

Marquette County Historical Society Strawberry Social

The Strawberry Social was held Saturday, June 13, at the Marquette County Historical Society Museum in Westfield. Visitors enjoyed strawberries, ice cream, and homemade shortcake while exploring the museum grounds and historic buildings.

All of the museum's buildings were open to the public, showcasing an impressive collection of artifacts and local history exhibits. Guests had the opportunity to tour the one room schoolhouse, as well as the Goldsmith's Iron Works and Welding Shop, where Dennis Mathisen displayed homemade tools and ongoing projects.

The Historical Society campus offers a unique glimpse into the area's past, with a variety of exhibits and preserved buildings that highlight local history and craftsmanship.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to stop by and explore everything the Historical Society has to offer.



August 2026

President's Message



Your Marquette County Historical Society has seen many improvements over the past several months. Sometimes it seems like we stagnate and at times flounder a bit but overall, I can see many improvements. Since I have been placed in a leadership role a few years ago, we have been blessed with truly great personnel. There have been some changes, and we will miss those who have chosen to step away. Their past contributions are truly appreciated.

Examples I can cite as improvements involve work in our display areas and many of our current personnel exhibit excellent visionary foresight in what should become well received additions to our already comprehensive array of displays. In fact, we may have to start chronicling the ideas as, at times, those ideas exceed the ability to make them happen. But I see this as a good thing. In this case, an organization without vision shall perish.

We also have explored financial improvements to include a little more aggressive approach towards our future. Part of my vision is the expansion of what we now have in terms of display and storage area, but big dreams require bigger budgets. This is where the membership, and more importantly the general public, can be of value. I encourage our members to keep this in mind and if you have a flare for finance, we would certainly welcome assistance in garnering funds through grant applications and whatever your talents might be.

Our current staff of volunteers, predominantly office holders, welcome the addition of new talent and would enjoy being able to break the old 80/20 rule of most organizations. So come on down and pay us a visit. Let your latent talents become magic fingers that can propel YOUR Historical Society into a great future.

MCHS Board Member Profile Jackie Miller

Years on MCHS Board: 1 year

What brought you to MCHS? After retirement, my husband and I built a house in the area. I love museums and had been in this one a couple times. Once we were settled, I came in to see if volunteers were needed and was welcomed with open arms. A few months later, I was asked if I would be willing to join the board. How could I resist?

Tell about any other volunteer work you've done in the community: I am also a volunteer at Little Orphans Animal Rescue in Montello. Once weekly I provide food treats, assist with laundry, and medicate cats as needed. My husband and I also are foster parents for cats from the shelter as needed.

What is your favorite piece of history in the MCHS museum, or section of the museum: I really like medical displays, so I have enjoyed looking at the "Medicine in Marquette County" booth.



Help Fund Future Projects

If you wish to make an online contribution, please use this QR code to go to our page on zeffy.com.



It's All in the '6's. A look at our Past

In 1996, the MCHS program schedule looked like this:

March 18: Birds and Fish – Daryl Christensen at Montello State Bank

April 8: County Immigration from Germany-Brian Podoll at MSB

May 20: John Muir in Scotland-Millie Stanley at MSB

August 12: Hancock Experimental Farm-Don McDowell-Hancock

September 9: Quilt Show-Ardith McDowell at Services Center

October 14: Visit Markesan Historical Society in Markesan

November 11: Veterans Day-Bob Robinson at Services Center

December 9: Model Trains-Bob Knutson at Springfield Town Hall

Because the Museum wasn't built yet, they found plenty of locations to meet.



Fast forward to 2006

September 11, 2006: Shirley Blank and Elaine Bentley – History of the Montello Women's Club-Montello Library

October 9: Mike Irwin-Aldo Leopold: The Last Radio Show-Kerst Exhibit Building

November 13: Sue Semrow-Weaving-Kerst Building

December 11: Old Fashioned Christmas Party 2-4PM-Cochran-Nelson House

Now on to 2016

One of our Scholarship winners was Sarah Faltz this year - yes, daughter of Rich and Mary Faltz. She is now teaching at Montello School (2026) in the music department.

April 17, 2016: Chad Lewis-The Strange and Unusual Bizarre History of Wisconsin-Strange Stories From Our Past



It's wonderful to see where we have been.

Needed Items

The Historical Society would graciously accept the following donations:

Cash! Cash is good. But, kidding aside, there are items that we may need in our day-to-day operations. With the advancement in computer technology, they don't come with CD players any longer. A couple of add-on CD players would be nice.



Visitors Enjoy Exploring & Researching at MCHS



Deb Burton, MCHS volunteer, alongside Carol and Steve Brase and Anne Growney visited the museum on July 3. In town for Hamilton/Klingbeil reunion. Relatives remembered coming up for 1-2 weeks in the summer and helping detassling corn.



Other family members.



**Marquette
County
Historical
Society**
*Old fashioned
...on purpose*



Susan Neibauber and her grandchildren looking at the farm tools her father George Klingbeil had mounted and donated to MCHS.

And once again the jail, school, and rest of the buildings and grounds were a hit!!



Susan Willkomm checking out relative Fran Sprain's wall in the Marquette County Notables display on July 3, 2026.



Submitted by Jeanne Metcalf

OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS ARE MAKING HISTORY TODAY – PLEASE SUPPORT THEM!

*Business Memberships are \$50 per year.
They support local history and receive advertising in our newsletter.*



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cell: 608-575-2820

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Visit Our Website: www.marqcohistorical.org

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP or if you are reading this newsletter and are not yet a member, please **JOIN NOW**.

Memberships is due February 1.

Remember, Lifetime Membership is \$225 and you never pay again!

Individual: \$15 Family: \$30 (spouse & dependent children)

Sustaining: \$25 (individual plus donation)

Business: \$50 (includes business card in newsletter for a year)

We need your support!

The Marquette County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1962.

Marquette County Historical Society

125 Lawrence Street, PO Box 172

Westfield, Wisconsin 53964

(608) 296-4700 / e-mail: marqhistorical@gmail.com

www.marqcohistorical.org

Hours: Open Every Wednesday Afternoon (1:00-4:00 pm)

Other Times Available By Appointment

“Imprints: On the Sands of Marquette County” is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Marquette County Historical Society.

Editor: Rich Faltz: richfaltz@icloud.com

Contact information for the officers and directors:

Norman Barnard nbarnard1948@gmail.com

Lynette Barnard lbarnard13@gmail.com (608) 547-0651

Richard Faltz richfaltz@icloud.com (608) 818-9007

Pam Iruk pamiruk@gmail.com

Jeanne Metcalf jhericane04@yahoo.com

Jackie Miller banjojackie@gmail.com

Jacey Cantrell-Pasch lady.jacey@yahoo.com (608) 617-2218

Chuck Shultz truckin1203@gmail.com (317) 670-5250

Gary Sorensen gs.w9ulk@gmail.com

Norma Weisbrod normaweisbrod@gmail.com

Officers for 2026:

President: Norm Barnard

Vice President: Richard Faltz

Secretary: Jeanne Metcalf

Treasurer: Gary Sorensen

Board of Directors:

Pam Iruk

Jackie Miller

Chuck Shultz

Sue Standke

Norma Weisbrod

**MCHS is open Wednesdays
from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and by appointment.**

Join Today!
**The Marquette County
Historical Society
welcomes new members.**

Members receive a newsletter, discounts on gift shop items, and the pleasure of knowing you are preserving the wonderful, rich history of Marquette County.

Membership Application

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

- ☐ \$15 Individual
- ☐ \$25 Sustaining
(donation plus membership)
- ☐ \$30 Family
(includes spouse
& dependent children)
- ☐ \$225 Lifetime
- ☐ \$50 Business
(includes business card
in newsletter for 1 year)

Make check payable to:

**Marquette County Historical Society
PO Box 172
Westfield, WI 53964**

**Find us on
Facebook**



Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook and enjoy the changing posts about history in Marquette County. You can add comments about your own experiences or information about each post.

Marquette County Historical Society
125 Lawrence Street, PO Box 172
Westfield, WI 53964

Upcoming Events

The team at the Marquette County Historical Society (MCHS) has been discussing events for 2026. Some events are old favorites while others are new this year. Please contact us if you are interested in participating in any of these events.

Sunflower Festival: August 1 - 9am-2pm Tiffany's Buds and Beans in Downtown Westfield

NEW!! Blacksmith Shop Event – late Sept/early Oct, Date TBD: The blacksmith shop was opened last year, and we want to showcase this property again. This event will also give everyone an update as to where we are at with the shop's restoration. A demonstration of blacksmithing techniques is planned.

Cookie Walk – Nov 27 and 28 (Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving): A popular tradition that brings out the best of the area's home bakers. Last year's event was supported by over 30 donors of very delicious and creative holiday cookies and bars. The event was very successful as a fundraiser for the museum.

Other Events:

1. Open on weekends. We are discussing having the museum open one weekend day/month. This would require additional volunteers being at the museum to assist visitors.
2. School tours. The museum hosted school groups in the past, but this has not been done for several years. This is another event that will require volunteers to assist.