

## MANSION NEWS

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*Christmas 1966—Interior of Central State Bank*

### Message From NWCHS President Mike Meyers



Merry Christmas Everyone!

Folks have to agree there is no finer place to feel the Christmas spirit than walking through the decorative rooms of the Governor Upham House during the holidays. The work that Don and Vickie Schnitzler and other NWCHS members & friends put into making everything feel so festive is simply fantastic! Everyone associated with the North Wood County Historical Society (NWCHS) are thankful for their continued dedication and contributing their many talents to making everything so enjoyable for us and for the visiting public.

Others contribute their time and skills to enhancing and preserving the spirit of Marshfield's past throughout the year. From the Rose Garden and the lawn and landscaping; from the basement to the attic of our prized possession, the home of Governor William Henry Upham, members and non-members of the NWCHS are responsible for the preservation, presentation and education for others to enjoy.

Many hands make the many projects easier to accomplish. There is so much more to do even as more contribution of historic artifacts continually find their way to our door. Tell your friends, tell your family, and tell your acquaintances of the number of opportunities for them to keep busy, to use their talents, to contribute in kind to our very special mission. We welcome new members, and we appreciate our current and past members. A growing membership is essential to the continued vitality of the NWCHS.

As much as any other volunteer organization, we rely on revenue to keep the lights on (the first ones ever in the city by the way). There is so much more we can do but we are limited by the dollars we have available. Besides the needed maintenance of the house and our expanding archives, there is a growing need to extend the hours we can offer the services of our coordinator to assist the public and maintain our inventory. Thank you to those who have contributed financially in the past, and especially the last year.

All that we are able to share with others as the NWCHS is the result of the efforts of people and their contributions before us. All we hope to do in the future depends on us and the people and contributions we solicit today to insure our abilities in the coming years. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**From the Coordinator:** A big thank you to Mikayla Schmeiser, Bailey Raab, Kayla Dartt, Sam Jensen, Hayley Weister, and Sarah Wildenberg from Auburndale High School who volunteered their time to help with Christmas decorating at the W.H. Upham House.



*Never a Christmas morning, never an old year ends,  
but someone thinks of someone;  
old days, old times, old friends.*

*Author: ~unknown~*

## The Community Memories Tree

Submitted by Don Schnitzler

As has happened every year, the former home of Governor and Mrs. W.H. Upham was decorated for holiday visitors and guests. This year with a theme of "Christmas Traditions Across the Generations," each room showcased a Christmas tree decked for the season with its own unique style. In the parlor, there was an Irish tree, in the library, a German tree, and in the dining room, the Community Memories Tree.

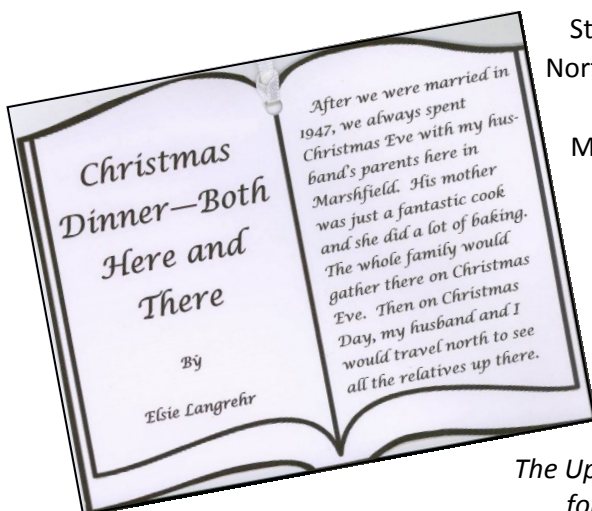
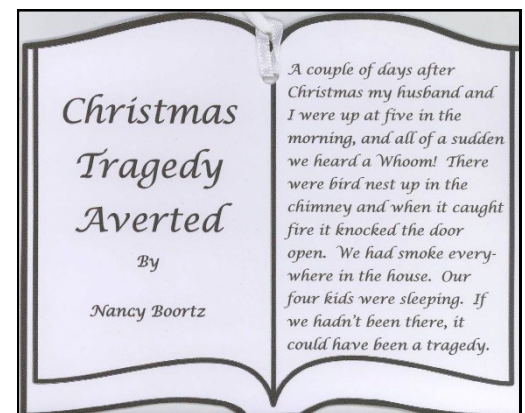
The memories tree is small, almost puny by comparison to the other trees in the house, but it is filled with memories. Memories shared of past Christmases of our North Wood County Historical Society members, friends and neighbors here in Marshfield and the surrounding communities. Its ornaments

may not be fancy – but they are ours and each reflects a special memory.

The tree is intended to be a visual reminder of the places, people and events that made us the community that we are today. Each ornament decorating the tree is a memory shared. Many go beyond just the ornament though with a corresponding story in the "Christmas Memories" binder. Take time to listen to, or read, each others stories.

Even though a memory tree can't be built in a day, or even a year. We were lucky to have so much cooperation and willingness to share stories this year. Our memory tree may be the smallest tree in the house, but it will continue to grow and grow with each passing year and you can help.

We all have special memories or traditions of past holiday seasons. What about you? Do you have any Christmas traditions your family loves that you could share? Please consider sharing those stories with us for next year's Christmas Memories Tree. Your story will help us continue to reminisce about Christmases past and to grow our favorite tree at the Upham House, the Christmas Memories Tree.



Stories can be sent to the North Wood County Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Marshfield, WI 54449 or by email to: [uphamman-sion@frontier.com](mailto:uphamman-sion@frontier.com)



*The Upham House will remain decorated for Christmas until mid-January.*

## Jan Thomas Remembers the Malsin Style Shop & the Country Miss Dress Shop



**West 300 Block looking South**

The Malsin Style Shop was at 328 S. Central Ave. It was located in the block that had one of the oldest banks in Marshfield—Central State Bank, which later became the M&I Bank. Central State Bank/M&I Bank and all the other buildings in that block were demolished to make room for a new bank and huge parking lot that now makes up 3rd and Central.

The Malsin Style Shop was owned by Mr. Milton Malsin in the 1950s & 1960s. In the early 1970s he sold it to a corporation of seven business men who renamed the store Country Miss.

It was a lovely little boutique with a modern bridal salon on the second floor which outfitted many Marshfield brides. It also had a specialty department of lingerie located in the back of the store which specialized in girdles, bras and beautiful sets of sleep-wear. One could find any type of girdle or bra that any lady could want. I once bought a bra that, using a plastic straw inserted into the cup, would inflate to any size. I was brave to wear it with my new strapless formal I wore to the Military Ball. A cute, little old lady named Astrid Sell was in charge of this department. When the Country Miss corporation bought and took over the store, they inherited Astrid too!

Country Miss had 3 other employees; Lucia, a full-time sales lady, Barney, a part time sales lady, and Mrs. Mellenthin, also part time. Richard (Dick) Halle was the manager of Country Miss; he hired me as a part time bridal consultant in 1972 and in 1973 I became the full time manager. The Country Miss store was a happy store and we were like family. It was always full of beautifully dressed manikins and wall and window displays.



**Central State Bank**



**West 300 Block looking North**

Main Street had lots of cute little shops in that block. Dab's Hats (314 S. Central) also owned by Mr. Malsin, Adler Pharmacy and beneath it, Adler's Tress Chic Wig Salon (342 S. Central); a dentist's office, Rae's Fashion Store (352 S. Central), Klismet's Toy Store (320 S. Central) and the Firestone store on the corner of 4th and Central. Later that year the Corporation bought the Rice Rust Pharmacy (249 S. Central), next to Dads and Lads on the corner of 3rd and Central where Merle Norman Cosmetics & Amanda's Day Spa is today.

The Country Miss had many famous and popular dress and coat labels, it also carried accessories such as hats, scarves, purses, gloves and had a lovely jewelry department. The store was open from 9-5 every day of the week except Friday when we were open until 9:00pm. Friday nights on main street were always very busy as many people came to shop for groceries and the Main Street stores. Would you believe both sides of the street were all parked full! Sometimes people would just park on main street to watch people! I believe the bank stayed open longer, too.

One of my favorite customers was Dr. Hardacre. He would peek in the front door and say, "Is Thomas here!?" If I was, he would come in and shop for Marilyn, who was the Mayor at the time. Being on main street was a favorite time of my life and I made many life long friends. I retired from Country Miss in 1977, but later that year I went to work at Seiferts, another dress shop. But that's another story!

*We are looking for news! If you have an article that you would like to submit to 'Mansion News' pertaining to historic Marshfield or surrounding North Wood County area please contact Kim at the NWCHS office!*

### Recent Donations

This year twenty seven donations came into the NWCHS collection of artifacts and archives. The following are three we wanted to highlight.



Harvey Buth of Pewaukee, WI donated a 21”x 27” framed “Aerial view of Hardwood Plywood and Door Factory, Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company” (circa 1930s or 1940s). Harvey worked for the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Distribution center in Milwaukee and the photo hung in his office. It was given to him when he retired in 1998. Weyerhaeuser closed in 2000.

Palmetto Ave lies in the picture’s foreground.



This WWII wooden, Roddis Christmas cake box was gifted to the NWCHS by Suzanne Cherney in the name of her Mother, Erna who was married to James F. Cherney. James was stationed in Alaska during WWII and the family believes he received this Christmas cake box at that time.

The enclosed card reads: *Seasons Greetings This Cake was made in a Marshfield Bakery, and the box was made in our Marshfield factory... all by your friends and neighbors who are wishing you a speedy return. Hamilton Roddis*



Joellen Hagge of Hazelhurst donated doll house items she played with as a child. Joellen is the great, great grand daughter of Cora Kelley Wheeler, Mary Upham’s sister. The Wheelers lived at 206 W. 3rd Street—next to the Upham House. The doll house that is currently in the Upham House was built in the late 1800s/early 1900s and was played with by many Uphams, Wheelers, Sawyers and Abbots—all relatives. The house was donated back to the North Wood County Historical Society in 1982 by Betty Abbot, Joellen’s mother.

Full list of donations on next page.

### Archival and Artifact Donations for 2015

All artifacts submitted to the NWCHS relate to the Marshfield and North Wood County area and are subject the Board of Directors approval.

2015.01	S. Schweikl	Photo scans re: Spikes Uptown Bar & Sports teams
2015.02	South Wood Co. Historical Corp	1936 McKinley Diploma for Delores Krohn
2015.03	T. Smith	Reprint of C.E. Blodgett
2015.04	B. Canfield	Marshfield Jaycees Miss Marshfield Pageant Programs - 1965, 1967, 1968
2015.05	A. Horn	Otto Scharmann patents & personal effects
2015.06	T & N Buchek	Blum Family photos & history
2015.07	L. Baasch	McCrillis Ice Co. price card—1935
2015.08	C. Buchanan	Photo scan collection, Bud Albrecht & motorcycle
2015.09	C. Cole-Stebbins	Barber Licenses for Forrest Cole; photos & music group posters
2015.10	Abandoned donation	Photo of Herbert Kane in Navy Whites
2015.11	M. Upham	Photos & personal documents of Nettie Dickerson Wade
2015.12	M. Upham	10 Vol. set of <i>Women In All Ages and In All Countries</i>
2015.13	J. Bramscher & Family	Military effects of Otto Huebscher
2015.14	H. Buth	Aerial Photo Roddis Lumber & Veneer factory 21"x27" framed
2015.15	T. Smith	4 Military Photos Pre-WWII; Navy blue Navy cap
2015.16	R. Tyler	Marshfield High School effects of Elsie Steffen Tyler; 1941 & 1942
2015.17	S. Burt	Ceramic plate—Connor Forest Industries Centennial Celebration
2015.18	N. Bauer	Misc. Marshfield Business promotional items
2015.19	R. Bodoh Family	Scrapbook & 1930s newspaper clips re: E.J. Bodoh Family
2015.20	D. Mauer	Booklet—"MidState Air Commuter & MidState Airlines"
2015.21	J. Hagge	Doll house accoutrements
2015.22	V. Schnitzler	Misc. household items of Otto & Arlene Hasz
2015.23	D. Wolf	Misc. household and effects of Lorraine Markee
2015.24	D. Schnitzler	1899 Upham Manufacturing Invoice
2015.25	E. & S. Cherney	Christmas cake box made from Roddis Lumber circa WWII
2015.26	C. Buchanan	Original mss of St. Albans History by Mrs. Fred Kamps; Brief history of Mfld DAR
2015.27	B. Grassl	1949 Wedding dress of Betsy Koller Grassl

Karen Thompson, who volunteers faithfully on Wednesdays, has been working on a searchable database for the vertical file archives. We hope to have that on our website soon. This will enable people to see, by subject, the material NWCHS has in its archives.

*The NWCHS General Meetings which meet quarterly on the last Monday of the month will resume April 2016. Stay tuned for more information!*

**North Wood County Historical Society—Governor WH Upham House**  
**PO Box 142**  
**Marshfield, WI 54449**



JOIN THE  
**MARSHFIELD & NORTH WOOD COUNTY**  
**HISTORY**  
 GROUP PAGE ON FACEBOOK!

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/NWOODCOHISTORY/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/NWOODCOHISTORY/)

*If you would like to be unsubscribed from this letter please contact the office or send us an email.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Board of Directors</b></p> <p><b>President</b> Mike Meyers</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Ken Wood</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Jan Thomas</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Laura Ptak</p> <p><b>Directors</b> Brad Allen MaryAnne Arendt Kim Krueger Matt Pilz Tom Stram</p> <p><b>Past President</b> Lucille (Dolly) Kobs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Upcoming Events:</u></b></p> <p><b>25 January</b>—NWCHS General Members meeting—Board of Directors Elections</p> <p><b>27 February</b>—13th Annual Marshfield Cultural Fair</p> <p><b>25 April</b>—General Meeting—Speaker and venue to be announced</p> <p><b>May</b>—History Month. Local 3rd Grade school tours. Historic Preservation events to be announced</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>General Meetings will now be held quarterly</i></b></p>
<p><b>Coordinator</b> Kim Krueger</p> <p><b>Gift Shop</b> Mary Anne Arendt</p> <p><b>Website Maintenance</b> Matt Pilz</p> <p><b>Master Consulting Rosarian</b> Tom Ptak</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office Hours:</b>  <b>Wednesdays &amp; Thursdays 9:00am-1:00pm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tour Hours:</b>  <b>Wednesdays &amp; Saturdays 1:30-4:00pm</b>                  (Closed Holiday Weekends)</p> <p>Tel. 715-387-3322 Email: <a href="mailto:uphammansion@frontier.com">uphammansion@frontier.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Web: <a href="http://www.uphammansion.com">www.uphammansion.com</a></p> <p>Facebook Group:  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/NWoodCoHistory/">www.facebook.com/groups/NWoodCoHistory/</a></p>