

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2022



“OLD ABE”

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

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NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

to assist with opening and running the new Chippewa Area History Center. Volunteer application forms are available at the new center or by mail. Call 715-723-4399.

A Fresh Start for The Past Passed Here

FRANK SMOOT

With great publicity and generally good weather (we could have used a cooler opening day), the society’s signature event, The Past Passed Here, came roaring back this year, May 12 through 15, 2022.

There was the usual fun — games of skill and deception, wry wit and historical knowledge from the re-enactors, great food and interesting goods to purchase. But there was also an added element this year, slightly hard to define but maybe best described as resilience.

Some part of it was surely relief: that, after the disruption of the pandemic, the public did return, that Marshall Park reconfirmed itself as a good successor venue to Allen Park (with a smaller chance of flooding for sure), and relief that nothing went wrong the whole four days.

Another part of it was amiability: the easy humor of the re-enactors, the keen and genuine interest of visitors to hear — and share — history, the gentle music of Jerry Way. Once inside the gates, no one seemed in a rush about anything.



CALENDAR

Meetings will be held at the new Chippewa Area History Center unless listed elsewhere.

June 21 | 9:30 am | CCHS Board

June 21 | 1 am | Historic Marker Committee

June 21 | 1 pm | The Past Passed Here

June 28 | 9 am | Capital Campaign Committee - Raihle Law Office

July 19 | 9:30 am | CCHS Board

July 26 | 9 am | Capital Campaign Committee - Raihle Law Office

Aug. 16 | 9:30 am | CCHS Board

Aug. 23 | 9 am | Capital Campaign Committee - Raihle Law Office

A Message From Your President

DAVE GORDON

I had hoped we would not experience the last-minute things that can come up on any building project. But that was not to be. Punch lists have been completed and corrections are being made. The inspection by the state requires addition of railings on the front side walks which have several weeks delivery. This winter provided the opportunity to see snow coming off the roof which will require additional protection for safety. Unfortunately, we cannot let the public into the building until these things are corrected. CCHS and CCGS have started moving items into the building and will begin construction of exhibits for the museum and setting up CCGS's Research Library shortly. We hope to be able to show people the interior of the building by late summer and plan on a grand opening with some exhibits completed and Research Library open this fall.

The Chippewa Area History Center Foundation has been incorporated. The next step is to form a board of directors. By Laws require a Board of nine Directors with three from CCHS, two from CCGS and four at-large members.

And, in our spare time, things like hours of operation, admission fees and room usage fees, and AV equipment for the auditorium must be decided upon. The gift shop will need to be set up and stocked. Oh yes, recruiting volunteers to operate all of this is being done as I write this article. There is something for everyone to get involved with to make this successful.

We hope this will be a unique addition to our community that can be used and enjoyed by all. *Dave* ♣

Remembering Judy Henske's Return Home

During June 2013, Judy Henske visited her hometown, Chippewa Falls, to participate in the opening of the Chippewa County Historical Society's new music exhibit that she was featured in. She also performed to a sold out house at the Heyde Center for the Arts with Jerry Way backing her on guitar. Between songs she shared stories about attending McDonell High School, the trouble she got into, and being disciplined by the nun teachers.

Judy was a folk musician, singer and songwriter. She was known as queen of the beatniks in the 1960s. During the early '60s she toured with comedian, Woody Allen, and she was one of the women who influenced his lead character in his movie, Annie Hall, which included a trip to Chippewa Falls to have dinner with Annie's family. She appeared as herself, along with Johnny Cash, in the movie "Hootenanny Hoot."

Henske died April 27, 2022 at the age of 85 in Los Angeles. ♣

Pictured from left at the Heyde Center for the Arts are Jerry Way and Judy Henske.





Don't forget to renew
your membership!

Moving the Collections

FRANK SMOOT

As we seem to report with every newsletter, the new building project is nearing completion. But this time we mean it.

Two undramatic events literally hold the keys to the building: the Fire Marshal's inspection, and the official permission to occupy granted by the State Building Inspector. We're happy to report that the building passed its final fire inspection, and that curing a handful of curable defects will get us our Certificate of Occupancy from the state.

Passing the fire inspection was a watershed in a crucial way. It has allowed us to start moving collections into the new History Center.

Our sister organization, the Chippewa County Genealogical Society, has now moved nearly all of its "storage" collections (those documents not out in front of the public on its library shelves), and the Historical Society has moved something like 300 of the 800 boxes that volunteer Elizabeth Peterson — with help from board members including Mary Erickson and Jim Lindberg — so carefully packed.

At press time, there's an explosion of boxes on the History Center's two main floors. They are now creeping onto the center's mezzanines as we parse the artifacts into categories — agricultural, domestic, industrial, recreational, religious.

After so many years of being tucked into every nook, cranny, and closet of the Allen Street convent, it's quite fun to see all the things we have to tell the Chippewa area's story. ♣



MEMBERSHIP FORM

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE / ZIP

TELEPHONE

Type of Membership:

Individual

\$25 (1-year) \$70 (3-year)

Family

\$35 (1-year) \$100 (3-year)

Contributing Member

\$60 (1-year) \$170 (3-year)

Life Membership

\$500 (individual) \$750 (couple)

I would like to make an additional donation

\$ _____

MAIL TO:

Chippewa County Historical Society
123 Allen Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



Students Return to The Past Passed Here!

JANEL SEAHOLM, STILLSON PHY ED TEACHER AND
CFAUSD COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR

Here event! Students, teachers, and parents were extremely excited to once again have students attend this outstanding field trip after a two-year halt with the pandemic. Students love participating in the hands-on experiences that the day offers. Teachers appreciate the authenticity of the re-enactors and the valuable information they share with the students that helps them understand a different era in time. Students were wide eyed with wonder, smiling, and asking questions throughout the three days. All of our educators and students appreciated the Chippewa County Historical Society and thank them for hosting such a wonderful event for our students and the community.

Outdoor Fun and Games

JIM SCHUH, CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEMBER AND EVENT CO-CHAIR

Learning about life during the fur trade and lumbering eras that shaped our county from the mid 1700s to early 1900s is the focus of the event. Knowledgeable re-enactors dressed in authentic costumes and living in accurate camps with numerous artifacts set the stage for the experience. Hands-on activities are the student's favorite activities. They included archery, atlatl (prehistoric spear throwing), canoe paddle race, cat and mouse, lacrosse, flint and steel, souvenir medallion making, ring and hook game and finger weaving.

The Past Passed Here Grand Championship contests were held in Marshall Park Saturday morning, May 14, 2022. Competitions are held during school days Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and the winner from each class is invited to come back and compete in the grand championships on the weekend.

This year we set a record. More than 10,000 grade school students who are studying Wisconsin history in school have enjoyed a day in our camps at the Past Passed Here since the event began in 2003.





The following list includes the “best of the best.”

Archery (bow and arrow target practice):

1. Montrell Parks, Augusta
2. Degan Dahl, Chippewa Falls

Cat & Mouse (balance game)

1. Ella Hasart, Chippewa Falls
2. Jaxson Barst, Chippewa Falls
3. Kinsley Burzynski, Stanley Boyd

Canoe Paddle Race (obstacle course)

1. Montrell Parks, Augusta
2. Abby Boettcher, Cadott
3. Brooklyn Hakea, Cadott

Hawks (tomahawk target practice)

1. Gabriel Dassow, Chippewa Falls
2. Liam LeQuia, Chippewa Falls
3. Dax Noble, Fall Creek

Thank you to the wonderful group of dozens of volunteers who make this event possible! From planning committee, to sponsor solicitation, supply acquisitions, set up, admission gate, food booth, accounting, live musical entertainment and pack up are areas needed to make the event a success. Special thanks to the Tilden Lions Club members who cooked and served yummy treats in our food booth which included: Dave Boese, Joe Meinen, Tom Schimmel, Tom Clark, Don McKinnan, Jerry Cherrier, and Al Goettl, who all donated their time. Other groups who assisted were Chippewa Falls Park & Recreation Department and the Chippewa Valley Correction & Treatment Facility community work crew. Sponsors of the event were recognized in all print advertising including 150 posters. A special thank you to Marge Hebbing for co-chairing the event again with me. ♡

A FRESH START

CONTINUED FROM COVER

It was also a good chance to demonstrate the society’s relevance: it can put on popular, well-organized and novel regional event with volunteers — and in the shadow of its impressive new facility.

Those things add up to that sense of resilience. As disruptive as things have been, folks were still willing to re-engage, to spend a cool morning or sunny afternoon learning about the past but being right there in the present. You could see on people’s faces that they felt happy to be gathered again.

The event made money for the benefit of the society — but more importantly, it reaffirmed a community spirit.

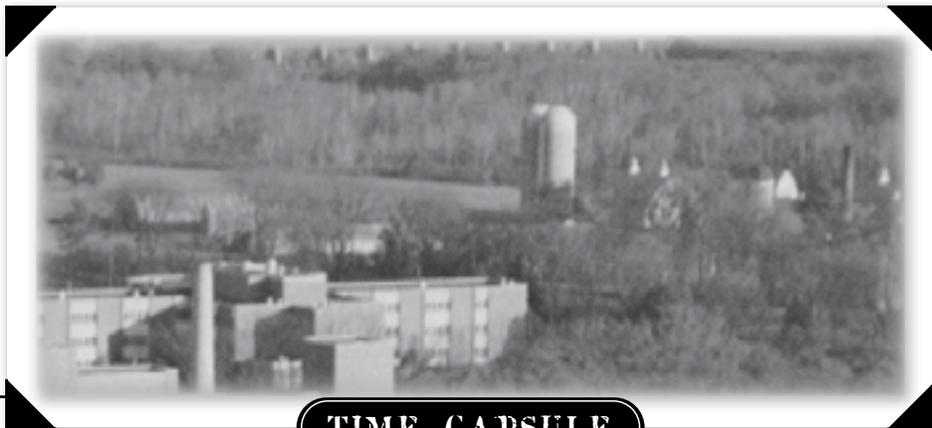
None of this would have happened without the leadership of Jim Schuh and Marge Hebbing, the re-enactors and volunteer staff, or the contributions of the many sponsors.

Those sponsors include

- WEAU 13 News
- The William J. and Gertrude R. Casper Foundation
- Chippewa Falls Parks & Rec
- GFL Environmental
- Donna and Bob Hogseth Family Fund and Harold McDonald Endowment Fund in the Community Foundation of Chippewa County
- Lee Beverage of WI
- The Medicine Shop
- Raihle Law Office
- Fill-Inn Station
- Foreign 5 and Lucy’s Deli
- Fries Financial Group LLC
- Gaber Signs LLC
- Dan and Jacey Lea
- Micon Cinema
- Northwestern Bank
- Old Dutch Foods
- Olson’s Ice Cream
- Kwik Trip
- Jerry Way
- Peterson Volker-Funeral Chapel
- Jim Schuh
- Event posters were sponsored in part by Rooney Printing of Chippewa Falls.



RIGHT: This image was taken from a vintage 1975 postcard titled Chippewa Falls Wisconsin~St Joseph's Hospital. The back of the postcard talks about the hospital being newly built in 1975. St. Joseph's Hospital is not shown in this photo which is zoomed in on just the County Hospital and farm buildings with Lake Wissota and the Chippewa River showing behind it. That area has surely changed since 1975! Now Seymour Cray Blvd and bridge are in that background location.



TIME CAPSULE

County Hospital—Operation of County Hospital Can Truly be Described as Big Business

HENRY J. CONNOR, CHIPPEWA HERALD | **NOVEMBER 26, 1949**

I stopped in to see a friend of mine on Thanksgiving Day, just to pay my respects. I had already eaten, and I don't want you to get the idea that I make a practice of "just dropping in" around mealtime. Fried chicken with all the trimmings, fresh flowers on the tables, and a general festive air about the place made me wish I hadn't eaten so much.

You may think you had a crowd at your house! My friend had more than 400 "guests" at his place and they all enjoyed themselves to the limit. The guests were the patients and attendants at the County Hospital and the County Home, and their host and hostess for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rogers, superintendent and matron at the institution. I stayed most of the day while Mr. and Mrs. Rogers showed me every phase of the operation of Hospital and Home.

In driving past the County Hospital you have undoubtedly seen the residents in the fields and gardens, planting, irrigating and harvesting. The results of a summer's work line the shelves in the refrigerated cold storage rooms in the basement of the Hospital. 4000 quarts of tomatoes, 2500 quarts of rhubarb, over 1000 of the 3500 quarts of strawberries picked this summer were in the deep freeze for winter consumption, huge barrels of home-made sauerkraut, bushels and bushels of apples, thousands of heads of cabbage, huge quantities of string beans, peas, potatoes, and the countless other vegetables grown on the 25 acres of garden. All of these are stored and used by the County Hospital and Home.

You should see the walk-in refrigerator in which the meat is stored. Every pound of it, except the cured meat and sausages, is raised and butchered right on the Hospital farm for consumption by the patients or for sale to outside sources.

Last year it cost \$59,741 to feed the patients here. Of this \$33,271 worth of produce was actually raised on the farm for use and another \$58,708 in farm produce was sold. In spite of the rising food costs throughout the nation since 1947, it only cost \$8.28 a week to feed and house each patient this year thanks to good management, excellent planning of meals and judicious use of home-grown produce.

I saw the bakery turning out huge, delicious loaves of white bread and cinnamon cake for Friday's meals. It was good. I know, because I snitched some when Mr. Rogers wasn't looking and I washed it down with an ice-cold glass of some of the best milk I have ever tasted.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers showed me the recreation program lined up for the coming year. Beside regular church services the list includes movies twice a month, several dances during the year, concerts by the Chippewa Falls Civic Band, a Maggie and Scotty show, the singing of Christmas Carols by various choral groups, religious films, hikes for the women patients throughout the summer, supervised downtown shopping trips, a full day at the fair, plenty of fishing year-round for the men, reading periods, hobby periods for carpentry or painting for the men and sewing and rug making for the women plus the daily occupational therapy.



Hooray!!

The 1954 FWD/Darley Chippewa Falls Fire Department old Engine #2 fire truck made it back from the restoration paint shop Legacy Painting & Sandblasting in Galesville, WI back to Chippewa Falls tonight thanks to Chad's Towing. With awesome help from some great people, it's now securely inside the new Chippewa Area History Center where we will complete the restoration this summer and soon to be on display for all to enjoy!

The Hospital has a store, which sells cigarettes, candy and other incidentals of pleasant living. The patients pick berries and catch fish, which they sell to the Hospital and receive credit, which they use in purchasing needed items at the store. One of the residents of the County Home does the shoe repair work for the institution, and he is an excellent cobbler.

The patient's rooms are very pleasant, attractively decorated and well heated. The institution has a capacity of 375 and every bed is filled. The Hospital staff of 42 includes a farm boss, a doctor, a dentist, a gardener and three attendants at the Keystone Camp.

It is the second largest county institution in Wisconsin. Dr. L.W. Picotte is the staff physician and Dr. D.R. Chisholm, the staff dentist, pays two visits a month to take care of the dental health of the patients.

70 head of Grade Hereford cattle are housed at Keystone and a nine-acre orchard supplies all the apples and plums used by the institution as well as over 500 cords of firewood and large quantities of rough and finished lumber.

Trustees of the Chippewa County Hospital are R.L. Goetz, president; L.N. Meinen, vice president; and Allen Hoel, secretary.

I wish to take this opportunity of extending my personal thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Rogers for the enjoyable and instructive afternoon spent with them in visiting the County Hospital. It was an experience I shall not soon forget and one that I wish more people in Chippewa Falls would take the time to enjoy.

Each Saturday, the Chippewa Area History Center showcases a piece of local history in the Herald. This was Time Capsule, Week 61. Thank you to Wendy Sullivan for creating and/or finding these stories! ♣

County Hospital History Commentary

JIM SCHUH

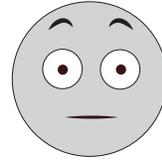
County Hospitals and the Wisconsin Northern Colony provided residents with important activities, food, lodging and a sense of pride. Many living there contributed by helping with food production chores on the farms. They considered them their farms and were proud of their contributions.

During July 1971, I began work as a nurse's aide at the Eau Claire County Hospital. Part of my job was getting acquainted with many of the hundreds of residents. Making daily notes in charts about their behavior, dispensing medications, changing bedding, cleaning and playing card games were my activities. Many older men would help with farm tasks every morning. They fed the livestock, picked apples, and planted and harvested crops in the greenhouse and gardens. To have spending money to buy candy, snacks and tobacco products, some dug and sold worms to fishermen.

Shortly after I began work there, a mandate was issued to staff. New Wisconsin legislation now made it illegal for residents to work. This resulted in much controversy. The older men continued to do their chores on the farm. This made it necessary to restrain some to prevent them from breaking the new rules. The new law, meant to ensure people were not taken advantage of, resulted in them losing a reason to get up each morning and make a contribution to their farm and livelihood. I don't think any resident worker felt they were being taken advantage of.

That was only the tip of the iceberg...

The new law also required that every resident had to be removed from the institution if they were not a danger to themselves or others. This meant every person had to be evaluated by the committee of psychiatrists, nursing staff, and others. In most cases, they were not dangerous to anyone but themselves. A social work aide was charged with finding places for them to live. At that time here were no assisted living homes and very few community-based residential facilities, which made it difficult. So, many had been residents who had been there much of their lives, had few social skills and did not know how to adapt in society. This law eventually resulted in closing all county hospitals in the state, not just in the Chippewa Valley. ♣



Common Sayings with Historic Origins

WHITE ELEPHANT

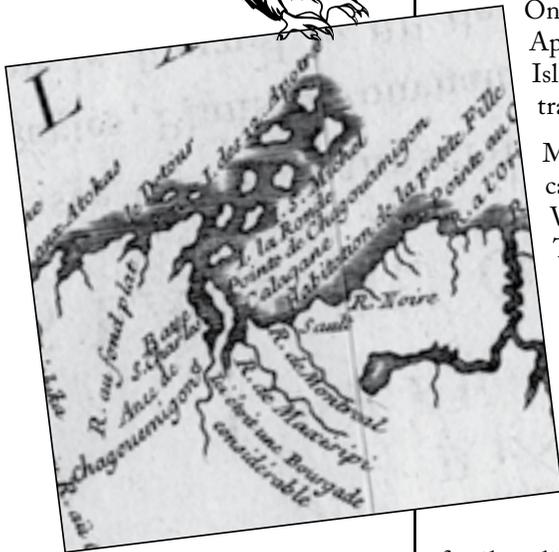
White elephants were once considered highly sacred creatures in Thailand—the animal even graced the national flag until 1917—but they were also wielded as a subtle form of punishment. According to legend, if an underling or rival angered a Siamese king, the royal might present the unfortunate man with the gift of a white elephant. While ostensibly a reward, the creatures were tremendously expensive to feed and house, and caring for one often drove the recipient into financial ruin. Whether any specific rulers actually bestowed such a passive-aggressive gift is uncertain, but the term has since come to refer to any burdensome possession—pachyderm or otherwise.

BY AND LARGE

Many everyday phrases are nautical in origin—“taken aback,” “loose cannon” and “high and dry” all originated at sea—but perhaps the most surprising example is the common saying “by and large.” As far back as the 16th century, the word “large” was used to mean that a ship was sailing with the wind at its back. Meanwhile, the much less desirable “by,” or “full and by,” meant the vessel was traveling into the wind. Thus, for mariners, “by and large” referred to trawling the seas in any and all directions relative to the wind. Today, sailors and landlubbers alike now use the phrase as a synonym for “all things considered” or “for the most part.”

RIGHT: Dirt trail passing the structure that was probably the home of Michael and Madeline Cadotte, La Pointe, photographed about 1897.

BELOW: Detail of "Isle de la Ronde" from "Carte des lacs du Canada" by Jacques-Nicolas Bellin; published in Charlevoix's Histoire et Description Générale de Nouvelle France, Paris, 1744.



Ojibwe History

MARGE HEBBRING

On Lake Superior's South Shore lie a group of twenty-two islands called the Apostle Islands. Only two of them are inhabited, the largest being Madeline Island. That island was occupied by the Ojibwe for hundreds of years before the traders came to it.

Madeline Island has had many names. The Native Americans living there called it Moninwanekaning which means the Island of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker. Early explorers named it St. Michael's Island after St. Michael. The name was changed forever when the daughter of White Crane, the Ogema (headman) of the Ojibwe, married the trader, Michael Cadott. Her name was Equaysayway, but during their traditional ceremony, she was given the name Madeline. So happy was her father, he changed the name of the island to Madeline Island.

Michael Cadott

In 1764, Michael was born in Sault St. Marie, Michigan to Jean Baptiste Cadott Sr. and Jean's Ojibwe wife, Anastasia. The Cadotts were the first family to live at the Sault. They served as interpreters for the French and later, the British. They knew the tribes, trade routes and, most importantly, the Ojibwe language, which was the only language spoken in the Cadott household. Jean Baptiste became partners with Alexander Henry who came to the Sault with the British in 1762 and together they developed a thriving business, trading as far west as what was then called St. Michael's Island. They traveled back and forth between Sault St. Marie and the Island, but never lived there. Years later, Michael and his brother, Jean Baptiste Jr., were sent to school in Montreal, Canada, and returned home speaking Latin and French as well as English and Ojibwe. They assumed their father's business and, in 1792, were living at LaPointe on St. Michael's Island. The Native Americans respected and trusted Michael, calling him Kichimeshane which means Great Michael.

Michael and Madeline made their headquarters at LaPointe and worked first for the Northwest Company and later for the American Fur Company. In 1792, they had trading posts at Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, and other points along the Chippewa River. In 1797, they traveled to the "Falls of the Chippewa" where they built a trading post. Michael and Madeline also had two daughters who would help carry on the fur trade business.

In 1787, their son, Michael Jr., was born on the shores of the Yellow River where the village of Cadott bears the family name today. ❖

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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- Anne Keller..... Author / Proofreader
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COUNTY NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, PRESIDENT

Our museum opened for its regular summer season the weekend of June 4 and 5. It will be open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm during June through September. A beautiful collection of arrowheads donated last year by the Walter Miller family is now on display and will be featured this summer. Most of the over 400 items in this collection were found in the Stanley rural area either by the namesake, his son, or were brought to Mr. Miller who was a Stanley banker from 1932-1945.

We are happy to report that Melanie Schmidt, a student in the UW-Eau Claire Public History Program will be working with us this summer. Melanie has considerable past experience working in a rural museum setting.

Our sad news is that Stanley's historic depot was severely damaged in the December 15, 2021 tornado and is going to have to be torn down. The entire roof structure was partially blown off or is a severe safety risk. The entire northeast corner of the structure is totally gone and the north wall has severe cracks. Also totally destroyed in the tornado was the original Ford Garage, which was directly across the street from the depot and on the south side of the depot, the historic Gayle Bivans Garage is going to be torn down and, replaced with a new structure. Its roof was severely damaged in the tornado. Many of the homes damaged in the tornado have already been repaired. One home was torn down and is not being replaced. Another home that was totally destroyed is in the process of being rebuilt. The blessing is that no one was injured or killed in the tornado.

Congratulations to the Chippewa County Historical Society on the opening of its new museum. 🌸

Pomeroy Foundation Funds National Registry Signage

MARY KLEUSCH

Two Chippewa Falls historic districts are getting new signage thanks to grants from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse New York. The Pomeroy Foundation makes grants to public and non-profit groups across the country to mark buildings and districts that have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Two national historic districts are located in the city of Chippewa Falls. The first area is Bridge Street from Spring Street to Columbia Street. Known as the Bridge Street Commercial Historic District, this area of downtown was placed on the National Register in 1994. Original signage recognizing the district had deteriorated over time so members of the Marker Committee wrote a Pomeroy Foundation grant for a large roadside marker to be installed on the lawn of the Post Office/Federal building in the summer of 2022.

In October of 2021, a second historic district, the West Hill Residential Historic District, was placed on the National Register. A Pomeroy Foundation grant purchased the large roadside marker recently installed at the Cook-Rutledge Mansion which is located in that historic district.

The Marker Committee will also be installing signage of the historic district maps showing boundaries in both areas to help community members and visitors explore these important places. The committee continues to seek funding for new street signage in the West Hill Residential Historic District to promote the area to tourists and history enthusiasts. The cost of new streets signs is currently \$3,000. To date, the Cook-Rutledge Mansion board has pledged \$500 toward the cost of the project. If you'd like to donate to the street sign project, you may send donations to the Chippewa County Historical Society, noting that the funds are to be used for the street signage project. 🌸

ABOVE: This large roadside marker was recently installed at the Cook-Rutledge Mansion which is a focal point of the West Hill Residential Historic District.



CHIPPEWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY CORNER

ANNE KELLER, CCGS PRESIDENT

You are receiving this outstanding newsletter because you are interested in history. Learning about this area's past (its history) can be quite complex because there are so many facets to consider; it can include one or many parts: the year, the situation, the person, the family. The same thing is true of finding out about your own family history – your "genealogy." There are so many interesting "corners" to research about your own family; the Chippewa County Genealogical Society has resources to search and volunteers who can help you find out about it. Are you interested in finding out about your ancestors' country of origin? Your grandparents' parents? When and/or where they arrived in this country? Who is related to whom?

Family-tree questions like those (and more) can be answered by researching available resources in the CCGS genealogy library, which will soon be available for research in the new Area History Center at 12 Bridgewater.

Thanks to Gary Swartz and his space planning, CCGS members are "in the midst of" moving its library and resources to the new building. As soon as it is open, come and find answers to your family-tree questions! ✦

Donations



The Past Passed Here Donations

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Memorial Donations

In memory of Wm. Sather from Black Rock Pediatrics P.C.
In memory of Shirley Liedl from Sharon and James Trip

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