



**NORTH WOOD COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

NEWS

Marshfield, Wisconsin

December 2025

Holiday Greetings

It is again that time of year when many people reflect on the year that was and the year to come. This past year was another great one, as we held events on the property, including “Bring on Spring” egg hunt, Dairyfest Pie and Ice Cream Social, Hub City Days, Monie Upham’s birthday party, and many other events. We also had many events occurring away from the house, including the Cultural Fair and the Central Wisconsin State Fair. It was also a year of continued work on the property, including the installation of the new water heater and the new enhanced security system.

This next year promises to be another great year as we continue to hold the events which the community has grown to love. We are also looking ahead to a special new event to honor the 250th birthday of our nation. There never ceases to be activity on the grounds.

I am also taking a little time this year to reflect on my term as President of the North Wood County Historical Society. Two years ago, I was asked to join the board and also to serve as President. I will admit that at the time, I knew little of that to which I had agreed. I have had a lot of fun in this role, but I have also realized that at this time in my life, I just don’t have as much time to invest into the role as I should. I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity provided to me to serve. I also look forward to a time in the future when my life is a bit less complicated, allowing me to invest more time into the organization.

As I prepare to step down from the role as president, to serve in a simpler role of board member, I would like to take a moment to thank those who were on the board when I joined, such as: Jerin Turner, who served as vice president even in the midst of her own busy life; Chris Porter, who served as secretary, providing some of the best meeting notes I have ever seen; Andrea Jackan, who was keeping the books straight as treasurer; Nancy Sternweis, who served the board with thoughtful considerations to decisions; and Tim Kraus, who served the board for years. I would also like to thank those currently serving, including: Brad Allen, who helped me understand my role, as he served as past president; Kris Coleman, who was always full of new ideas and ways to engage the community and generate financial support for the NWCHS; JoAnn Gougeon, who kept us updated with her work on the newsletter; Mike Meyers, who provided great understanding of the past, and who has recently stepped in to fill the role of secretary; Laura Ptak, who provides great understanding into the past workings of the board and who works tirelessly with the gardening group to keep the grounds looking beautiful; Shelby Weister, who has been a constant advocate of the organization, especially helping to notify the public about upcoming events by hanging posters, then helping out at those events; Amy Varsho, who helped to keep everyone apprised of upcoming events through the email notification and who helped restart the traveling trunks. I also need to thank Kim Krueger for her tireless help with the large variety of tasks that come her way. She is an incredible asset to this organization, always willing to help out and with the best attitude.

As I wrap up, I would like to thank everyone who supports the NWCHS and the Upham House Museum (Upham Mansion), whether through monetary support, volunteer support, or a combination of both. It is because of all of your dedication that we have a successful organization that can fulfill its mission: “The North Wood County Historical Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing area history for present and future generations.” Thank you!

From the President



Tom Witzel



Upham House

NWCHS Board of Directors

President - Twitzel
Vice President - Don Schnitzler
Secretaary - Mike Meyers
Treasurer - Melissa Sinha
Past President - Brad Allen

Directors

Kris Coleman
JoAnn Gougeon
Mike Meyers
Laura Ptak
Shelby Weister

Coordinator/Museum Educator - 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 p.m.
Thursday - 9:00 a.m.-1 p.m.

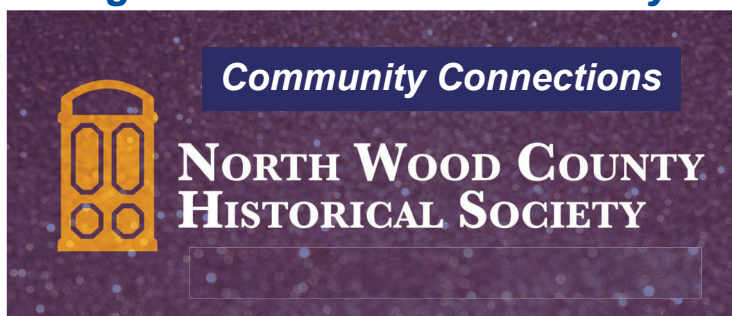
Phone - 715.387.3322

Email

nwchs@uphammansion.com
www.uphammansion.com

~Tom

Look what's brewing at the North Wood County Historical Society



Dear Members & Friends of NWCHS,

We're excited to share a new way to keep you informed about upcoming events and activities at the Upham House Museum. Earlier this year, we launched a monthly email newsletter called Community Connections, designed to provide timely updates and event details directly to your inbox. If you haven't seen it yet, please check your spam or promotions folder—it may have landed there since we're using a new platform. If you prefer not to receive future updates, you'll find an unsubscribe option at the bottom of each email. We look forward to sharing more of our news, programs, and community happenings with you each month. To subscribe, simply click the following link: [io/7yndF4.r](#)

Save The Date - January - March 2026

Upham House Christmas Exhibit - Now until mid January

There is still time to stop by the Upham House Christmas Exhibit. Step into two very different Decembers as the North Wood County Historical Society presents its 2025 holiday theme "Christmas 1890 vs. 1990--A Century of Celebration.". This year's exhibit transformed the rooms of the Upham House into a time-traveling celebration contrasting the elegance of a Victorian Christmas with the colorful charm of the late 20th century. Visitors will experience the garlands, and modest gifts nestled beneath a table top tree. Then passing through the archway, the 1990s come alive with popular toys - Beanie Babies, Tamagotchis, Furby, Pokémon cards, and more—all iconic treasures from 1990 to 1999.

Upcoming class announcement

Keep your eyes open for the upcoming Forced Spring Bulb Planting class coming up. Take home a beautiful piece of spring to enjoy watching bloom this snowy winter season. All materials needed will be provided, along with snacks and hot drinks to enjoy after planting. Date and time to be determined, cost of \$25 per adult, \$10 per youth, maximum of 14 persons.

Spoken History Series - January - February - March

Those interested in learning more about the area's rich history are invited. 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. The presentations are FREE and open to the general public. The next three presentations are:

January 14: Spoken History, Wednesday • 6:30 pm, (History of Weinbrenner Shoe Factory Part 2) Historian Don Schnitzler will continue his unique history of the Weinbrenner Shoe Factory.

February 11: Spoken History, Wednesday • 6:30 pm, A Manitowish Waters historian and former Marshfield High School history teacher will share stories of Wisconsin Moonshiners in the North Woods, including some about our local folks.

March 10: Spoken History, to be announced..

Bring on Spring

SAVE THE DATE for **Bring on Spring**. Our annual food drive for the community and Egg Hunt will take place Saturday, March 28, 2026. Please join us at the Upham House to enjoy the afternoon's activities while helping fill local food pantries when they need it most. Hope to see you there.

NWCHS Community Fall Events

Trick or Treat on the Upham House Front Porch



A number of NWCHS volunteers and board members, along with area businesses, non-profits and organizations, participated in Marshfield's Main Street Trick or Treat event for the second time on Thursday, October 30, 2025. Handing out bags filled with Halloween projects and candy to many local children accompanied by their parents and friends on the beautiful Upham House front porch, was a wonderful experience filled with costumes, fun and laughter. Families enjoyed taking selfies and photos in the pumpkin patch with Charlie Brown, Linus and Snoopy, and reminiscing about past visits to our historic venue.

Annual Open House -2025



During the Sunday Open House the Folded German Star class needed a few extra hands.



The 1990s Christmas tree in the library at the Open House.



The winner of the Christmas basket was Lori Belongia.

The NWCHS held its annual Open House held Saturday, December 6 & Sunday December 7 featured "Christmas 1890 / 1990--A Century of Celebration." Visitors experienced decorations and gifts contrasting the elegance of a Victorian Christmas with nostalgia of the late 20th century. Roxanne Tomkowiak created beautiful display boards depicting the history of Christmas greeting cards as well as a lovely illustration of our NWCHS logo all dressed up for the holidays. Thank you, Roxanne!! Upstairs features a Gold Star Mother's tree bedecked with over 400 stars with the names of Wood County mothers who lost sons or daughters due to war. Also in the room is a 'Missing Man' table symbolizing prisoners of war and service members who are missing in action. Thank you to Don Schnitzler, Kibby Arkulary, Laura & Tom Ptak, Nancy Sternweiss, Deb Felix, Ryan Rohrig for all their help decking the Upham halls! Thank you to all those who contributed items towards the exhibit. Congratulations to Lori Belongia who won the 'Cozy Family' basket raffle filled with all kinds of holiday goodies! A big thank you to Kris Coleman for gathering the items for and putting together the basket. Thank you also to Hotel Marshfield/ Libby McNeill's for donating gift certificates towards the basket. Thank you to all the volunteers, board members, and NWCHS members who contributed towards a successful open house! The 'Century of Celebration' exhibit will be on display through most of January.

Annual Meeting and Christmas Pot Luck

Monday, November 24, the NWCHS held its Annual Meeting, elections and Holiday Potluck. Following a hearty meal of a variety of potluck yummies, the Society heard from (past) President Tom as he gave an overview of the year and thanked everyone for their involvement. Three people received this year's Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations to Rick Kellar for all his work with Martha's Garden in the front yard; and to Deb and Bruce Felix for all their help with organizing chaos in the curatorial department and photographing the Society's events. The Society could not do what it does without the faithful support of members and volunteers! Incumbent directors re-elected: Brad Allen, Melissa Sinha, and Mike Meyers. Our new President is Brad Allen. Kris Coleman and JoAnn Gougeon fulfilled their terms as directors. A HUGE THANK YOU to Kris and JoAnn for their years of service, ideas, energy, advocacy, and commitment. Following the meeting the group enjoyed the annual white elephant gift exchange - although there was not a lot of exchanging... everyone seemed to like the gift they picked!



YESTERDAY IN AND AROUND MARSHFIELD

December 14 - 20, 2025

25 YEARS AGO (2000): Marshfield mailed about 8,000 property tax bills this week. The Wood County rate rose 2 percent to \$25.77 per \$1,000 of assessed value, while the Marathon County rate dropped 2 percent to \$24.89. Though no one enjoys taxes, this year's changes were viewed as relatively manageable. The Marshfield Post Office is experiencing its busiest week of the year, with mail volume peaking before Christmas. Officer Gary Gutowski noted that many residents mailed later than usual, with parcels jumping from the daily average of 300 to about 800 on Monday.

Upham House Museum Artifacts Update

The North Wood County Historical Society houses numerous artifacts that have been donated by the community. Part of our mission is to preserve area history, and this entails taking proper care of the items received. We also concentrate on the historic items that help tell the story of the Northern Wood County area. Although we are not able to receive all items just because they are ‘antique’ there are a number of items we are always on the lookout for. Items we readily accept are historic photographs (especially those that are identified) and oral histories.

Below is a list of artifacts that were accepted into the collection. If you have objects you think the NWCHS might be interested in, please contact Kim in the office. 715-387-3322 or via email, nwchs@upham mansion.com

2025 Artifact Acquisitions

- 2025.01 – Photos, Marshfield Central Ave, W200 blk, W300 blk, E300 blk, - Frank
- 2025.02 – ‘Cat’s Meow’ collector buildings – Newmann
- 2025.03 – 2 business cards of Floyd Johnson. Marshfield Auctioneer - Litzer
- 2025.04 – Upham Mfg. Washstand - Dieringer
- 2025.05 – 2pc dress suit – 1940s, - Passo
- 2025.06 – Photograph 9 Rotarians – 1970s, Fehrenbach
- 2025.07 – Mfld business memorabilia, - Davis
- 2025.08 – 4 photo scans of Hewit buildings, - Eilers
- 2025.09 – 1912 Postcard – “Lindsey, Wis.”, - Helgeson
- 2025.10 – Marshfield Sr. High handbook, Class of 1953 Reunion booklet, various business receipts, - Kress
- 2025.11 - 6 egg ornaments originally owned by Dr. Heywood, hand crafted by Mrs. Rosencranz - Iwanski (1st Presbyterian Church):
- 2025.12 - Kerosene heater, 3 kerosene road flares, 2 kerosene stove reservoirs, chamber pot w/ crocheted lid cover, Rid-Jid 1920s wooden ironing board, - Zomomski
- 2025.13 - Botle, soda ‘Star Botling’ 7oz, - Bobersky
- 2025.14 - Penny postcard: East S Central circa 1913, - Schaut
- 2025.15 – MHS photos & school programs/invitations from 1905 & 1937, - Seehafer
- 2025.16 – 1979 Wood Co. Atals & Plat book, - Teifke
- 2025.17 – 19 photos & Binder of Mfld Memorial Garden on the CWSF grounds, Bete Adler Estate (Kris Leonhardt)
- 2025.18 – Pickle jar w/ tongs, c. 1880, - Monie Upham (belonged to family)
- 2025.19 - 1974 & 1984 Wood County Atlas & Plat Books, - Anonymous
- 2025.20 - Photo & watercolor of Phillip & Martha Kohl farm; postcard: winter scene with “Greetings from Marshfield, Wisconsin”; Token, wooden, Wood County Centennial, - Maruggi
- 2025.21 - 2 photocopies of Cameron Club building and club sign taken prior to demolition, t-Rohrig
- 205.22 – Dress maker’s form - Thom

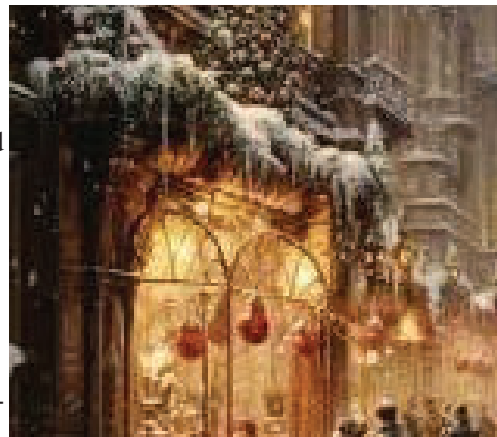
The Christmas We Gave Away *(Anonymous)*

What a year we had! A new baby daughter, a job promotion for my husband, and a brand-new home were among many blessings we had received and for which my husband and I were grateful. We wanted no gifts for Christmas, because our cups were running over. But we knew our children still anticipated Christmas morning and gifts from Santa. We were concerned about giving the children too much. How could they learn to appreciate what they had if they just kept receiving more?

At family home evening we talked about doing something special for someone else at Christmas. Our oldest son said, "Why don't we find a family who needs help and give them presents?" Soon all of us were excited about the idea. We decided to do our project anonymously. We didn't know exactly how we would find our "Christmas family," but we did know we wanted to help. The next morning I made calls to friends who might know of someone in need. That evening at dinner I described the family I had found. The father was a carpenter and out of work. They had three children, one the same age as our new baby. Their baby had been undergoing many tests as doctors tried to determine why she wasn't developing properly. Because the family had no insurance, their savings were gone, and with those savings had gone the prospect of having gifts at Christmas.

Can we give them some of our clothes?" asked our daughter. We all agreed that her idea was good, and so the children ran to their bedrooms and began sorting out the clothes they had outgrown. But my husband and I knew that clothes were not enough. The following day my husband asked the children if they would like to buy a special present for each member of our Christmas family. Excitement reigned as we departed for an evening of holiday shopping. By family home evening the following week, we were ready to deliver gifts, clothing, and oranges to our Christmas family. But before we left, my husband gathered the children and said, "It sure is great to see all of you so excited to share your Christmas. Do you realize that by buying these gifts and this food, you are giving up part of your own Christmas?" The children had not thought of their project that way before. Their eyes widened as their father took out a crisp, 100-dollar bill. "Do you think we should give this money to the parents so they can buy other things they need?" he asked. "And do you understand that your Christmas will be very small this year because you are sharing it?" Each of the children grinned and nodded. We tucked the money into a Christmas card and addressed the envelope to "Our Friends." Then we were off to deliver Christmas to our special family. We parked the car up the street from the house and planned our delivery strategy. Within seconds, it was all accomplished. We pulled away just as the door opened. That evening, as we said our family prayer, our minds and hearts were truly one. Christmas was still a week away, but we felt we had just had ours.

The next morning the phone rang. "Just thought you'd like to know about a family that received a special gift last night," my friend said. "They had been wondering if they should use their last twenty dollars to pay their tithing, or if they should keep it, because Christmas was nearing and they had no more money. They decided to pay their tithing. Last night their doorbell rang, and when the husband opened the door he found packages of clothes, gifts, and food. The next morning they noticed a white envelope on the floor, and when they opened it, a 100-dollar bill fell out. They know it was the Lord's way of blessing them for paying their tithing, and their hearts are full of gratitude." I tearfully related the message to my husband and children. We felt we had already been blessed just by giving. To know that we had been the Lord's instruments for a moment that special evening made us realize the true value of our Christmas project. Though the gifts under our tree were few, we had never been blessed with such abundance at Christmas.



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 2026

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



**NORTH WOOD COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Preserving North Wood County history since 1952

Phone: (715)387-3322

E-mail: nwchs@uphammansion.com

Web Site: www.uphammansion.com

Membership and Donation Form for the year 20____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ 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:

Membership includes a quarterly newsletter and monthly event updates. I would prefer

Emailed copy

Paper

New Enhancements at the House

Security System replaced

Thanks to a grant secured by Kris Coleman, Board Director, and provided by Target, we have implement new enhanced security at th the Upham House Museum (Upham Mansion). This will provide better security of the property and the collection of artifacts, while saving money. Again thank you Kris for securing the grant funding, and thank you to theTarget Corporation for providing the grant.

New Water Heater at the House

North Wood County Historical Society would like to acknowledge funding from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to repair the Governor W.H. Upham Mansion (Upham House Museum). Funding was provided to mitigate adverse impacts associated with replacing the historical truss bridge on Lynn Line Road in 2023. Thanks to the WisDOT grant, we now have a new water heater in the Upham House MuseumThe grant covered the cost of the new water heater as well as additional related plumbing and electrical work. The hot water now available has been greatly appreciated by all who have been in the house, using the sinks. Thanks again to WisDOT for the grant moneys.



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

*The North Wood County
Historical Society would like to
wish all our members, volunteers,
and the Marshfield Community
a very merry Christmas and a
joyful New Year!*

*Thank you for your support
throughout this past year.*

