



# Pewaukee Area Historical Society

Clark House Museum  
206 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072

## Museum Hours:

May 30 through October 31

Sundays 1-4 pm

Wednesdays 7-9 pm

or anytime by Appointment

Email: [info@pewaukeehistory.org](mailto:info@pewaukeehistory.org)

Website: [www.pewaukeehistory.org](http://www.pewaukeehistory.org)

[www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory](https://www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory)

262-691-0233

Spring, 2021

## Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!

Apr. 28-Annual/Spring

Mtg. 7:00 pm

Steele Exhibit Bldg.

June 13 - Show Us

Your Collection

July 11 - Ice Cream

Social

Sept. 12 - Harvest Fest

Sept. 23-25-Rummage

Sale

Oct. 27 - Fall Mtg.

Dec. 4 - Tree Lighting

## Let's Open the Museum!

### Docents Needed . . .

by Tom Brick

After all the turmoil of last year, we are getting back to normal. The Clark House Museum will once again be open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 pm and Wednesday evenings from 7-9 pm (May 30-October 31).

We need museum guides (docents) to welcome visitors to the museum and to help them with questions they may have. We schedule two docents for each Sunday, so if you are newer to the Historical Society, we will pair you with an experienced person. Phone or email Tom Brick if you are interested at 262-691-2191 or [btbrick@att.net](mailto:btbrick@att.net).

## PAHS Spring/Annual Mtg.

### April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Join us in the Steele Exhibit Bldg. located behind the Clark House Museum to get the 2021 season up and running. We will follow current CDC guidelines but think it is time to get reacquainted with our friends.

Following a short business meeting including election of officers, an interesting program is being planned to learn more about Old World Wisconsin.

Refreshments will be served, all are welcome - bring a friend! In-person visiting allowed!!



## All the World's Alive Again

by Jennifer Gunner

The rabbit hops its gentle step  
The lark sings lyric songs  
All the world's alive again  
Spring rights the winter wrongs.

*Editor's Note: Could the pandemic have anything to do with why I'm so happy to see signs of Spring this year?*



## Show Us Your Collection #6

Sunday, June 13 will be our sixth "Collection" event! The event is a wonderful way to spend a sunny summer Sunday afternoon. Plan on a visit from noon til 4:00 pm with set-up at 11:00 am in the Steele Exhibit Bldg.

We have some collections already lined up but have space for more. If you want to pull out your collection to show to others, leave us a phone message or send an email. No charge for members but non-members will be asked for a \$10 table fee. (*Contact info on page one*).

It's fun to see what people collect and how their collections started. Everyone that attends tells us what a nice event it is. *Come and see for yourself!*

## A Trip to Town was an Event. . . .

*by Penny Williams*

In the early years of the westward pioneer movement, each little village had a wide variety of small businesses. Before the turn of the century, communities were more or less self-sufficient because the most prevalent means of transportation was by horse and wagon. It was much faster and easier to get as many supplies and services as possible in one location.

The farmers brought their grain to Deacon Clark's mill to be ground. While that was being done, they proceeded to go about the rest of their business, so that no time would be lost while waiting. Perhaps they stopped at Christoffersen's barber shop for that long-needed haircut. Maybe, they even indulged themselves by having a shave too.

There was always the blacksmith shop to visit or the wagon maker, who also repaired existing wagons when something on them wore out or was broken. George Steel's wagon shop was located on the southside of Wisconsin Avenue (known as Oconomowoc Street) across from his home (now 339 W. Wisconsin Ave.)

He learned his trade from his father in New York state and came to Wisconsin when he was 18 years old. After a brief stint as a toll keeper on Lisbon Road, he came to Pewaukee to ply his trade. He produced wagons of hardwood with iron-bound wheels and iron springs made at his own forge.

Deacon West operated one of the earliest blacksmith shops at the intersection of what is now High Street and West Wisconsin Avenue. His house still stands at 307 W. Wisconsin Ave. The shop was later sold to Thomas Quinlan. Blacksmithing was a major trade until the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the automobile made its appearance, leading to the eventual demise of the village smithy.

Of course a trip to the village was an exciting event and most times the whole family made a day of it. In addition to food items that couldn't be made at home, mother stopped at one or more of the dry goods stores to stock up on fabrics, pins, needles and thread for the clothing, which she made by hand when she wasn't busy with all her other household and farm chores.

If the children were good and "minded their manners"

while she did her shopping, they might even have been rewarded with a penny candy stick or a few pieces of horehound candy.

A trip to town was often the high point in the settlers' lives for weeks or longer. Where else could they purchase all their necessities, have equipment repaired by a blacksmith, wagon maker or harness maker? Indeed, where else could they have their grain milled into flour, pick up eagerly awaited mail from home and trade local news and gossip with their neighbors and townspeople and do it all in one day?

## Financial Report

*by Tom Brick*

I am happy to report that, despite all the disruptions last year, we almost broke even (our 2020 year end loss was only \$147). This partially was due to the weather, resulting in lower heating and snow removal costs, but mainly due to a late year surge of donations from individuals and local businesses. *We thank you all very much for your continued support* and we look forward to a more "normal" year in 2021.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Mary Barrett – Nevada

*New Business Member*  
American Legion Post 71  
Main Street, Pewaukee

Thank you for your memberships!

## “And in this corner ...”

by Jeff Phillips

Just when I thought it would be another ordinary day, I got a call from our Village Police Chief. PAHS had accepted a donation of a cannonball back in 2018. George was in the museum and received a call from the daughter of the guy who donated it. They had heard that sometimes they blow up!! George called the police, the police called me. They contacted the Milwaukee Bomb Squad who came out and took it away. They think it did have gun powder and it had the potential to explode under the right conditions. They are going to take it somewhere and blow it up. The bomb squad didn't want the press there at the time. Village Police Chief Heir contacted the press for the story because it shows good community relations and might be a warning to anyone who has something similar in their home.



The story was covered on the local TV channels and papers.

*(Who said volunteering at a historical society would be boring?)*

## a VERY Special 2020 Event!

by Cliff Muehlenberg

It's never happened before! But our first event of the year....was also our last!

The Annual Kiwanis and North Shore Bank sponsored Tree Lighting!

We also had help from our new friends at Beer-go. Beer-go called to ask if we'd like to have a Tree Lighting sign at their event at Kiwanis Village Park earlier that same day? "We'd like to help promote your event!" And they did. Thank you!

Kiwanis was there to serve "Pat's North Pole Hot Chocolate" and distribute individually wrapped cookies (as if the elves needed one more thing to do!)

Kiwanis was ready to lead the crowd in caroling and were busy blowing frost out of their pitch pipes and kazoos, when...what to our wondering eyes should appear?...But, Abby Lorenz and Glenn Daily of the Civic Broadway Singers! With keyboard in hand, extension cords and red scarves blowing in the cool northerly winds.

Kiwanis members collectively signed a big sigh of relief at the sight.



Abby went about plugging in cords, passing out music and smiling as though she'd just won the lottery! Glenn shuffled his music as calm as he could be.

As the appointed hour arrived, without a snowflake in sight, the afternoon air was suddenly filled with music of the season. Folks large and small, young and old joined in song at the long-awaited event.

Daylight grew dim as it does in December and the second-to-last carol was heard. The lull of anticipation lingered as the crowd counted down from ten"...nine, eight, seven..." All eyes were fixed on the community tree as the crowd yelled "one".



The tree came to life as the sounds of "Silent Night" warmed us again.

Merry Christmas to all. And to all a good night! So it was.

## Recent Acquisitions

by George Strieter

The following donations have been received and will be displayed as space permits. Thank you!

\*Mary Ann Barter – Chris Craft boat built by her husband.

\*Jeff Kirley – Replica of the Octagon House located on High Steet in Pewaukee.

\*Nancy Niedziela – Framed railroad map of Wisconsin, 1887.

*(continued on pg. 5)*

Do you remember . . . . .

## **The X-Ray Shoe Fitter**

*submitted by Tom Brick,  
from the book "Strange History"*

In the late 1940's, the Adrian X-Ray Company out of Milwaukee made and sold 10,000 devices to shoe stores all over the United States that allowed customers to see just how well their shoes fit. . . by X-raying their feet while they were wearing the shoes. The X-Ray Shoe Fitter allowed them to see inside the shoe (and also their bones), via a small window on the unit. The machines were a popular novelty. . . especially among children. Although the box where you rested your feet was lead-lined, neither the compartment nor the viewing windows were sealed. Result: persistent radiation leakage.

As the nuclear age dawned and the dangerous effects of radiation came to be known, these machines slowly started disappearing from shoe stores, but they weren't actually banned by the federal government until 1970.

Even then, it took many more years before they were officially phased out. The last radiation - leaking X-ray Shoe Fitter was still being used in a Madison, West Virginia, shoe store in 1981.



## **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, 2021**

## **"Like" us on FACEBOOK**

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

**www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory**

## **BUSINESS MEMBERS**

**American Legion Post 71-Main St., Pwk.**

**Anton's Salon & MSpa-(262)646-9888**

**Bubba's Frozen Custard-(262)695-8189**

**Casa Tequila Restaurant-Pewaukee  
(262)796-6966**

**Century Fence Co. - (262) 547-3331**

**Chiropractic & Wellness on**

**Pewaukee Lake - (262) 695-0022**

**Chris Lueth - American Family Ins.**

**(262) 695-1981**

**(262) 786-2540**

**Five O'Clock Club - (262) 691-9960**

**Horner Plumbing Co.- (262) 695-7120**

**Ken Weber Truck Serv.-(262) 691-0333**

**Molly Maids of Lake Country**

**(262) 691-5000**

**North Shore Bank - (262) 691-5740**

**Small World Children's Dentistry - Pwk**

**(262) 780-9996**

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

Thanks for your business membership!



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. Thanks for remembering!

## **Planting Season is here!**

Yup, already!

Our brick path is growing like a weed.

You've planted your feet here,  
why not a brick?

*Still only \$50*

Forms are on our website or  
the screened porch.

**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 Losiniecki*

**Broccoli Salad**

1 lb. Bacon  
1 head (at least 6 cups) broccoli  
1 chopped red onion (2/3 cup)  
1/2 cup raisins  
1 cup cashews

Dressing

1 cup mayo  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 tsp. vinegar

Cook bacon until browned & crisp.  
Drain, cool & crumble. Set aside.  
Chop broccoli to yield at least 6 cups.  
Combine bacon, broccoli, red onion,  
raisins & cashews.

In a small bowl, combine the mayo,  
sugar & vinegar.

Pour over vegetables.

Salad may be refrigerated for 3 to 5 days

Makes 8 servings.

**Recent Acquisitions, (continued)**

\*Frank Kopecky – items found on family farm – Uncle Sam’s hand cranked projector showing roll film, Steve Kopecky’s Cub Achievement Ladder, vintage glasses, grain bag printed with Kopecky name.

\*Andy Mueller – Two color photos of Milwaukee Road Hiawatha Train #5 at Pewaukee, 1964.

\*Paul Pelcola – Two fish signs carved by John Laimon (Smokey’s).

\*James Winzenried – Framed map of Pewaukee Lake and the surrounding area.

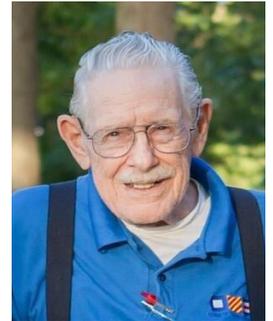
Thank you for all of your donations!

**In Remembrance. . . . .  
of PAHS Life Members**

Roger Frederick Brook

November 6, 1924 – December 27, 2020

Roger has found calmer seas and fairer winds after 96 years of living life to its fullest. Longtime Pewaukee resident, scow sailor, storyteller, family patriarch, GE engineer, lover of red wine and anything chocolate, WWII submarine vet, and occasional curmudgeon,

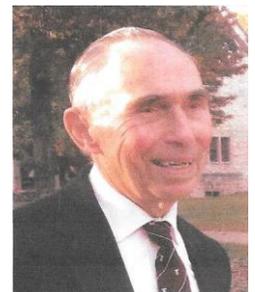


Roger made a lasting impression on so many people over the years. He attended Community Night a few years ago when WWII was the subject of the presentation and proudly talked about his war experiences. He will be missed by many. The family is planning a memorial for Roger on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at the Pewaukee Yacht Club. Final details are in the works and they hope to have a notice in local newspapers.

Roland A. Perschon

June 22, 1928 – February 26, 2021

Born to eternal life at the age of 92. Roland taught in the Milwaukee Public Schools. He later became a MPS administrator for the Department of Instructional Resources and organized and supervised many outdoor youth programs.



Roland served as a camp counselor at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River and at several Wisconsin Boy Scout camps. He enjoyed world travel having visited over 30 countries during his lifetime. Roland was always happy to share his many collections at PAHS annual “Show Us Your Collection” event. A celebration of Roland’s life took place on March 13<sup>th</sup>. We will miss Roland’s smiling face.

*The Most Important  
Thing is to Enjoy Your  
Life - To Be Happy - It's  
All That Matters*

*Audrey Hepburn*

**Pewaukee Area Historical Society**

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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](mailto: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 30 – October 31  
or anytime by *Appointment*  
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Email [info@pewaukeehistory.org](mailto:info@pewaukeehistory.org)  
to schedule your tour.

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