

North Wood County Historical Society

Mansion Newsletter

Happy Autumn and a Happy Holidays to all!

As I come up on my final days as President of the board here at NWCHS I can only reflect on one thing, and that is how truly grateful I am to be part of this organization. I have been involved in some capacity over the last eight or nine years as a volunteer, board member, president, maintenance man, cleaner and docent. The one takeaway in all of this is how wonderful the group of people are who take time out of their busy lives to help this great cause be a viable part of our community.

Our board members and volunteers are literally the lifeblood that keeps NWCHS going and their dedication has been a true inspiration to watch and be part of. My only regret is that my career doesn't let me spend the time I wish I could spend in helping these folks and help with fund raising to keep us sustainable.

We have had our share of difficulties over the past few years with the pandemic, loss of valuable members and volunteers due to health, the city cutting their budget for funding that helped us pay a good portion of bills, as well as staying on top of an ever-aging 1880's house. But through those challenges we are stronger. We decided that challenges should be a reason to move forward, not an obstacle and our board along with volunteers decided to look ahead and not behind. We took on new opportunities, reached out to other organizations, shifted gears from "the old way" of doing things and have had great success and more interest in NWCHS than I have seen in years. With our fast paced and ever-changing world, we find it is even more important now to preserve, disseminate and teach history so people understand what it is and where it is that our community came from and how.

I want to say thank you to some folks for their hard work and mentorship that I have attained in my time here and I am sorry I can't list everyone, but know we appreciate all our Board members and everyone else involved with NWCHS. I will start with Don and Vickie Schnitzler for their never-ending knowledge and the thousands of hours of time and money donated at all of our functions and especially for the Christmas displays (please come and see it!), Kris and Mike Coleman for their time helping with the house as well as Kris' contributions with Andrea Jackan on grant writing. Also, Andrea's contribution as Treasurer and updating our booking to a more streamlined system. JoAnn Gougeon for the absolutely wonderful newsletters she has produced.

Geri Mirko for her contributions to the yard as well as Tom and Laura Ptak for stepping in and helping with well, everything! Chris Porter for being a diligent Secretary as well as helping with our fundraisers and me with the house and snow removal and Mike Meyers, Shelby Weister, Tim Kraus, Nancy Sternweis and Jerin Turner for their volunteering and guidance on the Board of Directors. And last but certainly not least the glue that binds all of this together with her MANY hours of volunteering as well as her attention to and diligent care of our artifacts, her awesome displays, her patience with her current president, her dedication to research and fact finding, the expert guided tours she gives as well as being an all-around good and interesting person, a special thank you to Kim Krueger, our House Manager!

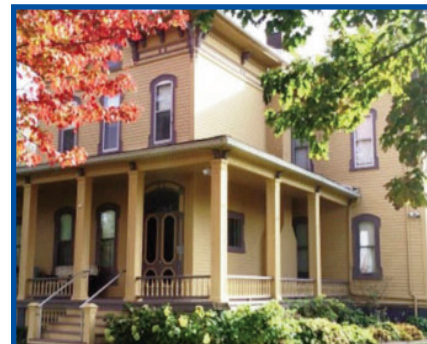
In closing I have something to ask all of you. Help us keep NWCHS a sustainable, viable, interesting place for our community to enjoy. Join us, we have fun! Help us, we need funds and volunteers. Share us, we are here for the community, not just for tours, but for many opportunities and events and we would love your ideas of what you see next for us as well.

Brad



Brad Allen

Marshfield, Wisconsin



Upham House NWCHS Board of Directors

President - Brad Allen

Vice President - Jerin Turner

Secretary - Chris Porter

Treasurer - Andrea Jackan

Past President - Don Schnitzler

Directors

Kris Coleman

JoAnn Gougeon

Tim Kraus

Mike Meyers

Laura Ptak

Nancy Sternweis

Shelby Weister

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

Office Hours

Monday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Phone - 715.387.3322

Email - nwchs@uphammansion.com

www.uphammansion.com

You Are Invited to A Christmas Triple Play

Christmas Open House at the Upham House

- December 2 & 3 • Tours and Refreshments -10 am -3 p.m. both days

Chestnut Center For The Arts 17th Annual Holiday Show Case

December 2 & 3 • 10 am - 3 p.m. both days • Holiday Cookie Sale
Hand-crafted gifts, Vendor items & Gift Baskets. Free hot chocolate and coffee.

Rotary Winter Wonderland

Tours November 24 to December 31 • Open 5-9 pm. 7 days a week. Cash or food donations encouraged.

A Great Saturday or Sunday Christmas Family Outing



Monday Nov. 27 - Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck **starting at 6pm.** (*Paid membership is required to vote for officers and board directors.*) Please bring a dish or dessert to pass, and a fun, inexpensive gift for the white elephant exchange!

Saturday, Dec. 2 & Sunday, Dec. 3 from 10am-3pm. - 'All Things Gingerbread' is this year's Christmas open house theme The gingerbread elves have been working hard to get everything done before the Annual Meeting! The House will be decorated through January.

January 2024 - Watch for more information about Valentine and Easter craft classes which will be held Sundays in January and February.



It's all about Gingerbread this Christmas

Season's Greetings

Our holiday theme this year for the Upham House is "All Things Gingerbread" featuring collections from the North Wood County Historical Society and the community. If you have a non-food gingerbread item you would like to lend the society we could use ceramic pieces or especially wood, gingerbread architecture pieces. If you have something you could lend please call Kim at the office 715-387-3322 and we can arrange a drop off time. We need items by Thursday, November 30. Thank you!

A little bit of Gingerbread history

The Origin of Gingerbread

The tasty treat has an interesting progression which brought it from Europe to the USA where we now celebrate by using it each year during the holiday season. The word "gingerbread" comes from the Latin word *zingiber* (that comes from the old French word *gingebras*) which refers to preserved ginger. Throughout the years, ginger was thought to have medicinal properties and qualities. Even today, we use ginger to treat certain kinds of ailments (for example, drinking ginger ale when you feel sick). Ancient Greek and Egyptian civilizations made a version of gingerbread, however what we consider gingerbread now wasn't introduced until 992 CE.

The History of Gingerbread Men

In the 16th century, Queen Elizabeth I (who reigned from 1533 to 1603) gave gifts of gingerbread men to her guests, suitors and visiting dignitaries. Though she did not invent gingerbread, her new idea to make gingerbread men was the first of its kind. She had gingerbread cut into the shape of gingerbread men and decorated to resemble her guests. Having these gingerbread men, made in her visitors likenesses, wowed them! This new gingerbread man cookie gained popularity in England after Queen Elizabeth I's twist on the dessert. Women in England began to have gingerbread men made and decorated to resemble the husbands they one day hoped to have. Though superstitious, it was thought that if a single woman ate one of these gingerbread husbands, it would aid her in finding a real husband.

The History of Gingerbread Houses

In the 16th century, in Germany, gingerbread houses were created. These houses had gingerbread walls and were with decorated foil and gold leaf. When the Grimm's fairy tale *Hansel and Gretel* was written in 1812, the popularity of gingerbread houses rose. Gingerbread houses are now decorated with much more than gold leaf and foil, you can use any candy available to make a spectacular gingerbread house. Many use a special kind of royal icing to attach the parts together.

Gingerbread Facts

There are three national days that celebrate gingerbread: •National Gingerbread Day, National Gingerbread Cookie Day, and National Gingerbread House Day. •The gingerbread house that holds the Guinness Book of World Records title for largest gingerbread house was 21 feet high, covered 2,520 square feet, and contained 35.8 million calories!

- According to Swedish tradition, you can make a wish on gingerbread wishing cookies. All you have to do is make a wish, put the cookie in the palm of your left hand and press on the center with your right thumb. If the cookie breaks into three pieces and you eat them all without speaking, your wish will come true!

A Volunteer's Perspective

Reflections from Deb Felix

While volunteering with the North Wood County Historical Society at the Upham House, I have been introduced to and have helped care for a number of historical items housed there. It is fascinating, exciting, and quite a learning experience!

During a project of cataloging recently donated local photographs, I was drawn to some pictures of rural, uninhabited homes—those old wooden, empty, sagging structures, devoid of paint, seemingly forgotten by all. I couldn't get them out of my mind. Any ride on rural roads reveals these houses and, for me, they project such feelings of sadness, loneliness, and melancholy. I can't help but wonder what happened there, and why.



NWCHS 2023.07.68

People want a house, a home. It's important. It means roots, a connection to a community. It means neighbors and friends, perhaps a church and school, maybe an extended family nearby. For the house, it becomes an expression of the people/family who live in it, and in a sense, it too is a family member. Family events are held in it. When the last family leaves for the last time and the house is definitively

empty, the house has lost its heart. Nothing can live without a heart and that is why, to me, why they look so sad.



NWCHS 2023.07.71



NWCHS 2023.07.69

Thank You Simplicity!



The NWCHS would like to give a big THANK YOU to the folks from Simplicity Credit Union who came out to the Upham House and helped our garden committee prepare the yard for winter. Those who helped worked for 1.5 hours cutting back hostas, raking debris into bags, and clipping back hawthorn in the rose garden arbor. They did an amazing job and truly made a huge difference for the Society! Without community support in various ways, the NWCHS really would not function well! Also a big big thank you to Tom & Laura Ptak, Nan Kohlbeck, and Dana Anderson for all their help!

Hitching post is reburbished



A big thank you to I-State Truck for sandblasting and to Art's Auto Body Shop for painting our hitching post. This horse was original to the Upham house and was given back to us by Monie Upham, the Granddaughter of Gov. Wm. Upham. We sought to preserve it for a beautiful addition to our yard.

Spoken History Series

Those interested in learning more about the area's rich history are invited to attend the monthly Spoken History presentations in person in the Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. These monthly presentations are offered the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Dates for 2024 upcoming presentations and speakers will be listed in our next newsletter or [Check for additional updates and events on our Facebook and Web sites](#). The presentations are **FREE and open to the general public**.

There is no Spoken History Series in December

For those who missed the last three presentations please check the Library's YouTube Channel.

Wreath Sales Update

We would like to thank all our supporters who have purchased wreaths during the past Christmas seasons. However we regret to inform you we are suspending our wreath sales due to our inability to get a beautiful product that we can provide at an affordable price. Please watch for new fundraisers from the NWCHS.



North Wood County Historical Society Wish List

Smaller Items:

Postage Stamps
Thank you cards
Card stock paper
Retractable and regular black sharpie pens
Scotch Tape
Paper Towels
Metal Plant ID Markers
Toilet Paper
White Out

Larger Items:

Dymo Labelwriter
Epson Perfection V600
Photo Scanner
Color Printer
Tankless Water Heater
Boiler (heating system) repaired or replaced
Bathroom floor refinished
Refrigerator
New AC units



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

Now accepting memberships for Year 2024



Preserving North Wood County history since 1952

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

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.



NUTZ DEEP GIVES BACK

In a continuing effort to support worthwhile causes, Nutz Deep II in Marshfield invites you to participate in our “Nutz Deep Gives Back” fundraiser program. Support the North Wood County Historical Society by dining at Nutz Deep II and we will donate 15% of your total bill to the organization.

Come in and turn in this flyer anytime between 4-9pm on December 13th and 15% of your bill will benefit the North Wood County Historical Society by ordering anything dine-in or carry out!

Call us at 715-387-2597 to order in advance and check out our menu online at <http://www.nutzdeep2.com/food>.

not valid towards gift card purchases

North Wood County Historical Society


Wednesday, December 13, 2023

You **must** present this certificate at the time of your order and 15% of your bill* will go to support the
North Wood County Historical Society



*Valid towards dine-in, carry-out, soft beverages and alcohol. Not valid towards gift card purchases. Flyers are not permitted to be distributed inside or outside the restaurant. Payment in the form of gift cards is not accepted for the donation

Only valid at Nutz Deep II, Marshfield



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



The Board of Directors of NWCHS wish all the
members, their families and friends of the Society a
Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year

