

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2016



www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

Inside this Issue:

Antique Appraisal Affair	11
Board Members.....	11
Calendar	4
Committee Members	9
Donations.....	9
Genealogy Corner	5
Fries Project.....	11
Lake Wissota Centennial.....	10
Mandelert Family History.....	1
Membership Form.....	3
Memories of Curley's	5
Mobile Museum	6
Newsletter Sponsors	5, 8, 12
President's Letter.....	4
<i>The Past Passed Here.....</i>	6



Joseph Mandelert built this 'French style' manor home at 333 West Central Street in 1895.

The Mandelert Family - Part 3

JIM MANDELERT



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In the last installment, Joseph Mandelert had just died in 1900 and his son Charles Augustus (C.A.) managed to recover his father's investment in the Oregon lumber trade. The French Lumbering Co. (FLC) was facing the same fate as the 'big boys'...a dwindling timber trade. The FLC owned the dry goods store at 124 Bridge St., a brickyard business on Bridgewater Ave., a small woolen mill on Duncan Creek and lots of timber parcels... some of which would get flooded when Wissota Dam was built in 1917. In 1903, C.A. decided to dissolve the FLC, sell off the lumber parcels and the brickyard and form a new company called the Mandelert Mercantile Co. (MMC) that focused on the woolen mill and retail sale of finished goods in it's new department store. The mill was doubled in size and capacity over the next decade. CA applied for and was granted a U.S. Government Trademark called 'Chippewa' to protect the sales at the woolen mill. In 1904 the MMC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



FEATURED ARTIFACT

NANCY SCHUH

On May 24, Chippewa Falls resident, Walter (Wally) Kogutkiewicz, donated a tanned buffalo hide. This new artifact will be an excellent addition to the new French Fur Trade Trading Post exhibit. Herds of wild buffalo once roamed Chippewa County. ❖



Charles Augustus Mandelert was granted a U.S. Government Trademark called 'Chippewa' to protect the sales of his woolen mill products.

Mandelert CONTINUED FROM COVER

purchased the stores behind them on Central St. and expanded both the first floor sales and upstairs leasing to professionals, spending \$13,000 (\$350K today) in the process. To maximize leasing, the MMC bought what is now Lucy's Delicatessen for its offices of the store and mill. The MMC also had elevators and warehouses in Chippewa Falls and Eagle Point and buying stations at Chippewa Falls, Eagle Point, Anson and Bateman. In 1908, CA sold the mercantile business to the McNally Mercantile Co. but retained ownership of the store and office building until 1938. On March 11th, 1921, the corporation was renamed the Chippewa Falls Woolen Mill Co.

At the turn of the century, Charles rebuilt his flooded home that was right on the Chippewa River in 'old' Frenchtown on the southwest corner of Main and Canal. He died in 1909 leaving no will. His son Louis and daughter Louise divided his estate. Louise and her husband, Frank Ihle, bought the A.B. McDonell mansion on North Bridge St.

In 1895, Joseph built a 'French style' manor home at 333 West Central St. The 'big house' was the scene for many fine recitals, dinners and dance parties. It was there, in 1900, that C.A. moved his wife Julia and young son Charles Lloyd to live with his mother, Olive. Sadly, Julia died in 1912 from complications of a broken arm received from cranking a Ford Model T. Soon after that, C.A. hired a nurse named Emma Gault to help him with health issues. He appreciated her expert care and accomplished piano skills. They fell in love and were married in Dubuque, Iowa on October 2nd, 1915. They adopted a young girl named Alicia in 1921.

The use of horses to travel was common but not without problems. On August 7th, 1895, Miss Mary Mandelert, Joseph's sister, hitched the family horse to their carriage to take home her cousin and younger sister. The horse went a short distance, got frightened and bolted down Central St. at a full run! Fortunately there was no cross traffic and the horse galloped through Island, Bay, Bridge and River streets, crossing Duncan Creek & up East Central St. to Catholic Hill before tiring. It was then easy to subdue the horse.

Charles' son Louis purchased a farmstead at 520 Bridgewater and was truck farming as well as working as city clerk. Louis and Mable Cain had a daughter, Alice. According to her diary from before WWI, she stated that she would only go to the local silent film cinema if her cousin-in-law, Julia Mandelert, was playing the piano that night. Julia, CA's wife, was a very talented organist and pianist. She was blessed with a perfect memory for sheet music, as such, she would have many songs to play for each segment of the silent movie. Alice said she made the movie 'more dramatic'.



During March a group of cub scouts from Central Lutheran Church toured the museum as part of their activities to earn their Bear Merit Badges.





On June 1st, 68 second graders along with teachers and parents from Hillcrest School visited the Museum. They toured four exhibits experiencing railroads, lumbering, the fur trade and kitchen tools from early Chippewa County. Pictured is Board Member, Mary Erickson, leading the group in a rousing rendition of "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands."

MEMBERSHIP FORM



At the end of WWI, a telegraph was sent by Western Union to Chippewa Falls just before lunch. Runners were dispatched to all the schools and churches to have the bells rung in celebration. At McDonell High School, Alice Mandelert heard about the armistice and organized a parade to be held that afternoon. She and some friends went home and turned the truck farm's Model T pick-up truck into a float. A picture of that parade is hanging at the Chippewa County Historical Society.

In 1925, C.A. built a home for himself at 936 Bridge Street. The house stood high above the street with a long staircase. At that time there was an abundance of children in the lower west hill area. According to Jeanne Chisholm. Alicia Mandelert was 2 to 4 years older than most of the cousins and nephews that lived nearby. On summer evenings she would invite them to come at twilight to the bottom of the stairs on Bridge St. There was a street light at Elm and Bridge and one on Pond Street. Elm trees surrounded the area creating an eerie darkness. Alicia was a skilled orator and knew many good ghost stories. One night her young cousin, Sally Jasper, attended and Alicia told a scary story that chilled all their hearts. Little Sally shook in terror after the story ended. She refused to go back up the stairs. It took much comforting before she was willing to return to her house around the corner on Judith Street. CA's grandson, Joseph Mandelert, remembers the fun he had playing with zip guns in the stacks of heating wood behind the Chestnut school. He also remembers making play figures from clay collected from the brickyards off Bridgewater Ave.

By 1942, in the midst of WWII, C.A. was no longer running the Woolen Mill but when there was a funding crisis facing the Mill he gave an impassioned speech at the Feb. 25th, 1942 special meeting of the Chippewa Falls Woolen Mill directors. He detailed the history of the Mill and gave them sharp recommendations. C.A. noted "Our Company was successful in going through the first World War period and likewise the 1929 panic when our chief rival and thousands of other concerns went under. How did we escape the same fate? We had a CUSHION in reserves and a SMALL inventory. I saved our company in 1935 by a large personal loan from funds accumulated from my salary and outside investments. Our great trouble at that time was over-expansion and the big flood loss in 1934." C.A. then recommended, "we must build up working capital as quickly as possible, sell as much of our unused machinery as we can and eliminate all expensive outside help by the officers taking over the work themselves." These recommendations were followed and the Woolen Mill prospered for the next few years. ♣

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MAIL TO:
 Chippewa County Historical Society
 123 Allen Street
 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729





A Message From Your President



CALENDAR

Every Thursday

10:00 a.m. New Museum Planning

June 21

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting

11:00 a.m. Historic Marker Committee

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 p.m. The Past Passed Here Meeting

July 19

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

Aug. 16:

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch



Plan a museum tour

while children are on vacation or when company visits this summer.

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or group tours by appointment.

Since my last report much has happened. We had a very successful “The Past Passed Here” as you can see in this edition of “The Eagle Speaks.” Thanks to all the people involved with this very important annual project. The Mobile Lumbering Museum made its debut at the TPPH and is a great addition that will help us tell the story of lumbering in Chippewa Falls. Thanks to Jake and Betty Jacobson and their crew for a job well done.

The New Museum Committee has been meeting weekly and I have been working with the other committee members who are Jim Schuh, Skip August, Anne Keller, Dave Raihle, Jr., Paul McDonald, Bob Hogseth, and Kathleen McLaughlin. Here are some of the highlights for the last four months:

- We feel the location of the property is ideal for our new museum.
- An architectural concept has been developed and is patterned after the Chippewa Lumber and Boom Company sawmill.
- A business plan is in its final revision. The plan includes the research of the need for a new museum, space needs, building costs, budget and long-term operation of the museum.
- An Interpretive Plan is being developed which details the focus of the new museum exhibits.
- The first draft of the capital campaign brochure has been created.
- A property site survey has been completed.
- The footprint of the building on the property is being laid out. This will allow a Planned Development proposal to be submitted to the City.
- The existing building has now been demolished.
- Fixtures and contents from the existing building (now razed) were shared with local non-profits.
- Until construction begins, the white garage building at the back of the site will be used to replace rented storage for TPPH equipment.
- A Capital Campaign committee is being formed.
- A retired fund-raiser who lives in Chippewa Falls has volunteered to help with the campaign.
- As with any project of this scope, opportunities (issues) have already arisen and been dealt with. For example, finding a neighbor’s sewer running down the middle of the property was unexpected.

There is a lot left to do and the next couple of years will be busy. One of the most important, of course, is the capital campaign. We are excited about the prospects of a new museum in Chippewa Falls and hope you join us in the excitement as this project progresses.

Dave ✦



CHIPPEWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY CORNER

ANN KELLER

Are you interested in researching your Chippewa area roots?

You are welcome and encouraged to come to the CCGS library in the "old" Notre Dame convent building; there are so many more resources there than you'll find online. Volunteers are available to help each Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. until (about) 4:00 p.m. Because there is no Saturday meeting during the months of June and July, no one will be in the building (at 123 Allen Street) to give you assistance then.

The next CCGS meeting will be the Annual Indoor Picnic at Central Lutheran Church on Monday, August 22, beginning at 6:00. Everyone should bring a dish-to-pass, BUT if you're "in town" visiting or researching and have no access to make something to bring, please come anyway. The featured speaker will be Betty Plombon, one of the original members of the society, who will tell us about the history of CCGS and how it has grown.

If you can't visit us in person, use the email address to contact a researcher here so that we can help you "from a distance" to find your Chippewa area ancestors! ccgswi@gmail.com! 🐾

Memories of Curley's Root Beer Stand

KATHY PADRUTT

As a child I lived at 20 Jefferson Avenue. My parents and grandmother worked at the Chippewa Woolen Mill. When the woolen mill closed my father, Joseph Flichr, bought the wool carding equipment and opened the Badger Carding Mill.

I remember walking down our alley to the millpond where all the kids were swimming. Then I was excited to be going down the street to the root beer stand. All the neighborhood kids had their bikes thrown down on the pavement and were congregated together to see which of their friends would show up for treats. I recall carrying a gallon glass jar to be filled with root beer. It would then be taken home and made into my favorite... root beer floats. We didn't do this too often so it really was a treat.

My friends' parents, the Lowe's, owned the root beer stand. The Lowe family lived in the large brick house behind the root beer stand. Mrs. Lowe not only cooked for the large family but she also worked at the family business. All their children worked there too taking turns serving some of the best food around including burgers, corndogs and French fries. The stand had a little screened in area in front where people stood to be served. Usually the door was open because there were too many people inside. The unheated building was closed for business during the winter months.

A few years later the same neighbor kids were a bit older but still came down the alley path to the root beer stand after which they would go back to the neighborhood for a game of hide and seek or kickball.

62 YEARS OF ROOT BEER STAND HISTORY BY JIM SCHUH

- 1952: The Patrow Root Beer Stand opened by Glen Patrow
- 1955: Bushier Root Beer Stand owned by Glen Patrow
- 1958: Parkway Root Beer Stand owned by Glen Patrow
- 1961: Curley's Root Beer Stand owned by Floyd E. Lowe
- 1974: Irvine Drive Inn owned by Florian Hagen
- 1990: Dairy Queen owned by Julius (Pinky) Lee
- 2009: Grandma B's owned by Kathleen Weiss
- 2012: Piff's Pizza owned by Mike Rubenzer
- 2014: Vacant
- 2015: Purchased 12-31-15 by Chippewa County Historical Society
- 2016: Building razed to prepare site for New Chippewa Area History Center 🐾



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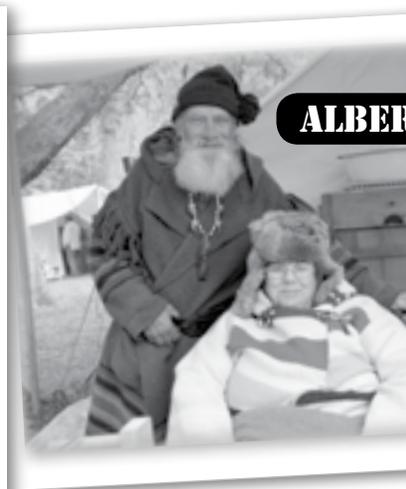


Mobile Lumberjack & Lumbermilling Museum Debut at TPPH

A huge THANK YOU goes out to Jake Jacobson and his wife Betty for planning and building our new mobile museum! They were assisted by Skip August, Jim Erickson and Jim Schuh. Also a thank you to the late Arley Engel and his wife June who donated the trailer and artifacts that Arley originally built and used over many years as an award winning parade float. The traveling museum displays 12 lumberjack job descriptions, photos and artifacts used in the logging industry. The interior depicts a blacksmith shop. Saw sharpener's tools, dinning hall, bunkhouse, sawmill artifacts and Don Bichner's scale model of the "Largest Lumber Mill In The World Under One Roof," The Chippewa Lumber & Boom Company. ♣



An incredible amount of behind the scenes volunteer time was invested by Jake and Betty Jacobson. The new mobile lumberjack museum and *The Past Passed Here* newly improved food booth were a result of their astonishing efforts.



Our 13th Annual, *The Past Passed Here*, is now history

JIM SCHUH, EVENT CO-CHAIR

A year ago we were questioning if we could continue to offer this annual educational event. Our goal was to have volunteers take over responsibilities for major areas of the event. We have made significant progress but we are still in need of additional event leaders.

People who stepped up and took on added responsibility are co-chair Marge Hebbing who handled numerous areas including all mailings, coordinating income and expense documentation and banking responsibilities at the event. She also portrayed an Ojibwa storyteller. Teri Stahr chaired medallion making and recruiting all related volunteers as well as demonstrating teepee living. Anne Keller chaired the admission gate and recruiting volunteer greeters.

Anne portrayed a French Canadian descendent of royalty. Betty Jacobson took over the food booth. She went above and beyond with every detail of this impressive operation. Jake Jacobson had the vision and the skills to recreate the trailer filled with artifacts donated by Arley and June Engel into a mobile lumberjack and lumber mill museum.

Another goal was to recruit additional skilled re-enactors. Numerous new camps were added and all the new demonstrators proved to be excellent presenters. New campers included: Jackson Buxton (Ojibwa hunting & gathering lifestyle), Cindy Lou Giles (weaver), Albert Simoncic, (pine needle basket creator), Judy Dorf (Native American beadwork), Rose Sutton (beading & clothing), Maureen & Mark Wilber, (cast iron cooking) and Jim Swanson (archery, muzzle loading firearms & Booshway or Bourgeois is French meaning camp boss). See photos on this page and page 7.

Our long-time veteran demonstrators are an amazing group of talented educators. There are also a huge amount of volunteers, too numerous to mention, that contribute to the success of this event and I am thankful for all of them. Special thanks goes out to Catherine Lea (Lady Catherine) who has been the school liaison since the inception of our event. Her communication and organizational skills are exceptional. With her planned retirement we are hopeful that she will continue as a participant and volunteer. ♣

ET

CINDY

JUDY

ROSE

MARK

MAUREEN

JIM

Reflections . . .

JIM SWANSON, BOURGEOIS

Saturday was the coldest day I have ever spent at a re-enactment, but other participants assured me the cold was far better than a flood. Interesting weather is a pretty common occurrence at re-enactments and the experienced re-enactors at The Past Passed Here (TPPH) handled it like the veterans they are and pulled off a very successful event. And had so much fun doing so engaging about 600 schoolchildren over three days of non-stop action.

As Bourgeois and first time participant, I was very impressed with the event. For me, the TPPH was the most ambitious school program I have experienced as a re-enactment during my 25 years of experience. Catherine Lea (Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District) did an amazing job coordinating the school days. Although several last minute schedule changes had to be made, the organization was flawless and impressive. Further, it was outstanding that instead of the usual one-day event devoted to schoolchildren, TPPH covers three school days with about 200 children per day.

Now being a Bourgeois, and a new one at that, I could have faced some very difficult tasks. But everyone at TPPH was willing to lend a hand and offer some sound advice. For example, getting the encampment set up was a potential mess in the making, especially since I had not actually viewed the camp layout in the park and there were new campers to incorporate into the site. So, whenever I was asked, "Where should I set up?" I answered, "Let's find you a spot." Then we would walk around the grounds and ask veteran re-enactors about where spots might be available. Here Brenda Frees was a great help. Surveying the possibilities, we soon found suitable places for the new re-enactors among the regulars. With abundant cooperation, all seemed satisfied with the results.

And, of course, so many tasks just plain arose and required attention during the several event days. There was lots of help from so many and, in particular, Channing Opshal, who was my camp gopher and chief thumb smasher. And Amber Link (AKA Merry Sunshine), who took over running archery when I began my historical gun demonstrations. Also, she took the lead in organizing the archery and hawk competitions on the last day, Sunday. Finally, thanks to Sig Howard and Jerry Loss (Nobody) for adding some guns to the related display.

Having a camp cook, though, was one of the best features of TPPH. Laura Link and her crew of merry cooks did an outstanding job of feeding all the participants and keeping us entertained throughout. Not only was the food amazingly satisfying, but also having a prepared lunch and lunch break was the best. Not many events like this provide such a fine meal offering. ♣

"All in all, the breadth of this event covering early history of the area reflects the quality and care that has gone into months of planning, and then presenting, TPPH over the years."

JIM SWANSON

BOURGEOIS: ALSO BOOSHWAY— WHICH IS FRENCH FOR CAMP MANAGER



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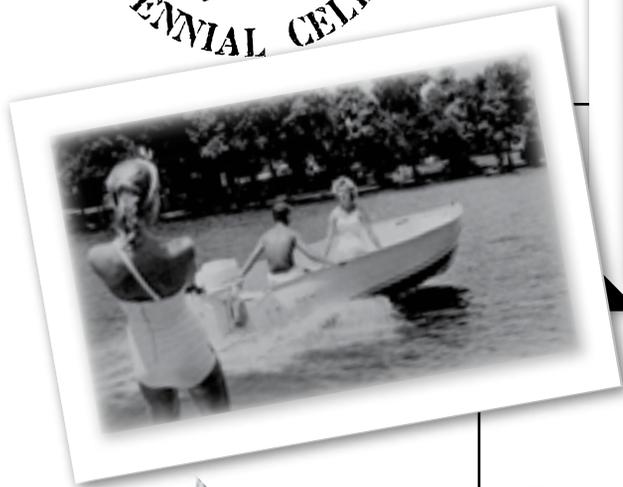
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The photo above, taken facing northeast, shows the future lake bed in the background and Wissota Dam construction in progress on March 3, 1916. Photo compliments of Xcel Energy.



(This information was taken from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Historic American Engineering Record, for construction of the Silver Bridge spanning Lake Wissota on Hwy. S.)

Local Boosters Dreamed of a Thing of Beauty and Joy Forever.

“... The erection of the Lake Wissota Bridge was not featured in the local newspapers. Instead they carried stories about clearing the brush from the future lake site, construction of the new dam, purchase and removal of the existing “Yellow River Bridge,” and avoiding disruption of highway traffic during the whole project. The dam was seen as much as an economic boom to the area as a great engineering feat. Stories carried by the newspapers tended to focus on technological aspects of the dam; though a few progress reports, including discussions of weather delays and labor problems, also appeared. There was also one report of a rumor that foreign sympathizers would attempt to blow up the dam.

The greatest concern, as identified by the newspapers, was whether the future lake site would be cleared of brush and trees before it was inundated. Local boosters dreamed of a lake that would not just be a “financial asset to the company which has erected the dam,” but also be a “thing of beauty and joy forever.” Who would pay for the clearing of the brush and trees was a matter of great debate. Wisconsin Minnesota Light and Power Company (WMLPC) did not want to incur this expense, and suggested holding the water level of the new lake at 10 feet below the crest until it froze, at which time brush and trees could easily be cut off at a point well below the future surface. Promoters of the beautiful lake concept feared this would leave brush and snags to contaminate the lake causing it to turn green in the summer. Fisheries might also suffer as a result of the debris. Ultimately, some cutting and clearing was done through the initiative of volunteers and the local government. Exactly how much was cleared, and what role, if any, WMLPC played, is not known.

The old “Yellow River Bridge,” built in 1908 and removed to make way for the lake, was a two-span Pennsylvania truss. This “light wagon bridge” had pin-connections and roller nest expansion bearings. It had a 15-7’ roadway, and a seven-ton capacity. Purchased by the towns of Eagle Point and Arthur in 1916, it was moved to a new location a few miles to the north, where it became known as the Cobban Bridge.”

WISSOTA PHOTOS SOUGHT

We are seeking photos of old cottages, recreation, family activities and hot spots on Lake Wissota to be considered for publication in conjunction with the 2017 Lake Wissota Centennial Celebration.

Please contact Donna Bourget at 715-723-6559 or djbourget@sbcglobal.net

Xcel Energy has provided the Chippewa County Historical Society and Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Assn. with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of dam construction in Chippewa Falls. We greatly appreciate their support of sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations.



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Fries Financial Group Project

Tim Fries, owner of Fries Financial Group - Raymond James, held an open house May 26 to allow people an opportunity to view the extensive renovation of his office building at 11 East Central street. High Victorian architectural styles influenced the original R. D. Marshall Building which was built during the late 1880s. Fries purchased the building in April 2015. Several historic photographs of Chippewa Falls were selected from the Chippewa County Historical Society's photo archives for enlargement, framing and display in the office building. Congratulations and thank you for making the sizable investment in a very historic building in our community! ♣



A new event, the Antique Appraisal Affair, was held February 27 as a fundraiser for the New Chippewa Area History Center. Antiques appraiser, Teri Stahr, with assistance from Julie Sokup, met with dozens of people and appraised 51 items. Due to the popularity of the event several people have requested that we host a similar activity in the future.

Chippewa County Historical Society

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"That's All for Now from Engel's Little House on The Wheaton Prairie"

is available at Foreign 5 (123 N. Bridge Street) and at The Area History Center (123 Allen Street) both in Chippewa Falls.

The first printing of 300 books sold out in about a month!

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