



Pewaukee Area Historical Society

Clark House Museum
206 East Wisconsin Avenue
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072

2025 Museum Hours:

Sundays 1-3 pm

May 25 – September 28

Wednesdays 1-4 pm

May 28 – October 29

Email: info@pewaukeehistory.org

Website: www.pewaukeehistory.org

www.facebook.com/pewaukeehistory

262-691-0233

Summer, 2025

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!

June 8 – Show Us
Your Collection
Steele Exhibit Bldg.
Noon – 3:00 pm

July 13 – Ice Cream
Social
Grounds of the
Clark House Museum
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Aug 10 – Art at
The Museum
Grounds of the
Clark House Museum
Noon – 4:00 pm

Sept 14 – Harvest Fest
Grounds of the
Clark House Museum
Noon – 4:00 pm

Oct 29 – Fall Mtg.
Steele Exhibit Bldg.
7:00 pm

Dec 6 – Tree Lighting
Clark House Museum
Steele Exhibit Bldg.
2:00 – 5:00 pm

Show Us Your Collection, Sunday, June 8th

by Cliff Muehlenberg

Yo-yo's, accordions, waffle irons, wallpaper, yardsticks, Cracker Jack prizes, feathers, banana labels, ceiling tins, sheet music, aprons, door knobs and drive-in speakers. If you have any of these, you're invited! If you don't, you're still invited. We've had a wide and interesting selection of things in years past. And most likely will again this year. And you'll get to ask, "why do you collect these?"

If you want a table for your wares, leave a message on the Clark House answering machine stating who you are and what you intend to display along with your phone number. Tables are no charge to members but guests will be asked for a \$10 donation for a table. And it's from noon til 3:00 pm. This is a great family friendly event in the Steele Exhibit Building.



Marilyn Hagerstrand proudly displays her Waukesha Beach collection

It's Ice Cream Social Time



Note to Self:

*Let's meet
for ice cream
at the Clark
House Museum*

Mark your calendar, it's time to meet at the Clark House on Sunday, July 13th 1:00-3:00 pm to enjoy an ice cream sundae, cone or root beer float. This is always a good time to spend a relaxing afternoon eating ice cream and visiting with friends.

There will be some "old time" games for the kids, entertainment, and free tours of the museum.

Tell your friends to meet you there!

To make this event happen, WE ARE IN NEED OF SOME "SUPER SCOOPERS". If you could scoop for an hour shift, contact Carole Brinkman at 262-352-7892. This is one of our major fundraisers, your support is appreciated!

Springtime is
brick planting time.

Still only \$50

Art at the Museum **Sunday, August 10th** **Noon – 4:00 pm**

by Carole Brinkman



Once again PAHS is proud to showcase the many artistic, talented people in the Pewaukee area. Along with our own collection, we are hoping to include other artisans from artists to wood carvers. If you or someone you know would like to be included at our event, either working on a project during the afternoon or just displaying your creation, contact Carole Brinkman at:

carole.brinkman@yahoo.com.

Art is all around us, but we just need to take time to look for it in our lives. Rain or shine, hope to see you on August 10th.

Help! Help! Bakers & Gardeners Needed

by Carole Brinkman

So many people enjoy coming to Harvest Fest and buying fresh bakery, preserves and produce. But how do these items magically arrive? Through the efforts of people LIKE YOU! YOU could be one of our much appreciated donors. Would you be willing to bake a batch of cookies, brownies, a pie or bread? If you're not a baker, perhaps something else comes to mind. How's your vegetable garden doing? Have excess produce you'd like to donate? Anything and everything is appreciated!! You have plenty of time to think about what you could do.

Harvest Fest takes place on Sunday, September 14th from noon – 4:00 pm. As this is one of our major fund-raisers, your help is always welcome. Help us keep the lights on at the Clark House. For further information, please contact Carole Brinkman at:

carole.brinkman@yahoo.com.

Thanks so much in advance!

Camp Lake Keesus

by Tom Brick

As World War II dragged on, more and more young men were drafted into military service. This created a big labor shortage for Wisconsin agriculture. Where would the farmer's get the man-power to harvest their much needed crops?

The U.S. War Department had a unique solution. In her book, *Stalag, Wisconsin* author Betty Cowley writes about how the War Department set up 38 temporary prisoner of war camps in Wisconsin. The mainly German prisoners would especially help with the harvesting and canning of cash crops, such as peas, sweet corn, cranberries, cherries and sugar beets. Farmers and canning factories paid the War Department for the POWs labor, and these payments were used for the camp expenses.

The closest camp to Pewaukee was on Lake Keesus, just north of Merton. In June of 1944, the War Department leased the Lake Keesus Resort Hotel. The bar became the kitchen and mess hall, while the dance hall was trans-

formed into the prisoner's sleeping quarters with the addition of rows of bunk beds stacked four high. The hotel above the dance floor housed the American officers and guards. Only snow and rope fences surrounded the property. With that, 250 German POWs moved in.

Each morning, many of the prisoners marched a mile down the road to work at the pea canning factory in Merton. Others were trucked to work at canning factories in Sussex, Hartford and Oconomowoc. After their eight-hour shifts, the POWs were back to Camp Lake Keesus, where they were allowed to swim in the lake, or play music or cards on the resort grounds.

In late June, panic set in. Breaking the quiet of downtown Merton, loud-speakers blared the warnings: "War prisoners have escaped! Stay under cover! We will shoot to kill!" Two prisoners had escaped. Terror stricken, many people closed their windows and curtains, barred their doors and feared for their lives. Within an hour the two German soldiers were found walking along a country road keeping their dates with local girls. . . .

Camp Lake Keesus closed the last week of July with most of its prisoners moving to camps in Hartford and Germantown.

WELCOME NEW **MEMBERS**

Randy & Susan Van Aartsen

Thank you for your support!

“And in this Corner ...”

submitted by George Strieter

Note: This picture and article were part of the “Scenes From the Past” feature in The Freeman on 1/14/25 but an interesting piece about Pewaukee.



From Cow County to the Rest of the U.S.A.

This photo, from the March 1, 1956 edition of *The Freeman*, showed a microwave tower that dwarfed the silos on the William D. Swan farm on Highway F, in Pewaukee. The tower “will transmit life on a typical farm to viewers of the television show *Wide, Wide World*”, on the next Sunday, three days hence. “The tower, which was constructed during the past week, will beam the local portion of the show to transmitting towers in Milwaukee. From there, the show will be beamed throughout the country. The show’s host, Dave Garroway, will visit with members of the Swan family,

during the program, which will also feature square dancing by the local 4-H groups, and Swiss singers from Green County, Wisconsin,” the Freeman reported.

According to The Movie Database, “*Wide Wide World*” was a 90-minute documentary series telecast live on NBC on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm Central Time. The premiere episode on June 27, 1955, featuring entertainment from the U.S., Canada and Mexico, was the first international North American telecast in the history of television. It returned in the fall as a regular Sunday series, sponsored by General Motors, from Oct. 16, 1955 to June 8, 1958. In March 1956, *Time* magazine reported that it was the highest-rated daytime show on television.

(Do you remember this??)

Reminder The Clark House Museum is now open for free tours.

Our volunteers work hard all year to prepare the museum and its’ grounds for our visitors. Now is the time to stop in and see the updated ice fishing display. Have relatives visiting that are interested in history? Spend an hour learning about how Pewaukee began.

Sundays:

May 25 – September 28
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Wednesdays:

May 28 – October 29
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Or anytime by appointment.

(Docents are always needed)

Can You Help Us Spread Our News?

by Karen Merz

I have been the volunteer editor of this newsletter and the administrator of PAHS website since 2015. It’s been a great way to keep my computer skills up to date and an interesting, creative way to use my skills. But...it’s time to hand off these duties to the next person that would like to help PAHS keep our members and community aware of “what’s happening” at the Clark House.

If you or someone you know are interested in filling one or both of these areas and want more information, please leave a voice message at the Clark House (262-691-0233) or an email at info@pewaukeehistory.org.

In today’s world, newspapers are going away and everything is done online. About one-third of our members do receive this newsletter via email but many prefer the print copy or do not use computers. I’m hoping that you agree that to keep our history alive, we need to continue to communicate what we’re doing along with some historical information.

Please consider helping.

On the lighter side . . .

The Answer Lady

Question:

Should you have children after thirty-four?

Answer:

No, I think 34 children are enough.

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
Karen Merz*

Rhubarb Pudding Cake

(Makes 9 servings)

1 cup flour
1-1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
5 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temp.
1-1/3 cups granulated sugar (divided)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 egg
1/2 cup 1% low-fat milk
4 cups (2-inch-thick) sliced rhubarb
1 teaspoon powdered sugar (optional)
Whipped cream for garnish (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees
In a small bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Mix well with a whisk and set aside. Place butter in a large bowl and beat with a mixer at medium speed until smooth. Add 2/3 cup granulated sugar; beat until well blended. Add vanilla, cinnamon, and egg, beating well. Beating at low speed, add reserved flour mixture and milk alternately to sugar mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture; beat just until smooth. Combine rhubarb and remaining 2/3 cup granulated sugar in an 8-inch square baking dish coated with cooking spray. Spoon batter over rhubarb mixture. Bake in preheated oven 45 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted into center comes out clean. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve with whipped cream.

“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.
Ampersand Marketing – (262) 446-0688
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**
Chocolate Factory-Pwk – (262) 264-0015
**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**
**State Farm Insurance/ Joe Woelfle
(262) 241-8292**

Please remember to shop local and
keep Pewaukee businesses in
Pewaukee!



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 262-691-0233

Deadline for the next newsletter is

August 15, 2025

Upcoming Event:
Harvest Fest 2025
September 14th
Noon-4 pm

by Carole Brinkman

The Green Bay Packers have graciously taken the day off so you can spend the whole afternoon with us! Step back in time and see how things were done “back in the day”. We are planning on having demonstrations in basket weaving, chair caning, and other interesting skills that aren’t seen as often today. If you would like to share your talents, or know of someone who might like to come, please contact me, Carole Brinkman, carole.brinkman@yahoo.com

We will have bakery and produce for sale. Old time games will be provided for the kids and, of course, our roast beef sandwich (or hot dog) lunch will be available for purchase.

As this is one of our major fundraisers, we hope you can come and share a fun and educational afternoon with your family and friends.

Rummage Results

by Tom Brick

It was another very successful rummage sale. We made \$1,162.91. Thanks to all the donors, workers, buyers and whoever was responsible for the perfect weather!



We had lots of stuff and some happy workers collecting \$\$.



And, as they say . . . “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure!”

Another Interesting Community Night is Now in the History Books

by Karen Merz

PAHS is always happy to host Aaron Yuskis Advanced US History students for their Community Night every year. This years’ subject was “Tracks, Trails and Turnpikes: Transportation’s Role in Pewaukee and Beyond” on May 22nd. The students provided information on various subjects from the history of trains, Pewaukee trolleys, state highways, rockets and many in-between. Did you know that there was an electric car developed before the Model-T?

Each group gave a brief verbal presentation and later we could check out their displays, ask questions and learn more about each subject. What a great way to support the next generation.

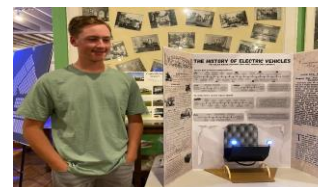
I wonder what next years’ subject will be for Community Night.

DIET TIPS

If no one sees you eating, it equals no calories

While eating with someone else, if you eat the very same things, the calories are cancelled out.

While watching a movie, any food you eat will be cancelled out as it is just a part of the entertainment experience, and besides, it is usually dark in the theater. No one sees, no one knows.



**Pewaukee Area Historical Society
2025 Board of Directors**

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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.

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Or anytime by appointment
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[email: info@pewaukeehistory.org](mailto:info@pewaukeehistory.org)

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206 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072
Address Service Requested