



From the President

Seasons Greetings

This is a time of year when many people reflect back at the previous year and continue to envision the year ahead. The same is true for me as I look at this past year for the North Wood County Historical Society (NWCHS).

First, I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve this organization as your president. I know that there are many others more qualified who would do much better in this role, but I am honored to be given the chance.

We have had so many people who put in time and effort this year ensuring the history of North Wood County and the surrounding areas is preserved and shared. This year we also put in some great efforts in connecting with the community through numerous activities. I personally want to thank all of the people who have donated time and resources to this organization, whether for various events or significant work at the house in cataloging items, decorating for events, setting up displays, or just keeping the house functioning. Some people give significantly of their time and resources, while others give a little, but all that is given adds up to the successes we see. Thank you to everyone for whatever you are able to give.

This fall we had our first youth and family event at the house, unfortunately during a rain storm. We also introduced a cemetery and house event aligned with Halloween which was a tremendous success. These events have provided more exposure to the history contained within the walls of this house while again providing community connections.

I want to call out the efforts of one group of volunteers this year in particular. We had a great group of gardeners who spent many hours working to ensure the grounds and especially the gardens, looked beautiful. The property requires lots of work throughout the seasons, from spring clean-up, to garden tending, to fall clean-up. I personally want to thank them for all of that work

We also had some much-needed concrete/sidewalk work completed this fall, costing the organization very little, thanks to the initial efforts of Andrea Jackan (our past Treasurer) who started a grant effort and then the tireless efforts of Kris Coleman who saw that grant through to the end – a total grant of \$25,000 from the Wood County Planning & Zoning - CEED (Conservation, Education and Economic Development). We also had an incredible contractor, Eric Waddell of Decorative Concrete & Design, who also donated thousands of dollars in time and materials to ensure the project was completed as close to budget as possible. There were a couple of other small grants that got us over the finish line as well. I also want to thank the Marshfield Lions Club for their monetary donation and Brad Allen for coordinating this huge project.

As I wrap up my thoughts, I again want to thank everyone who is involved with the organization in whatever capacity. It is the work of all of you that provides the successes we witness. I also want to wish each and everyone “Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.”

Tom



Tom Witzel



Upham House

NWCHS Board of Directors

- President** - Tom Witzel
- Vice President** - Don Schnitzler
- Secretary** - Open
- Treasurer** - Melissa Sinha
- Past President** - Brad Allen

Directors

- Kris Coleman
- JoAnn Gougeon
- Mike Meyers
- Laura Ptak
- Amy Varsho
- Shelby Weister

Coordinator - Kim Krueger

Consulting Rosarian

Tom Ptak

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 - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Phone - 715.387.3322

Email
nwchs@uphammansion.com

www.uphammansion.com



Community Connections



Dear Members & Friends of NWCHS,

One of the ways we would like to have more timely communication regarding upcoming events with our membership is via an email format which will allow us to share more information with you. That is why we launched a mailer early this year called *Community Connections* which will give our email subscribers the upcoming events happening each month at the Upham House. If you do not see it in your inbox, check your spam folder (as it is a new platform). If you chose not to receive further information from us, there is an unsubscribe option at the bottom of the email. Thank you, and we look forward to sharing the rest of our exciting news with you each month! If you wish to subscribe the link is: io/7yndF4.

NWCHS recent community events



NWCHS Annual Open House - "Tracks of the Past"

The NWCHS annual Open House held Saturday & Sunday, December 7 & 8 was a big success! This year's theme and exhibit is Tracks of the Past featuring Wood County trains and railroads. On display are numerous model trains on loan from members of Hub City Central Model Railroad Club, artifacts on loan from John Berg, Keith Meacham, and our own historical collection and archives. Close to 150 people attended the open house, many of whom searched for scavenger hunt clues scattered throughout the exhibit. Each young person who participated received a train whistle as a prize.

One part of the exhibit features an online tour entitled Wood County Former Railway Depots curated and created by Nick North. You can view this tour at <https://theclio.com/tour/2754>. A huge thank you to Nick for many hours of research, typing, and last minute exhibit aid! Thank you to Don Schnitzler, Kibby Arkulary, Laura & Tom Ptak, Nancy Sternweiss, Deb Felix, Cindy Verfuert for all their help decking the Upham halls! Thank you to Bruce Felix for stopping by to photograph the decorations and exhibit. Congratulations to Tim and Sandy Smith – winners of the massive sleigh basket filled with all kinds of goodies!

A big thank you to Kris Coleman and Amy Varsho for gathering the prizes for and putting together the basket. Thank you to our sponsors, Weinbrenner Shoe Company, Fleet Farm, Merit Electric Service, and Jurustic Park who helped with the sleigh basket raffle. A special thank you to John Berg, and members of the Hub City Central Model Railroad Club: Jon Vick, Chad Holman, Keith Meacham, Dave Mirko, and Sam Wimmer for lending their models and railroad memorabilia. Big thanks to Sam for being present both days to demonstrate and talk about his train set! Thank you to all the volunteers, board members, and NWCHS



Tim and Sandy Smith, winners of the basket raffle.

members who contributed towards a successful open house! The *Tracks of the Past* exhibit will be on display through most of January. For those railroad enthusiasts whose interest goes beyond our informational display, please check out the tour *Wood County Former Railway Depots* curated and created by Nick North. You can view this tour at <https://theclio.com/tour/2754>.



Annual Meeting/Election and Christmas Potluck



Monday, December 2 the NWCHS held its annual meeting and holiday potluck dinner at the Upham House Museum. President Tom Witzel presented an overview of the year and its activities including new events and outreach opportunities. Tom recognized the Plant, Pray, Enjoy Amis garden group who did tremendous work this year on the Upham yard and gardens. He also recognized Kris Coleman, Melissa Sinha, and Amy Varsho as the *Volunteers of the Year - 2024*. These three women contributed greatly to the development new initiatives, activities, outreach, and events, which fostered more connection with the community. Proposed bylaw changes were presented which will be voted on during the summer picnic. Results of the Election for the 2025: **Directors** - Mike Meyers, Chris Porter, Shelby Weister and Don Schnitzler. **Officers** - Vice President- Don Schnitzler, Secretary - Chris Porter.

Hub City Ice Cream Fundraiser



On Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1, Hub City Ice Cream Company opened the doors of their 2nd Street location in the Historic Charles Hotel building for a North Wood County Historical Society fundraiser. Main Street Marshfield was taking part in the national Shop Small Saturday event that occurs every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, so we hoped to take advantage of the foot traffic downtown to raise money and awareness of the organization. Unfortunately, the event that was to occur across the street at the plaza was canceled, so we did not see the number of people we hoped to see. Though the sales were lower than we had anticipated, we still managed to raise nearly \$450 dollars for the organization through ice cream sales and the generous donations of those who stopped by.

Persian carpets donated to the House



In October the NWCHS received two rugs original to the Upham House Museum. Monie Upham, granddaughter of Gov. Upham, donated two, cotton warp w/woolen pile Persian rugs: a 1900s Farahan, and a 1910 Sarouk. Monie received the rugs after her Grandmother, Grace Hambricht passed. The rugs may have been purchased during either a Europe and Egypt tour that Gov. and Mary Upham took in 1908, and/or a 1931 world tour Grace took with her son Bill Upham Jr., and Grace's 2nd husband, Harold Hambricht.



On Nov. 17 NWCHS sponsored a Calligraphy Holiday Card Class hosted by Julie Bauer. Participants went home with their own Calligraphy pen and Holiday Cards with personalized messages designed from the heart.



Twilight Cemetery Walk & Upham House Tour Fundraiser

This past October 5 at 6 pm NWCHS hosted their first Twilight Cemetery Walk & Upham House Tour Fundraiser. This unique event included sharing of historical stories and personal narratives from the very beginnings of our city, while visiting two beautiful local historical sites. It was held at Hillside Cemetery's oldest sections and Upham House, 212 W. Resident (actors) from Marshfield's distant past told their stories to today's residents interested in history and helping raise funds for the Upham house. Walking through history one can learn more about our past from characters who lived over 125 years ago is entertaining. We wish to celebrate the history of one of the founding fathers of Marshfield at his historic home, while raising money to maintain this wonderful artifact.

Attendees were invited to a twilight walk and listen to some of Marshfield's first residents tell their stories. Then they retired to Governor Upham's beautiful home for a little candlelit soiree where they enjoyed a spirited raffle and more stories from the past while taking their own private tour of the house. Also available was a "wicked fun charcuterie table, fall themed mocktails and sweets.

A big "thank you" to Roxanne Tomkowiak who was the inspiration for the whole evening tour based on her experience at Point Basse; she enjoyed that so much that she chose to make our promotional poster and help organize two new fall events. Thank you to our sponsors: Marshfield Monument, Coffee Cabin, Merit Electric, MoJo's, and Remb's Funeral Home.



A special thank you to our actors and helpers

A masive and fun charcuterie table

William Upham Dave LaFontaine

Early Marshfield industrialist and prominent businessman, mayor during the Great Marshfield Fire, and the only Marshfield resident to serve as Wisconsin's governor.

Mrs. William (Patience) Budge Sherri Bauer
Wife of an early Marshfield physician, who arrived here in 1883 to establish a drug store and medical offices, Mrs. Budge and her family contributed much to the growth and well-being of our young city.

Gabriel Adolph Lupient Ken Bargender
Arrived with Louis Rivers and family on April 1, 1872 to fall the first tree and help build Marshfield's first building, a log hotel.

Theodore Steinmetz Mark Nelson
Famous throughout the state and regarded as the father of the Red Arrow Division Band, "Steiny" both organized the band and carried it through two wars for this country.

Mrs. August (Minnie) Furstenberg Megan Steiner

Hostess and "co-owner" of the Farmer's Home, a popular Marshfield Hotel, she witnessed first-hand the devastation of the Great Marshfield Fire, June 27, 1887.

Arza Sheriff Jesse Frey
A prominent and popular young businessman, Arza grew to adulthood in Marshfield only to be killed in a frightful accident on July 4th, 1902..

And, at the Upham Home, our hostess and her staff

Mrs. Mary Upham Theresa Bannach
Early Marshfield civic leader, mentor of Marshfield youth, and leader of the relief effort after the Great Marshfield Fire.

Amy Varsho
Kris Coleman
Mike Coleman

Brad Allen
Jenni Frey



An End of An Era: SJH Auxiliary - 62 Years of Giving - Part III

Submitted by JoAnn Gougeon - former Auxillary /Partners member

Editor's Note: As many of you know or heard that the Gift and Floral Shoppe at Marshfield Medical Center Hospital (formerly Saint Joseph's Hospital) has closed its doors. The Gift Shoppe was owned and operated by SJH Hospital Auxiliary which began in 1962. Its name was changed to Partners in 1997. This is the third in a series of articles that traces the history of the Auxillary and its service to our Hospital and the Community.



Partners with Saint Joseph's Hospital (1962 - 2024)

(Formerly Saint Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary)

Partners Mission Statement

Partners is an organization that is committed to supporting the mission of Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital and the community it serves through volunteerism, financial assistance and educational programs.

(Continued from 2024 Fall Newsletter)

The Hospital Gift Shop and Coffee Café –Main Source of Income for Partners

The Hospital Gift Shop and the Coffee Café were the organization's main fundraisers and supported all Partners projects and services. Both the Gift Shop and the Coffee Cafe were owned and operated by Partners with Saint Joseph's Hospital and leased their space in the Main Lobby from the Hospital. The Gift Shop opened in 1966. Its mission was to sell pertinent and quality goods to the patients, guests and employees in a pleasant and friendly atmosphere.

In November 1, 2003 Partners introduced its new Coffee Café which was located in the main lobby of the Hospital - featuring Starbucks coffee and drinks. The Café was managed by the Gift Shop with one 20-hour employee, and the remaining hours of operation were worked by volunteers. Cafe opened the Gift Shop had a record year in sales. In the Gift Shop sales exceeded one-half million dollars and the Coffee Café sales were more than \$77, 000, well over its initial goal of \$25,000/yr. Hours were extended for the Cafe to be open until 5 p.m. and additional weekend hours. Badge scanning continued in both places. The nine employees, 15 permanent volunteers, 10 volunteers and many occasional volunteers kept the two places going. All profits from the two entities were given back to the Hospital in the form of services, projects and donations.



Two years after the Coffee

Partners Art Gallery

Although it was first conceived in 1963, "The Wisconsin Art Gallery" was officially formed in 1971 by St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary in an effort to beautify the long, tiled corridors throughout the Hospital. It began as an Art Gallery to showcase Wisconsin artists. The group purchased its first painting, "Floral" in memory of the Auxiliary's first historian, Corinne Kraus. An art committee was



formed to select for the Gallery, only works of art by Wisconsin artists. Each year the committee would travel to various parts of the state in search of a new piece of artwork. Since that time, however, artwork from surrounding states was purchased for the Gallery. The Auxiliary sponsored the first two art shows in Marshfield, but eventually the Art Committee took on the sponsorship. In 1983, the Committee dissolved and New Visions Gal-

lery at Marshfield Clinic, assumed operation of the annual Mother's Day Art Fair. In 2010, the group purchased artwork to honor its first Art Chair, Charlotte Kruse. One of the latest pieces of artwork to be purchased was on the occasion of Partners 50th anniversary in 2012. The artwork permanently hangs today in the north windows of the main lobby of the Hospital.

Check our next newsletter in March for Part 4 of the Auxiliary's History

New sidewalks for the Upham House

The North Wood County Historical Society is very happy to have had Eric Waddell of Decorative Concrete & Design tear the old worn out sidewalks and replace with new and safe walking. We are also grateful to Marshfield Utilities for topping one of the maple trees damaged in a storm; Noah Raab for cutting it down and grinding out the stump, and Karen Andreas for donating her time and resources to remove the tree. As mentioned in the President's letter the sidewalk project was funded by a \$25,000 grant from Wood County (CEED), a donation from the Marshfield Lions Club and several other small grants.



Spoken History Series

Those interested in learning more about the area's rich history are invited to attend the monthly Spoken History presentations in person in the Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. These monthly presentations are offered the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The presentations are **FREE and open to the general public.**

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 • 6:30 pm

Presenter: Author Dr. Arthur Rathburn

Program: Dr. Rathburn will talk about his new book, *To a Better Place*. "John Rathbone, second son of an English shoemaker, stepped ashore in the Colony of Massachusetts in 1654 with high hopes of a prosperous life. What he found was a social environment fraught with religious and political prejudices leading to his settling on Block Island, twelve miles off the coast of the Colony of Rhode Island. This extensively researched novel based on his life is a micro look at what made America. Nearly all the individuals in *To a Better Place* are based on actual colonials who

assisted, threatened, or otherwise associated with the Rathbone family in the early years of American history."

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 • 6:30 pm

Presenters: Fred and Germaine Pidgeon

Program: *The History of Skunk Hill*. The couple will share not only the history of Skunk Hill but the ongoing efforts to protect it.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 • 6:30 pm

To be announced.



Thanks to the Marshfield Health Systems 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 North Wood County Historical Society.

Now accepting memberships for Year 2025

Fill out form below and mail or apply online using Historical Society Web Site.



Preserving North Wood County history since 1952

NORTH WOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Membership and Donation Form

212 WEST THIRD STREET, P.O. BOX 142
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN 54449

Phone: (715) 387-332 Email: nwchs@uphammansion.com Web Site: www-uphammansion.com

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 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:

I/We also wish to contribute by helping with one or more of the following:

- Bake cookies/pies for Dairyfest, Christmas Event
- 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 & 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*
- Sponsor an Exhibit - *ideal for businesses, groups of members, families*
- Sponsor an Event - *ideal for businesses, groups of members, families*
- Speakers or Topic for "Spoken History" lecture series
- Take a Leadership role- *Board, Committee Member, Publicity, Fundraiser*

The North Wood County Historical Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax deductible.

North Wood County Historical Society
PO Box 142 (Mailing Address)
212 W. Third St.
Marshfield, WI 54449

NWCHS Upcoming Community Events



Now Until January 31 - *"Tracks of the Past"* display. Stop by the House, Wednesday 1-3 pm and Saturday 1- 3:30 pm. For those railroad enthusiasts whose interest goes beyond our informational display, please check out the tour *Wood County Former Railway Depots* curated and created by Nick North. You can view this tour at <https://theclio.com/tour/2754>

January 8 - Wednesday - Spoken History Series • 6:30 pm
Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. Author Dr. Rathburn will talk about his new book, *To a Better Place*.

February 8 - Wednesday- Spoken History Series • 6:30 pm
Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. Fred and Germaine Pidgeon will present the History of Skunk Hill and its efforts to protect the site.

March 12 - Wednesday - Spoken History Series • 6:30 pm
Program -To be announced

Watch for information on our annual Winter Brat Fry coming in February!

December 25 - The Board of Directors of NWCHS wish all the members, their families and friends of the Society a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!

