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# The Pinery



## FROM THE PRESIDENT By Tim Siebert

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. This past year has been very successful for the historical society. Our several events were very well received and attended. Our two year circus focus was a great success, many thanks to Ruth Engford and Frank Clark for their insights into their unique experiences. Our four sites also saw a good attendance and interest by the public. The one room school experience brought some 600 local elementary students to the park last spring. We hope that this highly successful program will continue. The society closed Heritage Park with a well attended Halloween event. The last event of the season was Santa at the Fire House, it was very well received and we hope to make this an annual event.

The society's archives has continued to grow in terms of photos, paper documents and books relating to local history and local authors. This facility has been able to provide researchers with a wide variety of information regarding their topics.

I would also like to acknowledge all of the members of the board of directors-Shirley Multhauf, Dave Simonis, Terry Wick, Mark Seiler, Anton Anday, Beverly West, Diane Lange, Milo Harpstead, Julie Richards, Karen Zinda, Jeanne Regnier, Jim Abbrederis, Jerry Rohlinger, Mary Egle and Merida Hauser, and the CWMR representative Larry Miscewicz. Their commitment to the society is greatly appreciated.

The society board has also launched a capital campaign to build a Portage County Farm Museum, see inside (page 6) for more details on this project.

Lastly, the society continues to ask for your aluminum cans, any cords or wires and microwaves but we can not use any other electrical items. We do not have the means to dispose of them any longer. Thank you for what you have donated in the past.

# The Pinery

## 2015 Volunteers

### Thank You!

Mary Beth Anday  
 Patti Becker  
 Earl Baeten  
 John Berg  
 Carla Bertlesen  
 Jeanine Brost  
 Ruth & Frank Clark  
 Chuck Egle  
 David Engford  
 Dan Hoppe  
 Cheryl Jean  
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 Tim Siebert  
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 Karen Zinda  
 Jeanne Regnier  
 Mary Egle  
 Merida Houser  
 Terry Wick  
 Greg Richards  
 Jerry Rohlinger  
 Dave Simonis  
 Anton Anday  
 Milo Harpstead  
 Shirley Multhauf  
 Beverly West  
 Diane Lang  
 Jim Abbrederis  
 Larry Miscewicz

## Another chapter in the Mayors of Stevens Point

By Anton Anday

DAVID D. LONG

October 1, 1822 – November 23, 1909

Mayor of Stevens Point

April 7, 1862 – April 1, 1863

David D. Long is the elusive mayor of Stevens Point. History has no picture of him to assess his physical characteristics. From a plat book of 1860 of the City of Stevens Point (p.159) David 37 and Elizabeth W. Long 31 are recorded. His occupation is listed as merchant. In several papers there are ads for Sturdevant & Long, Dry Goods, Groceries, Clements Block on Main. On July 18, 1878, the Stevens Point Journal re-



ported that: Mr. D. D. Long, who lived in Stevens Point from 1854 to 1865 .... In the former year (1854) Mr. Long, in company with our fellow citizen E. Whitney Esq. built a steam mill at Knowlton, the first of that kind on the river". Whether he was in dry goods, lumber and/or both, evidence indicates that he was a businessman and that he came to Stevens Point in

1854.

The records in the Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana, state that he was born on October 1, 1822 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Nothing is known of his youth or education. At the age of twenty four, he distinguished himself while serving as a Captain in the Mexican War. Although we do not know on which of the four fronts he served and how long, we do know that he "received a present of a handsome sword from the good people of Dayton, Ohio" for his service, according to the Wisconsin Pinery. There is no public record of what he did between the time that he completed his military service and his arrival in Stevens Point. It is also unknown when he married Elizabeth and if they had any children. Circumstantial evidence indicates that they probably had at least a daughter named Melinda, after they moved to Indianapolis in 1865.

After the City Charter was established in 1858, D.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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(Continued from page 2)

D. Long held several positions in city government and the assumption is that he knew well the issues of the community. In 1861, he was elected as aldermen from the first ward and served on City Affairs/Expenditures on City Improvements Committee. He resigned at the end of December of 1861 from this position. The Wisconsin Pinery reports that in April of 1861,

Long served as adjutant of the 37th Wisconsin Regiment. His earlier experiences from the Mexican War presumably put him in a leadership position during the Civil War, which he probably embraced. Did



his resignation of 1861 come about so that he may have devoted more of his time to the war effort, following the footsteps of Mayor, Gilbert Park? Or, was it because of the actions of the Sioux tribe in Northern Minnesota? There is no record.

Long served as the fourth Mayor of the City from the beginning of April of 1862. War and weather deeply affected Long's tenure in office. The term was a long exhausting year for him. Indian uprising, the Civil War, decisions and building of five bridges in one year. No wonder he was dubbed as the "Bridge Builder". In 1865 he moved to Indianapolis, where he lived for an extended period of time, at least until the end of March 1866, when his wife was interned at Crown Hill Cemetery. There is no record as to what he did or what kind of business he pursued in Indianapolis. He and Elizabeth did return to Stevens Point in July of 1878 to visit friends and the community. It was duly noted by the Wisconsin Pinery.

There is no record when he left for California. In a letter on May 5th 1928, Pat

Collins, a reporter who used the pseudonym Tap Snilloc to reminisce about "old" Stevens Point, writes: "Shortly after his term expired he moved to Stockton, California". Whether he moved there before his stay in Indianapolis and then again after his wife's death, is unknown. He died in California on November 23, 1909, at the age of eighty-seven from "senile debility", according to the record. He was brought back to Indianapolis to be interned on December 1, 1909, at Crown Hill by his wife's side.

While local history lacks any knowledge of his family, education, military, or professional background as well as social accomplishments, records do exist of this elusive mayor's activities on behalf of the City and it proves that this elusive man served his community well.

## Society Receives Donation

Ada Karner and her sister, Margaret Moore, donated two framed pictures and a swivel chair that belonged to their great grandfather Herman H. Hoffman.

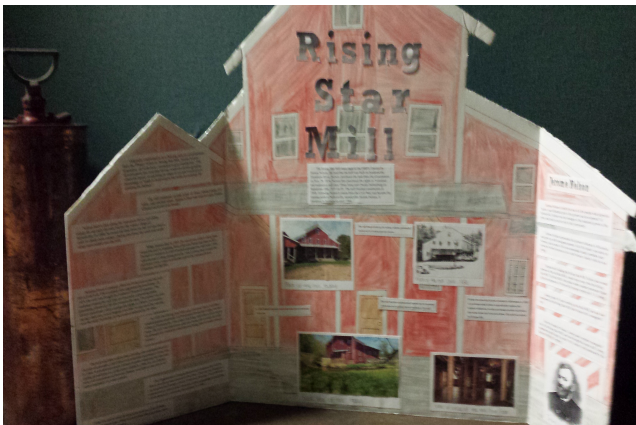
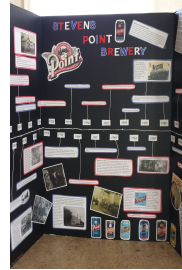
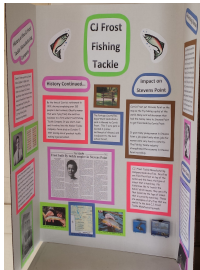
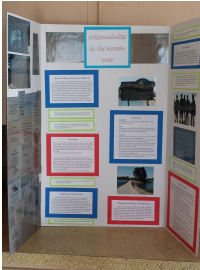
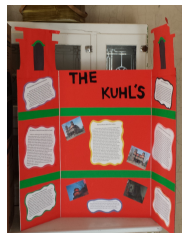
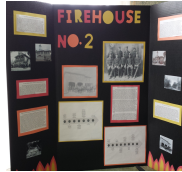
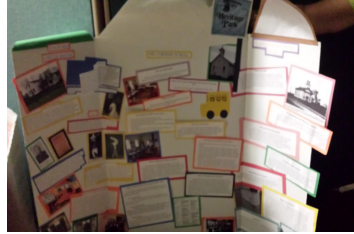
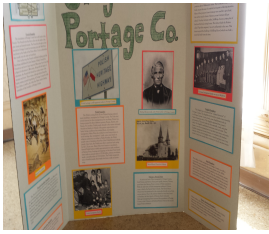


Hoffman(1844-1931) served 1864/65 in the Civil War -- Corp. in the 7th WI Infantry, Co. E (IRON BRIGADE) and was a member of the Wisconsin legislature in 1895. He is buried in [Greenwood Cemetery](#), Amherst, Portage County WI.

One picture is a photograph of participants in a 4H conference posing with President Herbert Hoover in front of the White House in 1929. The other is a commemorative print, "From the Cradle to the Grave", honoring President Garfield after his assassination in 1881.

The chair was used by Hoffman in his office in the Wisconsin Capitol in 1895.

# The Pinery



Mr. Dan Hoppe's Advanced Placement U.S. History students (SPASH) have again donated their local history project boards to the PCHS. They are available to see at Historical Fire House No. 2.

The students presented them during a history fair at the school which was held during the final exam days at the end of this past school year before donating them to the Society.

Our thanks to Mr. Hoppe and the following students:

Iman Nasif  
 Alex Ludwig  
 Bre Person  
 Cassie Vang  
 Jenny Vang  
 Noah Gagnon  
 LeeAnn Przybylski  
 Maggie Pozorski  
 Max Held  
 Sam Medo  
 Jake Hofmeister  
 Jordan Kawleski  
 Mack Journell  
 Jocelyn Donahue  
 Megan Kapke  
 Rebeca Shuler  
 Kristen Jordens  
 Anna Emerson  
 Samantha Shelton  
 Megan Wysocki  
 Ellie Peretz  
 Sabrina Chiang

Long time newsletter editor Karen Zinda is stepping down with this edition. Karen has overseen a change in style and masthead during her tenure as editor. We thank her for her service.

# The Dinery

## SYNAGOGUE NOTES

by Mark Seiler

We are proud of our Temple Beth Israel Museum. It is the 3rd oldest synagogue building in Wisconsin, the oldest with its sanctuary intact, and one of only 3 or 4 such museums in the United States. Most important, the Synagogue is a tribute to the many contributions from our Jewish friends to the community and a reminder of the warm relationship Stevens Point has had with its Jewish fellow citizens for nearly 150 years. On Labor Day a very active season ended at the Synagogue Museum on Water Street. Visitors on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day totaled 225, nearly a 10% increase over last year. Since 2009, 1223 people have visited the museum during the summer. They came from 30 states, more than 50 cities and towns in Wisconsin, and 11 foreign countries.

In addition to the weekend visits, we also hosted visits by book clubs, a Shabbat Service with Mt. Sinai Congregation of Wausau, the 2014 World Day of Prayer service, and a presentation by Scott Bowersock, a former member of Congregation Beth Israel, to his PJ Jacobs classmates, who were in Stevens Point for their 60th class reunion. In March nearly 200 3rd Graders from Stevens Point schools also came to the synagogue.

Youth from Camp Judaea in Amherst visited the Synagogue and presented a generous grant, which helped finance the replacement of exterior doors of the building.

## Firehouse News

By Karen Zinda

The Firehouse is pleased to be one of the three recipients of funds from the sale of the 2015 Stevens Point Fire Fighter Calendar, produced by IAFF Local 484. During the late summer the fire fighters used equipment from the PCHS collection including the c. 1890 hose wagon and the 1933 LaFrance Pumper,

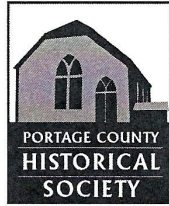
while posing for some calendar pictures at the building. Funds received from the sales are scheduled to go towards much needed insulation and electrical work. While they were there, the firefighters also relocated a couple counters and tables to better facilitate use of space.

The Fire House was open 3.5 weekends in June, 3 weekends in July, and 3 weekends in August. 41 of the guests signed in, including people from California, Iowa & Illinois.

We would like to thank our volunteers this summer: John Zinda, Dan Hoppe and Diane Lange. Dan also brought and set up the honors class history projects for 2014 (see page 2 for related story).



*Santa visited with some guests at the Firehouse on Saturday, Dec. 6th. Thanks to elves, Merida Houser & Julie Richards, the fire house was all decked out for the visit.*



Dear Supporter,

Agriculture has always been one of the economic strengths of our county and the Portage County Historical Society wants to create a display area to celebrate and recognize this.

The Society has decided to build a dedicated farm addition to one of our structures, commonly called the Pierce building, located at Heritage Park in Plover WI. Our desire is to build a barn to display smaller agricultural artifacts and photographs from Portage County as well as a lean-to for our restored horse drawn implements.

The Society has placed \$20,000.00 of its funds, from a bequest, toward this Portage County Farm Museum. To date we have raised additional funds from the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin, Laird Youth Leadership Foundation, Sentry Insurance and others. We plan to have this building available for the summer of 2017.

As someone who is interested in preserving the history of our county the Portage County Historical Society is asking for your help with this project. Your donation of \$500.00 or more towards this farm museum will place your name on the permanent plaque to be displayed in the building.

Please complete the pledge form included on the enclosed brochure and mail it to the address shown.

If you have any further questions regarding Portage County Farm Museum please call us at 715-344-4423 or email us at portagecnywihist-soc@gmail.com

Thank you,

Tim Siebert, President

[pchswi.org](http://pchswi.org)





# Portage County Historical Society

PO Box 672  
Stevens Point WI 54481

Phone: 715-344-4423  
E-mail: portagecntyhistsoc@gmail.com  
www.pchswi.org

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Tim Siebert—President  
Mark Seiler—Vice President  
Karen J. Zinda—Secretary  
Jeanne Regnier—Treasurer

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### Board Members

- |                                        |                                |
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| Anton Anday                            | Mareida Houser (press liaison) |
| Mary Egle                              | Jim Abbrederis                 |
| Milo Harpstead                         | Shirley Multhauf               |
| Terry Wick                             | Jerry Rohlinger (webmaster)    |
| Julie Richards (volunteer coordinator) | Diane Lang                     |
| Dave Simonis                           | Larry Miscewicz , CWMR rep.    |
| Beverly West                           |                                |

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Karen Zinda and Mark Seiler, Editors  
Masthead Design by Jessie Michelson



We thank you our members, donors, and volunteers for your continued support which has helped us to operate our four sites in Portage County: Heritage Park in Plover, The Rising Star Mill in Nelsonville, Beth Israel Synagogue Museum and the Historic Fire House N<sup>o</sup> 2 in Stevens Point. That’s why we ask that you read the codes on your mailing label. “Jan-15” means your annual dues are due and we would appreciate your continued support (dues run from Jan—Dec). If it says “life”, you have made a one time payment entitling you to this designation, however, continued support is always welcomed. If it says “donor” consider making another donation this year. If it says “complimentary” - consider joining. If it says “elected official” - well ... support us in every way you can.

Thank you for your investment in Portage County’s history. Together we can keep growing the Portage County Historical Society.

## Thank You for your Continued Support!