



Markesan Historical Society Gazette

October/November/December 2017



Heritage Day was a success with 150 people touring the museum. Visitors came from neighboring towns and Markesan. On September 23rd, members of the MHS class of 1967 toured the facility, and in October, 30 singers who performed at the Markesan Resident Home paid a visit to the museum.

A new cement walkway has been poured by the Depot for easier access.

Todd Michel of Cornerstone Funeral and Cremation presented the program at the October meeting. Many questions were answered by Todd during the evening. Final arrangements need to be thought about, as we all will must look ahead to our final day on this earth.

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Author, Edward J. Kuehn, gave important tips on writing a book at the November meeting. "First and foremost," he advised, "is to start with what you know."

When writing his book, *Stepping into Rural Wisconsin--Grandpa Charly's Life Vignettes, from Prussia to the Midwest*, that is just what he did. Family abstracts were full of information, photos prompted memories and stories, and questions from others filled out the story of his Grandpa Charly.

He first composed a bare bones type of family story, printed it from his own printer, and then took it to Staples for binding. Yes, it was an accomplishment, but he wanted something more. His objective was to write a book. Teaming up with Linda Ruggeri, who also wanted to write a book, the two set about fleshing out Grandpa Charly's story. Linda's questions made Ed realize that not everyone knows how life was lived in the Midwest. Linda had questions like, "What is a crock? How do you live without indoor plumbing?" Ed said water conservation was observed before it was even popular by everyone in the family drinking from the same water pail, taking a bath in a washtub and then using the waste water to water the garden.

Ed's book may be purchased at Chris' Floral and Gifts in downtown Markesan.

Purchase price is \$12.95.

Buy one for yourself and for others on your Christmas gift list.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 13, 2017

5:30 p.m. Gathering

6:00 p.m. Catered Dinner

Markesan City Hall

150 S. Bridge Street

All members who have paid their dues will be treated to a free meal. Fourteen dollars will be required for each guest accompanying members.

For reservations, please call  
**Kathy--920-295-3042 by December 4th.**

## MENU

Beef Tips

&

Chicken Cordon Bleu

With all the trimmings

Dessert



## ENTERTAINMENT

**Markesan's own Karen Johnson will be at the keyboard for Christmas carols.**



Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.  
Merry Christmas to all!



### **Conference Report**

Gayle Schultz and Marlene Scott gave a report on the State Conference they attended in LaCrosse during the month of October. The ladies were impressed with the workshops they attended, bringing back tips on managing collections, labeling artifacts, ideas on advertising, and what the ideal climate may be for preservation.

### **Calendars**

The 2018 Markesan Historical Society calendars will be available soon. They feature organizations that have been part of Markesan's history.

Designed by Gayle Schultz, they cost only \$5 each and will make excellent Christmas gifts.

### **Email**

Would you like to receive your newsletter by email?

Contact Gayle at the gmail address listed below.

### **Meetings**

The Historical Society meets the second Wednesday of the month during the summer at the museum at 7 p.m. During the winter, meetings are at City Hall, 150 S. Bridge St.

### **Board of Directors**

Gayle Schultz -- President 920-398-3359

James Fenske -- Vice-President

Pat Dallman -- Secretary 920-398-2719

David Prill -- Treasurer

Don Leider

Lorraine Justmann

Sue Abendroth

Orville Swanson

Roger Cotterill

Museum--920-398-3945

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### **WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TEETH?**

Ben Franklin always had good advice. He cautioned, "Be true to your teeth, or your teeth will be false to you."

"She laughs at everything you say. Why? Because she has fine teeth," Ben also said, echoing others of his day who valued every tooth as if it were a diamond.

In Ben's time, people who lost their teeth tried awkward replacements made from carved wood, wads of cloth, and even teeth pulled from corpses.

A person whose teeth survived through adulthood was lucky indeed.

For centuries, people had cleaned their teeth with chew sticks (twigs with rough ends that could get into crevices) and rubbed them with all manner of substances, from honey to nutshells to dead mice.

In Ben's youth, a rough linen cloth was the most common tooth cleaner.

George Washington added chalk to his rag, as recommended by his dentist.

The invention of the toothbrush is credited to William Addis, an Englishman, who being in prison with nothing to do, bored holes into a meat bone and glued tufts of natural bristles into them to make his very own toothbrush.

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When visiting the dentist's office in the museum, different sets of dentures are on display, as well as dental tools, the hated drill, and a dentist's coat. The names of local dentists are included: Drs. Straight, Flood, Hoxie and Radtke. Older historical society members recall sitting in the dentist's chair when the drill became hot, with smoke billowing from their mouths.

Have you paid your dues?

Support your local historical society by keeping your membership up to date.

MEMBERSHIP

\$5/yr. individual

\$100/ lifetime individual
or husband & wife

Museum Hours

The Grand River Valley Museum is open on Saturdays from
1 to 4 p.m.

May through September.

The Museum is also open by appointment.