

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

North Wood Country Historical Society

# Mansion Newsletter

Marshfield, Wisconsin

January 2019

## From the President

Dear members and friends,

With this issue of the Mansion Newsletter, I want to first extend my appreciation to recently retired board members, Jan Thomas, Tom Ptak and Tom Stram. Each through their efforts have contributed to the success of society events and the care and maintenance of the Upham home and yard. We depend on dedicated and active board members like these three to accomplish society goals, and we are fortunate to have them continue on as volunteers with the society.



Don Schnitzler



We were likewise fortunate to have elected talented individuals to fill the vacant board positions, as well as for the new board positions created during our recent annual meeting. New board members, JoAnn Gougeon, Kaylin Speth, Andrea Jackan, Nancy Sternweis and Sean Stonham each bring unique skills, expertise and connections to help us preserve and share our local history.

One way of sharing the community history is through annual historic preservation month activities. At the Upham home that means hundreds of third grade school students, their teachers and chaperones, visiting the house to learn about Governor Upham, his family and their role in Marshfield history. In addition to hosting activities here at the house, the society collaborates with the Marshfield Historic Preservation Association, the Marshfield Historic Preservation Committee, the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group and the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library to plan and host a month-long list of other historical events celebrating our community's rich history. The schedule has not yet been finalized, but watch for details on the NWCHS website and Facebook page.

Another collaborative effort gives us the Spoken History lecture series. Focused on sharing a broad range of historical topics each collaborator arranges for presentations of likely interest within the community. Held on the first Monday of each month at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library Spoken History provides a variety of learning and outreach opportunities that are accessible to multiple audiences. I hope you will join us each month, but if you miss one of these presentations, you will soon be able to view them on our NWCHS YouTube channel.

While we will explore other opportunities to "share the load" and broaden our outreach in the community, we look forward to important annual events. First and foremost, and fast approaching, is the annual Pie and Ice Cream Social on Saturday, June 1 here at the Upham Home. Always a fun-filled day, I hope that you join us to tour the Upham House, enjoy the live music and of course enjoy lunch with pie and ice cream for dessert after the Dairyfest Parade.

After this February's record snowfall, I'm certain we all look forward to the vanishing snow, green grass and spring. Our historical society members know that the Upham House is a special place in the community. I look forward to seeing you here soon.

*Don "Schnitz"*

## Board of Directors

**President** - Don Schnitzler  
**Vice President** - Jerin Turner  
**Secretary** - Diane Wolf  
**Treasurer** - Laura Ptak  
**Past President** - Brad Allen

### Directors

Andrea Jackan  
Mike Meyers  
Kim Krueger  
Kaylin Speth  
Nancy Sternweis  
Sean Stonham  
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

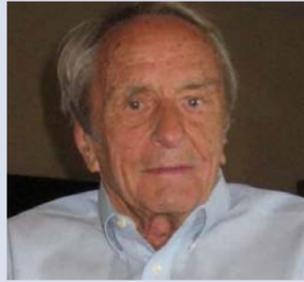
### Office Hours

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](mailto:nwchs@uphammansion.com)  
Web - <http://uphammansion.com>

## Last living son of Governor William H. Upham dies at 97

- SON OF CIVIL WAR VETERAN HAD IMPORTANT LOCAL TIES



Frederick M. Upham, the last remaining child of former governor William H. Upham died Dec. 30 in Fort Collins, CO, at the age of 97.



He married his wife Jean, in 1945 in Oakland, CA



Upham was featured in a 2014 issue of National Geographic, as one of the last remaining children of a Civil War veteran.

MARSHFIELD – A man with significant ties to Marshfield’s early history has passed away at age 97.

“It is with great sadness that we learned of Fritz Upham’s passing, surrounded by family, on Dec. 30th, in Fort Collins, Colorado,” the North Wood County Historical Society stated this week. Fritz was born May 19, 1921 to William H. Upham and Grace Upham, the governor’s second wife. Since the mid ‘70s, the historical society has preserved the Upham Mansion on 3rd Street in Marshfield. Frederick “Fritz” Upham was the last living son of the late Wisconsin Governor William H. Upham, who died in 1924. The family held a small memorial service Wednesday, January 2nd.

The former governor was integral to Marshfield’s growth as a businessman in the lumber industry and helped rebuild the city after the Great Fire of 1887. He was also a Civil War veteran who was injured in the First Battle of Bull Run, captured by Confederate forces, and later released in a prisoner exchange before getting introduced to President Abraham Lincoln. He died in 1924.

A 1940 graduate of Marshfield Senior High, Fritz Upham briefly attended UW-Madison before moving to Colorado to work a variety of jobs. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, he enlisted in the Navy Air Corps but was prevented from joining due to poor eyesight. Though he attempted to remedy this by drinking carrot juice for two months, a second attempt to join two months later was unsuccessful.

Fritz was later placed in the Civilian Pilot Training Program and was a flight instructor from 1943-44 in Lansing, Michigan. He was discharged in 1944 from the Air Corps and drafted into the Navy, specializing in meteorology.

He married his wife Jean, who he had known from Marshfield, in 1945 in Oakland, CA. They returned to Wisconsin at the end of WWII. Under the GI Bill, Fritz was able to enroll again at the University of Wisconsin and graduated in 1951 with a BS in Bacteriology and Geology.

The family lived in a variety of places, including Casper, WY, Denver, and ultimately Fort Collins in 1996. Fritz did field work at well sites and worked in the oil and gas industry as a consultant.

Fritz is preceded in death by his wife Jean (Krueger). Survivors include his children Pam and Walt Evans, Rick and Mary Jo Upham, Tim Upham, and Amy and Peter Pryharski; his grandchildren Todd, Chrissy, Jessica, Allie, and Petey; great-grandchildren Will, Gabby, Bella, Cameron, Mason, Logan, and Griffin.

[www.infocus.news](http://www.infocus.news)

## St. John the Baptist Catholic Church creates tribute to St. Joseph’s Hospital foundress

(Story from Hub City Times - Feb. 18, 2019)

MARSHFIELD – St. John the Baptist Catholic Church recently completed the construction of the Mother Frances Streitel Center and John Paul II Adoration Chapel. Located in the undercroft, or lower level of the church, the project is the culmination of months of planning and labor.

Mother Frances Streitel was the founder of the SSM (Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother), who came from Germany to Marshfield in 1890 at the request of the bishop of La Crosse to establish a hospital. The population of the area was primarily lumberjacks and their families at that time.



**Father Samuel Martin completes the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the St. John Paul II Adoration Chapel on Feb. 1.**

(Submitted photo)

well as those who worked there.

The Sisters faced many difficulties initially and sold \$5 insurance coupons in the lumber camps for a year of free medical care. As time went on, St. Joseph’s Hospital became one of the premier hospitals in Wisconsin, and affiliated with Marshfield Clinic. St. Joseph’s was sold to Marshfield Clinic in 2017.

The Mother Streitel Center was completed in memory and celebration of the many women religious of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother who staffed the hospital, cared for area families, and taught many young women who followed in their footsteps as graduates of the School of Nursing. The center incorporates stained glass windows and statuary which graced the chapel and halls of the hospital. The center will remain as a tribute to these intrepid women, the SSM and all of those residents of this city and the surrounding areas who came to St. Joseph’s Hospital for their health care, as

Pope John Paul II was admired by people of all faiths and persuasions. He was known in Catholic circles to have great love for the Blessed Sacrament. Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began in 2007, has been ongoing in Marshfield since 2012, and is credited by many as the answer to prayer. Although housed in the past by several different area Catholic churches, a permanent home was found at St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish.

The efforts of many St. John parishioners and Marshfield residents were instrumental in facilitating the project.



On Aug. 3, 1890 Mother M. Frances Streitel, Foundress of the Community of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, approves building a new hospital in Marshfield, Wis. That fall, construction began on the new 3,200 square-foot hospital building. (Submitted Photo)



Six SSM Sisters arrive in Marshfield and begin their charitable work out of a rented home on North Central Avenue, as construction of the new hospital was behind schedule. The home was later moved to its present location at 313 East Blodgett Street.



Saint Joseph’s Hospital is completed at a cost of \$12,000. The Sisters take up residence in the basement of the unfinished building. On February 12, 1891 six more Sisters arrive to care for Marshfield’s residents. The original proposed location of the hospital was what is now known as Columbia Park.

Sidebar photos and information from St. Joseph’s Hospital archives.

## Did You Know?

There are conflicting views on how Marshfield got its name. One opinion is that it was named for John J. Marsh, New York City, nephew of Samuel, one of the original proprietors of the town site. But the better guess is that included in a history of the Wisconsin Central, which states that it was named for Marshfield, Mass. Lending credence to the latter version is the fact the other communities along the railroad have Massachusetts community names such as Auburndale, Waltham (original name for Spencer), Dorchester, Medford and Chelsea

The first school was started in the summer of 1873 with Clara Davis being one of the first teachers. In 1874, Jerry Couture built the first frame house in the village on South Depot Street, and by 1875 Marshfield had 22 frame buildings.

The first newspaper was the Marshfield Times, started in 1879. On June 27, 1887, the City of Marshfield was nearly destroyed by a fire that started in the lumberyards of the Upham Manufacturing Co. Marshfield's first electric plant switched on Dec. 30, 1885. Fire hydrants were installed on Central Avenue as early as June 1883 – from Upham mill pond.

## How times have changed



Men clearing the streets by the *Montreal Hotel and Cafe* (731 S. Central Avenue) which became the *Downtowner* in December 1959. (NWCHS Archives N113.10)



Marshfield city street crews clear snow in February 2019 from Central Avenue following a snow storm that left the community with more than 12 inches of snow. Due to great technology of the past 60 years, the job has been made much easier!

- Photo contributed by Tom Loucks - City of Marshfield

A rare piece of Marshfield medical history is now preserved.

## IRON LUNG DELIVERED TO MARSHFIELD MUSEUM

Marshfield Museum is the new home of a 7 foot, 800 pound iron lung, hauled down 18 steps of stairs to its permanent place in the basement of the 2nd Street Community Center.

Used to treat patients with respiratory difficulties, particularly polio, the iron lung had its place in local history at St. Joseph's Hospital. The Marshfield Museum plans to detail the history of the disease and its treatment.

"We'll have a whole history about polio and the iron lungs, because people don't know what polio was, and they don't know what an iron lung was!" said Shirley Mook.

The iron lung's arrival was detailed in a newspaper report dated July 29, 1949, which stated the equipment was rushed from Boston via the Wood County chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to the polio isolation ward at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

When the Hospital had no more use for iron lungs, the one now in possession of the museum was stored at the old Marshfield Brewery property which the Hospital owned. The building was scheduled to be demolished in 1981, and the iron lung was discovered when the abandoned building was being cleared. Margaret Peterson, the Hospital's public relations director was contacted, who in turn connected with the North Wood County Historical Society to secure a new home for it.

The iron lung was taken to and stored in the garage at Upham Mansion, where it remained until January 9, 2019 when Nikolai Construction picked it up and prepped it for carrying it down the stairs.

The Marshfield Museum plans to restore the piece before making it available for viewing. Meanwhile, the rest of the museum can be seen for free on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:30-4 p.m.

Story and photos contributed by [www.infocus.news](http://www.infocus.news)



This iron lung was delivered in 1949 to the polio isolation ward at St. Joseph's Hospital



A photographer's view of the inside of the iron lung.



Thanks to the efforts of Nikolai Construction the Marshfield Museum is the new home of a 7 foot long, 800 pound iron lung, hauled down 18 steps of stairs to its permanent place in the basement of the 2nd Street Community Center.

## 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.

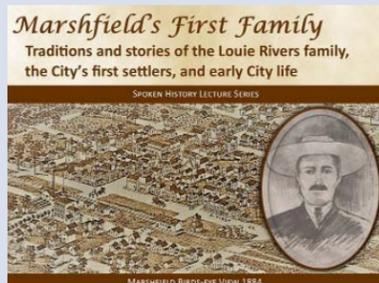
The series is a collaboration of area groups dedicated to the region's history:

- 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 week night getaway, a monthly date night or just an educational outing."

## January Presentation

Sponsor:  
Marshfield Area Genealogy Group



Speaker:  
Don Schnitzler

The talk covered Louie Rivers' legendary life filled with adventure, romance and financial success, followed by the self-indulgent behaviors that left him penniless, friendless, and imprisoned at the county poor farm. It then follows his disappearance from the poor farm one night in 1886, to a new life in Nebraska as a homesteader.

## 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.

#### March 4

Sponsor: Marshfield Public Library Foundation

*"Fill'er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations"* James Drager, Wisconsin Historical Society Press author and State Historic Preservation Officer at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

#### April 1

Sponsor: Historic Preservation Committee

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

#### May 6

Sponsor: North Wood County 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.

#### July 1

Sponsor: North Wood County Historical Society

*"Marshfield's Rollohome Corporation Through Pictures"* - TBA.

#### August 5

Sponsor: Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library

*"Risking Everything and Freedom Summer"* - Michael Edmonds, Writer and public historian, former Director of Programs at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

#### September 9

Sponsor: North Wood County 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, Using their Land Entry Case File of local and family history."* - Don Schnitzler, member of Marshfield Area Genealogy Group.

#### November 4

Sponsor: 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

*"The New Marshfield Heritage Museum"* - TBA.



## 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.uphamansion.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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial—In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All memorials will count as General gifts unless otherwise designated:

I/We also wish to contribute by helping with one or more of the following:

- Bake cookies/pies for Dairyfest, Christmas Event
- Guide at Upham House- occasional Saturday afternoons (We will train you!)
- Garden and yard care - seasonal work
- Help with Special Events - Dairyfest, Hub City Days– Carriage Exhibit, Christmas Open House
- Identify and Classify Photographs - meet one Saturday afternoon a month
- Artifact Care & Accessioning - Wednesday or Saturday afternoons
- School Partner - work with projects with Education Liaison and students at Upham Mansion
- Research Exhibits - develop exhibit material and historical data for the Exhibit Committee
- Help Design Exhibits - layout and display of artifacts with the Exhibit Committee
- Sponsor an Exhibit - ideal for businesses, groups of members, families
- Sponsor an Event - ideal for businesses, groups of members, families
- Speakers or Topic for "Spoken History" lecture series
- Take a Leadership role- Board, Committee Member, Publicity, Fundraiser

The North Wood County Historical Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax deductible.