

# North Wood County Historical Society

# Mansion Newsletter

Marshfield, Wisconsin

Winter 2022

## From the President

Happy New Year to all!

I hope the holiday season brought some happiness and peace to you all. We had a very nice turn out at the Upham House during our Christmas open house as well as for our ornament classes. It was very nice to see a lot of repeat visitors for both. Many thanks to the Schnitzler family for their ornament instruction expertise and for the hard work put in decorating the house for many years now. You are an asset to our organization and your help is so very much appreciated!

Our current exhibit is "Stitches in Time" which features, throughout the house, many garments worn in Marshfield during the last 150 years. Coordinator Kim Krueger and her wonderful volunteers, Madeleine Lawler, Ana Jepsen, Tim Kraus, and Iris Linder have put together a very classy exhibit from simple aprons to exquisitely beaded dresses and men's tailored suits. The display is currently showcasing the winter season, but will be switched out come spring to show the summer fashions of the times. Each piece includes a description of the local owner, as well as history about the garment. Their dedication to detail makes this exhibit well worth seeing.

Our Annual Meeting and Board elections was held on November 29 and I am happy to announce some new Directors to the Board. They include Tim Kraus, Mike Meyers, Geri Mirko, and Shelby Weister. Shelby and Mike are long standing supporters and both past Presidents, so we are glad to have them back in the mix. We are very happy to expand our Board with new faces, new ideas and all-around good people!

I want to thank Kaylin Speth for her work as Secretary as she will be leaving the Board. due a full plate with other projects, but we hope to have her back some day. Taking the Secretary position will be new Director Chris Porter. Rounding out the Board are members returning to their current positions including myself as President, Jerin Turner as Vice President and Andrea Jackan as Treasurer, Directors Laura Ptak, Nancy Sternweis, Kris Coleman, and JoAnn Gougeon. Don Schnitzer's term as a director came to an end but we are grateful he continues as one of our most valued volunteers. One of the items I had mentioned in the last newsletter was the work we needed done on the porch. I am happy to report that the work has been completed and the structural integrity of the grand old porch should last for quite some time. We had the roof re-shingled, new structural support underneath, new deck boards replaced where needed, and new railings. In case you haven't noticed, the columns on the porch were built new and are a close replica of the original columns from when the house's porch was built. The wood-work will have to be painted in the spring to tie everything together. We want to thank Ryan Niehaus and his crew at Kountry Home Builders for their great advice, craftsmanship and their timeliness in completing this huge project.

Lastly, I want to mention that the porch project was made possible by a very gracious contribution from an anonymous donor and another from the family of Ken and Dolly Kobs. Ken and Dolly both held many positions here; as members they spent countless hours of volunteering throughout the decades. We will be dedicating the porch remodel in remembrance to them with a plaque this spring. We are forever grateful to them both and to their family for the kind gift.

We are looking forward to a strong 2022. Please look us up for the many activities we have planned throughout the year. Also, as always, if you would like to help our longstanding organization we are always open to more volunteers and contributions to help keep the next generations informed on what a great history this community has.



Upham House

## NWCHS Board of Directors

**President** - Brad Allen

**Vice President** - Jerin Turner

**Secretary** - Chris Porter

**Treasurer** - Andrea Jackan

**Past President** - Don Schnitzler

### Directors

Kris Coleman

JoAnn Gougeon

Ana Jepsen

Tim Kraus

Mike Meyers

Geri Mirko

Laura Ptak

Nancy Sternweis

Shelby Weister

**Coordinator**- Kim Krueger

**Consulting Rosarians**

Tom Ptak & Tom Stram

### Tour Hours

Wednesday - 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday - 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment

### Office Hours

Monday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Phone - 715.387.3322

Email - [nwchs@uphammansion.com](mailto:nwchs@uphammansion.com)

[www.uphammansion.com](http://www.uphammansion.com)

*Brad*

## Furstenberg's Farmers Home Hotel Destroyed by Fire in June 1887

By Kaylin Speth

August Furstenberg was among those who lost everything in the devastating Great Marshfield Fire of June 1887 which almost ended the town, just one year after starting out in business.

Twenty-five year old August and his wife, moved to Marshfield from Brillion, Wisconsin and purchased the established Farmers Home Hotel that was located between Third and Fourth Streets on the east side of Central Avenue. The hotel included a dining room, sample room, and stabling for horses in the barn.

On the day of the fire, Mrs. Furstenberg was busy preparing lunch for her patrons when she heard the alarms. The hotel was the second to last building consumed by flames that evening.

The Furstenbergs believed in the future of the city and immediately began rebuilding what they had lost. The new 40x84-foot, two-story building (brick, this time) housed 14 rooms for the Farmers Home and saved room for Little's Grocery Store.

In October 1890, The Marshfield News Herald wrote up a glowing account of the hotel and its well-known owner.



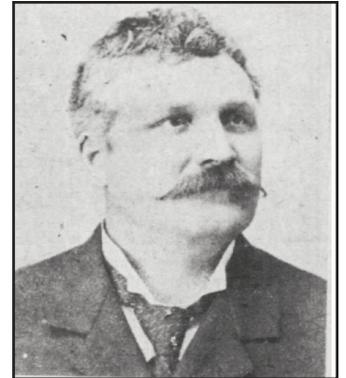
The new two story hotel, dining room/bar and small grocery store continued to serve the community of Marshfield very well.

praise for this early Marshfield businessman:

“We must say he is one of our most liberal minded citizens and a genial gentleman.”

August was successful and about retired in 1902, when the family moved to a new brick home at 806 South Vine Street.

He later passed away young at age 44 on May 7, 1905 after a sudden illness. He was survived by his wife and five children.



August Furstenberg passed away at the early age of 44 in 1905.

“Hospitality and attention always awaits those favoring the Farmers Home with their patronage. The pleasant landlord of the above hotel is a Badger by birth and a most worthy representative of a good citizen.”

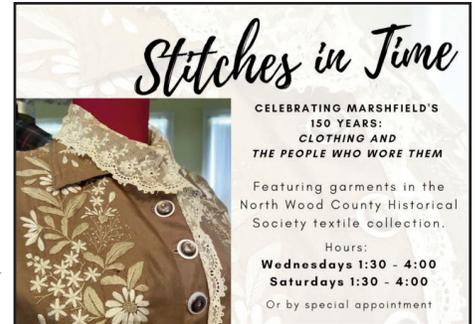
The newspaper also noted that August had a very good business among the farmers of the community and concluded its account with more



## 'Stiches in Time' Celebrating Marshfield's 150 Years: *Clothing and the People Who Wore Them*

What do an 1863 Japanese imported embroidered silk dress, children's garments made in a Philippine concentration camp during World War II, and 1890s muskrat gloves worn by Otto Scharmann all have in common? These are a few of the items now on display at the North Wood County Historical Society's "Stiches in Time" exhibit at the Governor Upham House. This exhibit will run from now through the summer of 2022.

During the past 69 years, many people have donated numerous historic articles to the North Wood County Historical Society. Quite a number of these items are garments worn by individuals who lived in and around Marshfield. In 2020 and 2021, the Historical Society undertook an intensive inventory of the textiles within its collection and documented numerous garments, hats, and shoes dating back to the 1890s.



**Madeleine Lawler holds a black straw hat she unboxed in our hat inventory. In April our Stiches in Time exhibit will include the headwear folks wore in Marshfield.**

As we worked with the inventory, we realized many of the items within the collection had not been seen since the day they were donated. To commemorate Marshfield's Sesquicentennial, and to display some of the textile exhibit, we developed 'Stiches in Time', an exhibit featuring garments and items worn by Marshfield men, women, and children, and includes any information known about each item, to tell their story.

This exhibit will continue throughout 2022, however garments will change with the seasons. Winter garments will be on display until March and kjkkmkitems will come out in April.

## Porch remodel is finished



**New railings and replica columns were built**



**Before**

**After**

**The North Wood County Historical Society is pleased with the recently completed repair and restoration efforts on the Upham home's front porch. The above pictures show the re-roofing and new columns and railings.**

## Christmas Ornament Classes and Swag Class Go Well



For a third Christmas, our North Wood County Historical Society ornament classes proved popular with society and community members. This year's offerings included a No-sew pine cone ornament, Moravian (German) star, Polish star, and Natural Pine Swag classes.

Family members living in Wisconsin's Fox Valley area and eastern Minnesota met here in Marshfield for a weekend of fun activities that ended with learning how to make the pine cone ornament in mid- October. As they worked on their ornaments, they chatted of the great fun they had here while visiting Marshfield; as well discussed the early history of Marshfield and the Upham's contribution in the community.

The Moravian and Polish star class attracted past and new participants to the class. In the upper photo Don Schnitzler looks on as Kaylin Speth begins stringing her Polish Star points together, while Rebecca Belt shows off her finished star. Resting on the table in front of Kaylin and Rebecca are their finished Moravian Stars. In the center photo, Phyllis Odermann, and Frank and Pat Jacobitz work on creating the points for their Polish Stars.

The last class for 2021 was the Natural Pine Swag class attended by Phyllis Odermann, Tom and Laura Ptak, Gail LaFontaine, Kutzie Wing, and Kim Krueger. With a variety of pine boughs, ribbons and accessories, each created their own unique and beautiful Christmas Swag.



Swag class attendees pick out decorations for their project.



NWCHS board member, Kris Coleman taught the Swag class.



Holding their finished swags are (l-r) Kutzi Wing, Phyllis Oderman and Gail LaFontaine.

# Holiday Greens Fundraiser is a Success

This year the Christmas season was a busy one and the evergreen fundraiser was a success thanks to the many people who helped to put on the finishing touches We sold wreaths, swags, roping and arrangements, made locally, to our members and friends. New this year was the swag making class, which was well attended. We were also able to offer a beautiful 30 inch wreath, due to a new supplier.

Bauman’s Nursery cut our fresh boughs for swags and centerpieces, and donated their time and efforts to get the many wreaths and feet of outdoor roping here. Without their support, this fundraiser wouldn’t be possible. We are able to use their space and supplies to put our products together.

A wonderful group of volunteers dressed more than 60 wreaths with red velvet bows and pine cones in one busy morning. Thanks to our coordinators quick thinking and organization, we were able to fit it all into the garage for easy pick up. We had beautiful hand written Christmas cards to accompany each order, which added to the holiday cheer.

Our members and friends ordered wreaths and other fresh evergreen items to make the season bright in their homes and businesses. We appreciate their willingness to order their items in fall and pick up their fresh and fragrant evergreens here at the Upham Mansion.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our fundraiser possible and prosperous. If you are interested in helping or ordering next year, please keep us in mind.



Helping to decorate more than 60 wreaths are (l-r) Ana Jepsen, Don Schnitzler, Andrea Jackan, and Kris Coleman.

# Annual Meeting is Well Attended



North Wood County Historical Society members met on Monday, November 29 for their annual meeting and holiday potluck. Following a short business meeting and elections, attendees enjoyed a great meal and a fun White Elephant gift exchange.

## Spoken History Series

Those interested in learning more about the area's rich history are invited to attend the monthly Spoken History presentations virtually via a Zoom platform or in person in the Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. These monthly presentations will be offered the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Dates of upcoming presentations and speakers are listed here through June. The presentations are FREE and open to the general public. Preregistration is necessary and required to join the Zoom presentations. As the Zoom links are created and finalized, the titles, descriptions, and registration links will be shared with members by email, future issues of the Mansion News, and Society's website and Facebook Page.

### Please plan to attend or sign in to the following virtual and live presentations in coordination with the 2022 Calendar of Events for Marshfield's 150th Anniversary

*Note: The January 13 Spoken History presentation can be viewed on the ERMPL YouTube Channel Here:*

<https://youtu.be/11znq3rUTZk>

**Program: "The Karau Family Business: Marshfield's Last Locally Owned and Operated Supermarkets"**  
**Presenter: Jeff Kleiman**

**February 10, 2022  
6:30 pm**

Everett Roehl  
Marshfield Public Library,  
Felker Genealogy &  
Local History Room

**Program: "Out and About" - Marshfield 150**  
**Presenter: Vickie Schnitzler**

**March 10, 2022 • 6:30 pm**

Everett Roehl  
Marshfield Public Library  
Felker Genealogy &  
Local History Room

**Program: "Marshfield**

**Railroads, the history of Marshfield's Railroads"**  
**Presenter: Keith Meacham**

**April 14, 2022 • 6:30 pm**

Everett Roehl  
Marshfield Public Library,  
Felker Genealogy &  
Local History Room

**Program: "The History of the Marshfield Public Library: Center of Service to the Community"**

**Presenter: Natalie Kruse**

**May 12, 2022 • 6:30 pm**

Everett Roehl  
Marshfield Public Library  
Felker Genealogy &  
Local History Room

**Program: "The Many Buildings and Homes Designed or Built by Gus Krasin and Family"**

**Presenter: Carol Krasin, granddaughter-in-law of Gus Krasin**

**June 9, 2022 • 6:30 pm**

Everett Roehl  
Marshfield Public Library  
Felker Genealogy &  
Local History Room

**Program: "Marshfield's Early Blacksmiths"**

**Presenter: John Berg**

### Up Coming Events

**May 27, 2022**

**8:30 - 11:00am and  
12:00 - 2:30pm**

**Hillside Cemetery,  
1110 N St. Joseph Avenue**  
Marshfield Cemetery Tours  
The public is invited to join Marshfield school children as they tour the cemetery and meet noteworthy citizens of "Marshfield's Past."

**April 2022**

W.H. Upham House  
212 W Third Street

**"Stitches in Time."**

**Exhibit will now include an added feature of hats**

**June 4, 2022**

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

W.H. Upham House  
212 W Third Street  
North Wood County

**Historical Society's Annual Pie & Ice Cream Social and Basket Raffle**

Celebrate Marshfield's DairyFest at the home of former Governor William H. Upham. Enjoy hotdogs brats, pie and ice cream in the governor's yard and gardens, then tour the home and view the current exhibit "Stitches in Time."

Please Note: Check for additional updates and additional events on our Facebook and Web sites.



*Thanks to the Marshfield Clinic Print Shop, we are now able to send all our newsletters in color. They have graciously agreed to print our quarterly newsletter as a donation to the Historical Society.*

## Now accepting memberships for Year 2022



### Membership and Donation Form

212 West Third Street, PO Box 142  
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Phone: (715) 387-3322 E-mail: [nwchs@uphamansion.com](mailto:nwchs@uphamansion.com) Web Site: [www.uphamansion.com](http://www.uphamansion.com)

*Preserving North Wood County history since 1952*

**Please make checks payable to NWCHS. Send to: NWCHS P.O. Box 142, Marshfield, WI 54449**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement of donations will be emailed for those who provide an email address. End of year receipts for all donations will be mailed out in January of the subsequent year.

**I/We wish to support the NWCHS –Governor W.H. Upham House for the year 20\_\_**

- Individual \$35   
  Student \$10 (High School & College)   
  General Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family \$50   
  Business \$100   
  House Restoration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial—In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*All memorials will count as General gifts unless otherwise designated:*

### North Wood County Historical Society Needs Your Help

This is our **Wish List** and areas where members and nonmembers can **Volunteer** to help the Society

- **Funds for purchasing archival boxes for garments.** We have numerous garments that should not be hung and need garment boxes for safe storage. Please contact Kim at [nwchs@uphamansion.com](mailto:nwchs@uphamansion.com) or 715-387-3322 for more information.
- **Donate postage stamps** to help cover mailings
- **Join the Society** by sending in your application with your yearly dues
- **Bake pies** for Dairyfest (hopefully this year)
- **Guide at Upham House-** occasional Saturday afternoons (We will train you!)
- **Garden and yard care** - seasonal work
- **Help with special events** - Dairyfest, Hub City Days - Carriage Exhibit, Christmas Open House
- **Identify and classify photographs** - meet one Saturday afternoon a month
- **Artifact care and accessioning** - Wednesday or Saturday afternoons
- **School partner** - work with projects with education liaison and students at Upham Mansion
- **Research exhibits** - develop exhibit material and historical data for the Exhibit Committee
- **Help design exhibits** - layout and display of artifacts with the Exhibit Committee



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212 W. Third St.  
Marshfield, WI 54449