



**NORTH WOOD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# NEWS

**Marshfield, Wisconsin**

**Spring 2025**

## *Happy Spring!*

## **From the President**

I love this time of year, when “life” returns to the outdoors. I also love the opportunities that begin to surface for the North Wood County Historical Society as the warmer weather means the return of many events at the House, as well as the hopeful increase in traffic as people begin to travel more in the nicer weather.

We have not been idle this winter, by any means. We have been working hard on a lot of areas both as a Board as well as with changes in the House. The Board has met twice for two-hour retreats, with one more planned soon. The purpose of these meetings has been to look at the mission and goals of the NWCHS and look to implement committees to streamline some aspects of monthly business. After we finish our retreats, we look forward to sharing our ideas with the membership as well as the community as a whole. There will be opportunities for members of the organization and the community to be as involved as they wish on some new committees, as we hope to get those in place soon.

We have just recently upgraded the NWCHS computer system, which is very vital to the operations of the organization. We are now looking at some additional equipment, such as a new color printer and a new scanner, and perhaps refurbishing the old computer as well.

Last fall, we were so happy to have the help from many entities as we completed some much needed concrete work. I would like to formally thank the CEED Committee of Wood County, Eric from Decorative Concrete & Design, County Ready Mix, and the Lions Club of Marshfield for their donations to the project. Also, we are looking to install a much needed water heater inside the house as well. We also are acutely aware that the boilers which provide the radiant heat are likely going to need to be replaced in the not-so-distant future.

We are now looking forward to more ways to engage the community through educational opportunities, fundraising events, and just plain fun. In February, we were at the Cultural Fair, as we are each year. Our “selfie” station was hit again, as it generated lots of talk throughout the event, bringing people back to our booth on a regular basis.

In early March, we gathered at a local business for some “fun-raising” as Hop & Grape added us to the list of organizations with whom they partner. We had many familiar faces attend, enjoying food, drinks, and music, as we raised money for the additional computer/technology needs as I already mentioned. The final word from Scott, one of the owners of Hop & Grape, was that he thought we should make it an annual event. It is so nice to have local businesses helping our organization. I would like to personally thank Scott and Sharon Gebelein for their generosity and all of the staff of Hop & Grape for their hard work keeping the food and drinks moving for the enjoyment of all in attendance. I would also like to thank the winner of the 50/50 raffle for giving back the majority of her winnings to the NWCHS.

We are fast approaching some of our annual activities at the House. We will be hosting our second annual “Bring on Spring” Egg Hunt in April, followed closely by History Month events in May, and our Pie and Ice Cream Social (this year scheduled for May 31) in conjunction with June Dairy Fest. I am also anticipating the transformation of the grounds from the drab colors of early spring into the brilliant colorful gardens of summer, thanks to the incredible efforts of the Garden Committee. I hope you will take time to come and enjoy these events, walk the grounds, and perhaps pick up a rake and help out a little as we again travel through the seasons and engage with each other, the community, and history in these upcoming months.

One last thought as we approach April, which is National Volunteer Month. I would like to thank all our volunteers who give of their time and talents to help the NWCHS. This includes our entire Board of Directors, many of whom have full time jobs. We rely so much on volunteers, whether on projects at the house or events that we host, we could not do what we do, if it were not for all of you who roll up your sleeves and help. Thank you for all you do!

*Tom*



**Tom Witzel**



**Upham House**

## **NWCHS Board of Directors**

**President** - Tom Witzel  
**Vice President** - Don Schnitzler  
**Secretary** - Open  
**Treasurer** - Melissa Sinha  
**Past President** - Brad Allen

### **Directors**

Kris Coleman  
 JoAnn Gougeon  
 Mike Meyers  
 Laura Ptak  
 Amy Varsho  
 Shelby Weister

**Coordinator** - Kim Krueger

### **Consulting Rosarian**

Tom Ptak

### **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

## Community Connections



Dear Members & Friends of NWCHS,

One of the ways we would like to have more timely communication regarding up-coming events with our membership is via an email format which will allow us to share more information with you. That is why we launched a mailer called **Community Connections** which will give our email subscribers the upcoming events happening each month at the

Upham House. If you do not see it in your inbox, check your spam folder (as it is a new platform). If you chose not to receive further information from us, there is an unsubscribe option at the bottom of the email. We look forward to sharing the rest of our exciting news with you each month! If you wish to subscribe the link is: [io/7yndF4](#)

## SAVE THE DATES • April - June

### Bring on Spring • April 12 • 2-4 pm



*Happy Easter to all the NWCHS families, members and friends.*

Please join us to celebrate Bring on Spring at the Upham House, 212 W. 3rd Street, Saturday, April 12, 2-4 PM. We are conducting an egg hunt/food drive for children ages, 1-17 together with our neighbor, The Chestnut Center of Arts. To participate in the afternoon's activities, a monetary or non-perishable food donation will be collected for St. Vincent de Paul Outreach, Soup or Socks, United Way's NOW program for school aged children or the Arenda Center. Make sure to arrive on time to take a selfie with the Big Bunny and help gather 2000 filled eggs. Free prizes will be awarded to the children, and for only \$1 everyone is eligible to "Guess How Many Jellybeans (filled to the brim) Raffle Prize". The winner also will receive a family summer pool pass to Vandehey Waters.

A free fun art project will be offered at the Chestnut Center just across the street. **There also will be information available about the National 2 Lights for Tomorrow Initiative** to learn more about this historical kick off of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

A big thank you goes out to our generous event sponsors this year: Forward Bank, Culver's, Valley Communities Credit Union, Vandehey Waters Outdoor Aquatic Center and the Marshfield Park and Recreation Department, Hub City Ice Cream Company, Thorogood by Weinbrenner Shoes, and Libby McNeill's Food and Drink in Hotel Marshfield.

NWCHS board members and volunteers look forward to seeing you in the Upham house yard for this new tradition! If you are unable to make it that day, please know that the Food Drive supporting our local community pantries will extend through April 20, providing for those in need, when it is most needed.

## April 9 - "Two Lights for Tomorrow"

*The following presentations are part of the NWCHS's Spoken History Series.*



**Two Lights...**  
A nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States.

**Two Lights for Tomorrow** is a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America. The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred overnight on April 18 – 19, 1775. At its heart, it is a call across the country, in private homes, local communities, and state-houses alike, for two lights to be displayed to remind us all of the importance of coming together for a better tomorrow. The NWCHS will participate in the Two Lights for Tomorrow by displaying two candles and handing them out to multiple residents at our **Bring on Spring Food Drive - April 12**. (The Food Drive will continue on from April 12-20). The two candles will be a visible reminder of Paul Revere's ride and remind our citizens of their part in perpetually building a "more perfect union." We are asking our community to participate by displaying two candles in their window along with participating on the day of service, April 19, and by volunteering in park and cemetery clean-ups (especially with the proximity to Earth Day), food drives, and card writing to residents of care facilities.

## April 26 • History of Columbus Football



Mike Varney, author of *Marshfield Columbus Football Compendium (1950 - 2000)*, will be joining the Spoken History Series to talk about the history of and his connections to Columbus High School football, as well as the work he put into writing the book. The presentation will be held at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library on Saturday, April 26 at 1:00 pm.

(Please note date and time.)

## May 14 • How Industry, Labor and Innovation shaped Marshfield's Weinbrenner Shoe Factory Property

As part of the Spoken History Series, Donald Schnitzler will speak about the Albert Weinbrenner Shoe Factory and its predecessor, the Upham Furniture Factory, at West Third Street and Walnut Avenue here in Marshfield will transport listeners through more than a century of industrial evolution in Wisconsin. The presentation begins with the Upham Furniture Factory, established in the late 19th century, detailing its role in producing fine wood furniture during a period when Wisconsin's timber resources fueled a booming furniture-making industry. As the furniture industry declined, the site found new life when the Albert Weinbrenner Shoe Company took over. Founded in 1892, Weinbrenner became known for producing durable work boots, including the iconic Thorogood brand, which remains a staple among trades people today. Through archival photographs and historical documents, the talk will provide a vivid picture of how the site transitioned from crafting fine furniture to outfitting workers with sturdy boots.

## Thank You Volunteers!

Without the tremendous efforts of our *faithful volunteers the North Wood County Historical Society* would not be able to function! Volunteers include every Board member, individuals who come in weekly to help with curatorial projects, folks who help with the yard and gardens, individuals who help with tours and special events, and those who keep our computers backed up. We are so very thankful!

Brad Allen	Bruce Felix
Ben Allen	Deb Felix
Meg Allen	Vicky Foltz
Nora Allen	Jenn Frey
Kibby Arkulary	Jessie Frey
Theresa Bannach	Elizabeth Giles
Ken Bargender	JoAnn Gougeon
Julie Bauer	Chad Holman
Sherri Bauer	Rhonda Hosley
John Berg	Andrea Jackan
Deb Brock	Ted Jackan
Sarah Burney	Greg Jackan
Karyn Butke	Tami Jackan
Rick Butke	Rick Keller
Gail Butler	Nan Kohlbeck
Kris Coleman	Kim Krueger
Mike Coleman	Bob Kult
Theresa Derfus	Sue Kult
Will Elmhorst	Dave LaFontaine



Keith Meacham	Chris Porter
CindyMarks	Savanah Porter
Sherri Meissner	Jonah Porter
Mike Meyers	Paula Pritzl
Dave Mirko	Tom Ptak
Mark Nelson	Laura Ptak
Nick North	Lynette Pupp
Pat Passo	Dennis Raab

Theresa Richards	Tomkowiak
Lisa Ruhbusch	Jerin Turner
Mary Schlafke	Monie Upham
Don Schnitzler	Amy Varsho
Vickie Schnitzler	Patty Varsho
Holly Schnitzler	John Vick
Melissa Sinha	Cindy Verfuert
Josh Sinha	Carey Wagner
Vaishali Sinha	Jane Wagner
Vickram Sinha	Janell Wehr
Edie Smazal	Sam Wimmer
Jeff Sorenson	Jenn Witzel
Megan Steiner	Tom Witzel
Nancy Sternweis	Shelby Weister
Kathy Stone	KenWunrow
Barb Strupp	Derrick Zagrzebski
Ken Swenson	
Jean Swenson	
Roxanne	

### SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS

The North Wood County Historical Society is in need of a Secretary and two Board members. Duties include once a month meetings (every 3rd Monday beginning at 6:30 pm) taking minutes at meetings and sending to the Board (secretary) attendance at fund raising events and other board activities.



## A good time was had by all at the Hop & Grape event



Many thanks to everyone who stopped for our little fundraiser for the Historical Society Friday night. Especially Hop & Grape for hosting, Tom and Paul for the great tunes, and to Cindy Harycki, our 50/50 raffle winner who donated most of it back! The money raised will go toward our new computer system which will be used to preserve the history of our area into the future! Thank you again from our entire board and our members.

## NWCHS Culture Fair Selfies still a favorite with the community



Once again, Wisconsin was the subject of the NWCHS Culture Fair booth.



Each year the NWC Historical Society booth gets numerous visitors stopping by their "Selfie Station" for a photo.



Congratulations to Tim Smith on winning the open house raffle basket.

## 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. (Unless stated other The presentations are **FREE and open to the general public.**

**Wednesday, April 9 • 6:30 pm**

**Presenter:** Jeff Kleiman

**Program:** Jeff will speak on *Two Lights for Tomorrow*, a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America, as well as remembering the anniversary of Paul Revere's famous ride.

**Saturday, April 26 • 1:00 pm**

**Program:** History of Columbus Football

**Presenter:** Mike Varney, author of *Marshfield Columbus Football Compendium (1950 - 2000)*, will talk about the

the history of and his connections to Columbus High School football, as well as the work he put into writing the book.

**Wednesday, May 14, 6:30 pm**

**Presenter:** Don Schnitzler

**Program:** Don will speak about the Albert Weinbrenner Shoe Factory and its predecessor, the Upham Furniture Factory, at 212 W. 3rd Street, Marshfield. He will transport listeners through more than a century of industrial evolution in Wisconsin.

# An End of An Era: SJH Auxiliary - 62 Years of Giving - Part IV

*Submitted by JoAnn Gougeon - former Auxillary /Partners member*

*Editor's Note: As many of you know or heard that the Gift and Floral Shoppe at Marshfield Medical Center Hospital (formerly Saint Joseph's Hospital) has closed its doors. The Gift Shoppe was owned and operated by SJH Hospital Auxillary which began in 1962. Its name was changed to Partners in 1997. This is the fourth in a series of articles that traces the history of the Auxillary and its service to our Hospital and the Community.*



## Partners with Saint Joseph's Hospital (1962 - 2024)

*(Formerly Saint Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary)*

### Partners Mission Statement

Partners is an organization that is committed to supporting the mission of Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital and the community it serves through volunteerism, financial assistance and educational programs.

*(Continued from 2024 Winter Newsletter)*

### The Auxiliary/Partners Scholarship Program

The Partners Health Career Scholarship Program is well known in the Marshfield community. The program was started in 1968 awarding one \$100 scholarship. In the past 56 years, Partners has awarded 952 scholarships to area students totaling more than \$750,000 through 2024. The total dollar amount of the scholarships varies from year to year, depending on budget needs. The highest yearly total has been \$30,000 which was awarded in 2010.

### Family Waiting Room

In 1970, the Auxiliary began staffing the Surgery Family Waiting Room on third floor of the Hospital's old center section. In 1979, when the Tower Rooms were built, the Waiting Room was moved to the second floor in the Tower near the surgery suites. In 1995, when the Pavilion addition was completed, a new Family Waiting Room was one of the new "areas" constructed, and was located to the left of the former Emergency Room entrance. Although it has had a few updates since then, the Family Waiting Room remains in the same location today. In 2013, the responsibility of staffing the Family Waiting Room with volunteers was transferred to Volunteer Services.

### Partners Membership:

At its highest membership Partners boasted almost 200 members, many of which were "active" members (members who volunteered in the Hospital on a regular basis). It also had many members who supported Partners through their annual membership of \$15, support/shopping at the Gift Shop and helping with baked goods for Rotary Lights.

### There were numerous benefits of being a Partners member:

- Opportunity to attend the Partners of WHA District meetings, hosted twice a year to learn and network at other north central district hospitals.
- An invitation to attend the Partners of WHA state convention, a fun-filled three-day event to learn what is going on in hospital volunteering around the state. Also includes workshops, speakers and social activities.
- Receive the Partners newsletter quarterly which keeps you in the know of all the things happening with Partners as well as other volunteers and the Hospital.
- Two membership dinners per year (installation of board members, great food, information on Partners current activities, vote on the yearly budget)
- 10% off purchases in the Gift Shop
- Take part in additional fundraisers, including jewelry sales, linen sales, and our annual geranium sale.
- Fulfillment of belonging to an active Hospital organization that has a long history of benefitting patients and families as well as employees.

*Check our next newsletter in June for Part 5 of the Auxillary's History*



## *“Timeless Treasures: A Journey Through American Clocks”*

The North Wood County Historical Society and the Upham Mansion Museum pleased to announce the launch of its latest exhibit, *“Timeless Treasures: A Journey Through American Clocks,”* opening to the public on May 1, 2025. The U.S. Clock Exhibit brings history and craftsmanship together in a stunning display of American ingenuity. It showcases a remarkable collection of mechanical mantel, desk, and shelf clocks, alongside the elegance of American pocket watches and the charm of novelty clocks. From the precision of early clockmakers to the creativity of 20th-century designers, these timepieces reflect the evolution of American culture, industry, and innovation.

“Timeless Treasures” presents a unique opportunity for guests to explore the historical significance of clocks and watches and the time they marked. Carefully researched and prepared history boards feature known area merchants who sold and serviced timepieces throughout the community’s existence. A highlight of the exhibit are pieces of the original O.B. McClintock Chime Clock from the former Central State Bank.



**Several Antique and Vintage Clocks, loaned by Shelby Weister, for the upcoming Timeless Treasures exhibit opening to the public on May 1.**

First installed on the Marshfield State Bank Building (northwest corner of Central Avenue and Third Street) in December 1920, the clock was 12 feet 3 inches in height by 3 feet 6 inches square made of a dark bronze with a copper hood at top and bottom. All faces of the clock were alike, the dial being surmounted by the words Marshfield State Bank. When the bank merged with First National Bank two years later the clock was moved across the street and the header changed to First National Bank. It remained so until a new bank was organized in March 1937 as the Central State Bank.

The bank building was razed in the late 1970s, and the clock parts sold or gifted to community members. Some of these have since made their way to the historical society, who now maintain the clock, steel chimes and one of the clock’s four faces. “We are excited to present this exhibition at our museum,” said Kim Krueger, coordinator, of the Upham House Museum. “Our goal is to inspire curiosity and a deeper understanding of Time and Timepieces through this captivating collection. We look forward to welcoming visitors to experience it firsthand.”

Step into the world of American horology and experience the beauty, craftsmanship, and ingenuity that have kept the nation ticking for centuries. The exhibit will be on display during May, June and July, and will include special events such as an opening reception and curator-led tours. For more information about “Timeless Treasures” please contact the Society at 715-387-3322 or by Email at [nwchs@uphammansion.com](mailto:nwchs@uphammansion.com).



*Thanks to the Marshfield Health Systems 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 2025

Fill out form below and mail or apply online using Historical Society Web Site.



*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) 387-332      Email: [nwchs@uphammansion.com](mailto:nwchs@uphammansion.com)      Web Site: [www-uphammansion.com](http://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:*

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#### **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

### Traveling Trunk visits the Aster in Marshfield



It was a sunny, warm Thursday on January 16 when the Traveling Trunk came out to entertain and encourage reminiscing at the Aster. The room was filled with enjoy the Winter Break themed artifacts and items shared by NWCHS volunteers, Amy Varsho and Kris Coleman. Games and music were played for fresh fruit prizes with many winners of the day. The Traveling Trunk program is sponsored by a generous grant through the Marshfield Area Community Foundation and can be found visiting local regional senior living facilities in each season of the year.

### NWCHS Upcoming Community Events

- **April 12 - Saturday:** Bring on Spring, 2-4 pm, Upham House, 212 W. 3rd Street, Marshfield
- **April 26 - Saturday:** Spoken History Series • 1:00 pm History of Columbus High School football team by Mike Varney, author of Marshfield Columbus Football Compendium (1950 - 2000).
- **May 1 - July 31:** "Timeless Treasures: A Journey Through American Clocks" exhibit at Upham House. The exhibit will be on display during May, June and July, and will include special events such as an opening reception and curator-led tours.
- **May 14 - Wednesday:** Spoken History Series - 6:30 pm Don Schnitzler will speak about the Albert Weinbrenner Shoe Factory and its predecessor, the Upham Furniture Factory, at West Third Street.
- **May 31 - Saturday:** June Dairy Fest Ice cream and Pie Social -Upham House. 10 am - 3 pm