

North Wood County Historical Society

Mansion Newsletter

Marshfield, Wisconsin

October 2019

From the President

Dear members and friends,

We all know that time flies when you're busy or having fun. Here at the Governor Upham House, our summer was both. We hosted three "major" events: the Pie and Ice Cream Social in June, Hub City Days Horse Power exhibit in July, and MACCT's Business After 5 in August. Each event filled the Upham grounds with friends and neighbors interested in the community's history.



Don Schnitzler

Committed volunteers, along with generous financial support by community members and business leaders, contributed to the success of each event. My compliments to Brad Allen for spearheading efforts planning Hub City Days and Business After 5. Thanks also to those volunteers who shared time and talents, and those who provided financial support for these events. We appreciate all that you shared with us.

With summer activities behind us, the cool night air, along with lightly tinged red and gold tree tops signal autumn's approach. We know winter follows close behind. Tom Ptak, our master rosarian and gardener, oversaw the care of the gardens this summer, and they looked wonderful. He is now planning the annual garden clean-up to coincide with Make a Difference Day the fourth Saturday of October. If you can help prepare the gardens for winter, join us on October 26 at 9 am. Working together, we can get this done more quickly and easily.

Once the gardens are readied for the winter, we'll start decorating the house for Christmas activities. The theme this year is "A Candlelight Christmas" and will feature flickering candlelight, twinkling holiday lights and the soft glow of luminaries. Plans are developing, but several evening events will be planned to showcase the lit decorations in addition to the annual open house, the weekend of December 7.

Because last year's Make Your Own Christmas Ornament classes proved so popular, we'll host classes for four different ornaments beginning in November. Information on those classes is found in this newsletter. As other holiday activities are arranged the details will be shared with you by email, or a Mansion News "Extra."

Decorating the house should be done by our Holiday Potluck Dinner and Annual Membership Meeting on November 25. The event is an opportunity to enjoy time with old friends and meet new ones, viewing the house decked-out for Christmas, and conduct some society business. Most importantly will be elections of board members and officers. Those interested in becoming more involved should contact Kim in the office.

Before closing, I want to thank former NWCHS board member, Diane Wolf, for her contributions to the society. After joining the board, Diane was never too busy to volunteer for the society wherever she was needed. An amazing, talented individual, we will miss her, but wish her well with the upcoming move, and all future endeavors.

Best wishes always,

-schnitz



Board of Directors

President - Don Schnitzler
Vice President - Jerin Turner
Secretary - Kaylin Speth
Treasurer - Laura Ptak
Past President - Brad Allen

Directors

Andrea Jackan
Mike Meyers
Kim Krueger
Nancy Sternweis
JoAnn Gougeon

Coordinator- Kim Krueger

Consulting Rosarians
Tom Ptak & Tom Stram

Tour Hours

Wednesday - 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday - 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Or by appointment
Groups are encouraged

Office Hours

Monday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone - 715.387.3322
Email - nwchs@uphammansion.com
Web - <http://uphammansion.com>

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT CLASSES ARE BACK



Yo-Yo Angel



Quilted Holiday Ball



Quilted Holiday Bell



Participants from last year's class show off their creations.



North Wood County Historical Society (NWCHS) will again host Christmas ornament classes at the Upham House on November 6 and 10 and December 4 and 8. Participants can create four different types of fabric ornaments.

November 6 (6:30 - 9:00 pm) -- No sew quilted ornament (ball)

November 10 (1:00 - 4:00 pm) -- Yo-Yo angel ornament

December 4 (6:30 - 9:00 pm) - No sew quilted ornament (wreath)

December 8 (1:00 - 4:00 pm) - No sew quilted ornament (bell)

Classes are free, but spaces are limited to just 10 people each day. Pre-registration is requested. Call NWCHS office (715-387-3322) to register for as many classes as you'd like to attend! Your instructors are Don and Vickie Schnitzler.



Participants will have a choice of the above ornaments. Check dates closely to determine which ornament is being demonstrated. Only 10 spaces per date.

Five Coin Slot Machine Manufactured in Marshfield - 1897

Manufactured by Marshfield Novelty Works, the electric slot machine was a breakthrough invention in 1897. With five slots, multiple people could play at the same time. For a time, orders from around the country for this machine exceeded what could be produced. Jeremiah "Jerry" L. Blodgett, operator of Pratt Electric in L.A., filed a patent July 20, 1897 after reengineering Pratt and Berger electric machines with more coin slots and color payout. It was then manufactured in Marshfield through the business run by his father, C.E. Blodgett.

Hand-carved oak cabinets for the slot machines were made in the city at Hans Bille's workshop. After the 1887 Marshfield Fire, Bille had an active part in the rebuilding effort and started his business in 1890.

A Feb. 18, 1898 local newspaper report stated, "The rip saws and turning lathes in Hans Bille's Shop keep up a busy song these days. Since the shop has been enlarged and new machinery and benches added, work is turned out more rapidly, but with the help of nine operators, they are behind on orders. They are now engaged in making 100 of the new improved Marshfield Novelty's Co.'s slot machines."

An Elgin, Iowa newspaper reported in March that Marshfield Novelty Works had sold \$3,500 worth of slot machines to a Chicago buyer. Today, Jerry's descendants do not own the now-antique slot machine, but do possess one of the slot tokens marked with the words "Marshfield Novelty Company," and "Good for Trade."

While the slot machine took these tokens, it wasn't immune to the trickster. The Marshfield Times reported on April 15, 1898 that several men from Wausau visited nearly every slot machine in town and played with washers "until the machine refused to pay in the coin of our realm and the operators moved on."

Around 60 washers were estimated to have been taken out of one machine alone. "If anybody or firm is shy of washers in Wausau let them come here, prove property and take the same away," the report humorously concluded.

The slot machine invention wouldn't be the only innovation by Jerry Blodgett. In 1908, he patented "a new type of automobile" that was "superior to any now in use," according to the Nov. 14 (likely paid) newspaper report. The machine's casting had been received in Marshfield and would immediately be put together. However, it appears it was never mass-produced and only one automobile was made.



Special thanks to Tim and Sandra Smith for providing historic info about his ancestors.



Electric five slot machine



Tokens that were used in the five slot machine

trouble. No locks are used on the front of the new machine. It being fastened from the inside with thumb nuts, making it perfect, solid and stationary. No flat springs are used on the sign or on the plunger. A better and surer way has been devised. These padlocks, instead of two, is now used on the machine, which will lock it firmly to the floor.

Twenty inch wheel or dial divided as follows:

Star, Blue, 1	42.00
Star, Yellow, 1	2.00
Pink, 4	75
White, 4	50
Green, 8	25
Balance, Red and Black	10

Not necessary to hold handle down to make machine pay and last coin or coins always remain in sight until next operation of wheel. We also furnish this machine in hand carved oak cabinet.

WRITE FOR PRICES.

Order form to purchase locks for the slot machine.

Old Check Reveals Interesting Chapter in Marshfield's Past

By Kaylin Speth

An old check reveals an interesting chapter in Marshfield's past and more about one of its lesser-known celebrities.

A German American Bank check discovered clinging to the side of an old box by an antiques collector was written out to the amount of \$25 by Louis Baumann on February 15, 1900.



Baumann, an early business pioneer and leader, held such a place in the community that newspaper reports of his death of cancer at age 51 on New Years Day, 1917, described it as a shock. He operated the German social hub Baumann's Hall, was vice-president of the Marshfield Brewery Company and involved in numerous societies, and served as 6th Ward Alderman.

His obituary reports: "Louie, as he was familiarly known, was of a kind, charitable, and sympathetic disposition. As a neighbor and friend, none could ask for a better one. He attended strictly to his own affairs and though he had many business cares, he always found time to lend a helping hand or do a kindly act.

"He was true to all who dealt with him and never harbored any ill will because anyone opposed or differed with him in opinion. He was a firm believer in honesty and the golden rule, which principles guide him in all his dealings and rewarded him with success."

Baumann was born in Bavaria in 1863 and emigrated to Wisconsin with his parents as a small child. He later moved to a farm north of Hewitt in 1885, and then purchased property on North Central Ave. to build Sanger Hall and saloon, which would become the all-important Baumann's Hall.

Baumann Hall was located on the corner of Central Ave. and Depot Street on the site of the present-day Kwik Trip, which opened in November 2004 after demolition of the historic 100 block.



Its importance to local German settlers, for whom socializing in beer gardens was a regular part of life, led to business success for Baumann. The hall would be a meeting place for singing societies and its upstairs even acted as City Hall for several years.

With wife Anne Meidl, the family grew to nine children. In 1909 he drew up a claim in South Dakota and moved with Anna and three of his children the following fall to "prove up" on it.

After Anna died in January 1911 of gallstones at age 44, Baumann married Amelia Vogel in April 1912.

That year, he won a lottery for another



Baumann Hall was a meeting place for singing societies and its upstairs even acted as City Hall for several years. (Photo by NWCHS)

(Continued on page 5)



The German American Bank founded in 1891, later changed its name to the American National Bank in 1900.

homestead in the Dakotas and traveled with two of his sons by train, then stagecoach, then foot, to help them establish a house and farm on the 172-acre property.

As for the German American Bank, it would put in an application to Washington to change its name to American National Bank in June 1900, not long after Baumann wrote out his check in February. By becoming a national institution, the bank could increase capital stock to give old patrons the chance to purchase shares, according to an April newspaper report.



Today the original building front is unrecognizable due to renovations.

An interesting side fact: The bank was robbed on July 30, 1921 when a "bandit" held up the bank at noon and went away with \$1,700.

The American National Bank would continue until a government moratorium on March 2, 1933 suspended operations of the nation's banks, and was not allowed to reopen.

Housed in a brownstone building in downtown Marshfield, today the building with its large arched window (see above) is unrecognizable due to renovations that took place in the late 1940s to transform the exterior.

A distinctive decorative feature includes cast aluminum panels on the second floor made in the 30's expressionistic sculpture style. These panels artistically feature activities important to the local economy: farming, logging, dairy, and industry. However, some historians speculate that the panels depicting "Citizens" of Marshfield and the surrounding area would be more likely to date the renovations from that period than from the late 1940s.



1940 Marshfield downtown...the east side of Central Avenue, looking South.
(Photo courtesy of North Wood County Historical Society).

Jan Thomas Remembers: High School Graduation 1949

It was June 6, 1949 the day I graduated from the Marshfield Senior High School. 172 graduates gathered on a Monday night at 7 p.m. at the Purdy Junior High School auditorium.



Graduation Day for the class of 1949

We received our diplomas from our principal, Mr. Burnkrant, and some of the school board members. I graduated with honors. We received a gold "M" pin - I still have three of them in my jewelry box of treasures.

It's funny how you remember certain things of your life. I remember we marched in to the traditional song "Pomp and Circumstance" and wore black cap and gowns. I wore a white dress under mine. After graduation on Monday night, we had a get-together at the Paris Avenue Nite Club in Stratford, which is now the Buck-A-Neer Supper Club. They had a section of the club for 18 year-olds.

On the Sunday before, on the eve of graduation, we also had a baccalaureate service at the Purdy auditorium with Rev. A. Krueger officiating. We wore caps and gowns and marched in to the traditional song. The mixed chorus, of which I was a member, sang two beautiful Christian songs, one of which was "Beautiful Savior."

All of my relatives came from Marshfield, Wausau, and my Godmother, her husband, and cousin Dorothy came from Milwaukee. My maternal grandfather came too. My mother, dad, and brothers had a nice party for me at my parent's home on 14th Street and Cedar Ave. It really was a happy occasion.

I loved school and enjoyed every year of it, especially my senior year. I was active in the Marshfield Senior High band and played the alto saxophone. Mr. Lockeland was our director.

I was also active in the forensics program. Miss Janet Joosten was our advisor and our English teacher. One year I did a humorous declaration named "Sweet Sixteen." I won a first and went onto state, where I also won a first, which was a real honor for my school team and for me also.

Most of my classmates are deceased now, but we have a luncheon for the "49ers" every first Thursday of the month. Six or seven of us are still around. Through the years and ever since our 5th year out of school, we have had a class reunion, mostly every 5 years. I was on every reunion committee.

Our last "big" one was in 2014, our 65th reunion at the Hotel Marshfield. We had a nice group of classmates and some spouses. It was a great weekend of remembering and bonding again! I still remember it well.



Jan Thomas 1949
Senior Year

(continued on next page)

It is now 70 years since we graduated in 1949. It has given me 70 years of memories. The "49ers" will always be special to me. Life has been good.

Happy 70th, Class of '49.

Jan Thomas



Class of 1949

Donald F. Baierl	Jeanne J. Graff	Donald W. Leibelt	Ray B. Seefeldt
Marian L. Baierl	Mary Jane Grall	William H. Leonard	Donald D. Seidl
Suzanne J. Barnes	Patricia Mary Gravitter	Florence A. Link	James A. Seidl
Florence M. Becker	Esther C. Grottke	James D. Lube	Richard K. Sell
Roma Ann Beining	Rose Marie Guckenberger	LeRoy B. Martin	Lucille M. Sersch
Elly L. Beyer	Betty J. Guldán	Edward W. Maurer	John Seymour
Louise Ann Bilgrien	Vern Kenneth Hansen	William J. Mechler Jr.	Raymond A. Sommers
Barbara J. Bitzer	James E. Hardinger	Donald J. Merkel	Charles H. Specht
Joan M. Blenker	John R. Harder	Joan Catherine Merkel	Lois J. Spencer
Lawrence W. Bluhm	Anthony P. Hastreiter	Ruth A. Merkel	David J. Stadler
Gerald E. Boehning	Beryl J. Hayden	Shirley Mae Milleville	Joseph R. Stadler
Lyle A. Brademann	Joan Vivian Heckel	Margery Lou Montag	Margaret E. Stauber
Karl M. Brerelm	Robert L. Heil	Patricia Dawn Nelson	Cydelle Ann Stecker
Iris Ann Budtke	Darlene M. Heinrich	Russell B. Nelson	Thomas Frank
Margaret L. Cattarach	Anita A. Heintz	Arlene A. Niehaus	Stockheimer
Jerome C. Coaty	Gerald Heiting	Jeanine E. Oertel	Phyllis E. Strohman
John A. Copp	Joan M. Heiting	Shubel Hudson Owen	Donald K. Sullivan
Charles Covi Jr.	Anita R. Heller	Helen Marie Paasch	Walter C. Tiry
Duane Cummings	Gloria Mae Hestekind	James E. Paasch	Wayne L. Tomföhrde
Richard G. Decker	Jeanette L. Holubets	LaVerne S. Paulin	Dale E. Tremmel
Patricia Derge	Grace Joan Hood	Jeanette M. Perko	James A. Treutel
Janine Marie Dickerson	Robert W. Huebner	Dolores M. Peterson	Lois Ann Treutel
Lavern J. Dishinger	Patricia Anne Hughes	Mary Pauline Pflum	Ellen Mae Trierweiler
Harvey Duerr	John James Irvine	Alberta Betty Pilsner	Lois Jane Tuttle
Colleen Dumas	Harold Charles Jaeckel	Charlotte Pinion	Norman E. Wagner
Elizabeth Anne Dutton	Robert K. Jamison	Mary Lou Plath	Barbara Weber
Audrey Jane Earl	Charles S. Jenks	Dolores Polasek	Herbert C. Weber Jr.
Lucille E. Eberhardy	Elaine B. Kangas	Margeory Ann Prust	Bernice I. Wegner
Mary Jane Eckes	Jo Ann Kerske	Neil L. Rasmussen	Jeanette C. Weigel
Marv R. Fass	John A. Kleinheinz	Roger B. Rasmussen	Barbara E. Weinert
Darlene R. Feher	Arvin L. Kleinschmidt	Joseph F. Reigel	Beverly M. Weis
Marguerite L. Felker	Betty Joanne Klemme	Eugene F. Rendmeister	Clara Lou Welch
Mary Rose Fellenz	DuWayne R. Knapp	Howard L. Rice Jr.	James Wengel
Bonnie Lou Foltz	Joanne L. Kobs	James W. Roehrborn	Rodney D. Wenzel
Bernice L. Froeba	James J. Koch	Irwin L. Rusch	John G. Wendt
Audrey Fyksen	Bernice M. Kohlbeck	A. Marion Ruter	Glen L. Wickersham
Carol A. Genelt	Jeanine A. Kolbeck	Gerald E. Schalow	Donald F. Wieland
Viorene I. Gepner	Cecelia M. Konitzer	Alfred L. Schlecht	Darlene M. Wilkens
Carol J. Gersbach	Angeline Konopa	Arlene Margaret Schmidt	Carol J. Wink
Audrey Gaes	Grace E. Kraemer	Jean D. Schrage	William Wohlfahrt Jr.
Robert W. Goldbach	Keith A. Krenz	Geraldine C. Schreiner	Ermaline E. Zahn
	Lois Ann Krueger	Lavern Schuld	Shirley Zellner
	Henry J. Kurz	Erma D. Schumacher	Norbert H. Zettler
	William Lauer	Anthony H. Schuster	William R. Zinthefer

Spoken History Series

Those interested in learning more about the area's rich history are invited to attend a monthly lecture series called "Spoken History," at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library.

The series is a collaboration of area groups dedicated to the region's history:

- North Wood County Historical Society

- Marshfield Historic Preservation Association
- The City of Marshfield Historic Preservation Committee
- Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library
- Marshfield Area Genealogy Group

By offering a monthly lecture at a predictable time and location, it will encourage those interested to plan for these outings – maybe a weeknight getaway, a monthly date night or just an educational outing.

2019 Schedule (Subject to Change)

Upcoming Spoken History Lectures

All lectures are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library-Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room, unless otherwise noted.

November 4

Sponsor: City of Marshfield Historic Preservation Committee

"City of Marshfield's New Historic Buildings Driving Brochure" - Vickie Schnitzler, Chair of Historic Preservation Committee.

December 2

Sponsor: Historic Preservation Association

"Pioneer Marshfield Architect and Contractor, Hans Bille" - Shirley Mook, President of the Marshfield Historic Preservation Association.

For Past Spoken History Series - Search

Youtube.com: NWCHSGovUphamHouse

May 6

Sponsor: NWC Historical Society

"History of Wood County Parks" - Chad Schooley, Director of Wood County Parks & Forestry.

June 2

Sponsor: Historic Preservation Association

"History of the Adler Bakery Company" - TBA.

September 9

Sponsor: NWC Historical Society

"History of Marshfield's Schools" - Mike Meyers, Board member, North Wood County Historical Society.

October 7

Sponsor: Marshfield Area Genealogy Group

"Central Wisconsin Homesteaders" - Don Schnitzler, member of Marshfield Area Genealogy Group.

Something New!!

NWCHS "Spoken History" lecture series now has a presence on *YouTube*.

We hope that you will join us the first Monday of each month, at 6:30 pm in the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library's Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room as the presentations are given. If that day or time doesn't fit your schedule though, you may view the presentation by visiting the North Wood County Historical Society's Youtube channel. To reach the channel, open YouTube and search for "NWCHS GovUphamHouse," (note NO spaces between Gov Upham or House) or visit :

url:<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyMsPsMSfTIKJEjUJ4KE6Kw>

The 2019 presentations for January through May are available for viewing now. Several presentations, but not all, from the 2018 series are available too. Digital recordings are being added within a few weeks of their original presentation. Subscribers to the channel receive notifications as additional videos are uploaded to the channel.



Thanks to the Marshfield Clinic Print Shop, we are now able to send all our newsletters in color. They have graciously agreed to print our quarterly newsletter as a donation to the Historical Society.

A few interviews from a man from Arpin - December 23, 1903

Editor News: Not very long ago I had occasion to visit Marshfield and it gave me much pleasure while there to have had interviews with a number of your leading businesspersons. I am not in the habit of repeating these interviews to the public through the newspapers but I think I will break the rule in this instance, asking in advance forgiveness of those whose names I mention. My inquiry in every instance was "what would you like for a Christmas present?" Here are all the answers.

C. S. Sheerin: If you please, I'll take a return trip ticket back to childhood

I. P. Tiffault: As it's just as easy to sing to two babies as one, you can bring me another.

J. C. Marsh: If not too much bother, give Lanny Graves and I the joint ownership of a game preserve.

J. C. Hayward: Well, as I was going to say Santa, it might be well to pass me up. The Bible says it's more blessed to give than receive and I sometimes agree with the Bible.

Geo. H. Reynolds: I want to be steered clear of any more real estate associations that won't associate, and if it's not out of your line, Santa, look about and see what you can offer Marshfield in the way of a canning factory.

W. H. Upham: I am past the days of candy and popcorn balls but if you can give me an idea where the La Follette crowd are going to get off at in the next election, that will do. My stocking hangs to the right of the chimney.

Fred Vollmar: I'd like to be president of the Wisconsin Central railroad long enough to build a new depot at Marshfield.

John Brackendorf: I don't want anything now, but if it pleases God, I want next summer's crop of mosquitoes turned into mallard ducks.

From The Marshfield News, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 24 Dec 1903.

Attention Members and Volunteers

We need your continued support as members and volunteers. Dues are payable at the first of the year. Your active individual, family or business membership allows us to keep our programs going and we want to count you as an active member. Please consider bringing you 2020 dues to our Annual meeting on November 25, along with the membership application below.



NORTH WOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Membership and Donation Form

212 WEST THIRD STREET, P.O. BOX 142
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN 54449

Phone: (715) 387-3322 E-mail: nwchs@uphammansion.com Web Site: www.uphammansion.com

Preserving North Wood County history since 1952

Please make checks payable to NWCHS. Send to: NWCHS P.O. Box 142, Marshfield, WI 54449

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Acknowledgement of donations will be emailed for those who provide an email address.

End of year receipts for all donations will be mailed out in January the subsequent year.

I/We wish to support the NWCHS –Governor W.H. Upham House for the year 20__

☐ Individual \$35 ☐ Student \$10 (High School & College) ☐ General Gift \$ _____

☐ Family \$50 ☐ Business \$100 ☐ House Restoration \$ _____

Upham Mansion Open House *December 6-8, 2019*

“A Candlelight Christmas”

Flickering candlelight, twinkling holiday lights and the soft glow of luminaries will be featured throughout the house and yard.

Events

Friday, December 6 • 5 – 9 pm


Saturday, December 7 • 1 – 4 pm

Sunday, December 8 • 1 – 4 pm

Note: In addition to the above events, the Candlelight exhibit will be available for viewing through January 2020.

If you have vintage Christmas Candlelight decorations you would be willing to loan for this display, please let Kim in the office know. 715-387-3322 or nwchs@uphammansion.com.





North Wood County Historical Society
PO Box 142 (Mailing Address)
212 W. Third St.
Marshfield, WI 54449

Save the Date



Holiday Potluck & Annual Meeting **Monday, November 25 at 6:30 pm - Upham House**

The Board of Directors will bring main entrees, so please bring a side dish or a dessert.

(Watch your mail for more details)

