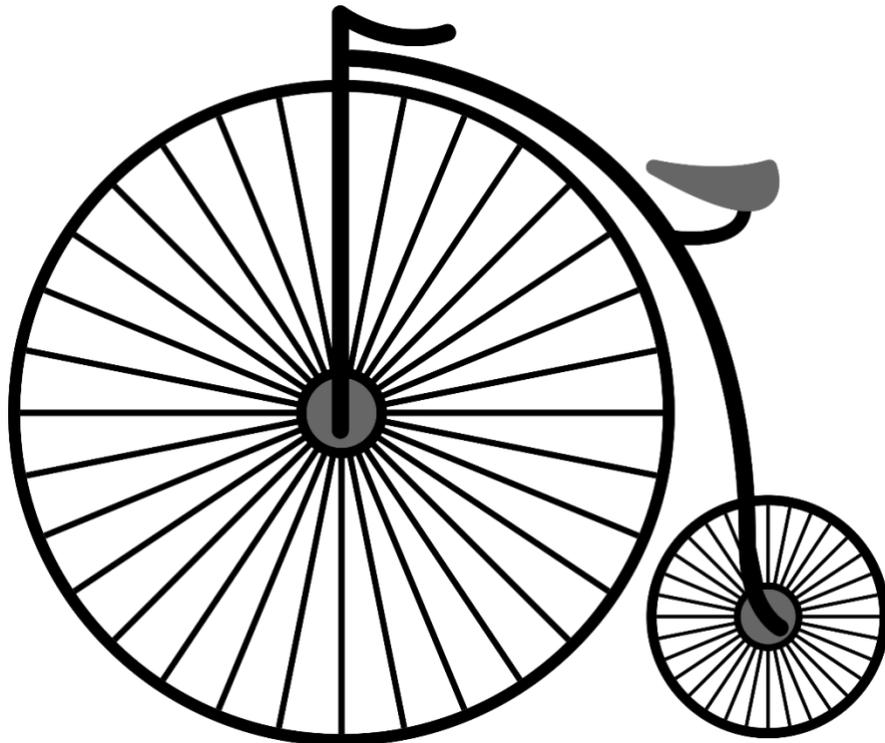


*MENOMONEE FALLS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2018*



*MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

*Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting*

*January 14, 2018*

After a meet and greet Vice-President Diane Harley welcomed the 35 people in attendance to enjoy a delicious pasta buffet with pie and cool whip for dessert.

Due to illness Rev. Warren Granke was unable to join us. Diane gave his update on OFV. Two major events occurred during 2017. The chinking of the Sparrow Cabin was one. The bottom of the cabin is complete, the top is 1/3 done. The committee hopes to continue in March.

Ken and Richard along with several others have done a great job.

The Sunny Side School Bell Tower replication was the other accomplishment. The condition of the original tower was too bad to be used.

Both will be dedicated this year.

Old Falls Village Days were okay, due to poor weather.

Civil War Reenactment did very well. As there was beautiful weather.

Halloween Family Fun Night was the best ever. Magician David Seebach was new this year and well received. Ken's daughter and son-in-law brought their R2D2 for the amusement of the children and adults. Ken and Bruce strung lights in the clearing behind the School House. That helped a lot.

Jill said the Silver Tea was also the best ever. The weather was kind to us that day also. Lots of cookies and breads were sold in the Publick House. Santa was on the porch in the MDH and Mrs. Santa read stories to the children in the Publick House.

Nancy gave an update from the tourism committees meetings with the Village officials. We will get a portion of the hotel room tax and something from the lease of the cell tower.

The master plan for OFV will be done in phases. The Depot will have a platform for entertainment; there'll be an admissions hut that'll look like a Depot.

The west parking lot and paths will be improved. We'll be working with the Village on having a Heritage Trail that will connect OFV with the Village. A 5K walk/run is in the planning. A Beer Garden is planned for Saturdays from May 19<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.

June 16 and 17 are the dates for the new World War II event. There'll be WWII flags for sale.

Jeff gave a short financial report on the balance sheet and our income.

After many years of absence, Jill decided with the help of Sue Lynch, to reinstate the Annual Report. Non board members can now see what the Board has done during the year. The report is on the website.

Jack opened nominations from the floor. There were none.

Bob Cowen moved we accept the slate of nominees, seconded by Dick Kasper, the motion passed.

**Executive Board:**

President: Nancy Griefenhagen

Vice-President: Diane Harley

Secretary: Chris Schultz

Treasurer: Jeff Steliga

**Board Members:**

Jordan Oeltjen

Marlene Fay

Vikki Schmidt

**Member at Large:**

Marilyn Schneider

Two Volunteer awards were given:

Ken presented Dan Walker with an award for his many hours of service at OFV, If he was available he always said yes.

The other award went to Sue and Pat Lynch. Together they produce the newsletter; Sue is part of the Past Perfect committee. Pat does our website and online photos. They also volunteered at all the events.

Diane recognized Kyle and Stephanie for their two years of being caretaker. They will be moving on to other things as of February.

On behalf of the Society, Diane will present Warren with a gavel for his years as president and his many years of service.

Thanks went to Deb Schultz and her friends for the great decorating they do in the MDH for the Silver Tea.

The Easy Days Quartet was the entertainment for the afternoon. The group has been together for 10 years and are from the Milwaukee area. They did songs from the 30's and 40's. They were enjoyable to listen to.

Door prizes and closing remarks ended our day.

Our next regular meeting is February 12, 2018

Chris Schultz, Secretary

## Menomonee Falls Historical Society Annual Reports 2018

### Presidents Report

#### Nancy Griefenhagen

**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, and 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:** 2018 started with an amazing start with exciting news about a strategic plan for Old Falls Village Park. There were many great improvements for the park this year starting with a new platform behind the Depot which was paid for by tourism money from 2017. The first Beer Garden was started in May 2018 with over 5500 attendees this year, many who were first timers to the park. We made great strides in expanding the attendance to the park this year and grew our membership. More flower beds were created and attended to this year. The ash trees took a terrible hit in Menomonee Falls and over a dozen Ash trees died in the park. In June during a thunderstorm, the largest tree in the park by the school house fell because of carpenter ants in the base. The tree missed most of the school house but did damage the gutter and soffit on the north side. We lost many limbs in the park also. The Ash trees need to be taken down to avoid another situation like this summer.

The Train Depot was transformed with an extension of the platform to the south of the building. A new deck/stage was built with tourism money early spring 2018 for the use of entertainment throughout the year and to be a part of the plans for the new beer garden called Depot Beer Garden. The stage was used for bands, performances and displays throughout the year and was a hit with the public. Lights were hung to add illumination at night.

An admission hut was built for use during the events for this year. It is a representation of the Depot ticket box. Thank you to all involved in the building and donations towards the completion of the admission hut. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Burgess and family who spent countless hours working on the admission hut. It turned out so nice and useful that it was used weekly during the beer garden to check ID's.

The Sparrow Cabin was dedicated at the Civil War Event with Peter Sparrow and Dano Walker presenting at the dedication. The cabin was arranged as a German farming cabin with chickens and has sugar beets plot growing next to the cabin. Ken Pruess ordered sugar beet

seeds from California and planted them in a new raised plot north of the cabin. With a fence surrounding the sugar beets, he grew the sugar beets in Menomonee Falls just like when Menomonee Falls was growing as a farming community over hundred years ago.

The first annual WW2 Days happened on June 15-16 with a record number of attendees despite the 90 degree weather. On June 14, a double row of flags were on display as a fundraiser and looked great on display for Flag Day. The USO Dance had the Big Band Command Performance perform in the evening on the new platform with half the platform as a dance floor. The dance floor was full from the second song until the end of the night.

This year was plagued with weird weather, from hot early in June to a colder July, but throughout the year a constant rain that affected many of our events. This was the fourth rainiest year on record in Wisconsin's history.

**Strategic Plan:** Through a planning process the Executive Board worked with the Village on creating a long term plan layout for the park including an expansion of the Beer Garden behind the Train Depot, develop more pathways within the park for easier access to the buildings. Developing a Main Street north south of the Gazebo and a Banquet hall close to the corner of Pilgrim Road and County Line Road. The expansion of the existing parking lot is one of great improvements designed as well as a second parking lot near the water tower. Finally a parking lot and expansion along pilgrim road is created for more parking and easier safer entrances and exiting.

#### **Tourism:**

The Tourism Committee for Menomonee Falls did a study with the Wisconsin Department of Tourism starting in April 2018. In December we received a final report about the assets in Menomonee Falls that we should be promoting and Old Falls Village was definitely one of the highlighted assets.

The Tourism Committee for the Village of Menomonee Falls decided to award the Historical Society \$90,000 for the construction of a Blacksmith shop which is proposed by the tree line along the west side of the park. The original plan was to have a workshop and bathrooms attached to the blacksmith shop but after some **consideration** it may be better to add a space that is multi-functional with a rental hall.

### **BUILDINGS and GROUNDS**

#### **Richard Burgess**

#### **Maintenance**

In order to determine the maintenance requirements for each building, a detailed survey was done over the summer and fall of the year. A list was compiled, and priorities determined. Work was scheduled as in-house capabilities and budgets allowed.

Notable major maintenance projects were repairs to the squirrel damaged Miller-Davidson House roof, installation of racoon proof barrier around the Miller Davidson House and the new Depot stage, shoring and a rain tarp for the Brogan cabin, completion of the interior chinking of the Sparrow cabin, and repair to the storm damaged roof of the School.

### **New construction**

A replica of the Sunnyside school bell tower was constructed and dedicated. Located on the southside of the school, the bell tower is flanked by benches allowing visitors to sit and enjoy the ambience of the park.

To provide shelter and better security for the admissions workers, a 6 foot by 8-foot portable ticket booth was built using volunteer labor and donated materials. The booth has 2 ticket windows and the outside walls have room for bulletin boards and chalk boards. Built to mimic the design of the Depot, the booth captures the essence of a whistle stop on the rail line. The booth is designed to be easily moved by fork truck.

As a venue for future entertainment a 16 by 40-foot stage was built on the south side of the Depot. The stage is tied in to the existing front platform of the Depot with a walkway on the east side of the building. The stage has already been used for the WW-2 dance and during the Civil War days and for numerous other entertainment. Plans to move the Beer garden to the east side of the Public House will provide for additional uses.

A contract was signed to install “period” looking gutters on the south side of the Depot, the Umhoefer cabin, and the Sparrow cabin. The gutters will provide much needed rain water protection for all 3 buildings.

A project is underway to clean out the Carriage House and convert it to a carriage and agricultural implement museum. Completion date for the project will be sometime in 2019.

## ***HISTORIAN REPORT***

### **Pioneer Certificates**

Only one certificate was given out this year, to Lawrence Schmitz. His sister, Joan Adams got it for him for his birthday. His ancestors; Magdalena (Theil) Schmitz (1865), Matthias Schmitz (1869), Arthur Schmitz (1905).

**If you can trace your Menomonee Falls ancestry back 100 years or more, why not get a certificate?** Look on the website for more info, or call Jill Schmidt 262-255-3728

### **Public Presentations**

The historical Society offers a program for groups or organizations, for a free will offering. At this time the presentation consists of a talk about Menomonee Falls from the beginning (1840's) through 1930's. There are also displays set up, with articles from the Menomonee Falls

Newspaper from the 1920's through the 1940's, for the audience to peruse through before and after the 1 hour presentation. This year I gave five presentations;

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Pilgrim Lutheran Ladies group (Tabitha)

June 20<sup>th</sup> Eronican club

July 11<sup>th</sup> Menomonee Place

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Class of '63 at the old High School (North Middle School)

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> Village at the Falls

**If you are a member of another club or organization, and would like me to do a presentation, contact the Historical Society or Jill Schmidt 262-255-3728**

Historic Inquiries James Langhorn, of Virginia, is presently writing a book on the Eagle Hotel and Walterlin family. I have been assisting him with obtaining pictures and information. Marjorie Bozzuto, on vacation from Pennsylvania, came for a tour and to get info on Jesse Price.

### **ETC.**

Richard Burgess and I went to interview Sherman Gessert. While there, we came across a slide show of pictures he had taken and/or compiled, with narration he had put together. It was donated to the library, and after some searching, has been found. In the future, I am hoping to add that, as a new presentation for the benefit of both the Historical Society and the Library.

A good number of Word Painters' Historical coloring books that were found at the library have been moved to the Depot. They can be sold or used in some other way. These books were originally presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Shady Lane School in June of 1980. They were used in the study of Menomonee Falls History at that time.

### **Tours**

#### **Kenneth Pruess**

7-18 8 ladies toured houses and grounds.

7-25 7 ladies, toured some of the houses. The Leadership of Menomonee Falls there at the same time, we gave some of them tours at same time.

8-13 Scout group came in to help with clean the grounds as a work project

8-15 132 children from the M. F. Y M C A, we treated them to an event like In touch with history. The event was a huge success.

9-12 Tour for 9 people. Touring the grounds and houses.

10-18 Scout group cleaned brush from the grounds, in order to utilize the grounds for a campfire on a later date.

10-24 Scout group used the campfire area for a fun time.

## *EVENTS*

### **In Touch With History**

#### **Jeff Steliga**

We had 251 second graders from the MF public schools and 35 third graders from St Mary's school attend ITWH on Friday 6-1-18. We had gross income of \$1716.00 and expenses of \$285.74 leaving us a profit of \$1430.26. We have been doing this since 2004. The children cut wood, pumped water, shelled corn, ground corn into flour, saw a blacksmith in action, made ice cream, peeled apples, churned butter, took an old fashioned schoolhouse lesson, chopped corn stalks for silage, planted seeds, pounded nails, learned about pioneer agriculture, saw a demonstration of starting a fire using flint and steel, heard a musket shoot, saw a woods man campsite and generally learned how much work pioneer children had to do to help Mom and Dad

### **Old Falls Village Days**

#### **Nancy Griefenhagen**

This was the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Old Falls Village Days that was a carryover of displays from In Touch With History. Saturday opened with the country market and 5K run walk. Then later in the morning we had the dedication of the Bell Tower which was just adorable with children singing songs. We had a fantastic Car show on Sunday.

### **Sugar Beet Stomp 5k**

Thank you to all the participants for this year's first Sugar Beet Stomp 5K run walk. We had around 50 participants and raised money for the Brogan Cabin. The route ran from the Brogan Cabin down through the subdivision over the HWY with the pedestrian bridge to downtown Menomonee Falls and back. We did the run during the Old Falls Village Days on Saturday morning. Thank you to Tyler Zwagerman and his friends and family for their help in running the event.

#### **Vikki Schmidt**

Silent Auction went well, took in over \$2000.00. We had 80 items to bid on. We had 10 new vendors for the Country Market. Working on getting more.

## **WWII Days**

### **Nancy Griefenhagen**

2018 was our first WWII Days Reenactment event on June 16-17. The weekend was blessed with very hot weather with a rainy day on Friday for set up. Despite the hot days, the event was highly attended and was a welcome sight for a new event on the grounds. Saturday night was our first performance by Command Performance Big Band on our new Platform behind the Depot. We had a great turnout for the USO Dance that night with the dance floor full all night.

The Battles at 2 PM were well attended with many of the observers crowding in the many shade trees in the park to watch our first set of WW2 battles at Old Falls Village. With a couple vendors, USO Wisconsin group a packed Allies and many Axis groups, the park was full. We were very happy with our first turnout and the reenactors were happy with a new place with new visitors. We have opened up Old Falls Village to so many new visitors who have never attended our park before. For that we are very grateful. It was quite the success in many areas and we are already planning next year's event.

## **USO (themed) DANCE**

### **Richard Burgess**

2018 brought the first World War 2 reenactment at Old Falls Village Park. As part of the 2 daylong event, on Saturday night a USO themed dance was held to entertain our troops fighting near Carentan France in 1944.

The organizers of the dance were able to book the 19-piece Command Performance Big Band who entertained soldiers and their girls with a variety of 1930's and 1940's swing music. The band also supplied two excellent vocalists. A good number of participants were in period dress as was the band in their WW-2 Army uniforms.

For those who were a little shaky with the swing dance steps, a swing dance demonstration and lessons were held earlier in the day. To further bolster our courage, we were able to watch the dance moves of a swing dance club attending the dance. Polished dancers or novices alike all had a good time and look forward to next year's dance!

## **Civil War Encampment**

### **Nancy Griefenhagen**

This was our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Encampment at Old Falls Village. The weather was cooler than normal from our past Civil War events. We had added some new presentations and skits this year to keep everything fresh for our visitors. One skit this year that was new was a double Civil War wedding that happened outside the school house. It was crowded with reenactors and visitors watching this living history occurrence that has not been performed at

Old Falls Village before. We had a dinner for the reenactors as a thank you, however I think we will not be having a dinner in the future to save money.

## **Halloween**

### **Vikki Schmidt**

Halloween was a success despite that it was cold, Brewers were playing for world series and there was a Father/Daughter dance on Saturday in our school district.

Our new entertainment Pantaloon Productions and the living statues were a huge hit and we will have them again next year.

## **Silver Tea**

### **Jill Schmidt**

This year's theme was WWI, as it was the 100 year anniversary of the Armistice. At least 75 young men from our Village fought and served in the Great War, and it felt right to honor them in this way. There were displays of pictures and newspaper articles from the Menomonee Falls Newspaper during that time. There was even a poppy added to our usual Silver tea poster. Dan, one of our board members, was dressed appropriately in costume, and looked as if he was ready to be shipped overseas. The centerpiece on the dining room table, was "Trench Art" made from a spent shell from the War. It took us the better part of the day trying to decipher the French inscription, until one of our visitors took a look at it, and speaking French, figured it out and told us it said "Souvenir of the War". The floral arraignment it held was artistically created and donated by Bank of Flowers. The poinsettias were also donated by Shady Lane Nursery.

Many thanks to every volunteer who helped make the event a success! To Deb Schultz and her decorating crew (they also do the float for the Christmas Parade) the house was beautiful, as always! Whether you cleaned and polished beforehand, lent us items for display, or baked (we had 54 bakers this year) and plated the day before, or guided, poured, washed dishes, or cleaned up afterwards, my heartfelt thanks. This could never happen without you!

This year we had an early turn out. We were barely ready when they all started showing up. It was a great success until about 3pm when it started to sleet. That did slow it down, so we didn't beat last years' total, but we will next year!

After all was said and done and cleaned up, the volunteers that stayed were treated to a pizza party down at the Publik House. There were leftover Pizzas from the Beer Garden, so it was decided to eat those up instead of our regular sausage, cheese and rye bread. Some volunteers still brought wine and beer, fruit was delicious and a plate of Christmas cookies, were enjoyed

by all. If I'm not mistaken, this was my 10<sup>th</sup> year as chair for this event. I have a few more ideas left before I pass the torch. Let me know if you would like to help with this marvelous event!

\$692.50 from the cookies plus sale  
\$121.25 from the table sales (country store)  
\$73.50 MDH Donations  
\$38.00 Public House Donations  
Total \$925.25

I would like to extend my thanks to Diane Cowen and the many years of volunteering as Mrs. Claus, at the Silver Tea. She would read stories to the children in the Publik House, and keep them occupied, while the adults bought Christmas bakery. This was her first year in retirement, and she was missed.

### **Beer Garden**

#### **Nancy Griefenhagen**

The Train Depot Beer Garden was a huge community success. We had over 5500 visitors many whom had never been to Old Falls Village Park from mid-May until mid-October. This was a learning year and we learned what was good to do and what did not work. We built out the Beer Garden to the West of the Public House which was going to be temporary until the Walnuts were dropping. We ended up using the West side for most of the year which was very cozy and quaint, however was not seen very well from Pilgrim Road. The parking lot was often full and the change of Breweries was very successful. We also learned whom we would like to work with in the future. We had the speaker system installed and played music in the park. We learned many lessons from this year's event and already planning for next year's schedule.

Beer Drinkers; 2564  
Non Drinkers; 111  
Kids; 299  
Total; 2974.

#### **Richard Burgess**

Tired after a long day of grass cutting and yard work? Load up your wife and family and join the 2626 of your neighbors who attended the Depot Beer Garden over the course of the summer for a cold beer (or two) and some food. Located in the shady area between the barn and the public house in Old Falls Village Park it is the perfect spot to enjoy some refreshments, let the kids run around in the park and, on select nights, enjoy live music.

The Depot Beer Garden is operated by the Menomonee Falls Historical Society in Old Falls Village Park between the hours of 3:00 PM and 9:00PM every Saturday from June through September. The beer is furnished by a rotating group of craft breweries including Brewfinity, MobCraft, Sprecher, Raised Grain, Third Space, and Eagle Park. Food was provided courtesy of

Ally's Bistro, Smoked at 225, Brewfinity, and The Menomonee Falls Historical Society. Games are available for both children and adults.

Plans for next year include movie nights, additional snack foods, and the same excellent variety of craft beers. Come join us. There is no charge for admission and there is plenty of parking.

### **Newsletter**

The newsletter was fulfilled in 2018 by Pat Lynch. He did an amazing job collecting information for all the events and activities occurring at Old Falls Village Park. Although Pat still does the website, he has given up the newsletter. Anyone interested in taking over this activity?

### **Acquisitions Committee**

**Chris Schultz, Diane Harley, Marilyn Schneider**

The acquisitions Committee was reestablished in 2017. Our focus is on cataloging existing and new artifacts in the Past Perfect software.

The committee took the spring and summer off to concentrate on helping with events. We hope to resume this winter.

### **Volunteer Committee**

**Chris Schultz, Jordan Euclide, Marilyn Schneider**

The committee would like to thank everyone that volunteered at this year's events. A lot of phone calls are made. One of the nicest things we hear is "sure, I'll be glad to help. Then do you need me?" It takes many volunteers to staff each event. We appreciate everyone that says yes to being a volunteer.

### **Photography**

The scanning project of the Historical Society prints continued in 2018 with less scanned than in the previous years. We made a few sales with the images posted on the website. Pat Lynch uploaded images as time permitted. The Historical Society made one huge sale over \$1000 to the Wimmer Company where there will be prints framed on the walls of the apartment building. That will be neat to see them displayed in the downtown Menomonee Falls by the Lepper Dam. The building was not completed in 2018, but will be soon in 2019.

## **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

On December 1, 2018, our membership totaled 129.

Here is the breakdown of membership levels;

Student	1
Individual	16
Over 65	34
Family	42
Pioneer	12
Homesteader	8
Lifetime	8
Complimentary	8

The Membership Committee is composed of Diane Harley and Irene Lape.

## **Quarterly meetings**

### **Diane Harley**

#### **SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING**

Our Spring Quarterly Meeting was held on April 30, 2018. We began with a social time, treats, and a short business meeting led by President Nancy Greifenhagen. Our guest speaker was local author Carole McGibany, who gave a presentation about "Glimpses", her recently published book about the history of Fussville.

For about 100 years, the small triangle of land along Appleton Ave., Good Hope Rd., and Lilly Road was the unincorporated community of Fussville that was settled by German immigrants. Carole shared information about what happened to this little community, and answered questions from the audience. Everyone in attendance gained interesting information about our area, and many people purchased her book to learn even more.

#### **SUMMER COOKOUT/QUARTERLY MEETING**

August 27, 2018 was the date of our summer cookout/quarterly meeting. Forty-six members and guests attended this enjoyable event.

President Nancy Greifenhagen talked about our summer events: In Touch With History and Old Falls Village Days, our first World War II Days event, the Civil War Encampment, and the

first year for the Beer Garden. She also summarized the dedications of the renovated Sparrow Cabin and the replica of the Sunnyside School Bell Tower, and described the new stage behind the Depot.

After a delicious picnic supper, everyone was invited to walk around Old Falls Village Park to see what is new.

#### FALL QUARTERLY MEETING/FIELD TRIP

On Nov. 3, 2018, we began our day with coffee, donuts, and a short business meeting. President Nancy Greifenhagen summarized the recent Halloween Family Fun Nights. 538 people attended on Friday night, and 209 on Saturday night. (The weather wasn't good that night.) She also shared information about the first year of our Beer Garden. From May to October, 5557 people enjoyed different craft beers, food from Ally's, music, and the park. Next year the Beer Garden will occur from June to September, with the possibility of our Historical Society serving hot dogs and pizza.

Our members then carpoled to Richfield Historical Park. We toured the Mill House, the Mill, the Blacksmith Shop, and the Welcome Center. Volunteers explained each of the places, and answered our many questions. An enjoyable time was had by all.

#### **Rentals**

##### **Chris Schultz**

The Historical Society offers the Public House and grounds for rent for various occasions.

On June 9th there was a graduation party with 30 people (this was the second rental from this family.)

On the 10<sup>th</sup> 45 people were invited to a baby shower.

August 16<sup>th</sup> was a social event for 20 people. This rental made use of the grounds, the tent and our grill. It was an early evening event.

The 30<sup>th</sup> was a rental for a fundraising event for 25 guests.

The Menomonee Falls Leadership used the Public House on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

A surprise birthday party was held for 50 people on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

December 8<sup>th</sup> was also a birthday party with 40 guests.

All of the renters were more than pleased with the accommodations.

# DEDICATIONS

## SPARROW CABIN DEDICATION

The Sparrow Cabin was dedicated on July 21, 2018, as part of the Civil War Encampment.

Pledge of Allegiance -	ALL
Invocation -	Reverend Russell Knoth
Welcoming Remarks -	Nancy Greifenhagen
History of the Sparrow Cabin -	Ann Pendergast Christman Danno Walker, Peter Sparrow
Musical Selection -	Easy Days Quartet
Sugar Beet Farming Information -	Ken Pruess
Recognition of Donors and "Chinkers"-	Nancy Greifenhagen
Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting -	Peter Sparrow
Closing Remarks -	Nancy Greifenhagen

This cabin was built around 1849 on Silver Spring Drive. It was made of heavy tamarack logs, and it was built in the German style with half-dovetailed corners. The cabin had a full fieldstone basement built from rock (the majority of which was granite) cleared from the nearby fields. This structure was hidden under clapboard siding for many years, and was moved to Old Falls Village in December, 2003.

## THE SUNNY SIDE SCHOOL BELL TOWER REPLICA DEDICATION

June 2, 2018

Sunny Side School was built in 1875. Located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Main Street and Menomonee Ave. in Menomonee Falls. It was a one room school house, until the summer of 1952, when two new classrooms were added. It continued to be used as a school until 1961, and then it was used for storage by the School District.

A lot of time and effort went into rescuing the bell tower from demolition, when the school was torn down in 2014 to make way for the new firehouse. After it was moved to Old Falls Village, it was examined from every which way, and after much consideration, repair was not an option. So, it was decided to be used as a template for a replica. Pictures old and new

were looked over, paint color was discussed, plans made. The original school bell from that tower, has already resided, for many years now, in the School House at Old Falls Village.

The dedication ceremony, took place during the Old Falls Village Days celebration. Starting out with the pledge of Allegiance, said by all, this was followed by an Invocation by our president Reverend Warren Granke. Vice President Nancy Greifenhagen issued welcoming remarks, with the history of the school, given after, by Diane Harley and myself. Diane gave a bit of history on the school, I talked about how my grandmother and her siblings went to school there and the classes they took. Jonathan Verhaalen got an Eagle Scout Recognition for his work in building the seating area around the reconstructed bell tower. School District of Menomonee Falls Superintendent Pat Greco and School Board Members gave remarks. Accompany of Kids, dressed as pioneer children gave a few cute and enjoyable musical selections, one being "School Days". Warren was in charge of the Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting, and closing remarks were made by Diane.

After the ceremony, everyone was free to come up and get an apple from a basket, to enjoy. Many came up to look at the display about the school, and peruse the class photos we were able to find. Marge Krainer found two pictures with her and her twin sister and their classmates. There were more displays and information about Sunny Side School in the School House. The day was sunny, cool and crisp. All in all a wonderful dedication of our new exhibit.