



Pewaukee Area Historical Society

Clark House Museum
206 East Wisconsin Avenue
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072

Museum Hours:
May through October
Sundays 1-4 pm
Wednesdays 7-9 pm
or anytime by Appointment

Email: info@pewaukeehistory.org
Website: www.pewaukeehistory.org
www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory
262-691-0233

Spring, 2018

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!

Apr 25 - Spring Mtg.
7:00 p.m.
Steele Exhibit Bldg.

May 22 - Community
Night 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by Pewaukee H.S.
History Students

June 10 - Show Us
Your Collection
Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Steele Exhibit Bldg.

July 8 - Ice Cream
Social
Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Steele Exhibit Bldg.

Aug 18 - Boat Show
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Pewaukee Lakefront

Sept 9 - Harvest Fest
Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Clark House Museum,
Steele Exhibit Bldg.

Sept 27-29-Rummage
Sale

Oct 31 - Fall Mtg.

Dec 1 - Tree Lighting

PAHS Spring Meeting

by Jeff Phillips

Spring is here and our Pewaukee Area Historical Society is ready for our upcoming busy season.

To get things started, plan on attending our Spring Meeting on *Wednesday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Steele Exhibit Bldg.* (behind the Clark House Museum). After a brief business meeting, the Kopecky family will present our program and talk about their days in the Pewaukee grocery business. Do you remember the Sentry Store on Oakton where Koepf Park is now? Join us to share your memories and learn some background information about when the village had a grocery store "downtown". Everyone is welcome, invite a friend.

Refresh your memories of



**Tuesday
May 22nd
7:00 p.m.**

COMMUNITY NIGHT Steele Exhibit Building

"The 1970's in Pewaukee and America" presented by Mr. Yuskis's Pewaukee H.S. History students. Come remember, learn and share your memories of this time in our history and see how times have changed . . . or have they? Don't miss this fun evening and support our local students.

Show Us Your Collection

by Cliff Muehlenberg

Sunday, June 10th will be our fifth "Collection" event! The event is a splendid way to spend a sunny summer Sunday afternoon (sort of like the olden days). Begins at Noon til 4:00 p.m. Set-up is at 11:00 a.m. for "exhibitors".

We have a number of collections lined up but have space for yours. There's always a wide variety of things to look at and discover. Who knows what lurks in people's attics and closets?

If you want to show-us-your-stuff, leave us a phone message or send an email. No charge for PAHS members but non-members will be asked for a \$10 table fee. (Email address and phone number listed above).

Everyone who attends, tells us what a nice event it is. *Come and see for yourself!*

Meet the PAHS 2018 Board

Thanks to all of you for serving PAHS and helping to keep our history alive!



(Board members: pictured left to right, top row) Jim Tredwell, Tom Brick (treasurer) Kathy Sampson (secretary) Jeff Phillips (vice president) Candy Muehl (president), Cliff Muehlenberg (bottom row, left to right) Sandy Volmar, Carole Brinkman, Penny Williams

Building and Grounds Update

by Cliff Muehlenberg

Did you know the Steele Exhibit Building is 12 years old this year? Ever notice, buildings seem to age faster than we do?

The Steele Building is doing well but then a 12-year-old should! Recently, with thawing and heavy rains our sump pump sounded like it was running on life support. It ran almost continuously being unable to keep up with water filling the sump.

Dick and Duane were concerned it was going to quit and we'd have a flooded basement again. No fun because we have lots of "stuff" on the floor.

The pump was replaced with a high-quality cast iron pump which is what's now recommended for reliability and longevity. The plumber also rerouted some PVC pipe and recommended a larger underground tube outside the building to better handle the pumped-out water and get it further away from the building.

The outside tube is now in place and will be buried underground when the ground thaws. The new sump pump cost \$401 allowing Dick, Duane and Carole all to get a better night's sleep... priceless!

Window Repairs: Last year; we received a donation from the Woman's Club of Pewaukee for having rotted window casings repaired in the Clark House. We were unable to schedule the repairs last season before winter: It is now scheduled to be done before the end of June.

Trees: Our two maple trees outside the front door of the Clark House have been sick for the last 3 or 4 years. Wachtel Tree Service assessed them and said, "Yep, they're gonna die".

They've continued to diminish yearly since. They will have to come down and be replaced. No time line has been established.

Scout Project: We've had a scout project pending for the past two summers. Currently, there has been some movement to make it happen and it's currently in the "approval process" with the coordinator of the Eagle Scout program.

The pending project is for a "lighted exhibit bed" along Prospect Avenue. A stone-filled area about 16'x10' with a 12" high stone wall perimeter. A 8" to 10" pipe will be inserted vertically to hold the community Christmas tree. The area can be used to show a large piece such as a buggy, wagon, etc. We are optimistic this will be completed this year: Think spring!

Mark Your Calendars

by Sandy Volmar

We have had some very good speakers regarding our local businesses in Pewaukee and other local subjects at our meetings. People . . . do not miss out on these meetings. You will learn a lot from them. It is only a few hours out of your time. *Support your Museum!!!!*

Our Spring meeting is on April 25th with an interesting program planned. Hope to see you there. (P.S. We also have some treats)

Did You Forget?

PAHS annual membership renewals are due. Reminders have been sent. This is the last newsletter that will be sent without your renewal.

Duane Bewer Named PAHS 2017 Volunteer of the Year



Duane Bewer was awarded PAHS 2017 Volunteer of the Year at our annual meeting on January 31, 2018 and is shown accepting the award from Cliff Muehlenberg.

Duane is a faithful Wednesday volunteer at the Clark House throughout the year. Spring through Fall you'll find Duane working in the yard and assists with any other repairs/projects. Congratulations Duane and THANK YOU!!

Budget Business

by Tom Brick, Treasurer

I want to thank our members and our other friends in the Pewaukee community for their continued support of the Pewaukee Area Historical Society. In each of the last three years, we have been able to balance our budget. Each year, unexpected expenses seem to crop up, but we have always received unexpected contributions to cover them. Replacing our broken water heater last year is a good example of the extra support we get. Yearly budgets are always tight and we appreciate all the help we get! THANKS!

“And in this corner ...”

by Carole Brinkman

Have you ever given thought as to how your street was named? As I was sitting in my car on Capitol Drive waiting for a train to pass, I glanced over at the street sign which read “Ormsby Street”. Who was Ormsby? Why does he have a street named for him?

According to the book A History of the Settlement and Progress of Pewaukee, Wisconsin, David Ormsby, at the age of 22, came from Ohio to Wisconsin with his brother John in 1842. In the fall of 1843, Ormsby’s father brought his family to settle in Pewaukee on the site which son David had claimed. This was a large tract of land north and east of the village (in the area of the current park to the post office and beyond). In the spring of 1844 it was sold for less than \$100. Twenty-five years later (1869), David re-purchased the land for the sum of \$10,500. At that time the land had a lime kiln and brick house on it, the oldest brick house in Pewaukee today. The house stands on Capitol Drive at the southeast end of Kiwanis Village Park. Ormsby operated the kiln which was a significant contributor of lime used in many large cities. The lime produced from the Niagara formation (hence lime stone) was of superior quality. At the kiln, 12,000 barrels of lime were produced weekly and shipped to Milwaukee, Chicago, Grand Haven, Des Moines and other cities. Large quantities of limestone

used to rebuild Chicago after the fire of 1871 came from the Pewaukee area.

At the end of the 19th century the quantity and quality of the limestone diminished, and in time the business became less productive in the Pewaukee area. As late as the 1930’s, remnants of the old lime kiln could be seen at the end of Ormsby and Sussex Streets. Sadly, after looking through the area, nothing remains of this once important village industry. Only the limestone buried deep underground is left. David Green Ormsby died in 1894 and is buried at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee.

So, thanks to that slow moving train, I learned a little more of Pewaukee’s fascinating history. If you would like to learn more about Pewaukee, copies of the above mentioned book are available for purchase at the Clark House Museum.

Welcome New Members

Following are the names of our newest PAHS members.

Christine Plichta
WaterStone Bank

Thank you for joining PAHS. We hope to meet you at an upcoming event.

BRICKS

Your mother would want you to buy a brick, (her’s first, then yours).

PS: Mother’s Day is May 13th

Still only \$50

(The following poem was given to PAHS by a resident of Kirkland Crossing following their Pewaukee and Clark House tour in October 2017)

Pewaukee Village Field Trip

by Beatrice L. Edgette

It started out a day-sorta gloomy-not too bright. We had booked a Pewaukee adventure to visit local sights. The tour was full of info, for new folks and for old. George and Sharon Strieter gave the info we were told. We visited the Clark House and viewed exhibits there. We drove around the Village, Pamela drove us everywhere! We gained a lot of knowledge about the Village where we stay. If only we remember half the things they had to say!! I’m grateful for folks like the Strieters who keep the past alive, and help us to remember how the “Old Folks” did survive! So....Now “WE” are the “OLD FOLKS” our lives all tell some stories.

I hope we’ll be remembered when we all will (hopefully) be in the land of “GLORY”



Recent Acquisitions

by George Strieter

- * Hand trimph corn planter, misc. old wrenchs & iron pcs. donated by Maryann Mohr
- * Old Edgewater post cards donated by Mike Pjevach

Thank you for your donations!

Note: If you have an old family recipe or just one you want to share, please submit it. It would be interesting if you have some background for the recipe to share also.

*From the Kitchen of
Kathy Sampson*

Raw Apple Spice Cake

2-1/4 c. flour
1-1/2 tsp. baking soda
1-1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
3/4 tsp. salt
1/2 c. shortening
1-1/2 c. sugar
2 eggs
6 Tbsp. buttermilk
3 c. unpeeled apples, chopped

Sift together flour, soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs; beat until light and fluffy. Add buttermilk. Add dry ingredients and beat until smooth. Fold in apples.

Spread in greased 9 x 13 inch pan.
Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes

Recipe Memory: "We always had a few apples on the trees in our orchard so this was an easy cake to make".

Clark House Museum = Free Tours

It's that time of year again . . . time to open the Clark House Museum and Steele Exhibit Building for our free tours. There aren't too many places these days that a family can spend a couple of hours at no cost! Thanks to our memberships and donations, we are glad that we can continue this tradition. Plan on stopping in this year to see our displays.

Open for Tours

May 27 – October 28, 2018
Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Or anytime by appointment

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Artisan 179 – (262) 691-0200
Century Fence Co. – (262) 547-3331
**Chiropractic & Wellness on
Pewaukee Lake – (262) 695-0022**
5 O'Clock Club – (262) 691-9960
Harken, Inc. – (262) 691-3320
**Lake Country Business Consulting
(Cynthia Welman) (262) 719-9065**
**Chris R. Lueth Ins. Agency –
(262) 695-1981**
**Molly Maids of Lake Country -
(262) 691-5000**
WaterStone Bank – (262) 696-5200
**Ken Weber Truck Service -
(262) 691-0333**

These businesses are partnering with us to show their support to the Historical Society. Please remember them when you need their services. Let's keep our Pewaukee businesses in Pewaukee and keep growing our business community!



PAHS receives a 1% rebate on your store receipts from the Sentry store in Delafield. Receipts must be less than 6 months old and can be left in the dresser drawer marked "Sentry receipts" on the screen porch of the Clark House. Penny Williams will take it from there. Thanks for remembering.

NEWSLETTER

CONTACT INFORMATION

Be part of the next PAHS newsletter by submitting an article or other event information to

Karen Merz – email:

info@pewaukeehistory.org

Questions? Call Karen at 262-695-0600

Deadline for the next newsletter is

May 15, 2018

"Like" us on FACEBOOK

And be the first to hear about PAHS news and events!

www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory

Rails Grew Pewaukee

by Penny Williams

To some people today, the railroad through Pewaukee is a nuisance they wish was someplace else. According to local history, the railroad was key to the development of Pewaukee and lake country in general.

In the early years after Asa Clark settled here, residents were either farmers or tradesmen who provided services to maintain their rural life. The area was rich with good soil, hardwood trees, limestone and a lake, but it wasn't until the railroad came in 1856 that they realized what could be done with their diverse riches.

The first and largest industry resulting from the tracks on the north side of the lake was the ice industry. Brewers and meat packers knew they would prosper with a reliable year-round source of ice to protect their products. Soon privately owned ice houses were built and sidings were built for the rail cars which took ice to Milwaukee and Chicago. At one time there were at least five huge houses which shipped whole train loads to the "Big Cities" daily.

Another industry benefitting from the railroads was the lime and stone industry. There is a large vein of Niagara limestone north and west of Pewaukee. Solomon Bolles, who arrived here in 1844, saw its potential. When limestone is burned at high temperatures the result is quicklime, a component of mortar, used in the construction of stone and brick buildings. His kilns were a main supplier in the mid-west, turning out 12,000

barrels weekly. They were shipped throughout the country by rail. Many of the buildings destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 were rebuilt using large quantities of lime and limestone from the Pewaukee quarries, all shipped by rail.

There was a lighter side to the railroads, too. In the 1890's and into the 20th century Pewaukee had a new industry which today would be known as the hospitality industry. Pure spring water for drinking and a lake for swimming, boating, and fishing turned the area into a resort mecca. Hotels sprung up in the area which rented rooms by the day, week, or month, and it was popular for those who could afford it to escape to the country. Horse and buggy was slow, and before long people realized that the train was the way to go. Trains with vacationers arrived several times a day. Waukesha Beach opened in the summer of 1895, and people came to spend the day, completing their trip by steamboat.

Over the years we became a bedroom community and citizens traveled to work in Milwaukee via the "Cannonball", and there has been nothing quite like it since. The love affair with the automobile ended that era, but I'm sure road warriors of today would enjoy a relaxing ride home at the end of the day as we did before super-highways.

A train horn may be annoying to some, but to those who were here 50 or more years ago, it's still a fine bit of nostalgia.

Annual PAHS January Meeting Program

by Sandy Volmar

Bill Ford of PM Plastics (Product Miniature) was our guest speaker for the



night. Who knew driving by the cream brick building on the corner of Capitol Dr. and Simmons Ave. in Pewaukee that it has such a rich and interesting history.

It has been family-owned for over 80 years. Through the years, in order to stay in business and survive, they have had to reinvent themselves in difficult times, completely changing their manufacturing processes.

At first, they made millions of small plastic items; trucks, cars, promotional items, etc.

Today, they are making lighted plastic makeup shelves that you see in stores all over the country. Truly quite a change from their beginning productions.

They have around eighty employees and another two small plants in the area. Many of their employees have been with them for decades, attesting to what is a great place to work for. Bill Ford's two sons are now in the business, continuing on in the family tradition.

It was truly an interesting and informative talk and a surprise too many as to what goes on behind those brick walls!

Pewaukee Area Historical Society

2018 Board of Directors

President: Candy Muehl

Vice President: Jeff Phillips

Secretary: Kathy Sampson

Treasurer: Tom Brick

Directors: Carole Brinkman

Cliff Muehlenberg

Jim Tredwell

Sandy Volmar

Penny Williams

The Society is a nonprofit organization, **501(c)(3)**, dependent upon private funding for capital improvements and ongoing operations. **All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.**

Newsletter editor: Karen Merz
info@pewaukeehistory.org

The Clark House, once a stagecoach inn, is now a museum operated by the Pewaukee Area Historical Society. It is located at the corner of Prospect Avenue and East Wisconsin Avenue in the Village of Pewaukee. There is no admission fee. Donations are accepted.

The Pewaukee Area Historical Society

(PAHS) is a non-profit, charitable, educational organization founded to research, collect and preserve the history of the Pewaukee area. PAHS invites anyone who has an interest in the history of the Pewaukee area, its people and the community, to become a member.

Museum Hours: May 27th through October
Wednesdays 7:00–9:00 pm
Sundays 1:00–4:00 pm
Or anytime by appointment

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