

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2018



www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

Inside this Issue:

Annual Meeting Program.....	8
Calendar	4
Capital Campaign Update.....	1
Cobban Bridge Award.....	2
Donations.....	3 & 7
Exhibit Committee Update.....	2
News From The Past.....	9
Lake Wissota: The Dam Story...	7
Membership Form.....	9
Newsletter Sponsors.....	6 & 10
President's Letter.....	4
Remembering Don.....	7
The Past Passed Here	5
Weekly Time Capsule	8



**CCHS Bi-Annual
Membership Meeting
Monday, February 12 | 6:30 pm
at the Area History Center**

Presidents Progress Report & Hall of
Fame Inductions, Program: Postcards
from the Past Chippewa Falls
Speaker: David Tank, Award-winning
author and photographer



Lake Wissota book authors: Anne Keller, Donna Bourget and Jim Schuh

CHIPPEWA AREA HISTORY CENTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Let's Keep the Momentum Going

WENDY SULLIVAN, Capital Campaign Communication Committee Chair

For the future Chippewa Area History Center Capital Campaign, 2017 was a great year. Looking at records from this time last year, we were just beginning to receive donations and pledges. Now, we are happy to say that as of December 31, 2017, we have received \$1,150,000. Wow!



This Wisconsin historic marker was restored by CCHS in 2016

Exhibit Committee Update

BY JIM SCHUH

We are continuing to plan and research our approach to exhibits that will be displayed in our new museum. Jake Jacobson has created a strategy for displays. It includes six eras including: Prehistoric Times, Fur Trade, Logging, Agriculture & Manufacturing, Lake Wissota construction age to Computer Technology. Each display will emphasize culture of the people, communication, transportation, building construction, business, manufacturing and distribution of products. Guidelines for creating exhibits include: They will be self-guided and at least one interactive exhibit will be in each area. Exhibits will be routinely updated. A revolving exhibit area will feature outlying communities in the county. The committee is firming up and prioritizing ideas for specific exhibits. Jim Erickson created an Artifact Usefulness Meter form that can be used to rate artifacts when they are offered to us.

The committee is meeting monthly and has expanded. It now includes these members: Co-chairs: Jim & Nancy Schuh, Skip August, Donna Bourget, Jim & Mary Erickson, Dave Gordon, Marge Hebbring, Jake Jacobson, Cate Murphy, Roxanne Paukner, Teri Stahr and Sandi Watson. ♡

Cobban Bridge Voted Bridge of the Year

JASON D. SMITH

“**1,800** voters selected the two-span Pennsylvania truss bridge spanning the Chippewa River in Wisconsin—the Cobban Bridge—as Bridge of the Year. The 1908 product of Modern Steel Structures Company is listed on the National Register of Historic Places but its future is in peril after county officials voted to close off the bridge to all traffic last year, deeming it unsafe. Officials want to see the bridge replaced by 2021, but locals would like to see the bridge saved and rehabilitated for reuse. There has been an ongoing debate on what to do with the bridge. 2018 will be the decisive year for residents of Chippewa County and the state of Wisconsin as to what will become the lone truss bridge of its design in the state, let alone the last of its kind in the country.”

The Bridgehunter's Chronicles

With 7,160 votes total for 13 candidates, the Bridge of the Year category set a new record for the highest number of votes recorded in the history of the Ammann Awards. The awards were created by the Bridgehunter's Chronicles, a website created by Jason D. Smith, a Minnesota native, who lives in Jena, Germany. The column focuses on historic bridges both in the USA as well as in Europe that tourists should visit before they are replaced or removed. The voting results:

1. The Cobban Bridge, Chippewa County, WI, USA – 1,800 votes
2. Springfield Bowstring Arch Bridge, Conway, AR, USA – 617 votes
3. BACH Steel duo truss bridges of Pulp Mill, Berlin, NH, USA – 589 votes
4. Hvita Bridge, Iceland - 580 votes
5. Cedar Covered Bridge, Winterset, IA – 435 votes
6. Covered Bridges, New Brunswick, Canada, - 424 votes

We are hopeful that this award will bring attention to the historic nature of this bridge and help save some or all of the bridge for a future use. Because the bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places a Section 106 review is required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to determine how to mitigate the loss of the historic bridge. Section 106 consultation documents are being worked on and should be coming to the WisDOT Cultural Resource staff in the near future for coordination with the Section 106 stakeholders.

Chippewa Area HISTORY CENTER



Total Campaign Goal: \$3,500,000
Construction begins at: \$2,450,000

Gifts and Pledges

Received as of October 31, 2017:
\$920,000

Please note:

As explained in the "Donor Recognition Plan", we are printing only the names of those gifting \$100 or more to the Capital Campaign.

We do, however, sincerely appreciate the many gifts under this amount! If you believe your gift was omitted or listed incorrectly, please call 715-723-4399.

We apologize for any errors and will do our best to correct them.

HISTORIAN SOCIETY (\$100,000 plus)

William J. and Gertrude R. Casper Foundation
Ann and Dave Gordon
Edward and Hannah M. Rutledge Charities, Inc.

HERITAGE SOCIETY (\$75,000 to \$99,999)

Northwestern Bank
Skip and Jill Thaler

LUMBERJACK SOCIETY (\$50,000 to \$74,999)

Tom and Pam Kell
Norm and Mary Ellen Keller
Ellen A. O'Neil (in memory of John R. O'Neil)

WHITE PINE SOCIETY (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

John and Mary Hofkes
Bob and Donna Hogseth family
Jerry and Mary Jacobson
Jim and Nancy Schuh

OLD ABE SOCIETY (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

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Roger Howard
Emmett and Anne Keller
Charles and Bernadette O'Donnell
Steve and Lauree Pregel
David and Rita Raihle
Sheila and Bill Volker

PIONEER SOCIETY (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

Darley Family Foundation
Sam and Joan Hebert LaRue Family
John and Jane Lubs family
Scott and Wendy Sullivan

VOYAGEUR SOCIETY (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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Rose and Skip August
Don and Dolores Bichner
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Dan and Jacque Daniel
James Erickson and Mary Dinkel-Erickson
George and Peggy Fleming
Gary and Carol Gienapp
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Les and Marilyn Harrison
James A. and Judith A. Rubenzer
Diane Hopkins Whelan

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Chippewa County Abstract and Title
Chippewa Falls Optimist Club
Country Treasures
JoAnn Flater Memorial
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Jerry and Mary Kuehl
LucyAnn LeCleir
Gene and Arlene Lopas
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Leonard and Jean Peck
Don Zutter

OTHER GIFTS and PLEDGES (\$100 to \$1844)

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Reverend David Busker
Linda and Bill Butek
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Daniel Clumpner
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Steve and Linda Cyr
Lea Dirks
Joye and Carl Dobos
Eagle Point Womens Club
Chuck Falch and Dianne Buchholz
Flambeau Area Trail Tenders
Harold Flater
Hugh and Janice Francis
Edna Frazier
Gaber Signs
Thomas and Marie Gehring
Diana Germain (in memory of Wayne Germain)
Teresa Germain

Marge L. Geissler
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Jon and Dorothy Gilpin
Jonathan and Sue Gilpin
Neil Goodall
Barbara Graham
Doug and Bonnie Gullickson
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Thomas and Jean Hebert
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Fred and Carol Holtz
David and Patricia Jankoski
William and Cheryl Jensen
Richard and June Kemp
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Ken and Diane Koss
Calvin and Donna Kraemer
Sam and Mary LaRue
James and Joan Leary
Shirley Liedl
Alice M. Marshall
Mary E. McKenna
Kathleen McLaughlin and Daryl Skobba
Susan Meade
Barbara Meredith
Nancy Nerdrum
Patrick and Susan O'Donnell (Charles' 90th)
Dave and Mary Lee Olson family
Carol Peck
Betty Plombon
Lorraine Pontius
Joyce Pugh
Pat and Sue LaRue Quinn
Steve Roesler
Thomas and Mary Sazama
Beverly Schmidmayr
Tony and Nancy Schuster
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Sid and Jill Strozok
Stephen and Linda Wall
Tricia Warns
Carol and Jerry Way
Rose Welke
Marie West
Mark and Ursula Whelan
Bob and Jeanne Wright
Senator Dave Zien
William Zimbeh Jr.

Thank you for supporting historic preservation and education!



CALENDAR

History Center open every Tuesday | 9 am-4 pm

Feb. 12

6:30 pm | CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting (See p. 8 for details)

Feb. 13:

9:00 am | Capital Campaign Executive Committee

1:00 pm | Exhibit Committee

Feb. 20:

(No Board Meeting)

10:30 am | Historic Marker Committee

Noon | History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 pm | The Past Passed Here, Planning Meeting

Feb. 24

9 am - 1 pm | Open Fourth Saturday

March 6

10 am | Capital Campaign Communication Meeting

March 20:

9:30 am | CCHS Board Meeting

Noon | History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 pm | The Past Passed Here, Planning Meeting

March 27

4:30 pm | Capital Campaign Communication Meeting

March 24

9 am - 1 pm | Open Fourth Saturday

9:30 am | CCHS Board Meeting

Noon | History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 pm | The Past Passed Here, Planning Meeting

April 28

9 am - 1 pm | Open Fourth Saturday

May 10-13

The Past Passed Here in Allen Park

A Message From Your President

Subzero weather! What a way to start 2018. It was suggested that my message in this issue might recap 2017, which was quite a year for the Society. Let's look back.

The activity on our dream of a new Chippewa Area History Center (CAHC) increased in 2017. Committees were formed to develop a capital campaign to raise funds needed for the facility and a case statement was developed as a road map to get us to a new facility. The case statement, which included goals, facilities, costs, time line, operations and budget, was distributed to our membership. To manage our campaign funds, we hired the Community Foundation of Chippewa County. Foundations, community organization and individuals were contacted to seek lead gifts for the campaign. The broad-based campaign kicked off in the fall and by the end of the year, we had received donations and pledges of \$1,150,000.

The Capital Campaign Building Committee developed a Request For Proposal (RFP) to solicit bids to design and manage construction of the facility, and, at the end of 2017, a contract was awarded to CBS², a Chippewa Falls Architect/Engineering firm. The Capital Campaign Communication Committee developed and put a web site on the internet for CAHC and, along with the Campaign Committee, developed all of the capital campaign material.

The semi-annual membership meetings were held in February and September. At the February meeting, Donna Bourget was elected to the Hall of Fame. At the September meeting, Officers elected were Dave Raihle, Vice President; Mary McKenna, Secretary; and Cate Murphy, Treasurer. Directors elected were Skip August, Greg Misfelt, Mary Erickson and Jim Schuh.

Marge Hebring, Jim Schuh, and their committee put on a very successful The Past Passed Here with over 600 fourth graders attending as well as many of the general public. Mary Erickson and a team of volunteers hosted 64 second graders at the History Center to learn more about the history of their home town, and a Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class was also held at the Center.

Jim Schuh and his planning committee put on a very successful celebration of the Lake Wissota Dam's 100th anniversary. Donna Bourget, Jim Schuh, and Anne Keller published their book, "Lake Wissota - The Dam Story." The book is in its second printing and proceeds from the book sales of \$35,000 were contributed to the CAHC Capital Campaign.

The Society also provided rotating exhibits in a display case at the Chippewa Falls Library. In addition, it participated in Spring Fest and October Fest with displays, and the Pure Water Days and Christmas Parades with floats. Four issues of our very informative quarterly newsletter, "The Eagle Speaks," were published. And, the Historic Marker Committee added two markers in 2017 for a current total of 57 markers in Chippewa County.

WOW, the Society has had a very productive year. Many thanks to all those people who volunteer and make all this happen. I'm looking forward to what we will accomplish in 2018. *Dave* 🍷



The Past Passed Here | May 10-13

Open to the public
Thursday & Friday 3 – 6 pm
Saturday 9 am – 6 pm
Sunday 9 am – 4 pm

The Chippewa County Historical Society Presents Its 15th Annual

The Past Passed Here—May 10-13

JIM SWANSON AND JIM ERICKSON

Adventure! Where? At Allen Park in Chippewa Falls on the banks of Duncan Creek. It's where The Past Passed Here brings back days when Indians, voyageurs, lumberjacks, river pigs and lumber barons all came together.

Voyageur songs echoed in the morning mist as canoes made their way up the Chippewa River to the Duncan Creek landing. A band of Anishinabe waited there to begin trading. And this historical trading ground is where your friends and family can relive the bygone fur trade era. Featured here, too, are many camps representing facets of the fur trade era. In some, there are unique, hands-on activities for all. Added to this are actual demonstrations of blacksmithing, campfire cooking, muzzle loading firearms, spinning, and brain tanning of leather. To test your outdoor skills, you can try the tomahawk toss, bow and arrow, an on-land canoe paddle race, and a Cat and Mouse game. Or, if you want to try your hand at being a logger, you can do so by using a two-man crosscut saw to cut an end off a large white pine log!

The re-enactors and demonstrators enthusiastically encourage questions from the very youngest—and everyone else— as they wish everyone a fun and exciting experience at The Past Passed Here.

And be sure not to miss going back in history to do some shopping with a historical twist. Here, traders and merchants will sell old-time candies, clothing, and other items reflecting those much earlier days. Mix in some authentic Ojibwe fry bread, buffalo burgers, voyageur stew, soft pretzels, ice cream, popcorn, and more, to give everyone some tasty choices.

As you relax and have a bite to eat, you can let your imagination run back to the days right on this spot where the world's largest saw mill under one roof was located.

Finally, we are proud to tell you of the more than 600 fourth grade students from local area schools who attend Wednesday through Friday each year to participate in full, hands-on field trips to The Past Passed Here. Please be aware that the rendezvous is closed to the public while the students are learning and exploring. And they do, because many teachers have confirmed that this excellent, historic re-enactment reinforces the Wisconsin history curriculum for these fourth graders.

Where all this happens is at Allen Park in downtown Chippewa Falls, just next to the intersection of Highway 124 and Business Highway 29.

Volunteers are needed to continue this event. The Chippewa County Historical Society is an educational non-profit and sponsorship donations are tax deductible. Please contact us at 715-726-2376 if you are interested in helping in our efforts. ♣





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(If we have missed anyone please let us know)



Donations

In Memory of:

From:

William Berg.....	Deb & Dick Funk
Don Bichner.....	Donna Bourget
Don Bichner.....	Jim & Nancy Schuh
Ruth Jean Crane.....	The Crane Family
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Ted McClelland.....	Judy Gaier

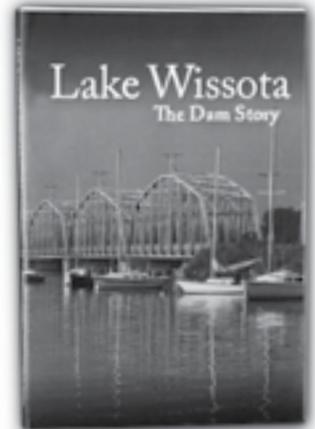
Other Donations:

Lorraine Pontius

CCHS—Remembering Don Bichner



When Don Bichner volunteered for an organization he threw his heart and soul into assuring its success. Since 1990, when the Chippewa County Historical Society moved into the old Notre Dame Convent, Don generously shared his time and talents in more ways than we can name. There is probably not a room in our Museum that does not include an artifact that he donated or an example of his skill at woodworking. We are most proud of the scale model he built of the “Largest Lumber Mill in the World, Under One Roof.” Looking back to 2011, we believe it was Don who made the first contribution to start our “New Building Fund.” It is so true that the most important part of an organization is its volunteers. The CCCHS was truly blessed to have Don as one of our treasured volunteers and as our friend. ♣



Lake Wissota: The Dam Story Celebrating Lake Wissota's 100-year Anniversary

CCHS published this new pictorial history book in early June, making a copy available for just \$20. It's exciting to tell you that book sales are now approaching \$38,000.

The book is available by U.S.P.S. mail by adding \$5.00 and sending a check and request to the Chippewa County Historical Society, 123 Allen Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Contact Jim Schuh at 716-726-2376 for more information.

Current Book Sales Locations

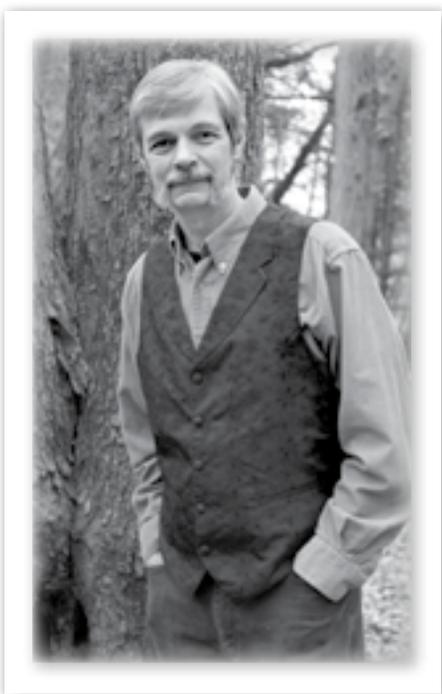
Chippewa Falls:

1. Area History Center, 123 Allen St.
2. Chippewa Falls Main Street
514 N. Bridge St.
3. Country Treasures, 216 N. Bridge St.
4. Dick's Chalet
17415 County Highway X
5. Foreign 5, 123 N. Bridge St.
6. Leinenkugel's Leinie Lodge
124 E. Elm St. NEW
7. SandBar & Grill, 17643 50th Ave.
8. Sherri Jo's Wayside
18091 County Highway X
9. Wissota Express
17255 County Hwy X

Eau Claire:

1. Volume One Local Store
205 N. Dewey St.
2. Chippewa Valley Museum
1204 E. Half Moon Dr.

To learn more about the future Chippewa Area History Center, visit www.ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter



Annual Meeting

**Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 | 6:30 p.m.
Chippewa Falls Area History Center**

Behind the Scenes of "Postcards from the Past: Then and Now Pictures of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin" with Author/Photographer David Tank

Menomonie author/photographer David Tank will share his experiences taking the pictures for his latest book "Postcards from the Past: Then and Now Pictures of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin." This will be an entertaining look at the changes over time in the Chippewa Falls area. Postcards from the Past books, as well as other books by David Tank, will be available to purchase at the event. ❖

Keep the Momentum Going CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In early 2017, \$300,000 was contributed by members of the Chippewa County Historical Society; the Chippewa County Genealogical Society; and the board and committee members of the future Chippewa Area History Center. Capital Campaign committee members next began to meet with area charities, foundations, business groups, and service groups. A letter campaign asking community members for contributions also began last fall. And in September, we placed a campaign donation tree at the future building site and announced that donations had reached \$775,000.

In November, the authors of the Lake Wissota: the Dam History book (Anne Keller, Donna Bourget, and Jim Schuh) donated \$35,000 from book sales which, along with other contributions, helped us reach \$1,000,000. Not only was their donation most generous, but also their book is important to the preservation of history in Chippewa County. And, will be a valuable resource for generations to come.

In 2018, we will continue our outreach to the community with our next goal being to reach \$2.5 million dollars and begin ground-breaking and construction. Thank you to all who have given so generously, both financially and through volunteering your time. We believe preserving the history of Chippewa County is an unusually worthy cause. So you can see why we are excited and pleased to see such great support for historic preservation and education. ❖

Thank you to Chippewa Herald and our many volunteers for your work on

Time Capsule: Chippewa Herald

Beginning last September the Area History Center, comprised of the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Chippewa County Genealogical Society, began partnering with the Chippewa Herald newspaper to highlight our wonderful historic photo archive. As of the writing of this newsletter eighteen photos with articles have been published. These can be seen on the Chippewa Herald web-site at: <http://chippewa.com>. They can also be seen on our Facebook pages at: www.facebook.com/ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter, and www.facebook.com/ChippewaCountyHistoryCenter.

These are the topics of the first Time Capsules features:

- Union Lumber Company
- "Cutover Land" Created by Lumbering
- Loggers Dined In High Style
- New Friday Night Lights
- Packers versus Chippewa Marines
- Have Covered Wagon will travel
- Spring Street in Chippewa Falls
- Honoring Veterans and Medal of Honor Recipients
- Celebrating Thanksgiving with the Taylors
- Hunting Laws in 1894
- Chippewa Falls "Icy" 1896 Battle
- Harnessing the Chippewa Springs for Health
- Holiday Celebration
- Remembering the Nine Mile House
- Chippewa Ice Co. Loses Horses in Ice
- The Perfect Loaf: Chippewa Springs Bakery
- Chippewa Falls Soldier Takes Famous Harley Ride
- Club Puts Chippewa Falls on Ski Jump Map



Old Abe and the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment Color Guard 1863.



NEWS FROM THE PAST

John Hill of “OLD ABE” Fame is in Town

SEPTEMBER 8, 1914

John Hill, of Ashland, the famous Civil War veteran who carried “Old Abe” the war eagle, arrived here today on his return from the National G. A. R. encampment at Detroit, where he had a great time. Mr. Hill says a Chippewa Newspaper a few weeks ago reported him dead. It wasn't the Herald.

For a lively young, old man Mr. Hill takes the cake. He is 73, but he can dance the tango like an eighteen year old, which he did with several Detroit young ladies at the Grand G. A. R. ball there last Friday night.

As a member of the Company C 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, the first company that left the Chippewa Valley for the Civil War, leaving Eau Claire under the command of Captain John E. Perkins, who was killed in battle, Mr. Hill won fame by carrying a live bald eagle for four years through the Civil War, except when he was wounded October 3rd 1862 at the battle of Corinth, Miss. and left for dead on the battle field, laying 5 days without having his battle wound dressed.

Later he rejoined his regiment and took charge of the famous eagle. He brought the bird back to Eau Claire and then came to Chippewa where he lived until 1891 until he went to the Iron River country to take up pine timber and later moved to Ashland. In 1876 he took “Old Abe” to the Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia. Old Abe was noteworthy for his diet of live chickens and his ill temper. One Centennial visitor who strayed too close aroused the bird's animosity and ended up with a shredded cheek.

The bird died from smoke inhalation from a fire in 1881 when it was stuffed and placed in the G. A. R. Museum in the Wisconsin State Capital. A 1904 fire destroyed the building and the bird's remains.

Mr. Hill reports a great time at Detroit for the Boys of 61-65 and that it was a wonderful encampment. “There are too many autos on the streets of Detroit,” says Mr. Hill. “I never imagined they could be so thick. You know that they will not stop for an ordinary citizen to cross the streets. So the people of Detroit furnished a guide for every old soldier. These guides ushered us everywhere and they could stop the auto cavalcades so we could cross the streets. I was in the Ford factory and saw an auto turned out complete in 20 minutes from the crude material. I never saw anything so wonderful.”

Mr. Hill is about the liveliest “old vet” we have ever seen. He spent the day renewing old acquaintances and talking it over with the pioneers and meeting new faces.

About the “death” story, there was a John Hill who died here at the hospital, June 8th last, the Herald gave the account correctly of his identity and did not state that he was the John Hill of the “Old Abe” fame. ♣

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:

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123 Allen Street
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Chippewa County Historical Society

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THE EAGLE SPEAKS



FEBRUARY 2018

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The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County.

Mail any comments or future articles to:

Chippewa County Historical Society,
123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI | 715-723-4399



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