



# Pewaukee Area Historical Society

Clark House Museum  
206 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072

**Museum Hours:**  
May through October  
2020 - by Appointment Only

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

Winter, 2020

## Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!

Dec 5 - Tree Lighting  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
On the grounds of the  
Clark House Museum

## 2021 Dates to Remember:

Apr. 28 - Annual/Spring  
Mtg. 7:00 p.m.  
Steele Exhibit Bldg.

May TBA - Community  
Night 7:00 p.m.  
(hosted by Pewaukee H.S.  
History students)

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

## **TREE LIGHTING 2020** **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** **4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

by Tom Brick



Yes, *Virginia*, there will be a Pewaukee Community Tree Lighting this year! The Pewaukee Kiwanis Club is once again sponsoring this event hosted by the Pewaukee Area Historical Society on the grounds of the Clark House Museum. North Shore Bank is again providing funds for the purchase of the Christmas tree. We are grateful for the continued sponsorship and funding from the Pewaukee Kiwanis and North Shore Bank.

As with most things, it will be different this year. This will be an *all outdoor event*, starting at 4:00 p.m. There will be Christmas carols to sing and the Kiwanis Club will provide hot chocolate and wrapped cookies as we wait for the tree to be lit at 5:00 p.m.

We will end the day with the singing of "Silent Night". Everyone is welcome to join us for this short, but festive event.

## **Annual Meeting Rescheduled** by Jeff Phillips

The PAHS annual meeting has been rescheduled from January to April 28, 2021. Covid-19 virus concerns made it questionable as to how many people would want to gather for a meeting. We will combine the annual meeting with our spring meeting to be held at the museum in the Steele Exhibit Bldg. Information about the program will be announced in the next newsletter which will be published in early April.

## **It's Time to Renew your Membership**

by Tom Brick, Treasurer

All PAHS members are receiving this newsletter in the mail this time because it includes the 2021 annual membership form or a life member update form depending on your membership status. Your membership is always appreciated but especially important this year due to the cancellation of all of our fundraising events. We hope that you renew your membership promptly and if it's within your means please consider an additional donation to help us pay the bills. As always, thank you for your continued support.

## Building and Grounds Update

by Cliff Muehlenberg

I drove past yesterday to make sure the building was still there and sure-nuf it was! All looked very serene in the late afternoon sun. Some leaves still reluctantly remain in the trees while most others have already given in to Fall and the high winds of last week.

Our “rake man” Duane has been working almost daily to keep up. Especially the large catalpa leaves along Prospect. Leaves are so large that once they get wet, they are difficult to rake or blow. Dry weather this year has made it somewhat easier. But for one person it’s a big chore.

Rick Hanson of All-Star Heating (who service our heat and A/C) stopped by this week and saw Duane struggling with our electric blower. Rick went home and got his “backpack” style blower for Duane to use. Duane said it worked much better and blew so hard he had to put a roll of quarters in each of his pockets.

Thanks Rick. The right tool for the right job makes all the difference in the world!

As noted in our last newsletter, Paint-a-Thon had ended. And the first floor is totally painted with “Asa-gold” and white trim. The total volunteer hours to complete the first floor was 150 hours. Thanks to all who helped!

We will bid-out the second floor for next spring. If anyone has a painting company they’d like to recommend, send us an email or call and leave a message.

Painting allows close inspection of each and every board. And though much was replaced when the building was purchased and

rehabbed, like any wood house there’s wood that needs replacing. Most are trim pieces. We’ll need a carpenter for that next spring as well. Recommendations also appreciated.

And both windows on the screen porch and the screen door need to be replaced. The windows are rotted in various places and you’ll notice tape attempting to keep water from running inside. We thought we could “simply” repair them but they just need to be replaced. I’ll be getting bids on that over winter.

Buy someone a brick for Christmas!! (You can wrap up one of our blank bricks to put under the tree til the real one arrives. One size fits all and guaranteed forever!)

## Special Presentation

by Jeff Phillips

Rollie Crandall presented PAHS with a copy of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pewaukee American Legion, Post 71, at our board meeting on September 14, 2020.



Tom Brick accepting the book from Rollie Crandall

Thank you for providing us with this book of Pewaukee history.

Also, we wish to thank all veterans for serving our country to keep us safe. It is the ultimate call to duty.

## Support PAHS Through Your IRA Distributions

by Tom Brick, Treasurer

As of 2016, anyone 70-1/2 years or older has a new option for making charitable gifts: Your IRA!

Typically, IRA distributions are taxable, but, as of 2016, Congress made permanent the opportunity known as the IRA qualified charitable distribution where direct transfers from an IRA to charity are free from federal and potentially state income tax for anyone 70-1/2 or older. Contact your tax professional and the investment firm that handles your IRA to request a direct transfer of IRA assets to the Pewaukee Area Historical Society. To ensure that your IRA transfer is not taxable, the check must be made payable to the Pewaukee Area Historical Society and not to you personally.

Thanks for your support and for helping preserve Pewaukee’s history for the current and future generations.

## Recent Acquisitions

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

- \*Lynn Turba, Librarian, Asa Clark Middle School – two bound 1959 Centennial Editions of the Freeman.
- \*Elizabeth Asher – Original watercolor of the Pewaukee Depot by Robert H. Wright.
- \*Nancy Anderson – Glass rolling pin on a stand.
- \*Bill Tenckhoff – numerous vintage hand tools.

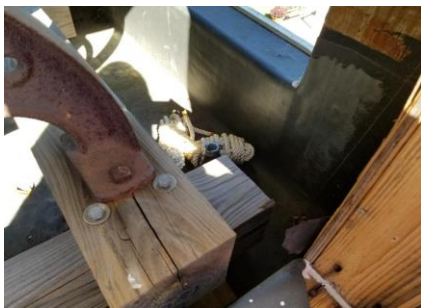
# “And in this corner ...”

by Jeff Phillips

The bell on top of the Steele Exhibit Building got some needed attention in September. Earlier in the year, it was being rung to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the right for women to vote. Volunteer Richard Rosenberger pulled the bell rope a few times and it came loose in his hands.



The bell rope made of manilla rope was first installed in 2006 when the Steele Exhibit Building was constructed. The bell came from Pumpkin Hollow School. As PAHS Board President, I braved the ladders and climbed into the belfry to effect repairs.



The rope was replaced with newer nylon line and is ready to ring again.



## Ice Harvesting

by Penny Williams

With the coming of cold weather and winter, the thoughts of historians turn to ice harvesting, Pewaukee's first real industry.

Those who lived in the area always knew the value of lake ice to preserve food during the winter months, but with the coming of the railroad in the late 1850's, ice harvesting became a major industry.

Asa Clark had dammed the east end of the lake for his mill in the late 1830's. At least he dammed the river which coursed through marshy land, thereby creating the east end of the lake, known by local Indians as Sakaegan, or “place of the shells”. An after effect of his damming was to create a not-too-deep area where the ice harvesting took place.

The value of clear ice was apparent because nobody liked to look at weeds in something that was meant to preserve their food. In accordance with that thought, when the ice-cutting fields were laid out on the water in September, a weed harvester was also used to insure that the weeds would not grow up to spoil the ice that eventually would be cut when the lake froze over. What followed was a waiting time.

In November or December, when the ice became thick enough to support the weight of a horse and equipment, the ice was plowed free of snow, sometimes two or three times. This promoted deep

freezing. When ice cutting finally began, it required more manpower than the village could provide, so farmers and horses were hired for the season, along with itinerant laborers from Milwaukee. These men generally slept on the jail floor overnight. Lots of extra warm clothing was also needed to withstand long hours of work in the bitter cold winds while the job was being done.



At first a channel was cut, and then ice blocks were directed to “Ice Houses” for storage. These were built along the shoreline for storage purposes. The 1' x 8' rafts were directed toward the shore by two men, and eventually cut in half for ease of handling. An ice house was basically a house within a house with walkways between the two for workers to walk in. They could be insulated with straw or sawdust as the need arose. Ice blocks were stacked and also insulated by hand. It was labor intensive work!

In the 1870's and 1880's brewers and meat packers became aware that by taking advantage of Pewaukee Lake ice they could ship their products farther afield, so they, alas, built their own ice houses and there was a daily trainload of product leaving Pewaukee. But, alas, this boom only lasted about 15 years, and by the turn of the century was gone. The last ice house was destroyed by lightning and our dream of prosperity was gone.

## Welcome New Board Member

Kathy Losiniecki has been appointed as interim PAHS board member. She replaces Sandy Volmar who had stepped down earlier this year. Sandy remains an avid volunteer for the society. Thank you Sandy for your years of service on the board and for your continued volunteering!

Kathy can become a full three year board member at the 2021 annual meeting in April. Kathy is a lifelong resident of Pewaukee and most recently was a leader in the effort to save St. Mary's Church. She is also a member of the Village Historic Preservation Commission. Kathy, thank you for serving on our board.



## 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**

**March 15, 2021**

## **“Like” us on FACEBOOK**

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

**www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory**

## BUSINESS MEMBERS

**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**

**Chick-fil-A – (262) 691-0537**

**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!

**How do you  
make a brick smile?**

**Put your name on it  
(It'll make you smile too)**

*From the Kitchen of  
Alexandra Lerch-Gaggl*

**Oma's Chocolate Torte**

(Enjoy with freshly brewed coffee and lots of sweetened whipping cream)

**For an 11" round spring form baking pan you need:**

140g warm butter (room temperature)  
110g powdered sugar  
pulp of 1/2 vanilla pod  
6 eggs, separated  
130g semi-sweet chocolate  
110g crystal sugar  
140g flour  
approx. 200g apricot jam  
butter & flour for covering the baking pan  
whipped cream for decoration

**For the glazing:**

200g crystal sugar  
125ml water (1/2 cup)  
150g dark, semi-sweet chocolate

**Preparation:**

Mix soft butter and vanilla pulp until creamy. Slowly add egg yolks one by one and mix until the mass is of a rich foamy consistency. Melt chocolate in water bath and mix to butter/yolk mix. Whisk the egg whites and add the crystal sugar until the mass is stiff so it can be cut by a knife and appears shiny. Transfer stiff egg white mass onto yolk mass, sieve flour over that and carefully mix it all together.

Butter and flour an 11" round spring form baking pan then put parchment paper on bottom of pan. Fill in the mixture, flatten it and bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 55-60 minutes. Leave the door of the oven a finger width open for the first 10-15 minutes, then close and bake for the rest of the time. Readiness is felt by a response with gentle finger tapping on the cake. Overturn the baked torte with the baking pan onto a cake grate and let cool for about 20 minutes. Remove the paper, overturn the torte and let cool completely in form to get rid of unevenness. Lift form and cut the tort in half horizontally with a sharp

knife. Warm jam slightly, whisk until smooth, cover both, top and bottom piece, and put torte together. Cover entire torte with jam all over and let it dry a bit.

*For the glazing*, vigorously cook sugar and water for about 5-6 minutes, then cool a bit. Melt chocolate in water bath and mix with sugar solution bit by bit until the glaze becomes viscous and smooth. (Hint: to check for the right consistency of the glaze, let it run over a wooden cooking spoon. The spoon should be covered with about a 4mm thick glazing. If the glazing is too thick, add some more of the sugar solution with more water. Make sure the glaze does not become too hot – otherwise it becomes dull after the drying.) Pour the lip-warm glaze in one big pour over the entire torte and distribute it with as less as possible strokes. Let dry for several hours until glaze is set. Portion into sections and serve with whipped cream.

*Recipe background from Alexandra:*

*This is a recipe of a chocolate torte, which is made by the famous "Hotel Sacher" in Vienna, Austria. My grandma had this recipe in her cookbook and she made this torte for my birthdays. We ate it with a huge pile of sweetened heavy whipping cream and coffee which also got a huge heap of sweetened whipping cream instead of milk.*

**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.*

*One kind word  
can warm  
three winter months*

*Japanese Proverb*

**Pewaukee Area Historical Society**

**2020 Board of Directors**

President: Jeff Phillips

Vice President: Jim Tredwell

Secretary: Carole Brinkman

Treasurer: Tom Brick

Directors: Richard Hoffmann

Alexandra Lerch-Gaggl

Kathy Losiniecki

Cliff Muehlenberg

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  
Currently open by *Appointment Only*  
Call (262) 691-0233 or  
Email [info@pewaukeehistory.org](mailto:info@pewaukeehistory.org)  
to schedule your tour.

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