



Pewaukee Area Historical Society

Clark House Museum
206 East Wisconsin Avenue
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072

2024 Museum Hours:

Sundays 1-4 pm
May 26 - October 27
Wednesdays 1-4 pm
May 29 - October 30

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

Spring, 2024

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!

Apr. 24 - Spring Mtg.
7:00 pm

Steele Exhibit Bldg.

May 9-11 - Rummage Sale, Steele Exhibit Bldg.

May 21 - Community Night 7:00 pm
(hosted by Pewaukee H.S. History students)

Steele Exhibit Bldg.

June 9 - Show Us Your Collection

July 14 - Ice Cream Social

Aug. 11 - Art at the Museum

Sept. 8 - Harvest Fest

Oct. 30 - Fall Mtg.

Dec. 7 - Tree Lighting

What's Happening at the Clark House?

by Karen Merz

Although we've had a 70 degree day or two and even a Spring snow storm, the calendar says that our busy season is starting. The museum will be open for free tours beginning on May 26th and we're looking forward to our upcoming events. "Jump on the wagon" and attend and/or volunteer. We need YOU to make 2024 a success.



Spring Meeting April 24, 7:00 pm Steele Exhibit Building



It's not only Spring, it's Baseball Season! PAHS member, Dick Hoffmann will be presenting our Spring Meeting program "My Time on the Business Side of Professional Baseball". Dick worked for the Brewers for many years and will be sharing his insights into what baseball is all about besides what you see when you're sitting and watching the Brewers.

See you there, bring a friend.



by Tom Brick

We are back to having one rummage sale this year and it's in May. So, dust off those items that have been taking up space in your garage and closets and drop them off at the Steele Exhibit Building. As an all volunteer society, we are totally dependent on our friends and members to make this fundraiser a success.

Drop off dates are May 1st, 5th and 8th from 1-4 pm, and May 4th from 9 am - noon. We need a variety of general rummage sale items. We CANNOT accept: TV's, computers, food, cosmetics, perfume, clothes, large furniture, drapes, electronics, large appliances and exercise equipment.

Sales dates are Thursday, May 9th 1-5 pm, Friday, May 10th 9 am - 5 pm, and Saturday, May 11th 9 am - 1 pm.

We appreciate your donations and purchases.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Business Membership
Tami Schroeder/Summit Credit Union

Annual Membership
Charles & Mary Heschke
Theresa Hoff

Thank you for supporting PAHS

Community Night Pewaukee Presents



Step back in time to the glamorous era of the 1920s! Transport yourself to the Jazz Age, where the spirit of the Roaring Twenties comes alive. Don't miss this opportunity to relive the magic of the past and discover how the spirit of the Roaring Twenties continues to resonate in the 2020s! Join us on *Tuesday, May 21st at 7:00 pm in the Steele Building* for an unforgettable evening, guided by students from Pewaukee High School's Advanced US History class. Let them immerse you in the sights, sounds and stories of this nostalgic decade.

Everyone is welcome to attend and support Pewaukee's High School students.

Collection Event, Sunday, June 9

by Cliff Muehlenberg

Ahhh...June! The official *beginning* of Summer! Just the thought of it makes me want to smile and almost cut grass?

Our Collection Event is just a lazy, hazy Sunday afternoon (noon to 4 pm) spent talking about something you like(d) enough to "collect". Kids have all kinds of collections from Barbie dolls (some adults still have theirs) to marbles. More than you think, some childhood collections remain with their collectors into adulthood.

What's in YOUR closet, attic, basement or storage unit? We've had: fancy dishes too fancy to

use; pretty hand-sewn aprons like grandma used to wear; and whatever you've got. We'd like to see it!

Let us know you're coming by leaving a message on the Clark House phone and what you'll be bringing. Members are free and non-members will be asked for a \$10 table fee.

See you June 9th!!

Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser Success: Cheesehead Chili claims First Place

by Kate Clementi

Our first annual Chili Cook-Off fundraiser at the Clark House Museum, Steele Family Exhibit Building was a hit, drawing crowds eager to sample the spicy creations. Contestants showcased their chili recipes in hopes of winning top honors. Congratulations to "Cheesehead Chili" who impressed the attendees and claimed first place with its robust flavor blend. "Red Hot Chili Peppers" secured second place with their hearty rendition. "Truck 2 Blazin' Chili Crew" rounded out the winners' circle, taking third place with their smoky entry.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our community prize donors whose contributions made this event possible. Beyond the culinary delights, the event served as a beacon of community spirit and support, with proceeds going towards updates and improvements to the museum's exhibits and displays. Attendees left with fond memories of the flavorful competition, underscoring the power of coming together for a common purpose. With anticipation already building

for next year's showdown, one thing remains certain: the Chili Cook-Off fundraiser will continue to be a spicy highlight on the community calendar, uniting chili aficionados and benefactors in a celebration of flavor, fun, and giving back.



1st Place – Cheesehead Chili



Recent Acquisitions

by George Strieter

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

**Ivy Bedhar* – Misc. bar signs, pictures, memorabilia from Duplainville Tap/ Dupy's

**John Meyer* – Arrowhead collection/ Indian artifacts

Thank you for your donations.

“And in this corner ...”

by Jeff Phillips

One of the museum’s prized possessions is the Steele family’s *Farm Wagon*. No farm could exist without at least one. This one is in great condition, but over the years has slowly become a display stand for many other Steele farm items. The near future will bring it back into a display that will tell the Pewaukee farm story.

The manufacture of carriages and wagons played an important role in the early stages of industrial development in Wisconsin. Growing out of independent blacksmith and wheelwright concerns, carriages and wagons were one of the first small-scale industries to flourish in Wisconsin.

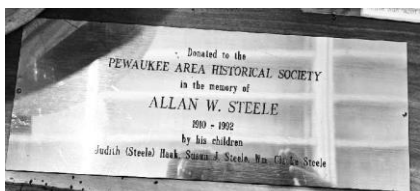
By 1850, 74 firms were listed as wagon makers and 10 as coach and carriage makers. Wagon and carriage manufacturers were common in larger communities. The division between wagon and carriage manufacturers remained a distinctive feature of the industry in its earliest years but by the late 1850s, increased centralization led many companies to develop a broad range of vehicle types.

It is not known where the Steele wagon originated but wouldn’t have been from very far away. It was used on the Steele farm from 1911 to 1970. It probably existed prior to 1911. It was donated to the museum in 1993. Much of the craftsmanship on it shows that it was not home made. The wagon itself isn’t much more than wheels and a frame, but that was done on purpose. The style was usually left open so

it could be modified for a variety of uses. A closed box might be added to carry grain or produce. The open frame could accommodate lumber. Most likely, the Steele wagon was used for hay but also oats at threshing time, or corn. It didn’t have to go far, only from the field to the barn or silo.

Most wagon gears were painted bright red, although orange and yellow were also used. Wheel rims, spokes, axles, reaches and just about every other part were enhanced by blue, black and white striping, usually applied by hand. The Steele wagon has red wheels and mostly an unpainted frame.

Farm wagons were useful in their day. When no longer needed, they many times were pulled behind the barn to rot away. Others were modified to be pulled by more modern tractors, but those eventually shook apart from age. The museum considers itself lucky to have one that could possibly be taken out to the farm and be used today.



Wagon Dedication Plaque



Steele Wagon at the Steele Farm

Linda Wittmann chosen PAHS 2023 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations Linda! PAHS Volunteer of the Year was awarded at our annual meeting on January 31st but Linda was on a well deserved vacation and unable to attend. Linda is a Master Gardener who has lovingly devoted many hours of her time working on the Clark House gardens.

She not only has redesigned and replanted some of the flower beds but you might see her at the Pewaukee recycling center dropping off branches and clippings.

Next time you’re at the Clark House take a walk around the property and admire our beautiful grounds.

Thank you, Linda, for all that you do to help the Clark House property be one that we’re proud of.



A Few Sketches of Pioneer Life

by: Mary E. Steward

submitted by Tom Brick

(In 1842, Mary's father, Robert Stewart, bought about 80 acres of land in Section 22, Town of Pewaukee (near present day Blue Mound Rd. and Harken Industries). He brought his family from New York State, arrived in Milwaukee on July 4th and then proceeding to the "wilds" of Pewaukee, where they would build a log cabin and start developing their farm. What follows is part of the memoir Mary wrote about the pioneer days.)

Father had an eye for beauty when he selected his farm here. Oak openings gave the appearance of old orchards. There were many wild flowers, groves of what we call "popple", springs, brooks, and undulating surface of earth, neither flat not hilly and rough. Mornings, he could hear the prairie hens booming and there were many other birds. Deer and other wild animals were plentiful.

Mother was somewhat troubled by wolves howling at night. When we moved in, not a fence, nor a house, nor a light was to be seen in any direction. Just a short distance back of the house several tents of Indians could be seen. Father told them they could stay as long as they wished, provided they never meddled with, or took anything belonging to him. They remained many years and never gave us trouble. Instead,
(continued on the next page)

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, 2024

"Like" us on FACEBOOK

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

www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Amer. Legion Post 71-Main St., Pwk.

Big Guy's Magic – (262) 691-8801

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

Century Fence Co. - (262) 547-3331

Chiropractic & Wellness on

Pewaukee Lake – (262) 695-0022

Chris Lueth – American Family Ins.

(262) 695-1981

First Assoc. Insurance/James Kloth –

(414) 840-2150

Five O'Clock Club – (262) 691-9960

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

North Shore Bank – (262) 691-5740

Small World Children's Dentistry – Pwk

(262) 780-9996

Summit Credit Union/Tami Schroeder

(262) 672-4918

Waterstone Bank-Pwk - 262) 696-7100

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!

Without

YOU

our brick path is
incomplete.

Still only \$50.

(Expert installation included.)

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

This recipe is part of a recipe booklet that long time member Helen Miller's daughter, Linda, put together of her mother's favorite recipes.

RIP Helen

Grandma's Chocolate Mayonnaise Cake

This recipe makes a 10" x 8" x 2" cake.

1 cup sugar
3/4 cup Hellman's Mayonnaise
2 cups flour
1/2 cup cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
Dash of salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup cold water

Cream sugar & mayonnaise. Sift together flour, cocoa, soda & salt and add to the creamed mixture alternating with vanilla & cold water.

Bake at 350 degrees about 30 minutes.
Cool and frost with your favorite frosting.

This make a nice, moist cake and is great if you don't have eggs in the house.

How do we thank the person that makes the trophy?

PAHS board member, Cliff Muehlenberg has always made the trophy for the volunteer of the year. As a surprise he was awarded a Volunteer Award at the annual meeting along with Linda Wittmann. We know it's "different" than your handmade trophies for others but it really is a real award. Thank you Cliff for all that you do for PAHS!!



(A Few Sketches of Pioneer Life continued)

they defended our property and proved as good neighbors as we had. If mother had to be gone from home for an hour or two, she always left us girls with the Indians. There was an old squaw who said she was a hundred years old, and she looked it. She was blind in one eye. She would sit cross-legged on the ground, take one in each arm and croon to us Indian songs. The children would gather in front of the tent and wrestle, climb trees, run and jump and perform their stunts for our benefit. The men would put us on the back of a pony and lead the pony about, laughing at our little fears, but taking the most careful watch that we came to no hurt.

I remember their taking down the mats that hung on the sides of the tent and seating us on them. They brought many little puppies for us to play with. If they wanted to go away for a change of hunting or fishing, they left all the children between 2 and 10 years of age in the camp, asking father to go to the tent at night and count them over to see if all were safe. They never troubled us, seldom asking so much as a slice of bread. When the Indians came home, they gave us a liberal share of whatever they had.

Finally, when they moved west, after too much woods were cut down and rivers dammed, some of them, always two at least, came every year to see us when they were taking their furs to Milwaukee to sell. The few last times they came it must have been some of those who were little children on our farm, as the men seemed so young who came. They had to move still farther west and we saw them no more. I have sometimes wished that white people would emulate their loyalty.

"Late Night Lecture"

An elderly man driving erratically was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and was asked where he was going at that time of night.

The man replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body."

The officer then asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replied, "That would be my wife."

Pewaukee Area Historical Society

2024 Board of Directors

President: Jeff Phillips

Vice President: Jim Tredwell

Secretary: Carole Brinkman

Treasurer: Tom Brick

Directors: Kate Clementi

Sandie Moncada

Kathy Losiniecki

Cliff Muehlenberg

Susan Schweda

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.

2024 Museum Hours:

May 26–October 27, Sundays 1-4 pm

May 29–October 30, Wed. 1-4 pm

Or anytime by appointment

Call (262) 691-0233 or

Email info@pewaukeehistory.org

Pewaukee Area Historical Society
206 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072
Address Service Requested