

# Mansion News



## From the President

HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It's that time of the year, where we leave the warm summer months and start to bundle up for what the Farmer's Almanac suggests will be a long winter. But it's also the time of where people feel a natural urge to be loving and giving and festive.

What better place than the Governor Upham house to reflect on how people have celebrated the Christmas season through the years. Inside the house and throughout the neighborhood, it's possible to escape the hustle and bustle of today's internet driven world. Decorations are carefully displayed in every room and the Christmas tree is prominently positioned as the center of attention. From the extensive collection of the North Wood County Historical Society, antique remnants of Christmas gone by are placed about the house for visitors to enjoy. Colorful garland is strung from here to there, above the doorways and the windows. And outside (the snow will come soon) the large sleigh and more garland invite the visitor to step back in time and reflect on what life might have been with only horse and a crack of the whip, and sleigh cutting through the snow filled streets from the house to a warm destination. Or a troupe of bundled revelers, walking from house to house, standing outside the massive house, singing Christmas carol's for the inhabitants to enjoy.

Members of the North Wood County Historical Society take great pride in presenting items collected through the years for everyone to enjoy. Please take the time out of your busy schedule to relax and walk through the house and see what we have to offer. You won't regret it!

You too can become active in these activities by becoming a volunteer and sharing an hour here and there to help us with our mission. Included with this newsletter is the information to continue your membership in NWCHS, as well as getting your family and friends involved. We welcome you to use your own unique talents in some way to make the Governor Upham House and the North Wood County Historical Society live on, to be enjoyed for generations to come. Merry Christmas, and the very best to you and yours in the coming year!

## Board of Directors

### *President*

Mike Meyers

### *Vice President*

Ken Wood

### *Secretary*

Jan Thomas

### *Treasurer*

Laura Ptak

### *Directors*

Brad Allen

Kim Krueger

Matt Pilz

Don Schnitzler

Tom Stram

### *Past President*

Lucille (Dolly) Kobs

### *Coordinator*

Kim Krueger

### *Building Chair*

Brad Allen

### *Master Consulting Rosarian*

Tom Ptak

### *Website*

### *Maintenance*

Matt Pilz

### **Current Board of Directors**

***President***

Mike Meyers

***Vice President***

Ken Wood

***Secretary***

Jan Thomas

***Treasurer***

Laura Ptak

***Directors***

Brad Allen

Kim Krueger

Matt Pilz

Don Schnitzler

Tom Stram

## January Annual Elections & Member's Meeting

Elections for the NWCHS Board of Directors will be held at the next Annual Meeting on **Monday January 23rd 2017** at 6:30pm at the Upham House.

A number of people have completed his or her term and the following 6 positions are open: President, Vice President, Secretary, and 3 Directors positions.

The Nominating Committee's recommendations are:

President - Brad Allen

Vice-President - Jan Thomas

Secretary - Don Schnitzler

Director - Mat Pilz (incumbent)

Director - Andrea Jackan

Director—Tom Ptak

Mike Meyers becomes Past President

Per the NWCHS Bylaws: *Officers &*

*Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting held in January each year.*

***Nominations from the floor for the directors and the officers shall be called for and accepted by the President. Write-in candidates of the ballots at the annual meeting are valid.***

On the insert you will find revisions made to the NWCHS Bylaws. These revisions will be reviewed and voted on at the Annual Meeting January 23rd.

Ken Wood chose to step down from the NWCHS Board of Directors at the end of his term. Ken served the NWCHS since 2011. We would like to thank Ken for his years of service and valuable input to the Society. Thanks, Ken!

### 2017 Membership

Please find enclosed the envelope for submitting your 2017 membership renewal or donation to the NWCHS.

We will be sending an end of year giving summary at the end of 2016. If you have provided us with an email it will be emailed to you.

The North Wood County Historical Society / Upham Mansion is a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization; donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 39-6078622.

### Beginner's Embroidery Class

Starting January 2017!

Share time with your family or friends as people did in times gone past. Register for our unique embroidery class. You will learn a beginner stitch along with the history of embroidery in the greater Marshfield area.

Class will be held in the Gov. Upham House Sun Room where registered guests will enjoy embroidering their initials into a ladies kerchief while sipping tea and enjoying treats.

The first class will be held Saturday, **January 14 from 1-3pm** at the Upham House. Pre registration is required. Contact NWCHS at 715.387.3322 or register via our facebook page.

\$20 per person All supplies provided



## Annual NWCHS Potluck & Christmas Open

Twenty four people attended the annual Potluck dinner Monday, November 28th. NWCHS members and guests enjoyed a wide variety of hot food while getting a first peek at the Upham House Christmas decorations. Everyone had a great time!

The first weekend in December, despite dodgy weather and a Packer game on Sunday December 4th, close to 100 people enjoyed a self guided tour and refreshments. This year's theme is "Santa's on His Way" and features Santa Claus in all different forms and traditions. There are also a number of thematic trees including one ornamented with letters to Santa taken from the newspapers dating from the 1800s. A tree in the parlor honor's the Governor's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Grace, who came from North Carolina. On it are dogwood flowers, magnolias, and roses. All throughout the

house are nods to traditions and memories. We even have a 'Legend of the Christmas Spider' tree!



NWCHS members and friends at the 2016 Potluck

Decorating the Governor Upham House was headed up by our decorating chairman, Don Schnitzler, and took many hours and volunteers. It began the first weekend in November and went nearly every day until it was finished Sunday Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. We even had volunteers from Auburndale High School (thank you Vinessa Mitchell, Hanah Schulte, and Macie Schmeiser and to Audra Schmeiser for helping to arrange these hard workers!).

The Christmas decorations will be up until mid-January.

### In Kind Donations

NWCHS would like to thank the following individuals for their in kind donations to the NWCHS:

**Pat Passo**—supplied paper tissue products and some cleaning supplies as our supply was running low!

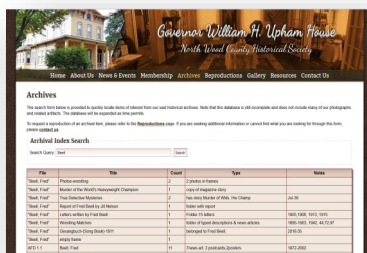
Also for coming in to clean the Upham House prior to the Christmas open house. Thank you Pat!

**Tom & Laura Ptak** for computer supplies & software.

**Dolly Kobs, Tom Stram, Pat Passo, Judy Peterson, and Ed & Mary Anne Arendt** for sharing their Santas for the Upham House Christmas exhibit. **Vickie Schnitzler** for creating the huge wreath on the west wall outside, as well as the centerpiece for the dining room table.

**Tom Ptak and Tom Stram** for their leadership on the yard and Rose Garden this year. Between the two of them they clocked in over 200 volunteer hours!

**Andrea Jackan** for heading up marketing and helping set up volunteer connections for NWCHS and to **Cheyenne Meyer** for getting news items into the local papers for the Christmas open house.



Screenshot of the new, searchable Archive page.

### Website and Technology Upgrade

If you have not visited our website in a while you should take a few moments to see the fresh look created by Matt Pilz. Matt put in many hours to create this mobile-friendly and self-administrable web-

site, which includes a brand new archival search system. He even created a step by step manual for Kim to be able to get into the behind the scenes admin. The volunteer hours on this alone is comparable to close to \$4000!

Matt also sought out and purchased a Board of Directors approved, new computer system saving the NWCHS close to \$1000.00 He spent a number of days installing and working out kinks so the office has a dependable computer. Matt also reset our old computer so that it could be used as a work station for volunteers who help with archival cataloging. This new technology is integral not only to all the administrative work encompassed in the office, but also to maintaining and supporting the curatorial database according to best museum practices. NWCHS is vastly grateful for the generous volunteer work Matt has given this year!

## NWCHS Bylaws Revision for Review

The Board of Directors reviewed the Society Bylaws at its recent meeting and approved presenting the following additions or revisions of the bylaws for your consideration. Changes within the Preamble and the addition of Articles on Affiliation and Dissolution meet requirements of affiliate historical societies of the Wisconsin Historical Society. In addition, there are changes in five sections within our current bylaws. New/inserted language is shown in red, and deletions are shown with a ~~strikethrough~~ and also in red.

### Article II. Membership

#### Section 4. Voting Rights

- a. Each paid member, **including the coordinator**, shall be entitled to a vote in person at all meetings of the organization. *(inserting "including the coordinator,")*

### Article III. Board of Directors

#### Section 1. Composition of the Board

- a. The Board of Directors shall consist of **five ten** persons who are elected as members of the Board, **to include five directors**, the Society's four officers, and immediate past president. *(to better defines the board composition)*

#### Section 2. Powers of the Board

- a. The Board of Directors ~~may~~ **shall** have the power to manage & conduct the affairs of this organization with the knowledge of the general membership. The coordinator, as a paid employee of the Society, may attend all meetings. *(Replace the word may, (a choice to act) with the imperative shall)*

### Article V. Elections

#### Section 2. Officers

- a. All officers shall be elected from the **Board of Directors** at the annual meeting held in January each year. *(Consistent with Article III. Board of Directors, Section 1, the board composition)*

#### Section 3. Nominating Committee

- b. ~~If no nominating committee is found the Board of Directors shall prepare a slate of candidates for nomination of officers, to be presented at the annual meeting. The nominating committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for openings on the Board of Directors. This slate shall contain only one name for each vacancy. (Replaces current wording with original 2008 NWCHS bylaws wording – better defines the purpose of the Nominating Committee)~~
- c. **The Board of Directors shall prepare a slate of candidates for nomination of officers, to be presented at the annual meeting. This slate shall contain only one name for each vacancy. Nominations from the floor, for both the directors and the officers, shall be called for by the president. (Insert wording from original 2008 NWCHS bylaws – separates the responsibility of recruiting new board members from preparing a slate of candidates for the society's officers).**

*Change current c and d to d and e respectively.*

*There will be an opportunity to discuss these revisions at the upcoming annual meeting, or if you prefer, contact any of the members of the Bylaws Review Committee (Don Schnitzler, Kim Krueger and Laura Ptak).*

## Major Contributions for 2016

### Donations \$5000+

City of Marshfield

### Donations \$500—\$1000

Charlotte Kruse—Memory of Francis Kruse, M.D.

Catherine Mack—Honor of Monie Upham

Nelson Jameson

Monie Upham (Matching Gift)

Vera Bradley (Matching Gift)

Mary Beth Speyer

Wood County Master Gardener voucher: \$500 reimbursement of moneys spent on materials for Upham yard and garden.

### Donations \$100—\$400

Tony & Nancy Buchek—Memory of Harold & Else Blum

Marshfield Lion's Club

Mary McCann—Monie Upham's Birthday

Clarence & Patricia Topp

## Help Support the North Wood County Historical Society and Upham Mansion

Thank you for your donation!

Your contribution will enable the North Wood County Historical Society to preserve, educate, and disseminate historical information of Marshfield and the local community.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Student \$10

Individual \$35

Family \$50

Business \$100

General Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help by: (Check all that apply)

- Baking pies or cookies/bars for events
- Guide or Help with student tours in May
- Garden or House maintenance
- Helping to process Artifacts or Photographs
- Work with or Research an exhibit
- Sponsor an exhibit or an event
- Speak on a subject for a General Meeting

I would like my gift to go towards: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of  In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Memorial gifts go towards upkeep of the Upham Mansion yard)

**The North Wood County Historical Society / Upham Mansion is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 39-6078622.**

North Wood County Historical Society

PO Box 142 (mailing address)  
212 W. 3rd St.  
Marshfield, WI 54449

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



Office Hours:

Mondays & Thursdays 9-1

Wednesdays 12-4

Tours: Wed & Sat 1-4

Or by appointment

Phone: 715.387.3322

E-mail:  
uphammansion@frontier.com

**Upcoming Events**

- |                   |   |                                   |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Dec—Jan</b>    | “Santa’s On His Way” Christmas exhibit                                    |                                   |
| <b>1 Jan 2017</b> | New Year’s Tea and Card Gathering Watch our Face-book page for more info. | 1-3pm<br>Upham House              |
| <b>14 Jan</b>     | Beginner’s Embroidery Class   | 1-3pm                             |
| <b>23 Jan</b>     | Annual Meeting & Elections  | 6:30pm<br>Upham House             |
| <b>25 Feb</b>     | 14th Annual Marshfield Cultural Fair                                      | 10am-4pm<br>UW—Wood Co.<br>Campus |