

# MANSION NEWS

## Marshfield Woman's Club

### 1st Row L-R

Mrs. James Vedder Sr.

Mrs. Fred Kamps

Mrs. George Huntzicker



(Undated photo)

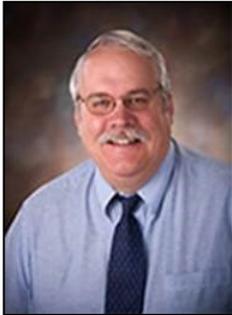
### Back Row L-R

Mrs. Lloyd Felker

Mrs. Wilbur Johnson

Dr. Elizabeth Baldwin

Miss Selma Bartmau



## From the President

Hi All!

I want to thank the membership for electing me president of the NWCHS in January. I am humbled by your vote of confidence and I only hope I can live up to your expectations.

I have been interested in local history, and especially Governor Upham and the Governor's Mansion since at least 1967 when the city celebrated its "Four Score" anniversary commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great fire. I was only 13 at the time, and made it a point to join others at 6:30 AM one morning for a flag raising ceremony on the old wooden flagpole out front. I remember retracing the path of the fire from information I found at the library. I was hooked and it has not let up over all these years. I authored a biography of William Henry Upham in freshman English class (the extra credit helped me pass that class). I would drag a huge tape recorder to the basement of the library and read newspaper articles from film of old newspapers and take it home to transcribe it.

I especially remember walking from our house on West 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the library at night to research more local history, and my walk always took me past the huge white Upham mansion. I stood for long periods of time just staring at the house, imagining the history that took place there over all the years. I wondered what it was like inside. Imagine my pure delight one day when the NWCHS purchased the mansion and opened it to the public, and I was able to actually walk up to the huge wooden doors and stand at the base of the stairway to the second floor.

I still catch my breath each time I walk into the Governor's mansion. I would hope each of you feel the same excitement. If not, just stand in front of those huge wooden doors and reflect for a moment. What we do today to keep that spirit alive will assure that newer generations have a chance to relate to our area history. I like to say: We can't know where we're going, until we know where we've been.

I realize that each person has their own particular interest in local history. That is evident by the several committees in our organization. Some want to display items for others to enjoy; some are interested in archives; some enjoy giving tours; some enjoy the pie and ice cream social; some work with the landscaping, especially the roses.

Besides these, there are several priorities I want to share with you. I hope to work towards developing a plan to maintain the mansion, first knowing what needs to get done and then planning when it will get done. We need to be proactive, fixing what needs to be fixed - not reactive, and performing emergency fixes. This leads to raising the money and establishing a fund dedicated to just the maintenance of the mansion. We need to get the community to appreciate the significance of this building enough that they want to contribute towards its preservation. Nothing else we want to do as an organization can happen if we don't have this building!

Obviously there are several organizations in Marshfield who appreciate history as much as we do. I hope to continue to build a cooperative and sharing relationship with each of them, knowing we all serve our own purpose, but really have many the same interests.

There are other ideas I will present as time goes on. Not the least of which include continuing to increasing the awareness of the NWCHS in north Wood County and Marshfield, and increase our membership. Many hands make a job easier, and with more members, we can accomplish more.

-Mike Meyers

## Jan Thomas Remembers

In a previous newsletter I wrote about my Aunt Florence's recipe for Gingersnap Gravy that Uncle Herman received from the Baumann's Salon owners. My Aunt Florence and her husband, Herman Gandt, (my Mother's brother), lived on West Cleveland street one block from the old Marshfield Brewery. They later moved to West McMillan street and owned two houses where the entrance to Prairie Run is now.

In this column I'd like to tell you about Auntie Florence's life-style, she was a very feisty lady!

Florence cut men and boy's hair in her home. Remember, this was a long time ago. She was born in 1900 and lived to the age of 95. Auntie Florence loved cutting hair but she was not a licensed barber. The barbers in Marshfield caught wind of her hair-cutting hobby and were not happy with her. They were probably jealous. You see, she had lots of customers and she did not charge any money for the haircuts. The men and boys would put a few coins on her kitchen table and she was happy with this arrangement.

The barbers spied on her and sent a decoy to her home for a haircut. The barbers reported Auntie Florence to the authorities who then gave her a warning to stop cutting hair. After several warnings she was arrested! The judge said to her, "Mrs., Gandt, you are a habitual offender. You will be fined (x number of ) dollars or spend thirty days in jail." Guess what? She took the 30 days in jail!

Auntie Florence took her barber tools along to the jail and while she was there she cut all the prisoner's hair as well as the jail attendant's. I was only 10 or 11 years old when this happened. I remember going to the Wisconsin Rapids, Wood County jail to visit her. Not every young girl can say they went to a jail house to visit their Aunt! Well, as I said before, Auntie Florence was a very feisty lady!

### **Upcoming NWCHS General Meeting**

6:30pm @ the Governor WH Upham House  
212 W. 3rd Street

**Monday April 27th** Reverend **Janet Wolfe** will talk to the North Wood County Historical Society about her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement 50 years ago.

**PLEASE NOTE: General meetings will now be quarterly—  
January, April, July and October.**

## May—Historic Preservation Month

*"Come Home to Marshfield"*

**Thursday, May 7—6:00 p.m.**

Mayor's Proclamation & Tours of Laird Office and Historical Collections. Froehke Conference Room, Melvin R. Laird Building, Marshfield Clinic 1000 N. Oak Avenue

**Monday, May 11—7:00 pm**

*"Marshfield Police Memorial Service"* Location TBA

**Friday, May 22—8:30 - 11:00 am and 12:00 - 2:30 pm**

Cemetery Tours Hillside Cemetery Entrance 1110 N. St. Joseph Avenue

**April 25 - May 28**

*"Marshfield: Past, Present and Future Exhibit"*

Marshfield Public Library 211 E. Second Street

Marshfield Middle School student artwork depicting Marshfield's historic downtown through various time lenses displayed.

**Saturday, June 6—9:30 am - noon**

*"Breaking Through Brick Walls for the Stumped Family Historian"* Marshfield Public Library 211 E. Second Street

The Marshfield Area Genealogy Group and the Marshfield Public Library bring together experienced volunteers with their collective research powers to assist you in breaking down, climbing over or working around your genealogy brick walls. This free family history workshop will guide you to the best sources for your search. Please register in advance by calling the library at 715-387-8494 extension 211.

***Keep watch for Historic Preservation Month posters for more details!***

*Marshfield Historic Preservation Month Events are coordinated by the City of Marshfield Historic Preservation Committee, Main Street Marshfield, the Marshfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group, the Marshfield Historic Preservation Association, the Marshfield Public Library, the North Wood County Historical Society, Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts, and the Laird Foundation For Historic Preservation*

## John Christner Historian Award

Thomas Ptak, member of the North Wood County Historical Society for the past twenty-five years, will receive the John Christner Historian Award at the Marshfield Historic Preservation Month opening ceremonies at City Hall. (Date/time to be determined)

The award was established by MainStreet Marshfield in 2004 in memory of John Christner, a Marshfield Historian. Tom will receive this award for his commitment to the North Wood County Historical Society, his efforts to promote and preserve the Governor William Upham House; his active participation in multiple historical organizations and events, and commitment and dedication to sharing the community history.

This spring Tom will be starting fundraising again for the exterior painting of the Governor Upham House.

**Recent Artifact Donations**



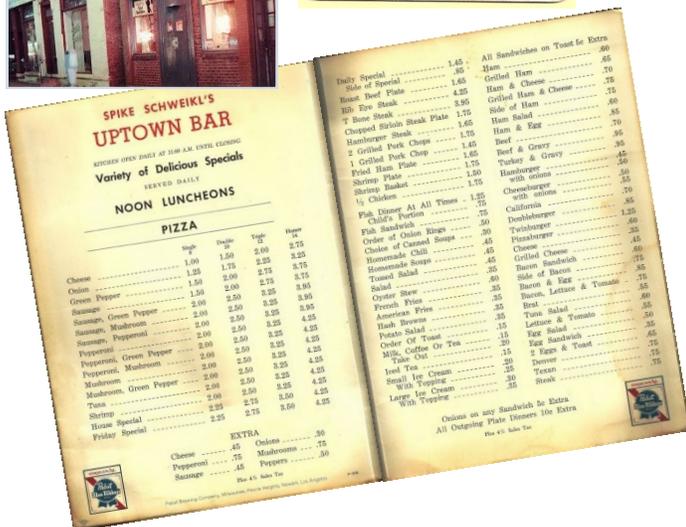
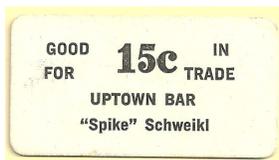
**Becky Canfield** donated the 1965, 1967, and 1968 programs for the Marshfield Jaycees “Miss Marshfield Pageant” which were held in the Columbus High School Auditorium.

Besides listing the photos and talents of respective contestants, the programs are loaded with names of businesses who helped sponsor the event.

**Scott and Jay Schweikl** donated images to our photo archive of their father, Leland ‘Spike’ Shweikl, and Spike’s Uptown Bar.



A **big thanks** to these folks for their contributions!



**Yard & Garden News** by Tom Ptak

Master Consulting Rosarian & Master Gardener



In past years we have heard numerous Marshfield residents wonder, “Where is the Upham Mansion?”. Even with directions it seemed people had a difficult time

locating the historic home. The main garden project for 2014 was the removal of very tall, over-grown, tree-like Mock Orange shrubs surrounding the Governor William Upham House. Shirley Person from the Master Gardeners mentioned the distraction to Tom Ptak and many North Wood County Historical Society members and Master Gardeners agreed something had to be done to create a better view from the street. It was decided the partially dead, wooded shrubs had to be removed. Schalow’s nursery was consulted and heavy equipment was utilized for removal. We gratefully thank Gordie Schalow for the free labor removing the heavily rooted tree-like shrubs. This job is completed and new lawn now covers the area where twenty-three shrubs existed. Research revealed that a hidden walkway that had been used from the rear entry to 3rd Street was created sometime in the fifties era. A gardener was hired at that time who probably presented the idea as a landscaped flagstone path bordered by fragrant mock orange. We found the stone path three inches below the lawn surface!

In order to maintain the historical significance this sensory shrub pathway should be replaced. Dwarf snow mock orange (philadelphus) will be planted in the spring by the Master Gardeners. There will be twelve fragrant spring shrubs which will only mature to 3 to 4 feet tall. Master Gardeners will also divide perennials and plant annuals prior to Dairyfest weekend.

The Heritage roses survived the past harsh winters and we will look forward to a colorful growing spring season. Yard cleanup day for NWCHS members will be Saturday May 23.

*If you have information, photos, or memorabilia about Marshfield’s past barbershops and would be interested in allowing us to use them for the summer exhibit, please leave a message for Kim: 715.387.3322.*

## Wolf's Grocery Store by Matt Pilz



Wolf's in the 1960s

Located at 713 East Doege Street—across the street from Madison Elementary School and a couple of blocks from Marshfield High School—Wolf's Grocery was a staple in the community for nearly six decades. Purchased by Art and Marge Wolf in 1955, the store remained in operation until December 19, 2013 when Marge elected to retire at 97. Initially, the store was just one of many family-owned corner stores speckled throughout the town. Even as the other corner stores shuttered and large chain stores moved in, Wolf's Grocery proved resilient to change.

While generations of neighborhood children knew the store best for its assortment of penny candies (later becoming two-cent candies), Wolf's Grocery boasted a full service shop with packed shelves and many specialty items. Along with traditional offerings, Art and Marge supplied fresh garden produce, dairy products, bread and baked goods, hand-processed meat, deli sandwiches and cheese trays. Many of the items arrived direct from local vendors including Parkin Place, Adler's Bakery, Marshfield Brewing Company and other outlets throughout the decades. For customers with limited mobility, the Wolfs would also hand-deliver orders with a smile, a trend they continued into the early-2000s.



1970s

Reflecting back on some of the specialty meat once offered at the store, Marge recalled to me in 2013: "I used to saw off everything [with this hand-saw]. Art wouldn't let me have an electric saw. The roasts and the pigs and the deer—one Sunday I had seven deer laying here that I cut up. Seven of

them!" On the subject of freshly ground hamburger, Marge recounted: "I would go down to the walk-in cooler and they were hanging there, so I would get a hunk of beef and bring it up here, and cut it. Did you ever see a cow, one that was butchered, just the meat on them? It was heavy!" An old price chart I uncovered during the store's final days offered another glimpse into the variety of meats once offered: chicken, bologna, ribeye, summer sausage, ham, hotdogs, cod, roast beef and turkey loaf, to name a few.

Marge made international headlines when she thwarted off a would-be robber in 2013, at 96 years old. In handling the occasional shoplifter, Marge described her unique punishment: "I make them get on their hands and knees and scrub the floor. They are never a problem after that. I have never had any parents complain either, instead I've had parents come in and thank me." Art and Marge remained forever fond of the store and the many generations of families that passed through it, with Marge stating upon retirement: "I would do it all over again if I could."

Art passed away on May 18, 2008; he was 95 years old. Marge passed away less than three months after closing the store on March 7, 2014; she was 97 years old. The building was purchased by a private party for \$65,000. What once housed the store is now being converted into an apartment to compliment the two apartments that exist on the second floor. Wolf's Grocery was the last of its kind in Marshfield.



Marge slicing meat 1970s



Marge slicing cheese 2013—using the same slicer

*[For additional pictures and discussion of Wolf's Grocery and other historic businesses in Marshfield and North Wood County, please join the public Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NWoodCoHistory/>]*

**YE OLDE TYME FUN!****Upham Mansion Pie & Ice Cream Social  
Saturday May 30th—10:00am-3:00pm**

Come One and All! Old time fun at the **Upham Mansion Pie & Ice Cream Social**. This event has something for everyone! For the young they can blow the town's biggest soap bubble, or try to win

at Upham Mill's "Roll-A-Log" game played with pretzels. Games of chance luck and skill bound! Try toss-a-cone, or perhaps color and draw while your folks eat pie and ice cream in support of the NWCHS! You can even meet some of the people from Marshfield's past!

See you there or history will pass you by! -Eric Nelson

Music by Mike Holubets

*The summer exhibit will feature Marshfield barbershop memorabilia*



Mary C. Upham

likely to ensue to the poorer families of Marshfield, and the great problem was how best to relieve it with the means at hand. Mrs. Upham called to her aid the Sister Superior of the Catholic hospital, and the two worked in conjunction, one among the Protestant and the other among the Catholic families of the city. It was found that the

children of many of the working people were likely to suffer for want of heavy winter clothing, many of them being kept away from school on that account. The two charity workers then went about quietly laying in a supply of clothing for the children, expending the entire \$3000 for that purpose.

Mrs. Upham did not even take her husband into her confidence and avoided making any of the purchases at the Upham store, distributing the money among the other merchants of the city.

Nothing could have been done that could have given greater pleasure to the suffering recipients and the mothers of the children who had been so well provided for blessed the kind woman who had been the means of furnishing them with the clothing they so badly needed."

The article goes on to say that this had not been the first time Mary Upham had helped to serve in relief work. In 1871 after the Peshtigo fire, which killed over 1000 and burned over 1.25 million acres, Mary worked in the relief effort in Door County.

Another little tidbit of information to explore!

*The North Wood County Historical Society has hundreds of original photos and documents that are available for research.*

*We are currently working on getting an index compiled to upload on our web page: [uphammansion.com](http://uphammansion.com)*

The **Marshfield History Center's** military display "**Lest We Forget**" is now located in the downstairs level of the Marshfield Public Library. Learn about the military efforts of Marshfield's men and women.

**Hours:**

Wednesday, Thursday, & Saturday 1:00-4:00 pm  
By appointment - 384-5867

**Found in the Archives**

by Kim Krueger

On March 13th I traveled down to Madison to spend a few hours in the State Historical Society Archives exploring a couple document boxes which contained Governor Upham's original Civil War military papers, letters, a biography, and scrapbooks of newspaper clippings loaded with information. I also found some interesting material about Mary Upham, the Governor's first wife. Over the past 4 years, the more I have learned about her, the more I have come to respect Mary Upham's integrity and tireless energy to help others.

The following excerpt is from a newspaper clipping in one of the scrapbooks. It is an overview of the Upham family dated August 4, 1894, just after Major Upham is nominated for Governor. Sadly, as most in most cases of clippings in scrapbooks, the name of the newspaper is missing.

*"In the great Marshfield fire Mrs. Upham was afforded opportunity to perform valiant service, and she embraced it to the full extent. She was in charge of the supply depot that was established for the relief of the sufferers, and the poor people will never forget her noble work in their behalf. After providing for the direct relief of the heads of families there was \$3000 left of the fund sent in from the outside, and the proper disposal of this surplus fell into the hands of Mrs. Upham. As the months wore away and cold weather approached it was found that much suffering was*

**North Wood County Historical Society—Upham Mansion**  
**PO Box 142**  
**Marshfield, WI 54449**



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**MARSHFIELD & NORTH WOOD COUNTY**  
**HISTORY**  
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[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/NWOODCOHISTORY/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/NWOODCOHISTORY/)

If you would like to be unsubscribed from this letter please contact the office or send us an email.

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<p><b>Coordinator</b> Kim Krueger</p> <p><b>Gift Shop</b> Mary Anne Arendt</p> <p><b>Exhibits</b> Chris Buchanan Dolly Kobs</p> <p><b>Master Consulting Rosarian</b> Tom Ptak</p> <p><b>Website Maintenance</b> Matt Pilz</p>	<p align="center"><b>Office Hours:</b>  <b>Wednesdays &amp; Thursdays 9:00am-1:00pm</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Tour Hours:</b>  <b>Wednesdays &amp; Saturdays 1:30-4:00pm</b>                  (Closed Holiday Weekends)</p> <p>Tel. 715-387-3322 Email: <a href="mailto:uphammansion@frontier.com">uphammansion@frontier.com</a></p> <p align="center"><b>Web: <a href="http://www.uphammansion.com">www.uphammansion.com</a></b></p> <p><b>Facebook Group:</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/NWoodCoHistory/">www.facebook.com/groups/NWoodCoHistory/</a></p>