

MANSION NEWS



Marshfield Clinic early 1950s

2016 is the
100 year anniversary for the
Marshfield Clinic
and the Round Barn



Round Barn circa early 1920s

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Uthmeier Mercantile & Aunt Emma's
Bed & Breakfast

Message From NWCHS President Mike Meyers

There are several interpretations to the, “there’s a **time** and **place** for everything”, especially as it pertains to our North Wood County Historical Society (NWCHS), and our Governor W. H. Upham Home.

Quite simply, **today** is the time for each of us to be aware of all the NWCHS has to offer the people in our area in terms of collecting items of historical significance pertaining to our past; **today** we have to recognize our responsibility to preserve those items and snippets for others in future years to use in reflecting on the 144 years Marshfield has been a point on the Wisconsin maps; and we need to continue to take every advantage we have **today** to educated kids and adults alike about the many names, places and events that have had an important impact on the development and progress of Marshfield through the years.

And most important, we need to spread the word **today** by telling our friends, our family and people we meet how exciting our relatively short local history is. Most people who are not familiar with our NWCHS and/or the Governor Upham House are quite surprised. And they find out in a variety of ways, through presentations; through visits to the Upham Mansion; from their little 3rd graders who study local history as part of the school curriculum; through this newsletter, our Facebook link or our website; and through the traditional media.

We need to continue **today** and each and every day to encourage people to get excited and get involved with all aspects of our local history. And we cannot restrict our membership drive to one period of time or to one method. The future of the North Wood County Historical Society and the Upham Mansion depends on the active members of our proud group.

Well, we certainly have the **place** with our ownership of the home of Governor William H. Upham, Civil War veteran, lumber baron, local industrialist, business magnate, local and state politician. This **place**, the mansion, is our pride and joy. Strangely, there are so many people who have never walked through the gigantic wood front door. There are so many more people to tell and invite to visit our **place**. And there are so many hidden corners being used to store all the many historical artifacts and resources, we might soon be pushed to secure additional space besides just this **place** to keep it all safe for others to enjoy.

One of the busiest times of the year for reflecting on local history is May History Month, as each historic group in the area combine to continue to educate others. I encourage everyone to participate in some small way.

Isn't it interesting that we spend so much time talking about our past? It's because we enjoy it! And there are people out there who we can share it with if they knew what we have to offer. Now is the **time**, and the Governor W.H. Upham home is the ideal **place** to make that all happen.

Seeking Round Barn Memorabilia

The Round Barn Centenary will be our featured mini-exhibit at the Governor Upham House this summer. If you have Round Barn memorabilia or early photos we could borrow for the exhibit please contact Kim at 715.387.3322 (leave a message) or uphammansion@frontier.com. We would like to have the display finished before the end of May so that it is ready for Dairy Fest and the Pie & Ice Cream Social on June 4th. Thank you!

Un-earthing Roddis Family Videos

Submitted by Matt Pilz

On January 30, 2011, in the very home where she was born and raised, Augusta D. Roddis passed away at age 94. A staple in the Marshfield community for nearly a century, Augusta was the last Marshfield-based descendant from the family that founded Roddis Lumber & Veneer Co. in 1897. Augusta was a lifetime member and founding director of the North Wood County Historical Society and the Marshfield History Project, and was heavily involved in many Marshfield initiatives through the decades especially in the realm of reading and education.



Augusta Roddis 1942

Soon after her passing, a two-day estate sale was held at her sprawling 5,500 square foot mansion on 1108 East 4th Street. Listed for sale were many of Augusta's home furnishings, clothing artifacts and collectibles. Due to other commitments, I was only able to stop by during the tail end of an afternoon, where a large amount of items had already been sold. I made my way up the rustic wooden steps to the second story, not expecting to find much left, but one room in particular appeared largely untouched.

Lining the floor of this room were tables and boxes full of dusty old VHS tapes; understandably these were not high ticket items given the advent of DVDs in the 1990s. The tapes were mostly store-bought and contained feature-length movies of decades past. Also in the mix were a few VCR recordings of televised specials including 1980s workout regimes, AMC films

and broadcast footage of the Royal Wedding from July 29, 1981.

As I continued sifting through these seemingly common tapes, one of them caught my eye. It had no label or markings but bore a sticker from "The Photo Mill," which was a small video and photo processing business on 135 S Central Ave in the 1980s. Intrigued, I began combing more carefully through the collection and was able to uncover several dozen more likewise-unlabeled tapes of this kind. Along the way, I also happened upon some more that had some writing on them, including one marked "Connor-Roddis Wedding."

With the estate sale quickly coming to a close, I realized the likelihood of all unsold tapes being discarded and lost forever. As such, I collected all of the tapes that were from The Photo Mill, unlabeled or otherwise marked in any uncertain manner—some 40-50 tapes in all—and purchased the entire lot for safe keeping, unaware of their contents or condition. I then set forth to document, restore and digitize all available footage; a process that I am still continuing to this day.

The contents of the tapes proved worthy of the investment. Included in the mix were film transfers from the 1929 Marshfield wedding of Mary Roddis and Gordon Connor, 1942 wedding of Ellen Sexton (with Augusta as a bridesmaid), over 3 hours of 1930s-1960s footage from the Roddis and Jones family including travels around the world and locally around Marshfield, a school board candidates' forum from 1989 featuring Augusta, and even a 1996 home tour of Augusta's home. As anticipated, much of the footage was in poor condition considering it originated from a 30+ year VHS transfers of the original 1930s film reels. However, I have been able to restore much of it to a perfectly viewable state using various technological enhancements.

Portions of the footage included some brief shots of downtown Marshfield more than 80

years ago. One depicts the corner of third and main street in December 1932, decorated with Christmas wreaths strung across the street in what some called "The Great White Way." Other footage includes the Roddis neighborhood and various downtown buildings, including what is believed to be the old Consumers Store (now St. Vincent de Paul). The footage is currently being worked on as part of a forthcoming **Henry Ford Museum** exhibit about Roddis.



Marshfield Christmas 1932



Consumers Store 1930s

An excerpt from the footage depicting Marshfield can be seen by searching Marshfield 1930s on YouTube.

Archive Files Index Completed!

Our faithful volunteer, Karen Thompsen, has spent the last year building an index of our Archive files and was able to finish them recently! Not only do we have the ability to quickly determine what categories are in the archive files, but also what kinds of items they contain. We hope to at some point have this on our website as well! THANK YOU

KAREN!

File Drawer	Title of File	# of items	Type of item	Notes
AFD 1.1	Beaudry, Bud	1	news article	13-Jun-02
AFD 1.1	Beell, Fred	11	7news art, 2 postcards, 2 posters	1972-2002
AFD 1.1	Beell Stadium	1	copy of news article	11/13/1941
AFD 1.1	Befrienders Program	1	news article	4/26/2002



NWCHS with the Marshfield Area Purple Angels

Submitted by Doug Seubert



Kim Krueger, NWCHS Coordinator, was the guest speaker at the Marshfield Area Purple Angels Memory Café on March 2, 2016. The memory café is a social event for individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia. Kim shared items from “Grandma’s Attic” including antique telephones, homemade soap, a scrub board, candle maker, doll, and a slate chalkboard. Everyone could



see and touch these items and talk about them as they were passed around, and anyone who had a story or memory to share related to these items was encouraged to share with the group. This was a wonderful “hands on” reminiscing activity for people experiencing dementia, bringing back memories and lots of smiles.

For more information on the Marshfield Purple Angels, Inc. go to <http://www.marshfieldpurpleangels.org> You may also contact Doug Seubert at 715-383-0897 or email him at doug@marshfieldpurpleangels.org.

2016 Cultural Fair



Brad Allen coaching folks to ‘keep the string tight!’

The exhibit for the Cultural Fair this year, held at the University of Wisconsin–Marshfield/Wood County on Feb.27th, was “Telecommunication History—from Semaphore to Cell Phone” and featured photos from the archives, a telegraph, loaned by Tom Ptak; and telephones dating from early 1900s to the modern cell phone. Four of the 20th Century phones were on loan from Chris and Al Buchanan. By far this was our most visited display in the 6 years we have been at the Fair! Everything in the display was ‘touchable’ and many stopped by to ring bells and turn dials. Brad Allen even made a tin can telephone which proved to be a huge hit. Many younger folks were not sure how to dial the rotary phone



This young man hung out with us for over 30 minutes!

and it was fun to watch parents interact with their kids as they showed them how it ‘worked’. We also asked adults the question **What year was it when you were 10 years old? What was your phone number?** Below are the answers people wrote down:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1940—310 W Marshfield | 1957—1725R Marshfield |
| 1942—Blue 608 Ripon, WI | 1958—2 long, 2 short Chili |
| 1948—956-W Marshfield | 1959—4F4 Colby |
| 1949— TR(Tremont)7544, Loves Park Ill | 1963—HE(Hemlock)435 Green Bay |
| 1951—367 Rural Lincoln Co. | 1967—2 rings, dash, 2 rings |
| 1952—604J Marshfield | 1975—7337 Janesville, WI |
| 1953—1 long, 2 short | 1978—255-8921 Loyal |
| 1955—LA(Lakeview)5749, Chicago | 1981—7-1503 Marshfield |



Exploring the different phones

Yellow River Ice

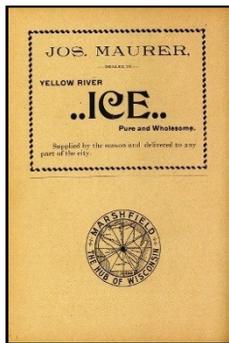
Contributed by Timothy G. Smith

My wife Sandy and I like to walk in the Weber Park area in the winter months. On our walks we kept going deeper in the woods south of Weber's Park, and with permission, we walked on land owned by the Marshfield Country Club. It was here we found an old abandoned dam.

Planks had been put between the cement pilasters to stem the flow of water on the Yellow River which formed a pond where ice was harvested in the winter for the city of Marshfield.

In the Marshfield History Book Volume #2 *Windows to Our Past*, it is stated that Peter Bever owned two ice houses in the city; and that a Marshfield Ice Co. owned by J.R.

Whittington sold ice in Marshfield between 1905 and 1950, (pg 300). On page 302 it says ice was harvested from the Upham and Hop ponds by McCrillis Co. and ice was taken from the Yellow River Pond by the Whittington Co.



In the 1898 city directory an ad was placed by Jos. Maurer selling "Yellow River Ice", "Pure and Whole-some".



When I was a young boy back in the mid 1950s I remember when the Ice Truck came to deliver ice to the neighbor. Some friends and I would climb up the back of the delivery truck and chop off small ice chunks, not realizing from where they came, and put them in our mouth to cool the hot July heat. Now as I recall this story I think of the fabled book "The Yellow River" by I.P. Daily...

Weber Park can be found at the end of West Fifth Street, Marshfield.

May—Historic Preservation Month Events

There is a lot happening in May!

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

Wednesday, May 4 Marshfield Public Library 211 E. Second Street **7:00 p.m.** (This will also be NWCHS's featured speakers) **Mayor's Proclamation, & Marshfield's "This Place Matters" Presentation**

Marshfield Mayor, Chris Meyer proclaims May as Historic Preservation Month in Marshfield followed with a presentation and discussion celebrating Marshfield's historic people and places that matter.

Saturday, May 7 Marshfield Public Library 211 E. Second Street **10:00 am - 3 pm**
"Family History 101"

An introduction to the tools and techniques of family history or genealogy sponsored by the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group and the Marshfield Public Library. Please register in advance by calling the library at 715-387-8494 extension 211.

April 25 - May 28 Marshfield Public Library 211 E. Second Street
"Marshfield: Past, Present and Future Exhibit"

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

Thursday, May 12 Artist Reception and Award Presentations Refreshments will be served. **5:30 - 7:00 pm**

Friday, May 27 Cemetery Tours Hillside Cemetery Entrance 1110 N. St. Joseph Avenue **8:30 - 11:00 am and 12:00 - 2:30 pm**
The public is invited to join school children as they tour the cemetery and meet noteworthy citizens of "Marshfield's Past."

North Wood County Historical Society 212 W. Third Street

Go back in time with a mini exhibit featuring **Central Wisconsin State Fair's Round Barn** and tour the Upham House.

Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 1:30 - 4:00 pm By appointment ~ 715-387-3322

Marshfield History Center Marshfield Public Library (downstairs) 211 E. Second Street

View the display **"Lest We Forget"** to learn about the military efforts of Marshfield's men and women.

Hours: Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Jan Thomas remembers

Uthmeier/Hintz Mercantile Store and Aunt Emma’s Bed & Breakfast

My mother was Louise Gandt Holubets and her parents were Robert and Louise Gandt, Sr.. They lived on a farm five miles east on Y (Becker Road) and 1 mile from County Trk T; one mile north of Hewitt. In 1931 I was born in this house.

My Mother’s Godmother and Aunt was Emma Uthmeier, (Grandpa Robert’s sister). Grandpa Robert and Aunt Emma were born in West Bend, WI and Aunt Emma moved to Marshfield when she married William Uthmeier. William partnered with Reinhold Hintz in the Uthmeier-Hintz Mercantile and also owned farms east of Marshfield and close to Richfield, WI. The Uthmeier/Hintz store (later owned by Hintz/Fehrenbach), was located just south the Consumer Store which is now the St. Vincent de Paul store. I think the store had a variety of tools, groceries—much sold in bulk, and small items for farm repair and accessories for everything you could think of—including hats which Aunt Emma made. In those days every lady wore a hat and Aunt Emma was a milliner who must have made many beautiful hats for many lovely ladies and girls. When farmers came to town there was a barn behind the store where the horses could be kept.

My Aunt Emma and Uncle William initially lived in the apartment above the Uthmeier store. In 1923, six years after Uncle William died, Emma bought the C.E. Blodgett house located across the street at 120 N. Central Ave.

Uncle Uthmeier died in 1917 at a fairly young age and Aunt Emma opened her home to roomers and boarders to make some extra income. It was like a bed & breakfast, but most of the people lived there temporarily as their home. One the roomers was lone Austin who worked at Jimmy’s Café. Lone would bring home gallon jars of soup, stews, and other good food. The one I remember most was Chicken Spanish— for which I have the recipe. (I should make it sometime for our annual Christmas potluck!). Aunt Emma’s other boarders included a lot of young doctors who had come to Marshfield to start the new clinic on Central Avenue. Most of the doctors were single so they ate their meals there too. Aunt Emma was very social, loved having people around her and entertained a lot.

One event my brother, Bob, and I did not like at Aunt Emma’s was Thanksgiving dinner. She always cooked goose and we thought it smelled awful! I think she made turkey too, but we couldn’t imagine eating goose—they were pets on my Grandpa and Grandma’s farm in Hewitt!



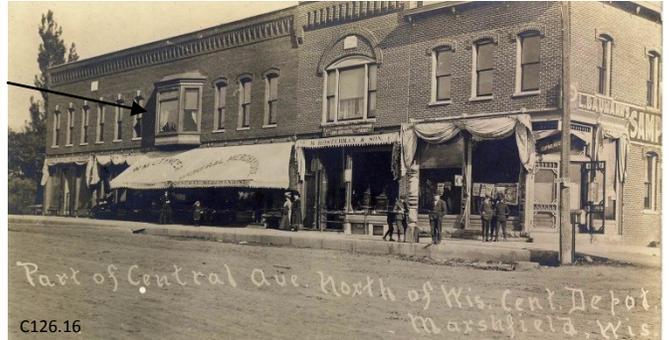
C.E. Blodgett sold this house to Emma Uthmeier in 1923.

Aunt Emma’s house had a screened in porch that wrapped around the east and south side of the house. It was painted white with black trim which made the house look palatial! The front porch had a large swing and also a servant’s covered entrance to the back. The first room, or vestibule, was huge and had a coat rack and umbrella holder, and a small closet for coats. The next room was the music room which had a beautiful baby-grand piano. When I sat there to play on it I felt like a queen! The room was divided by pillar posts to the formal living room which had a beautiful fireplace, and then was open on the other side to the formal dining room. All meals were served here. The table was huge and seated 12 or 14 people. There was a small powder room to the north side.

A long hallway to the west had beveled-glass cupboards for all Emma’s pretty china, and drawers for linens. The hallway went back to the kitchen which had a large pantry, kitchen table and chairs, the back entrance to the west and back door and cellar. The maid’s room was on the other side of the kitchen to the south. Sometimes the maids were high-school girls. When I was 9 years old my brother Jerry was born and Mom was in the hospital for a long time. I stayed at Aunt Emma’s and I remember one night her maid made corn fritters served with warm maple syrup. I thought it was the best dinner ever!

The upstairs had 6 or 7 bedrooms—one was used as a library, and a huge bathroom with ceramic tile floors and a pull-type flush toilet, a bathtub with feet, and a pedestal sink.

I always admired the entrepreneurship that my Aunt Emma had. First having a growing business and big home and then ending up a widow with two sons to care for. (There had been two daughters, but they had passed away at young ages.) Starting a bed and breakfast was amazing. I loved this house and know it could have been a historical home, but sadly it was taken down in the 60s or 70s for a future business... So sad!



W.M. Uthmeier General Merchandise 105 & 107 N Central Ave.



Uthmeier General Merchandise Interior



NORTH WOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Membership and Donation Form

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

The North Wood County Historical Society / Upham Mansion is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax deductible.
Our tax ID is 39-6078622. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Make checks payable to NWCHS. Mail to: NWCHS P.O. Box 142, Marshfield, WI 54449

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Acknowledgement of donations will be emailed. If no email is given, end of year receipts for all donations will be mailed out in December.

NWCHS meetings are held quarterly. All are invited to attend!

I/We wish to support the NWCHS -Upham Mansion by becoming a member for the year 2016

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 Open House, or General meetings
- Guide at Upham House- *occasional Saturday afternoons*
- Garden and yard care - *seasonal work*
- House Maintenance - *as needed*
- Help with Special Events - *Dairyfest guides, 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 for Meetings - *help find speakers for quarterly meetings*
- Take a Leadership role- *Board, Committee Member, Publicity, Fundraiser*

North Wood County Historical Society—Governor WH Upham House
PO Box 142
Marshfield, WI 54449

Web: www.uphammansion.com

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/NWoodCoHistory

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

Board of Directors

President Mike Meyers	Past President Lucille (Dolly) Kobs
Vice President Ken Wood	Coordinator Kim Krueger
Secretary Jan Thomas	Master Consulting Rosarian Tom Ptak
Treasurer Laura Ptak	Website Maintenance Matt Pilz
Directors Brad Allen Kim Krueger Matt Pilz Tom Stram	

Office Hours:

Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:00am-1:00pm

Tour Hours:

Wednesdays & Saturdays 1:30-4:00pm
 (Closed Holiday Weekends)

Telephone: 715-387-3322

Email: uphammansion@frontier.com

Upcoming Events:

General Meetings are now held quarterly

May 4th– 7pm @ the Library Marshfield Mayor, Chris Meyer proclaims May as Historic Preservation Month in Marshfield followed with a presentation and discussion facilitated by Don Schnitzler & Mike Meyers celebrating Marshfield's historic people and places that matter. Speakers Don Schnitzler and Mike Meyers will be presenting.

See page 4 for more details

May 14th Scanning public's photos 1:30-4pm @ Upham House

May 19th Scanning public's photos 12pm–2pm @ " "
(Pediment Publishing will be scanning public photos for Marshfield Memories book—call for more details)

Summer Mini Exhibit—The Marshfield Round Barn Centenary

June 4th—Pie & Ice Cream Social 10:00AM-3:00PM

July 25th—Annual Summer Potluck 6pm Upham back yard

Do you have a story you would like to share?

We are seeking historic stories from the greater North Wood County area. If you have an something you would like to submit to *Mansion News* please email Kim at uphammansion@frontier.com