



Genealogy Presentation

To be held at the
Marquette County Historical Society
125 Lawrence St. Westfield WI
Class 1: Oct. 8 • 1 p.m. - 3p.m.
Class 2: Nov.12 • 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Becki Kearns, seated, (pictured with MCHS
volunteer Norma) will be the featured speaker
for a 2-part event on
Steps to Tracing Your Ancestors.

The Annual Cookie Walk

The annual cookie walk is fast approaching and we are looking for volunteers to bake cookies and work the event.

If you're interested you can get in touch with board members Pam Iruk and Lynette Barnard whose contact information is on page 7 of this newsletter.

The cookie walk is one of our yearly fundraising events.

Annual MCHS Meeting

The annual meeting of the Marquette County Historical Society will be held November 12th, 2026, following the regular monthly meeting at 3:30 pm. All members are invited to attend. Elections will be held, so if you've ever considered running for a board position, please attend.

**Marquette County
Historical Society's**

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Nov. 27th & 28th, 2026
8AM to 4PM
125 Lawrence St., Westfield

Part of the Westfield
Taste & Tour Event

October 2026

President's Message



I have maintained that when the fourth of July arrives, summer is over. Here it is the end of September and although the temperatures continue to be summer like, we all know what is coming down the road. I am not quite ready to reflect on the year yet. At least not until we have a few more months under our belt. However, looking back, it has been a good year for MCHS so far. We have had advancements as well as setbacks, but the attitude going forward seems positive and it is all because of the staff we have available. Our staff is always thinking, planning and trying to make our society better. So, if you know any of them personally or even who they are in passing, if you see them, thank them for a job well done.

This does not eliminate the need for more volunteers, however. There is always room for more volunteers. Our "to do" list seems to grow and grow. Many times, it is just little jobs that keep cropping up and everyone on board is busy with something else. You all probably know that feeling just from owning your own home. Therefore, I will put forth a personal plea for many of you to join us in our quest for that all elusive perfection. We will welcome you with the friendliness that all our staff currently exhibits and endeavor to try to keep you busy enough so as not to lose you through inactivity. To date, all our volunteers have found their niche and we all hope that you can come aboard and find yours. Lots to do. Come on down.

As a final note, I would like to take a moment to thank what I consider to be our unsung heroes. We have two events every year that involve a fair amount of member participation. Our Strawberry Sociable and the annual Cookie Walk in conjunction with the Westfield Taste N Tour. There are many contributors to both events and for everything you all do to further those events, I thank you.

MCHS Board Member Profile

Jacey Cantrell-Pasch

She joined the MCHS Board in June 2026

What brought you to MCHS: In April 2025, I retired from the military. One of the things I identified that I wanted to do was get more involved in community programs. This was important to me because friends, family, and my community supported me through many times of my service.

Other volunteer work you've done in the community: Work with the school district.

What is your favorite piece of history in the MCHS museum? Norma!...The school-house because I actually grew up in a schoolhouse in Marquette County!



Help Fund Future Projects

The Society is looking for donations to replace the two flag poles in the museum.

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



Reminiscent Ramblings

It's been a while since I was able to dig up something to reminisce about, but something finally came to me after forty years. Maybe a tad longer. I took my wife to a doctor's appointment and discovered a magazine that was something other than health related or Golf Digest. It was a copy of the Ducks Unlimited magazine, and it took me back to the days when duck hunting was my first passion. Many deer hunters can remember the queasy tummy the night before deer season. I was that way before the duck opener. There was something about the excitement when there was action that made me long for the next season. If I can resurrect some old photos, maybe I can add to our Hunting and Fishing display at our museum. Stop in and look it over. If you are a county resident, perhaps a lifer, and have any trophy you'd like to loan us or just plain donate along with the background story, we would love to chat with you.

I'll take you all back to a Thanksgiving day in the late 70's, perhaps early 80's.

As many of you know, Thanksgiving always falls during the deer season in Wisconsin, but duck season was the only other season that remained open during that time frame. This particular hunt involves myself and a local notable by the name of Carl Brakebush. Carl was a year ahead of me in high school (maybe two, I don't rightly recall) and we became closely associated during our active years in Ducks Unlimited. I bumped into Carl and asked if he would be up for a duck hunt as long as we already had deer on the meat pole and he agreed. The conversation may have gone like this:

Norm: "Hey Carl, how's it going?"

Carl: "Pretty good. Got one hanging?"

Norm: "Yup. Strung up on the antenna tower right now."

Carl: "Excellent. We've done pretty well on our end too."

Norm: "I've noticed that the northern mallards are down. Been a lot of them working Druce's corn where it's picked. Wanna see if we can harvest a few?"

Carl: "Sounds like a good idea. When can we go?"

Norm: "What's happening Thursday?"

Carl: "That's Thanksgiving!"

Norm: "Correct, what time is dinner? We can be done by noon and still make our respective dinner dates."

Carl: "OK, let's do it."

At this time in my life, I had secured permission from Jack Marshall to hunt waterfowl on the Westfield River behind his place which would put us about a quarter mile upstream of the old "Miller's Dam" where the snowmobile trail now crosses the river. There are several switchbacks in that area and almost anywhere

along that stretch of river between Lawrence Lake and Westfield would attract those mallards as they left the fields and sought water. My house now sits about a half a mile from the spot we hunted.



After some discussion, we decided that we could be on the river at daylight or shortly thereafter because I knew the flight pattern of the newly arrived northern mallards and felt we could probably do breakfast at the Pioneer and still have time to get into position. We would spend the morning hunting, and everyone could be back in time for Thanksgiving dinner. The plan was set. Now we waited for Thursday.

Thanksgiving morning came and we met at the Pioneer before we headed out. The place was full of orange except for our crew shedding camouflage coats before we were seated. No one asked, but just to clarify, waterfowl could be hunted during deer season without displaying orange. I'll expand on our safety method as this story progresses. Waterfowl aren't color blind and bright orange would put the damper on any attempts at harvesting them.

Breakfast was excellent. I think there were four of us. Carl brought a couple of family members and when duck hunting is involved, the more, the merrier. So with full tummies and visions of ducks raining down on us, we headed the couple of miles out to the Marshall farm and began the trek (only a couple of hundred yards) to the river.

Earlier, I covered the camouflage thing and how it was somewhat of a conundrum because the nine day deer hunt required orange clothing. Once the truck was parked some distance from the river we all donned an orange vest and caps to make the trek down into the river bottom. We were close enough to Westfield village limits and did not anticipate encountering any deer hunter. Especially since it was Thanksgiving day. More on that in a moment.

TO BE CONTINUED.



The Packwaukee Community Display is Up at the MCHS Museum



Norma is picture with Blake, who was presented with a scholarship from MCHS. He attended the Railroad Camp in Washington State this past summer.



Blacksmith's Corner - Wilco Electrical Welder

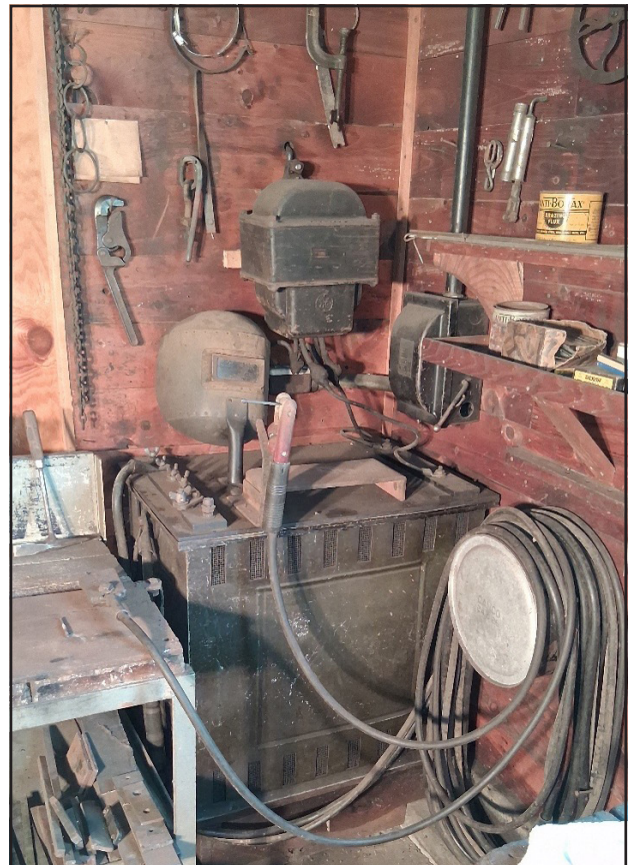
Our Blacksmith Shop has a rare 1920s-to-early 1930s Wilco AC arc welder manufactured by the Wilco Electric Welding Machine Co. out of Kansas City, Kansas ("K. C. K. S."). It is an early example of an oil cooled, plug-tap transformer welder from the era when electric arc welding began replacing forge welding in blacksmith shops.

Wilco was one of many regional Midwestern manufacturers that emerged as electric arc welding transitioned from heavy industrial production lines to small blacksmith, repair, and farm shops.

Instead of a rotary switch or crank shunt core, output amperage is selected by physically plugging the welding lead into different brass terminal taps across the top face of the cabinet (each corresponding to a specific current tap).

Historical Significance: In a 1920s–1930s blacksmith shop, this machine represented the bridge between traditional coal-forge fire welding and modern electric stick welding.

The low 3-digit serial number confirms this was an early production unit from Wilco's Kansas City shop. Of note, the 4 in the serial number 457 was stamped upside down.



The Blacksmith Shop is an ongoing project, we are proud of what we have accomplished, but there is more to do. If you would like to support this project or any other project get in touch with a board member for information.

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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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.

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Officers for 2026:

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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**

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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.

Genealogy Presentation - To be held at the Marquette County Historical Society, 125 Lawrence St. Westfield WI. Class 1: Oct. 8, 1 p.m. - 3p.m. Class 2: Nov.12, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

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. 8am-4pm

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.