need to be done. I hope that many of you will consider joining us and helping out as your ability permits. I will be happy to add your name to those I keep informed on the upcoming projects that we will be doing. Please contact Del at [emtdmpo@charter.net](mailto:emtdmpo@charter.net) if you have any questions.

## **RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMING EVENTS**

**Old Iron Swap Meet & Craft Show – October 4, 2014 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas at the Mill -December**

## **2014 Sponsors & Donors**

Sponsors/contributors for our events and In Kind donors are a very important and appreciated element of the operation of the Richfield Historical Society. The support of these contributors enables the Society to continue the projects which preserve the history of the Village of Richfield and share it with current and future generations. A Thank You to all the many businesses that purchased ads for our 2014 booklet (visit [www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org) to see a complete list) and all who have donated to the Messer/Mayer Mill Foundation Fund.

### **Wheat (\$500 or more)**

Baird (2014 Threshere)  
Dr. Donald Crego (2014 Threshere)  
First National Bank of Hartford - Richfield Office (2014 Threshere)  
Oarsman Capital (Art Fair & Threshere)  
Tom Daniels (2014 Threshere)  
Wissota Sand and Gravel, Co. (2014 Threshere)

### **Rye (\$499-\$250)**

Monches Farm (Art Fair)  
Voss Insurance (Vintage Baseball Games & Car Show)

### **Oats (\$249-\$100)**

E. H. Wolf & Sons, Inc. (2014 Threshere)  
Gehring Sales & Service, Inc. (2014 Threshere)  
Klug's Photo World (Sponsor for Membership Brochure)  
Landmark Credit Union (2014 Threshere)  
Waddell & Reed (Art Fair)

### **Under \$100**

BMO Harris (2014 Threshere)

### **In Kind Donations**

Conley Media (Advertising - Art Fair)  
Del Schmechel (Electrical Materials)  
Digital Edge (Printing Discount)  
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IBEW 494 (Electrical Work)  
Manitou Americas (Gehl) (Large Tent – 2014 Threshere)  
Milwaukee Art Museum: Kohl's Color Wheels (Art Fair)  
No Mosquitoes 4U (Spraying Discount)  
Obermeyer's "41" Auto Body (Vintage Baseball Game & Car Show - 2 Plaques)  
Richfield Service (Vintage Baseball Game & Car Show – Emergency Car Kit)  
Wolf Bros.Fuel (LP Gas - Threshere)