

North Wood County Historical Society

Mansion Newsletter

Marshfield, Wisconsin

Summer 2023

From the President

Hello all,

I hope this finds you all well. The lazy days of summer are here weather wise, but there has been no laziness at the North Wood County Historical Society this year! In my nine years of involvement with NWCHS this has been one of the busiest I have seen.

We had our standard activities happening throughout the year including archiving and disseminating the wonderful contributions to history we receive to be cataloged. In addition there is our annual Pie and Ice Cream Social, weekly tours, the annual 3rd grade student tours, as well as a group of folks that have been scanning and cataloging negatives from the News Herald for more than a year now.

We have also been busy finding new ways to keep our organization sustainable. We have had a much greater involvement from members, families and guests to help with projects than we have over past years. This year's Hub City Days Horse Drawn Vehicle display and brat-fry was upgraded with a silent auction that we held during the car show in front of the War Museum (thank you Tyler!). This year, to the delight of those attending the event, we invited John Berg, who set up a blacksmith demonstration in our front yard.

Our brat-fry at the Pittsville Cenex was very well received and we enjoyed the opportunity to talk with folks who don't get to Marshfield much but have a great interest in history. Stay tuned, there are talks of a tail-gate style brat-fry there this winter, when everyone misses eating brats!

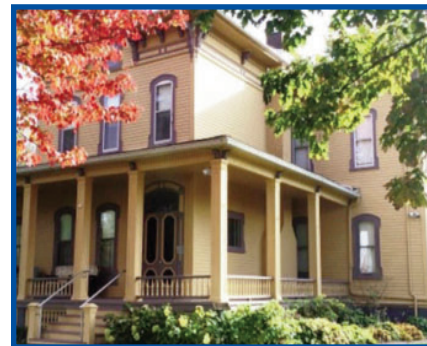
Upcoming events include our annual picnic for members, volunteers and their families. This will be a potluck, held at the Upham House on Tuesday August 29 at 6 p.m. so please bring a dish to pass! We will start decorating for Christmas (I know, it's August) in the first week of November so the house is ready for our Annual Meeting and Election and holiday potluck, which will be held November 27 at 6 p.m.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, staff and the kind people who saw fit to donate time, talent and resources to our group! We are looking forward to many more years being a place where the community can come and enjoy all that the NWCHS has to offer.

Brad



**Brad Allen
President**



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

Geri Mirko

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

History of Mike Berg's Blacksmith Shop

Researched and written by John L. Berg, Great-Grandson of Michael Berg, Sr., Grandson of John L. Berg

With Europe facing conquest by the Axis powers and Nazi forces threatening Leningrad, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his Labor Day Radio Address on September 1, 1941. FDR reminded his fellow Americans that "...we are celebrating the rights of free laboring men and women. The preservation of these rights is vitally important now, not only to us who enjoy them – but to the whole future of Christian civilization."

American labor now bears a tremendous responsibility in the winning of this most brutal, most terrible of all wars." Answering his own question of why, FDR rhetorically replied, "Our vast effort, and the unity of purpose that inspires that effort, are due solely to our recognition of the fact that our fundamental rights – including the rights of labor – are threatened by Hitler's violent attempt to rule the world."

He also extolled the virtue of trade unionism and placed its essential influence front and center in American life and economy: "Trade unionism is a forbidden philosophy under these rule –or-ruin dictators. For trade unionism demands full freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Trade unionism has helped give to everyone who toils the position of dignity which is his due." Denouncing American Nazi sympathizers, FDR vowed, "...I know that I speak the conscience and determination of the American people when I say we shall do everything in our power to crush Hitler and his Nazi forces." Presciently stated a mere three months ahead of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

In northwest Wood County, Wisconsin, the city of Marshfield's citizens celebrated Labor Day, as is shown in the above photograph of what appears to be a beautifully warm and sunny Monday, September 1, 1941. Published in the Marshfield News-Herald on September 2, 1941, the caption reads: "Honor America's Working Men and Women – A parade, six blocks long, served as Marshfield's tribute to the laboring men and Women of the Nation Saturday morning [September, 1941], a tribute that was climaxed by a speaking program at the fairgrounds grandstand. The parade also marked the first appearance of Company G, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Marshfield's State Guard unit, pictured above in the left foreground. The two bands and a color unit which included War veterans took part in the procession along with an estimated 1,500 union members." This superbly clear, high resolution quality photograph illustrates the businesses looking northwest along South Central Avenue from the corner of 5th Street.

Earlier in the year, on January 23, 1941, the city assessor began assigning new street numbers to the structures along Central Avenue starting from the left, the Arcade-Billiard building on the northwest corner of 5th Street and South Central became 454 South Central Avenue. Moving to the right [north] the Tip-Top Café became 450 South Central; Sandy's Cut Rate Clothing was 426 and became 448 (with Mrs. Ann Morrison renting the upstairs apartment; Martin's building became 444 (with Mrs. Jack Moon renting the upstairs apartment).

N.F. Berg's Blacksmith Shop was at 416 and then was renumbered to 434 on January 27, 1941. This building was erected in September of 1887 by Nicholas F. Berg's father, Michael Berg, Sr. [Wood County DEEDS Volume 12, page 600 Warranty Deed Lots 9 & 10, Block 94, plat of the Village of Marshfield, Sept. 3, 1887. Grantee: Michael Berg, Grantor: Simon Cournoyer and wife. \$1,050.00] This structure replaced his first shop north on Block H which he purchased from John Haebig in Dec. 1883, and was destroyed in the June 27, 1887 fire that consumed the core of Marshfield's downtown. Mike hammered iron in that building from September, 1887 until his retirement in 1921 after a total of 52 years of blacksmithing, at which time he turned the business over to his sons John L. Berg and Nicholas F. Berg.



"Honor America's Working Men and Women – A parade, six blocks long, served as Marshfield's tribute to the Mike Berg 1887 Blacksmith Shop. This was the last photograph of the shop. This was researched and written by John L. Berg, Great-Grandson of Michael Berg, Sr.; Grandson of John L. Berg. September 1941).

Continued on page 3

They worked together until 1928 when John opened a woodworking shop on South Depot Street where the present Police Station now stands. Nick ran the smithy at this location until September 3, 1941 when "...William P. and Agnes Berg, J. Martin and Rose[Steinmetz] Berg, John L. and Minnie [Wilhelmina Scheller] Berg, Nick F. Berg, single, Mike [Jr.] and Stella Berg, Rose Berg Lucas and Frank Lucas, sold to A.G. Sanders Lot 9, Block 94 of First Marshfield Plat, for \$1.00 and other good and reliable considerations." (Wood County DEEDs, Volume 183, p.525 Warranty Deed, Lot 9, Block 94 of first Marshfield Plat, September 3, 1941. Grantee: A.G. Sanders. Grantor: William P. Berg, et.al.)

Mike's 1887 shop was sold to A.G. Sanders and according to the Marshfield Assessors office, was razed in 1943-a span of 56 years during which South Central Avenue was the site of gradual modernization. This is highly possibly the last photograph of the 1887 Mike Berg Blacksmith Shop. Walt Miner's building is to the right (north of Berg's Blacksmith Shop, [and had Mrs. Mike Phillips renting the upstairs apartment]. Twenty-two years earlier, on September 29, 1919, Walt Miner signed a party wall agreement with Mike Berg, Sr. In Wood County DEEDS, Volume 108, Page 293, Mike Berg was the Grantee and Walt Miner the Grantor: "Miner owns Lot 8, Block 94 and is about to erect a brick building along the dividing line of Lots 8 and 9. It is beneficial for both parties to maintain a party wall six inches on each side of the dividing line; wall must be 12 inches thick, built of stone, tile, brick, cement, or other similar substance and 10 ½ feet surfaceto ground deep." Miner completed his building in 1920. Mike's shop was sold to A.G. Sanders in 1941, and razed in 1943. Miner's building stands sturdy in 2023, 103 years after its construction.

The A&P Super Market was built in 1941, and having undergone several makeovers is still a fixture 82 years on. There was an open lot between the A&P and the Connor Lumber Company office building that was the site of an ice skating rink during the winter months. Built by the R. Connor Lumber Company in 1903, their stylish stone building was moved around the corner and one-half block west on the Block 94. Proudly cared for over the past 120 years, this structure continues to serve business in Marshfield. On the southeast corner of 4th Street and South Central Avenue north across from the Connor building was the Marshfield Hardware and Automobile Ford Dealership. Some years later this building and all the buildings facing South Central were razed and replaced by a bank and parking lot campus. Looking all the way north [right] up South Central Avenue the huge sign advertising the Hotel Charles dominates the skyline.

Photograph from the Archive Collection of the North Wood County Historical Society, Marshfield News-Herald photograph, published September 2, 1941. 4 X 5 negative. ID Number D108.12. Caption researched and written by John L. Berg [Great-Grandson of Michael Berg, Sr; and Grandson of John L. Berg] with research assistance from Don Schnitzler, 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

44th Pie and Ice Cream Social



Many delicious pies were donated by individuals and businesses.



Visitors had many choices!
(Bruce Felix photos)



Joe Finamore and Jill Kupfer entertained.

Visitors also were able to try their luck on winning a raffle basket and silent auction items. Prizes were provided by area businesses as well as various members of the NWCHS Board of Directors. We would like to thank Hub City Ice Cream for donating ice cream, Holly & Vickie Schnitzler who made and decorated cupcakes, and all the individuals and businesses who donated 99 pies, (including Melody Gardens, Perkins Bakery, and The Kitchen Table).

We would also like to thank 'Twain J' for providing live entertainment, and the following for raffle basket and silent auction items: Bauman Nursery & Landscaping, Bruce & Deb Felix, Hewitt's Meats, H&S Manufacturing, Diane Reigel, Ben & Sarah Wolf of the Electrocuted Wood Store, Jacobson Hospitality, Pure Glamour Nail Salon, Partners Gift Shop, T-Bones Bar & Grill, Pour Choices, and NWCHS Board members. We had a beautiful quilt donated for the silent auction by an anonymous and generous quilter.

And finally, thank you to all who came to the social! The Pie and Ice Cream Social is a community event and it would not be successful without all those who help make it happen!

NWCHS sponsors fifth annual Horse Power Exhibit during Hub City Days

The North Wood County Historical Society held its fifth annual Horse Power Carriage Exhibit on June 29 during Hub City Days. We were blessed with a beautiful, breezy day and had many in attendance. Many people took advantage of the shaded Upham lawn as they enjoyed a lunch plate they purchased, and 114 people took advantage of the house tours provided.

One new feature this year was John Berg from Wisconsin Rapids who joined us to give live blacksmithing demonstrations. This proved to be a huge hit with many people as they stayed to watch for quite a while. A huge thank you to John for his time and talents! Many folks also enjoyed taking advantage of a replica covered wagon that was dedicated as a 'selfie spot'

Another new venture was to have a silent auction table in front of The War Room Museum at 253 S Central Ave. We had 8 baskets full of local merchandise germane to the Hub City Days car show. This served a couple purposes, to raise funds for the NWCHS, and to point people towards visiting the Upham House and all it had going on. The silent auction was a huge success! There were folks who bid on baskets who probably would not have ventured over to the house. Thank you, Tyler Smazal for letting us set up by you!

A big thank you to Ken and Connie Wunrow who brought a Studebaker wagon, a white Vis carriage, and a stud cart. Thank you to Chief Fletty at the Marshfield Fire Department for allowing us to once again have the No. 1 Hose Wagon on exhibit, and to Gary at O'Brein Automotive for transporting the wagon to and from the exhibit. Thank you to all the folks who helped before, during and after the event. And thank you to the following business for sponsoring silent auction items: *All the Above Tattoo Studio, Advance Auto Parts, Beard and Shears, Bullseye Sports, Dave's Expert Auto, Escape Room, La Queretana, Marshfield County Club, Mojo's, NAPA Auto Parts, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Pet Supplies Plus.*



John Berg demonstrates blacksmithing to Horse Power attendees. (Bruce Felix photo)

Our new Kwik Trip Funraiser

The North Wood County Historical Society would like to invite everyone to participate in a new fundraising opportunity through Kwik Trip. We will be offering gas gift cards in various denominations and 5 count Ultimate Car Wash cards for \$36. Please contact a Board Member or call the office at 715-387-3322 for more details and to purchase the CARDS. These make great Christmas presents!

Papa Murphy's Raise Some Dough

Help support the North Wood County Historical Society by eating Papa Murphy's Pizza on **Wednesday, October 4**. A percentage of all Papa Murphy's pizza sales will go to the NWCHS. Tell all your friends!



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.

Our recent fundraiser with Cenex in Pittsville

A thank you to our Marshfield and Pittsville supporters who visited our brat/hotdog sale at Cenex in Pittsville on July 7 & 8. It was a beautiful weekend and a successful fundraising opportunity for NWCHS. Also a big thank you to Cenex and to the following Pittsville donors for our basket raffle items: Blue Bayou, The Cranberry Creamery, Little Bull Falls, Paulies Diner, Pittsville Family Foods, and Pittsville Farm & Home Center.



Spoken History Series

Those interested in learning more about the area's rich history are invited to attend the monthly Spoken History presentations virtually streamed via YOUTUBE or 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 Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Dates of upcoming presentations and speakers are listed here through November. The presentations are **FREE and open to the general public.**

September 14, 2023

Topic: At the Front: A History of U. S. Dog Tags 1896-1953

Military historian and collector, Bill Parker, will share his insight into reading and researching military identification tags.

Speaker: Bill Parker

October 12, 2023

Title: A look at American Funeral Directing
Through the History of Rembs Funeral Home.

Speaker: Ted Jackan

November 9, 2023

Title: Quilting for Heroes

Speaker: Kym Zillmer, Quilter and Co-Owner of Quilt Kits & Beyond LLC,
will talk about honoring those touched by war.

**Please Note: Check for additional updates and additional events on our
Facebook and Web sites.**

Up Coming Events

NWCHS Annual Meeting - November 27 • Monday • 6:30 pm Upham House

Christmas Open House - December 2 - 3 • Saturday & Sunday • 10am - 3pm



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 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.



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



Annual Potluck Membership Meeting

Monday, November 27 • 6:00 pm • Upham House

**The meeting/election will begin first and then followed by the meal.
Please bring a dish to pass and a white elephant gift to exchange.**

