

## **President's Report – 2019**

*This has been a stable year for the BWAHS. Even though our rate of walk up visitation by the public has continued to be low, we have provided many opportunities for the community to view our facilities and interact with the Society. Our finances are stable and we are paving the way for future boards to have the assets necessary to maintain the Breckenridge/Wheeler Area Historical Society. Here is a summary of the year, lest we forget what the BWAHS has accomplished this year.*

**Visitation opportunities** – *As stated above, we have had only a few people who have toured the museums on our “open to the public Mondays”. However, those that have come have been very enthusiastic about what they have seen. During the year, we have provided field trips for the Breckenridge 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, and a Civil War Encampment for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The summer school S.T.E.A.M. program visited and coming soon are visitations from the German Exchange students and a Cub Scout activity evening at the Plank Road. The Questors group and the Ithaca Historical Society also came for visits this year. We hosted a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in August where the Gleaners sponsored the musical entertainment for the afternoon. Again this year, we will be welcoming visitors during the “Christmas in the Village” event in Breckenridge. Sometimes we don’t notice how much we have done until those events are listed and this looks like a pretty good list for a volunteer group!*

**Enhanced exposure** – *We are getting our name out to the public in new ways. Mike Federspiel has been maintaining our Facebook Page and receiving lots of interaction through that social media vehicle. This year, we were featured on a Channel 19 TV program “Mid-Michigan Remembers”. We received lots of positive comments on the program that was aired on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. We are also working on a collaboration project with the Howe Memorial Library which will feature a historic discussion on specific topics. The initial plans are to hold these public discussions on Monday nights on a bi-monthly schedule.*

**Finances** – *We are continuing to stabilize our financial situation through a number of methods. We are still receiving yearly donations from Wheeler Township, Isabella Bank, Breckenridge Insurance Agency, and the Plank Road Arbor of the Gleaners. Our fund raisers that have been organized by Linda Chapin have been very successful and help to pay for our day to day operations. Recently, we have been successful in eliminating excess inventory at the Drake House through Ebay sales managed by Lorri Tupica. Items that have been in the attic and have no relationship to the Drake family have been sold on Ebay and through these sales, we have been able to fund a majority of an upgrade to the Drake House pond filtration system that will include a stream bed and waterfalls area. We were able to make our Gratiot County Community Foundation BWAHS Fund a fully funded account. This happened due to a number of generous donations which allowed us to reach the \$10,000 threshold in only two years. We had originally hoped to reach that goal within 5 years.*

**Future Challenges** - *At one time finances were a major concern of this Society. At this point in time, we are doing well on this front thanks to frugal spending, successful fund raisers, corporate sponsors, and generous donations. The major concern that we need to address is finding younger individuals who will carry this Society forward. Recently, I have seen interest from two younger individuals. The interest has come from students initially and their parents who tagged along became interested also. So maybe this problem will take care of itself as we continue to publicize our efforts.*

**Thank you** – *I want to thank this Board for being the dedicated individuals that you have been. Due to your efforts and support our Society has been successful and continues to be a major player in the fabric of this community.*

*President – David Briggs*