

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

*You are Cordially Invited*

**Announcing the Annual  
NWCHS  
Member & Friends Picnic**

**Monday, July 29**

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

at the  
Governor W.H. Upham House  
212 West 3rd Street  
Drinks & main entrees will be provided

**Please Bring:**

- A friend
- A side dish or dessert to pass
- Your dishes and table ware
- Lawn Chair



North Wood County Historical Society

# Mansion Newsletter

Marshfield, Wisconsin

June 2019

## From the President

Dear members and friends,

It seems nearly impossible that we are already at the end of the sixth month of the year, but we are.

May featured a line-up of activities for the City's observation of Historic Preservation Month. It began on May 6 when City of Marshfield Mayor, Bob McManus, opened the month-long activities at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library with his proclamation of May as Historic Preservation Month in the city. Then throughout the month hundreds of community members took part in the planned activities around town. At the Upham House alone more than 400 individuals, Marshfield school children and adult chaperones, toured the house and participated in staged learning experiences.

As soon as the last school group finished their tour of the Upham home, attention turned to preparations for the NWCHS annual Pie and Ice Cream Social. This year marked the 40th anniversary of the social being a part of the June Dairy Days. Despite the forecast of rain, community and society members, friends, family and other volunteers pulled together to make this Social one for the record books. Your efforts on behalf of the society and Upham home are sincerely appreciated.

With Pie & Ice Cream behind us now too, we start looking towards July's celebration of "Hub City Days." As part of that celebration last year, and as a means to recognize its historical beginnings, we initiated a "Horse-Power" Carriage Display. This year our aim is to build on the previous event making it even bigger and better. Mark your calendar for the last Saturday in July and plan on participating this year. Bring your friends too.

Then on August 8 the NWCHS will host the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce's "Business after 5" in the Upham Yard. Detailed plans are still evolving, but mark your calendar for that too and plan on joining us as we welcome MACCI members to the Upham home.

As you see we have some busy months coming up and we will need the continued help and support of our members and volunteers to see these projects through. No doubt, together we can see these events to their successful ends.

Again, to our volunteers and members, I extend my heartfelt thanks!

Best wishes always,

*-schnitz*



**Don Schnitzler**



## Board of Directors

**President** - Don Schnitzler  
**Vice President** - Jerin Turner  
**Secretary** - Diane Wolf  
**Treasurer** - Laura Ptak  
**Past President** - Brad Allen

### Directors

Andrea Jackan  
Mike Meyers  
Kim Krueger  
Kaylin Speth  
Nancy Sternweis  
Sean Stonham  
JoAnn Gougeon

**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  
Groups are encouraged

### Office Hours

Monday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Thursday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone - 715.387.3322  
Email - [nwchs@uphammansion.com](mailto:nwchs@uphammansion.com)  
Web - <http://uphammansion.com>



## Attention Collectors!

If you would like to add your horse drawn vehicle (or know someone who would) to this special showing, please contact

**Kim at  
715-387-3322.**

We may be able to help you with gas to transport your carriage to Marshfield.

Registration deadline is July 19, 2019.

There is no fee to register.  
Call us today!



Often called a "Horse Cart" or some times a "Stud Cart."



Who knows this could be Santa's!

## "HORSE POWER" AT UPHAM HOUSE

Vintage motor vehicles will line the street in downtown Marshfield when Hub City Days returns on Saturday, July 27, 2019. However, you can go even further back in time to the days "before motors" at the North Wood County Historical Society's "Horse Power" exhibit.

"The 'Horse Power' exhibit is something we are hoping will be an ongoing event during Hub City Days," said Kim Krueger, Coordinator. "Last year was our first year and we saw quite a few folks view the multiple carriages on display."



On display last year was this early 1900s wedding carriage, which has transported many happy newly weds after the wedding ceremony.

Upham Mansion will be home to even more carriages this year, including the Figi's beer wagon, sleighs, cutters, and a wedding carriage from the early 1900s.

Marshfield residents may have already spotted the old fire wagon on display at the Marshfield Fire & Rescue station. The fire wagon, made in Oshkosh, was used by early Marshfield firefighters for hauling hoses before being decommissioned in the 1920s. It was later purchased by a local veterinarian to exercise his horses and then stored by Marshfield Brewing Co.

The replica of an old-time beer wagon owned by Marshfield Brewing Co., according to newspaper archives, once won second place for best decorated carriage in 1956 during the centennial horse and buggy parade that August.

Marshfield Brewing Co. was later sold in 1965 to Figi's, which operated it as a side business until closing in 1967, which is why the wagon bears the Figi name today.

The public is invited to stop by Upham Mansion at 212 W. 3rd St. near downtown from 10-3 p.m. to view the vehicles and have lunch. On the menu are hot dogs, brats, chips, cookies, and drinks, all for just \$5.



The fire wagon, made in Oshkosh, was used by early Marshfield firefighters for hauling hoses before being decommissioned in the 1920s.

## 2019 Schedule (Subject to Change)

### Upcoming Spoken History Lectures

All lectures are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library-Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room, unless otherwise noted.

#### July 1

Cancelled

#### August 5

Sponsor: Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library

"*Risking Everything and Freedom Summer*" - Michael Edmonds, Writer and public historian, former Director of Programs at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

#### September 9

Sponsor: North Wood County Historical Society

"*History of Marshfield's Schools*" - Mike Meyers, Board member, North Wood County Historical Society.

#### October 7

Sponsor: Marshfield Area Genealogy Group

"*Central Wisconsin Homesteaders, Using their Land Entry Case File of local and family history.*" - Don Schnitzler, member of Marshfield Area Genealogy Group.

#### November 4

Sponsor: Historic Preservation Committee

"*City of Marshfield's New Historic Buildings Driving Brochure*" - Vickie Schnitzler, Chair of Historic Preservation Committee.

#### December 2

Sponsor: Historic Preservation Association

"*The New Marshfield Heritage Museum*" - TBA.

## Something New!!

### NWCHS "Spoken History" lecture series now has a presence on YouTube.

We hope that you will join us the first Monday of each month, at 6:30 pm in the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library's Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room as the presentations are given. If that day or time doesn't fit your schedule though, you may view the presentation by visiting the North Wood County Historical Society's Youtube channel. To reach the channel, open YouTube and search for "NWCHS GovUphamHouse," (note NO spaces between Gov Upham or House) or visit :

[url:https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyMsPsMSfTIKJEjUJ4KE6Kw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyMsPsMSfTIKJEjUJ4KE6Kw)

The 2019 presentations for January through May are available for viewing now. Several presentations, but not all, from the 2018 series are available too. Digital recordings are being added within a few weeks of their original presentation. Subscribers to the channel receive notifications as additional videos are uploaded to the channel.

### Spoken History Series

Those interested in learning more about the area's rich history are invited to attend a monthly lecture series called "Spoken History," at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library.

The series is a collaboration of area groups dedicated to the region's history:

- North Wood County Historical Society
- Marshfield Historic Preservation Association
- The City of Marshfield Historic Preservation Committee
- Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library
- Marshfield Area Genealogy Group

By offering a monthly lecture at a predictable time and location, it will encourage those interested to plan for these outings – maybe a weeknight getaway, a monthly date night or just an educational outing.

### For Past Spoken History Series - Search

Youtube.com: NWCHSGovUphamHouse

#### March 4

Sponsor: Marshfield Public Library Foundation

"*Fill'er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations*" James Drager, Wisconsin Historical Society Press author and State Historic Preservation Officer at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

#### April 1

Sponsor: Historic Preservation Committee

"*City of Marshfield's New Historic Driving Brochure*" - Vickie Schnitzler, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee.

#### May 6

Sponsor: North Wood County Historical Society

"*History of Wood County Parks*" - Chad Schooley, Director of Wood County Parks & Forestry.





After more than 500 hours of work, Haas' patience and dedication paid off with a beautiful recreation of Marshfield's historic landmark.



The original barn is 150' across by 70' high. The replica is 1/4th inch to the foot.



An exact replica of the barn that stood on Judy Haas' childhood farm, built in the Dutch style in the early 1900s. Silos built by the Vesper Silo Company. (1/2 in. scale)



An exact replica of Bill's childhood farm, built in early 1900s in the German style. It housed cows and horses with two silos built by the Vesper Silo Company. (1/2 in. scale)

### 84 YEAR-OLD WOOD COUNTY RESIDENT CREATES SCALE MODEL OF MARSHFIELD'S ROUND BARN ONFOCUS NEWS

Town of Sigel – For more than six decades, Bill Haas has been creating carpentry masterpieces. A retired carpenter and business owner, Haas enjoys re-creating history through his craft.

Though he spent his professional career building homes and other constructions, and even many of his "for fun" buildings are life-size (including a church, covered bridge, log cabin – and a replica of the one-room Pioneer Schoolhouse he attended as a child), several of his creations are to-scale tabletop models. He has recreated his family's German-style barn, his wife Judy's Dutch-style barn, and other relics of the past.

"I just love doing this," said Haas. "It's all I've ever wanted to do, but bigger buildings. Now I can't climb, so now I've got to make smaller. This has always been my dream – to preserve the history of the area." Most recently, Haas has constructed a to-scale model of the World's Largest Round Barn in Marshfield in honor of Farm Technology Days, which took place in his native Wood County July 2018.

"Bill some years ago had spent a Sunday afternoon at the Upham House in Marshfield," said wife, Judy. "They had the original blueprints of the Round Barn from which he got some information and drew up some drawings of his own." Earlier in 2018, Bill visited the barn to take photos and measurements inside.

"If I just looked at a blueprint, I couldn't fathom how they did this," he said.

"By going in there and measuring everything and looking at it is the way I could understand." The original barn is 150' across by 70' high. The replica is 1/4th inch to the foot.

On January 14, 2018, Bill made the first cut, a circle that would be the foundation for the miniature round barn. During the cold winter months, Bill spent hours in his workshop and made several trips to the Central Wisconsin Fairgrounds to take more photos and measurements.

Various family members helped at different stages of the construction, assisting with measurements, painting, and other tasks. After more than 500 hours of work, Haas' patience and dedication paid off with a beautiful recreation of Marshfield's historic landmark.

"It was a challenge," said Haas. "It's harder to make things round than it is square. I'm used to building things square." Working from photos that Judy took inside the real Round Barn, Haas constructed his model barn in layers, starting with a plywood base and working his way up to the cupola.

"It was a fun project," he said. "It's a miracle it turned out the way it did."

### 40TH PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL IS ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS



A total of 95 pies were donated this year, including 20 from Perkins and the rest from present and former Society members, family and friends. No pies were left that day.



The popcorn stand, run by Barb and Maureen Hughes, was a big hit for young and old alike.



This year, thanks to the generosity of our members, community businesses and current and former board members, 31 beautiful baskets were donated for the raffle.

Thank you to all who made this year's Pie and Ice Cream Social a huge success.

"This year marked the 40th anniversary of the social being a part of the June Dairy Days," said President Don Schnitzler. "Despite the forecast of rain, community and society members, friends, family and other volunteers all pulled together to make this Social one for the record books."

Response to house tours was excellent. A total of 495+ tours were given during the event. Many of whom had never visited before.

#### Volunteers: A key to our success



Since the Historical Society is a non-profit organization, fundraisers like the P&I Social are the major part of our income. We are so very grateful to our volunteers who donate their time and talent to help make them successful.



# WOMAN PRESERVES AMERICA'S FARMING HEITAGE THROUGH FIGI'S COLLECTIBLE BARN

By Kaylin Speth

Marshfield, WI (OnFocus) America's diverse farming culture is preserved through a special collection of Figi's ceramic barns, currently on display at Upham Mansion.

The special June exhibit celebrates Dairy Month by featuring the 27 collectible barns released each year from 1992 until 2018 before Figi's closure in early 2019. Advertised as a trinket or candy dish, the unique ceramic barns served as containers for Figi's signature Kave Kure spreadable cheese.

Roxanne Tomkowiak of Marshfield designed 22 of the barns, some of which were based on real ones she photographed at places like Old World Wisconsin in Eagle, WI and Door County. Others she based on historic barns found in books, or on styles of architecture found in other parts of the country. "I learned a lot about barns," she noted.

The first two barns were designed by former Figi's VP, Louise O'Donnel. Early barns in the series were hand-painted and featured green roofs that were thought to stick out better in the catalogue. Later, the barn designs would grow more realistic with the use of decals and fine details. Early in her 28-year career at Figi's, Tomkowiak was tasked with laying out the catalogue but later transitioned into art-work and gift design. "I did a lot of salt and pepper shakers," she said.

After taking over the barn project in 1994, Tomkowiak decided to recreate the World's Largest Round Barn. Before computers, everything was hand-drawn and traced on a light table. The final pages of measurements and designs were then submitted to the manufacturer. In 2009, she returned to the concept with a more realistic, lighted version of the round barn, this time designing it on a computer.

Through her long history with the collection, Tomkowiak represented many different styles of barns found in the Midwest, including an octagon barn near La Valle (1999), a crib barn from Iowa (2001), a Door County barn featuring the nogging building style (2005), a local HWY 10 barn with cow decals (2012), and a Civil War horse barn (2013) based on pictures from Michigan.

Several of the collectibles were based on Pennsylvania Dutch barns. One released in 1995 was the first to feature a silo and was based on barns built in the 1850s. The flower star was typical of rural barn designs, thought to be emblems of land ownership or purely decorative. A painted star, or Schtanna, was thought to bring good luck and protection and was most common in the Shenandoah Valley.



A complete collection of Figi's ceramic barns, is currently on display at Upham Mansion until the end of June.

Continued on next page



Hopps Barn - 2010



Figi's 75th Anniversary Threshing Party 2014



Macomb Illinois - 2008



Civil War Horse Barn Michigan 2013

Though Tomkowiak never grew up on a farm herself, her interest in barns grew with the project. "I really started to pay attention to barns when we would drive around," she said. "It still catches my attention, the style of the barns."

A fictional "Sunny View Acres" drive-through barn was released in 2000, a style owned by Tomkowiak's great-grandfather. The hopps barn (2010) recalls the style of Hilltop Pub & Grill in Stevens Point and was a nod to the historic Marshfield brewery, which Figi's ran for two years after purchasing the business in 1965.

As the barns grew more detailed, those details revealed something of the story and character of a particular farming culture. Arches over the windows of the 2007 Pennsylvania Dutch barn and diamond-shaped openings held a s\es from getting into the barn," Tomkowiak explained. "The diamonds were for air movement."

A "circus barn" released in 2003 shows a poster advertising a traveling show. "The farm might get free ticket if they let circus slap a poster on the barn," she said. Other collectible barns recall farm life in general, such as the "threshing barn," released in 2014, which also marked Figi's 75th anniversary. The threshing barn was based on one at the Old World Wisconsin museum and is one of her favorites.

The barns can be viewed at the Upham Mansion on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:30-4 p.m. or by appointment. Next, they will head to the Marshfield Museum in the basement of the 2nd Street Community Center for permanent display.



Eastern Star Barn Pennsylvania - 2002



World's Largest Round Barn Marshfield - 2009



## 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](mailto:nwchs@uphammansion.com) Web Site: [www.uphammansion.com](http://www.uphammansion.com)

Preserving North Wood County history since 1952

Please make checks payable to NWCHS. Send to: **NWCHS P.O. Box 142, Marshfield, WI 54449**

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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_