

ANNUAL REPORT
MENOMONEE FALLS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2019



MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting
January 27, 2019

After a meet and greet Vice President Diane Harley welcomed the 30 members in attendance to enjoy the delicious western buffet, ribs, salad, beans, potatoes and rolls. Dessert was various pies.

President Nancy Greifenhagen was unable to attend so Diane talked about our past year.

The Beer Garden and the World War II events were new in 2018.

From May to October the Beer Garden brought in 2,900 visitors. Families were able to enjoy the grounds, games and toys provided by the Society. Some brought their own entertainment. Pets were welcome also.

The Beer Garden for 2019 will be from May to September.

Thanks to the hard work of Nancy, Richard and others the World War II event was well received. Several organizations had to cancel due to the very warm weather.

The event will be June 15 and 16, 2019

We had the dedication for the School Bell Tower in June. The committee did a great job of organizing the program.

In July we got to see the completion and dedication of the Sparrow Cabin. The credit for all the hard work goes to many people, mostly Ken and his crew for all the chinking and Nancy and friends for all the items added to the cabin.

We now have a stage behind the Depot. Programs, entertainment and a dance were held there during World War II Days.

We're looking forward to a successful year for 2019.

Jeff spoke to us about tourism and the Village. For now the lease the Village wanted to have with the Society is on hold. Jeff spoke with Village Manager, Mark Fitzgerald who said we will be fully funded. There is \$90,000 for a Blacksmith Shop, which could include a class room and storage upstairs. Possibly money for other things will be available.

Jeff distributed the financial statement. It was a balance sheet with income and expenses.

We had received a \$65,000 donation from the Reis Foundation to use for expansion of OFV, That's why it appears we have a lot of donations.

Jeff and Ken will be chairing the "In Touch with History Days" event June 1- 2. The Old Falls Village Days event needs changes. The hope is to show the progression of things over the years. Jeff told us about a phone progression, starting with the rotary phone up to present times. Displays will be "hands on" for the public.

Peter Sparrow suggested volunteers wear name tags for easy identification at all events. Everyone does wear a 'volunteer" tag and we do have vests with "staff" on the back. We can certainly add name tags.

Again this year Jill took the time to put together an Annual Report for the members.

She mentioned the center piece on the table at the Sliver Tea was called “trench art”.

Jill is involved in the NEA Read in the Falls -February 23 – March 31, 2019.

The book chosen is True Grit by Charles Portis. March 9, 1:00PM, Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Real Story will be discussed at OFV. Weather permitting; Jill will give a tour of the Umhoefer Cabin, as it fits with the time period.

Diane thanked the entire events chairs for their good work.

Nominations & Elections of Board of Directors: Vikki

Diane Harley – President

No nominations from the floor, the membership said aye.

Richard Burgess – Vice President

No nominations from the floor, the membership said aye

Jeff Steliga – Treasurer

No nominations from the floor, the membership said aye

Chris Schultz – Secretary

No nominations from the floor, the membership said aye

These officers serve for one year.

Board member renewing; Jack Tindall

New Board member; Elliott Lange

Danno Walker removed his name from the nominations, in his place Marilyn Schneider was nominated from the floor.

The member ship said aye to all three.

These members will serve a 3 year term.

Linda Kaul was voted in as the Member at Large; this is a one year term.

Remaining on the Board; Jordan Euclide, Marlene Fay, Dan Palama, Ken Pruess, Jill Schmidt and Vikki Schmidt

Past President; Nancy Greifenhagen

Volunteer of the Year

This year we have 3, Richard and Inge Burgess and Inge’s sister Annelee Beaumont

They all were tireless in the things they did throughout the year. Richard building the admissions hut, the ladies did the painting and worked in the kitchen and anywhere else they were needed.

Diane presented Irene an award for her years of service as a Board member.

In going through our By Laws it was discovered we didn’t have a dissolution clause. Irene checked with the State Society and the last one they have is 1980. This clause determines what

happens with the records and collections of the Society. A committee created one and after a phrase was deleted Ray Etzel made a motion we accept the Amendment, Ken Pruess seconded And the motion passed.

The entertainment for the afternoon was a group called "Music Just Cuz".

They are 3 young men and 5 young ladies, dressed in period clothes. They sang and played string instruments. Their selections were Early America, Civil War and the 20th Century

Door prizes and closing remarks ended our day.

Door prize winners were; Bill Schmidt, Margie Rusnak, Susan Steliga, Chris Schultz, and Ken Pruess.

Chris Schultz,
Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DIANE HARLEY

Mission Statement: In order that current and future generations can know and appreciate the heritage of the area, Old Falls Village, through its many supporters including the Menomonee Falls Historical Society, village officials and other community leaders, **gathers, preserves, educates, organizes, and exhibits artifacts and information about the origins and development of the Village of Menomonee Falls.**

Vision Statement: Old Falls Village will be a **showcase** for Menomonee Falls and an exciting destination for residents and visitors. A premiere **resource for local history**, Old Falls Village will be a vibrant attraction where **history comes alive**. Complete with **quality storage areas, exhibit space, and meeting facilities, Old Falls Village will offer year-round activities and generate income to help future development.**

Year Overview: 2019 was a successful year, thanks to the hardworking Board and members of the Menomonee Falls Historical Society. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated. You will find summaries of our events, written by their chairpersons, elsewhere in this annual report.

The Blacksmith Shop is one of our next building goals. Jeff Steliga, Pat Heagney, and Alan Meyer have been hard at work learning the skills of blacksmithing, and have created beautiful objects, right here on our grounds. They have purchased some of the necessary equipment and supplies, and the results have been awesome! Someday we hope to have items for sale, and also have blacksmithing classes for the public.

With the dissolution of the local Walter Miller AMVETS Post 5 organization, our Historical Society was asked to be the holder of \$8000 from their funds to be used for the maintenance of

the WWII monument on Garfield Drive in Village Park. Ken Pruess and/or Janet Hickle will be responsible for requesting the necessary money from us and seeing that the work is done.

In August, Boy Scout Andrew Schuman, along with family members and other Scouts, constructed a beautiful fire pit behind the School House. After months of planning, measuring, meeting, getting donations, purchasing supplies, and getting approvals, Andrew's Eagle Scout project was a success! It will certainly be put to good use at our future events.

We finally sold the 1925 Dodge car parts that had been stored in the upstairs of the Carriage House for many years. We had no use for them, and Linda Kaul had a friend who was interested in purchasing them, so that was a win/win situation.

An electrical update of the Lower Barn occurred, and caulking of the Umhoefer Cabin was done. Sealing the Sparrow Cabin and the Umhoefer Cabin should happen in spring, and the Steichen House will be painted.

We participated in three parades - Memorial Day, July 3, and the Christmas parade. Many thanks go to the creative members and friends who designed the floats, rode on them, or walked the parade routes distributing our postcards and candy.

2019 was a busy, successful year!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

KEN PRUESS

A new fire pit has been built as an Eagle Scout Project by Andrew Schuman.

Daniel Schulz has been digging out cattail creek so it doesn't flood the grounds with heavy spring rain.

The Brogan Cabin will be taken down in 2020 due to deterioration of the logs.

The two log cabins on the property have been caulked and will be sealed when weather permits in spring.

Heating units will be added that will heat both the lower barn and the care takers garage for the blacksmith area.

Painting has been scheduled for the Steichen House and School House.

GROUNDS REPORT

MARLENE FAY

Thank you to everyone who helped make Old Falls Park a beautiful place to visit.

HERB GARDEN- Diane and Bob Cowan- Bob for watering pots/plants

MILLER DAVIDSON HOUSE-PUBLIC HOUSE-GAZEBO-HOLLYHOCKS (east side of barn)-Flower Pots-Chris Schultz

BUTTERFLY GARDEN-South side of Miller Davidson Porch-Chris Schultz & Marlene Fay

SCHOOL HOUSE -STEICHEN HOUSE-Peggy and Pat Remfrey

GAZEBO PAINTING-Tony and Amanda Thalhammer-Will be finished in 2020, due to weather conditions.

FIRE PIT (BEHIND SCHOOLHOUSE)-Eagle Scout Andrew Schuman, Troop#67 & friends.

SPREADING MULCH-SPLITTING WOOD- David Schultz and Alan Abrahamson

UMHOEFFER CABIN-KOCH HOUSE-APARTMENT FLOWERS-Marlene Fay

HISTORIAN

JILL SCHMIDT

Presentations- Through the year, I give presentations about Menomonee Falls throughout the Village, for organizations, church groups, whomever would like one. Currently I have three separate presentations. 1) From the beginning, including information on the locals Indians, through 1899 2) 1900-1949 3)1950-2000. I'm hoping for a projector in the near future, so that I can add a visual presentation also. The presentations given this past year are; Apr. 4 Dickson Hollow, May 7 Red Hat Ladies, June 11 Menomonee Place, Aug 21 Village at the Falls, Nov 6 Tamarak Ladies.

Genealogy Requests

- 1) Debra Lonergan, inquired about David and Mary (nee Quirke) Lonergan and their son John.
- 2) Leister family requested any and all info on their family.
- 3) Lori Mergenthaler requested Hennes family info.
- 4) Kay Littlefield, from England, has requested info on Wm. Hesk, her husbands' ancestor. She also provided us with a picture of Wm. which was exciting because the Falls has never had one!

Of Interest

- 1) Al Muchka curator of the Historical Dept. of the Milwaukee Publick Museum, inquired about a card of buttons that were said to have been made, cir. 1840, at a residence on the banks of the river, in Menomonee Falls. After much research, no indication of button making in the area could be found. (If anyone knows otherwise, please contact me)
- 2) John Schoenknecht, publisher of Landmark Magazine, requested information on Menomonee Falls, personal reminiscences, genealogies, stories of houses, people organizations, churches, histories of people-places-things, anything related to the history of our county. Illustrations help! Anyone and everyone is welcome to submit. He can be contacted at;
LANDMARK MAGAZINE
% John M. Schoenknecht
1173 Robertson St.
Wauwatosa WI 53213
- 3) The Waterlin Hotel was the debacle of the decade. The new Hotel in town wanted to connect with the Village in a special way. They were redoing their bar and grill, a decided to connect it with some early business that was in the Falls, back in the day. They picked Francis Walterlin. (One of the original settlers, who was most famous for owning the Eagle Hotel Where the Main Mill is now, on Main St.) They hired a company to do research and found he had the ice business in town, and thought they could make a good connection with that and their new bar. BUT, the researcher made a mistake. The search she did said the name was Waterlin. In her defense the article had it wrong, but she took that as cannon without further checking. The hotel ran with it. By the time I saw it and contacted them with corrections, it was too late. They tried to cover it up, but ultimately admitted their mistake and used it as promotion. They had a scavenger hunt for large white L's hidden around the Village. They called it "What the L?" When turned in to the bar and grill, you could get breakfast, lunch or dinner for two. I did find one, had lunch, and found the food wonderful! Where's the L, is a running theme there, if you look close at their drink menu, you'll find all the L's are missing LOL!
- 4) A new Website on Facebook from Nora Mulock and myself: "Menomonee Falls and Fussville WI Pictures identified and unidentified" All are welcome to join. It features old pictures from the area that all can enjoy, comment on, or try to identify.
- 5) A catch of important papers surfaced in Aug. A planning report and sitting survey for OFV (Jan. 1980). Itemized list (and value of) of all contents of Miller Davidson House, when we took ownership. Also the original agreement between the Village and the Historical Society.
- 6) Al Bode asked for identification of two photos and 1 poster that was found in the attic of "Pink Lemonade" Spa. We successfully identified both photos. The first was of the 1858 second school house. (the first is at OFV) The other photo was of Francis Walterlin and his family. The poster stumped us. I think it was of a small child with a puppy.

- 7) In October, at our local cable channel station, I and a few other locals took part in a very enjoyable afternoon. A copy of an old 1940's movie "Menomonee Falls on Parade" surfaced, and while we watched and commented on it, we were being videotaped. It will be shown on the local cable channel 14 in times to come. A few weeks later we did it again with a copy of a home movie made by Anderson (a local photographer) of the 1967 Diamond Jubilee. This will also be shown on our local cable access soon.
- 8) Also in October, Nora Mulock and I had a table set up in the library, with many books of genealogy for all to peruse. The premise being that at least 90% of the people who lived in the Falls before 1950, could trace their ancestry back to Peter and Anna (nee Maier) Schneider. Each of their children had a book of descendants displayed. There was an index for it all, and many people made their connection, and we obtained lots of info we needed. All this info has been moved to the history room in the local library, and can be accessed during history room hours. At the same time, I made a display that stayed up for a month at the library on the Umhoefer, Fuss, Schlafer, Mace and Minten families.
- 9) Patricia Schaefer requested info on a house on Water Street. W164 N9031
- 10) Karen Toussaint also requested info on a Water Street house. The Hille family house. I live next door to that house, so that was pretty easy. My house and that one on the corner, were connected by an underground tunnel years ago. I had lots of info and stories for her.
- 11) Cathy Kozlowicz from Northwest Now, requested info about The "Hot house" building. I got her info on the building and how long the Fire Dept. Police Dept. and library were there.
- 12) Brian Weber was looking for old pictures of the inside of the old library, and of the fire Station. Got him what he needed and these pics are now on display at the "Hot House".

Pioneer Certificates

- 1) Zimmer, Benjamin and Thomas, were awarded certificates for ancestor John Zimmer, who settled in Menomonee Falls in 1848.

TOURS

KEN PRUESS

June 28- 15 people, Leadership Menomonee Falls

July 17- 150 people (children and adults) YMCA Menomonee Falls

For the second year in a row, Old Falls Village was host to the local YMCA, for a special event for the children enrolled in their summer program. The 132 children and their counselors arrived by bus at 10. They were divided into 8 groups and within 15 minutes or so the event was in full swing.

We had 8 different information stations, and each group was assigned to start at a different station. After 20 minutes a horn was sounded, to let each group know, they should move onto the next station. Half way through the day, a little more than half an hour was designated for lunch, which the children brought themselves.

Even though it was an extremely hot and humid day, all went well. All groups, saw all but one station, as the counselors thought it best to cut the afternoon short because of the weather.

The stations were:

1) THE BARN, a tour was given in the barn. Children got to learn all about the tools and artifacts there, and got hands on experience on how the tools worked and what they were for.

2) BLACKSMITHING, the children learned about cold steel, making S and J hooks, all over a 2000 degree fire.

3) LAUNDRY AND RUG BEATING, children got hands on experience on how to do laundry using wash tubs and a scrub board. Also how to correctly hang wash on a clothes line using clothes pins, while wearing an apron to keep clean and dry. After they had accomplished that task they were allowed to use a rug beater to beat out the dirt from rugs hanging on a different line. It was explained how all children had to help with the chores, and everyone in the family had to pitch in.

4) THE SPARROW CABIN, this stop allowed the children to see the inside of a very old cabin and its contents. Questions were asked and answered. They also learned about the Sugar Beet factory that once was a big industry in Menomonee Falls, in the late 1800's and early 1900's as there is a display in this cabin. They also got to see how the garden is growing, that is around back of the cabin, where we have sugar beets and other vegetables planted.

5) SCHOOL HOUSE, the children got a firsthand look at how school was back in the 1800's. The younger children got to learn and sing their ABC's and counting. The older children learned cursive writing and printing, using slates. There was question and answer time about schools back in the day. For the most part the children were behaved, but I heard there might have been one or two that spent time on the stool in the corner, with a dunce hat. (just for fun)

6) GAMES, we saved the shaded area, where the picnic tables are, for the games. The children learned about games their great grandparents played. They played hop scotch, jump rope, ring toss, big and little Lincoln logs, coloring, checkers, bags, game of graces and even had a potato sack race!

7) CORN/WATER, this station let the children have some real hands on. They learned to SHUCK corn (remove the husk) SHELL corn, remove the kernels from the cob, take those kernels and plant them, or grind the corn into flour. They also had the opportunity to use an old fashioned hand pump to get water.

8) DEPOT, the train depot was of great interest to the children. They were given a tour and explanation of all the displays. There is an old fashioned Pepsi machine there that drew their attention, along with an old manual typewriter. Pictures were shown to them of buildings in the Village now, and what used to be on that same spot years ago. (submitted by Jill Schmidt)

Aug 22- 17 Children and 5 Adults, Falls Baptist Church

Aug 30- 4 Umhoefer Family

SILENT AUCTION/COUNTRY MARKET

VIKKI SCHMIDT

Silent Auction was very profitable. We received quite a few new donations and made close to \$3000. There was 80 different items to donate on.

Country Market also had some new vendors along with the Village having a booth that talked about the 2020 census, and the library talking about their history. There was a total of 35 vendors.

WWII Days

NANCY GREIFENHAGEN

2019 was our second WWII Days Reenactment event on June 15-16, Father's Day Weekend. The weekend weather was unlike our first year with cooler temperatures and breezy winds. The weekend was beautiful and we had a record number of attendees which made our second year even bigger than our first year. Saturday night was our second performance by Command Performance Big Band on our Platform behind the Depot and was an even bigger hit that last year. We had a great turnout for the USO Dance that night with the dance floor full all night and the beer garden handled by the Historical Society.

The Battles at 2 PM were well attended with observers crowding along the battle field rope to watch. With a several vendors, USO Wisconsin group, packed Allies and many Axis groups, the park was full. We were very happy with our second year. It was quite the success in many areas and we are already planning next year's event.

USO THEMED DANCE

RICHARD BURGESS

A high point of the WW-2 event is always the USO Themed Dance held Saturday evening midway through the event. The dance is held on the Depot stage with the east half of the stage being occupied by the Command Performance big band, a 19-piece swing band with Julie Thompson providing vocals. An added feature of the band is that they are all dressed in WW-2 uniforms.

The second half of the stage was used for dancing. As in previous years a good portion of the dancers wore 1940's costumes lending a feeling of being transported back to 1944. Members of a local swing dance club were also on hand to show everyone how swing dancing is done.

CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT

NANCY GREIFENHAGEN

This was our 20th Annual Civil War Encampment at Old Falls Village on July 20-21. The weather was hot again on Friday which kept away many of our reenactors compared to our past Civil War events. Saturday we had thunderstorms which kept away the crowds Saturday afternoon. We had added some new presentations and skits this year to keep everything fresh for our visitors. We did not have a dinner for the reenactors to save money. We broke even this year with the lower attendance because of the weather.

HALLOWEEN

VIKKI SCHMIDT

Halloween was a huge success. We had over 1500 people come through for the weekend. Fox Branch was the entertainment in the upper barn. Monica did a story of the Tell Tale Heart in the School House and Deb Schultz was our story teller in the Umhoefer Cabin. We had temporary tattoos, crafts, hayrides, roasting marshmallows, pumpkins and trick or treating throughout the park. We ran out of cookies each night and pumpkins by Saturday night.

SILVER TEA

JILL SCHMIDT

This Year's Silver Tea Theme was, "All I Want for Christmas". There was discussion about extending the event to two days, but as a compromise, an extra hour was added instead, making the event from noon to four. The Davidson House was a display of Christmas cheer, featuring photos, current and from years past, of children sitting on Santa's lap, telling him

what they want for Christmas. A special thank you to all the ladies who did the decorating! We are looking for more volunteers to help with this for next year.

Twenty volunteers made the day a real treat for all visitors. Many were dressed especially for the occasion. The gentlemen on the porch greeted every visitor. They were ushered into the house where they could take a free tour and learn history of the upstairs and main floor. Docents were guiding in every room. Occasionally the wind up Edison Victrola was put to use in playing the one Christmas record we have.

The dining room had two silver trays full of homemade cookies that were offered to each visitor, along with their choice of tea, coffee or punch. Hot beverages were offered in antique cups and everyone remembered their "Emily Post". (Pinky finger up please) Three women took care of the beverages and hospitality. They were the most gracious of hostesses. The ladies in the kitchen kept everything running smoothly. They had to keep the trays stocked with the cookies, make tea and coffee and keep the urns full, and wash all the cups for reuse.

The Bakery sale was in the Publik House along with the Christmas items. We also had Santa and Mrs. Clause this year. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Howe, they were such a cute couple! Many pictures were taken with them.

Every year is more successful than the last, and this last event was the topper! Total sales from the event were \$1086.10. The membership does all the baking, from homemade Christmas cookies (some included the fancy holiday plate they were on) to holiday breads and bars (banana, banana nut, lemon poppy seed, zucchini, cranberry, pumpkin spice, chocolate nut). We even had gluten free cookies for sale this year! The bakery brought in \$773.00. We also have a few tables with Holiday items for sale. This year it included a few things from our blacksmith! This table brought it \$202.10. The rest was made up of cash donations from our visitors, from the Publik House and the Miller Davidson House. Thank you so much to all who came!

BEER GARDEN

RICHARD BURGESS

The Depot Beer Garden enjoyed another successful year operating over a period of 18 weeks from June through September.

2019 was the first year we attempted to dispense the beer ourselves and only relied on Brewfinity personnel five times during the summer. The new "beer tenders" stepped up to the task and turned out an exceptional performance. Beer from 7 different craft breweries were featured throughout the summer.

This year we also provided all the food ourselves serving brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, large pretzels and other snack food. The concession area utilized the point of sales software to keep track of sales and added a “hot spot” to provide an internet connection so credit cards could be processed.

We culminated the year with an Oktoberfest celebration that featured half price beer.

At the end of the year we analyzed our operations and developed a list of changes and improvements for next year. The list included greater utilization of the stage for entertainment, purchase of umbrellas for the picnic tables and the construction of our own beer caddy trailer.

We look forward to making the improvements and toward a fun and profitable 2020.

CAR SHOW

RICHARD BURGESS

On Saturday, September 14, in conjunction with the beer garden, a car show was held in the east parking lot from 10 AM until 2 PM. A total of 36 cars were registered ranging from 1920's Model A's to muscle cars of the 60's and 70's. A few converted street rods were also present showing off their gleaming chrome engines.

The car show was free to the public with the exhibitors paying a small entrance fee.

NEWSLETTER

JORDEN EUCLIDE

I took over the Newsletter and have been trying to send a new one quarterly. We are excited to find new articles to place in the newsletter this year. I will be aiming to get the newsletter out once a quarter. If you have an article you would like to submit to the newsletter for review please send it to the historical society or email it to oldfallsvolunteer@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

CHRIS SCHULTZ, JORDAN EUCLIDE, MARILYN SCHNEIDER

It is the responsibility of the committee to get volunteers for all our events, including the Beer Garden. It takes many volunteers to staff these. We appreciate everyone that gives their time. Our thanks for volunteering at this year's events.

ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

CHRIS SCHULTZ, DIANE HARLEY, MARILYN SCHNEIDER

The focus of this committee is to catalog existing and new artifacts in the Past Perfect software. We try to concentration on items that originate from Menomonee Falls. Scott Sperl, son of George and Pat Sperl, (who were members of the Society) donated several of his Mother's possessions.

The society has acquired the 1929 barber chair and several barbering items from Pete Sorenson who has been in the Falls since 1975 and after 45 years has retired. We will be working on setting up a display of Pete's possessions during 2020.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

DIANE HARLEY, IRENE LAPE

On December 1, 2019, our membership totaled 141.

Here is the breakdown of membership levels:

Individual	14
Over 65	37
Family	45
Pioneer	12
Homesteader	11
Lifetime	12
Complimentary	10

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

DIANE HARLEY

SPRING

On April 29, at 6:30 P.M., nineteen Historical Society members attended the Spring Quarterly Meeting. After enjoying time to socialize and enjoy delicious desserts, a short business meeting was held.

President Diane Harley discussed the upcoming summer events. "Old Falls Village Days" will now be called "In Touch With History Days", and will feature a progression of history, showing tools, games, toys, communications, etc. Nancy Greifenhagen and Richard Burgess are planning the WWII event for June 15 - 16, including a USO Dance. The Civil War Encampment will be July 20 - 21. Richard discussed the Beer Garden, which will be in its second year, running every Saturday from June 1 - Sept. 28. Many volunteers will be needed, because we will be making and serving the food this year.

Two new Board members are needed, due to Jack Tindall's resignation, and Dan Palama no longer being a member. Several people showed interest, and it will be discussed at the May Board meeting.

Marilyn Schneider has set May 11 as cleaning day in the Miller Davidson House. We will do the inside windows and glass items. She will contact Merry Maids to clean the rest of the house, as well as several others.

Warren Granke and his grandsons will provide the vehicles to pull the floats in the three parades again this year. Warren will research the 1925 Dodge car parts that are in the Carriage House, and pursue the possibility of selling them.

Our guest speaker was Kathy Lauenstein, the blacksmith from the Richfield Historical Society. She was a wealth of information, giving us lots of advice. Their blacksmith shop was built in 2004, with the help of their members and many donations. She offered to help us as we proceed with the plans for our blacksmith shop. Jeff Steliga plans to meet with her again soon, to get more info.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

SUMMER

On August 18, 30 people attended our summer cookout/quarterly meeting at Old Falls Village. President Diane Harley summarized the events of the year so far (In Touch With History Days, WWII Days, Civil War Encampment, the Beer Gardens, and the parades) and thanked everyone for their help. She mentioned that the Civil War Encampment will need a new chairperson next year, and asked everyone to think about a leader for that event.

Richard Burgess gave a report on the status of the Beer Gardens, and also shared information about the upcoming Car Show on Sept. 14, and "Oktoberfest" on Sept. 28. Jeff Steliga discussed the blacksmithing operations, and all of the Board members shared info about their ongoing projects.

We then walked to the Brogan Cabin to get a close look at its condition, and we brainstormed ideas about its future. Phone calls are going to be made to see if other groups are interested in the logs. Jeff Steliga, Pat Heagney, and Alan Meyer invited us to get up close

and personal as they shared their blacksmithing skills with us and we watched them in action. It was very interesting hearing about their progress and projects. Everyone even got a handmade hook as a souvenir!

A delicious supper was then enjoyed by all. Thanks to our grillmasters and everyone who brought salads and desserts to share.

FALL

Saturday, Nov. 9, was the date of our Fall Quarterly Meeting. We enjoyed a delicious lunch, thanks to pizza-maker Richard Burgess! Using the leftover pizzas from the summer Beer Gardens, he baked a variety of them for the members attending the meeting. Carrots, potato chips, brownies, and beverages rounded out our meal.

We then had a brief business meeting, summarizing the very successful September Car Show and October Halloween Family Fun Nights. The weather was beautiful for both of those events, and families really enjoyed themselves. Kudos to Pat Lynch, Richard Burgess, Vikki Schmidt, and all who worked on their committees.

Richard discussed the final weeks of the Beer Garden and the "Oktoberfest" last day. He has many plans made for next year's Beer Garden already. Ideas were shared about music, hours, themes, concessions, beer types and distributors, and volunteers. Richard is not willing to be at the Beer Garden every Saturday next year.

On Labor Day weekend, Boy Scout Andrew Schuman and fellow Scouts constructed a beautiful fire pit behind the School House. Everyone was encouraged to take a look at it if they hadn't already done so..

Jill Schmidt shared information about the Dec. 8 Silver Tea and Cookie Sale. She talked about the planning meeting on Nov. 11, cleaning and decorating, plating and selling cookies, advertising, serving tea, docents, etc. The hours will be from noon until 4:00 P.M. this year.

As is our custom, we then went on a field trip. We drove to the Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum in Brookfield for a tour of this stately Greek Revival Inn that was built in 1843. It was very interesting to hear stories about the families who lived at the Inn and the travelers who stayed there, and to see beautiful artifacts from the mid-1800.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

RENTALS

CHRIS SCHULTZ, DIANE HARLEY

The Society rents our facilities and grounds for various parties, reunions, wedding, Boy and Girl Scout events etc. The Publik House has a meeting room with a capacity of 50. Kitchen facilities are available, no stove.

We also have a 20'x30' white tent and gas grill available. The grounds are well maintained and there's plenty of room for children to play. Among this year's rentals we had a photo shoot, several gatherings, a baby shower and one family celebrated their Thanksgiving Day in the Publik House. Last year the Recreation Dept. started "Fit in the Park". Several of their events were held at Old Falls Village Park.


*In
Loving
Memory*

