



# 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](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, 2023

## Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!

Dec. 2 - Tree Lighting  
Clark House Museum  
Steele Exhibit Bldg.

## 2024 Dates to Remember:

Jan. 31 - Annual Mtg  
6:30 pm  
Pewaukee Library,  
Community Room

Feb. 18 - Chili Cookoff  
Steele Exhibit Bldg.

Apr. 24 - Spring Mtg.  
7:00 pm  
Steele Exhibit Bldg.

May 9-11 - Rummage  
Sale

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

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

## **Pewaukee Tree Lighting, December 2, 2:00-5:00 pm**

by Cliff Muehlenberg

Christmas at the Clark House Museum, what a great tradition!

This year's community Christmas tree is being donated by Pewaukee resident, Connie Miederer, who lives just a couple blocks away! It will be a first time to have a local tree used. And, it's a beautiful tree but has outgrown its yard. We are very grateful for this beautiful donation.

Santa & Mrs. Claus will arrive at 2:00 pm to visit with the children in the Steele Exhibit Bldg. (You'll want to take a picture). Be here at 2:00 to welcome them.



There will be TWO model trains running, and you can make a craft while waiting to see Santa and Mrs. Claus or tour the museum. Santa's gift shop will be open for the little ones to purchase a gift including wrapping. Oh, and of course the Kiwanis will be serving hot chocolate and cookies. The time of the tree lighting will be at 5:00 pm but come early and help us usher in the season with the Civic Broadway

Singers from 4:00-5:00 pm. Sing along and help to continue our family friendly tradition at the Clark House Museum. Doors open at 2:00 pm. See you there!

*NOTE: Please bring non-perishable items for the Pewaukee Food Pantry.*

## **PAHS Annual Meeting January 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm Pewaukee Library**

by Jeff Phillips

The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the Pewaukee Library, 210 Main St., Pewaukee.

We are in the process of finalizing the program for this meeting which will follow our brief business meeting.

This is an important meeting to get the new year started and the program should be of interest to everyone. Plan on attending, bring a friend.

## **NEW EVENT:**

by Kate Clementi

**JOIN US FOR  
OUR FIRST  
ANNUAL  
CHILI  
COOKOFF!**



**WHEN:  
SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY, 18 2024  
12:00-3:00**

**WHERE:  
STEELE EXHIBIT  
BUILDING**

MORE INFORMATION COMING...

## 2024 Membership Forms and Life Member Update Forms included . . . .

All PAHS members are receiving this newsletter in the mail because it includes the 2024 annual membership form or a life member update form depending on your membership status. Your membership is important to PAHS and is appreciated. It helps us to continue our free tours/events and provide repairs to the aging Clark House Museum. We hope that you renew your membership promptly and if possible consider an additional donation. If you are able to volunteer, please also mark your interest areas. As always, thank you for your continued support.

## Original Pewaukee Land Sales

*by Tom Brick*

When Wisconsin became a territory in 1836, virtually all the land was in the “public domain”, owned by the federal government. Federal land offices needed to be set up to auction off parcels of land, with the minimum bid being \$1.25 per acre. The Milwaukee land office did not open until 1839 and Waukesha or Pewaukee lands were not put up for sale until October of 1839.

When Asa Clark came to Pewaukee in 1837, he was said to have a “jack knife claim” on his land (meaning he carved his name and a date on trees on the corners of his claimed land). He and other early settlers, who cut down trees, built houses and barns and planted crops, did not legally own their land. They were squatters.

The following, an excerpt from the 1876 book “The History of Waukesha County”, details the

problems the first settlers encountered and how they solved them:

The settlers boundaries were respected among themselves by the actual settlers; but not by the “land sharks”, as the speculators were called. These sharks, unless prevented by some united action on the part of the actual settlers, could make such claimant “bid up” his land to a high figure, or lose it together with all the improvements he had made.

However, when the land auction took place in Milwaukee in October 1839, each town appointed a “shark committee”, consisting of several of the strongest and most fearless men in it, whose business it then became to look after the speculators, and also appointed a keen and trustworthy man who knew the location of all the claims in the town for which he was appointed, to do all the bidding. He took his stand near the Register, and when any claimed section or quarter was offered, would bid \$1.25 per acre, by direction of its claimant. If any speculator or shark offered to run up the price, the “shark committee” would grab him and start for the river. He generally would withdraw his bid before going far; if not, he was “doused” until he did. The settlers thus secured their lands at the lowest government price, each town having a “bidder” and a “shark committee”.

## Save Your Albrecht's Sentry- Delafield Receipts

*by Carole Brinkman*

Do you shop at Albrechts? Did you know that if you save your receipts for PAHS, we receive 1% of the total amount spent over a month's time? You may think 1% doesn't add up to much, but we usually average receiving between \$15-\$20 a month. As PAHS is a non-profit, this seemingly small amount does add up and helps keep the lights on. Receipts must be less than 6 months old. You can either mail them to Carole Brinkman at PAHS or leave them in the drawer marked “Sentry Receipts” in the screen porch of the Clark House. Thanks for helping us out!

## Shop til You Drop

*by Karen Merz*

The team of Marilyn Hagerstrand and Tom Brick were at it again! Marilyn donated another \$250 debit card and the two shoppers decided that Office Depot would be the place to meet and see how they could save PAHS some money by using the debit card to restock office supplies. They bought printer ink, post-it notes, paper, envelopes and whatever they could until they spent all but \$.02 . . . Thank you Marilyn!!

## A New Year's Resolution That's Easy to Keep:



## “And in this corner ...”

by Jeff Phillips

The Pewaukee Area Historical Society is tasked with preserving the history of the area. One area that has little representation is the Native Indians. Understand that being Native means different things to everyone. To some people, it means being Indian. To some, it means being Native. To some it means being American Indian, Native American, Indigenous, First Nations. Some folks exclusively use their tribe's name. There is great complexity of the terms “Native American” and “American Indian”. For the purposes of this article, I will use American Indian.

The Pewaukee area was originally a mix of forested, prairie, marsh and water. The area was first home to Indigenous tribes like Menomonie, Ojibwe (Chippewa), Potawatomi, and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), who practiced agriculture and trade. Evidence suggests that the early peoples of Wisconsin arrived about 10,000 years ago. In 1804, most lands were lost due to government interaction that was not agreed to. In 1836 American tribes formally lost title to the land when treaties were disregarded and were forcibly removed by the Federal Army.

A mass immigration of white Europeans began in the early 1800's. Most American Indians were either moved away or became assimilated into the majority population.

In 1804, the government forced the Sauk and Fox tribes to cede their land claims in southern Wisconsin in a treaty

they had not agreed to. Those actions led to the Black Hawk War of 1832.

In 1987, Wisconsin held a referendum that approved the creation of the state lottery and gave Wisconsin tribes the right to establish casino gambling. Many tribes created casinos as an opportunity to bring economic benefits to reservation communities, including the Ho-Chunk, Ojibwe, Mohican, and Potawatomi.

PAHS still has a few pieces of an American Indian display that was put up in 1990. It includes arrow heads and stone tools, some from the area and other areas. A large map indicates living areas from the past. A large artistic carving of an Indian head is also on display. It was carved by local artist Greg McDonald and the piece has been blessed by Wisconsin Indian members.



*This American Indian head was carved from a local ash tree by Greg McDonald.*

*This map indicates various campsites that American Indians used over several generations.*



*Arrowheads and stone tools reflect the American Indian culture from the Pewaukee area and other places.*

PAHS is in the process of updating this display to better reflect the heritage of the area. They are looking for area residents who might have local history related items that represent the local American Indian population. Please contact PAHS with stories or artifacts.

### **Recent Acquisition**

by George Strieter

The following donation has been received and will be displayed as space permits \*Sherri Perrigo – Wooden model sailing ship.

Thank you for your donation to continue Pewaukee's history for future generations.

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!*



## **Third Graders Field Trip**

*by Tom Brick*

During the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>, Horizon Elementary School's nine third grade classes walked down the hill to the Clark House Museum and Steele Exhibit building. It was a field trip they all seemed to enjoy. The dental chair, the typewriters and the old telephones seemed to draw a lot of interest. And some of the more curious wanted to know if there were any ghosts in the house. Many asked, "what's upstairs". Sharon Strieter and I accepted a \$185.00 donation from the classes and hope that they had as much fun as we did telling them about Asa Clark and the history of Pewaukee.

Thank you also to the teachers for including our local history in their curriculum. Visit us again soon, we love having young people at the museum.



## **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**

**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!

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Gerrie Marincic

Katie & Jerry Redfield

**Thank you for supporting PAHS!**



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!

## **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, 2024**

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

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

**www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory**

***Better than  
A lump of  
coal.***

Place your order and wrap up a blank brick to put under the tree. Still only 50 bucks.

**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 Jeff Phillips*

### **Johnnycakes**

Johnnycakes are a cornmeal flat bread. The simplest recipes call for nothing but cornmeal, boiling water, and a little salt. The batter should be fairly thin so that when fried on a hot griddle, the batter is no more than a quarter of an inch thick. It is a simple meal that American Indians prepared and was picked up by others moving into and living in the area.

#### Ingredients:

1 cup white cornmeal  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1 cup water  
1/2 cup milk  
Bacon drippings

#### Instructions:

\*In a medium bowl, place cornmeal and salt.

\*In a medium saucepan over high heat, bring water to a rapid boil; remove from heat. With the saucepan in one hand, let the boiling water dribble onto the cornmeal while stirring constantly with the other hand. Then stir the milk into the mixture (it will be fairly thick, but not runny).

\*Generously grease a large, heavy frying pan (preferably a cast-iron frying pan) with the bacon drippings and heat. When pan is hot, drop the batter by spoonfuls. Flatten the batter with a spatula to a thickness of approximately 1/4 inch. Fry until golden brown, turn, and brown on the other side (adding more bacon drippings as needed).

\*Serve hot with butter, maple syrup, or applesauce.

\*Makes 4 servings

## **PAHS Fall Meeting Recap**

*by Jeff Phillips*

PAHS fall meeting on October 25 featured a presentation on the history of Waukesha Beach. Member Marilyn Hagerstrand gave the presentation telling of the areas beginnings in the late 1800's through the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The area had gone through several changes as well as owners and investors.

At times the beach offered dancing, entertainment and even hotels. Swimming was popular. At one time a diving horse and elk were part of the entertainment. Even though the area was in Pewaukee, the name Waukesha Beach came from the fact that all the investors lived in Waukesha.

Marilyn's presentation featured a slide presentation. She has collected thousands of postcards and memorabilia over the years.

Thanks Marilyn for an interesting program.



## *Advice from a Tree*

*by Ilan Shamir*

*Stand tall and proud*

*Go out on a limb*

*Remember your roots*

*Drink plenty of water*

*Be content with your natural beauty*

*Enjoy the view*



**Pewaukee Area Historical Society**

**2024 Board of Directors**

President: Jeff Phillips

Vice President: Jim Tredwell

Secretary: Carole Brinkman

Treasurer: Tom Brick

Directors: Kate Clementi

Alexandra Lerch-Gaggl

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](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.

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](mailto:info@pewaukeehistory.org)

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