

Official Publication of the Portage County Historical Society of Wisconsin

Rising Star Mill

Jim Walker, President
Rising Star Mill Committee

On Friday August 18, 2017, In Madison, WI, the Rising Star Mill was considered by the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and National Register of Historic Places. The nomination report was presented by its author, Pat Lacey, to the History Committee following which, a vote was taken to recommend the property for consideration and approval, to the Full Review Board. The Review Board received the recommendation of the committee and unanimously approved the Rising Star Flouring Mill for placement on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and National Register of Historic Places.

The RSM was represented by RSM Committee members Jim and Marianne Walker and Karen Trzebiatowski. Following the meetings, the Mill was presented with a certificate commemorating this decision. Conformation of the Federal approval will take a few more months but, is assured.

The leadership of the RSM Committee, in collaboration with the PCHS, will be identifying major projects for the maintenance and improvement of the Mill's facility. We want to improve the visitors experience at the Mill by upgrading its museum displays, electrical system, exterior painting and landscaping.

Our local volunteers are deserving of a special note of appreciation. The Historic Preservation project was initiated by local Nelsonville resident and volunteer, Jay Gordon. Marianne Walker produces an outstanding art show each Spring that brings hundreds of visitors into the local community. Jim Miller doubles as the Mill Committee Treasurer and House and Grounds Committee chair, in addition to booking the Summer musical acts. There are many who work behind the scenes to make our events and activities successful. Local Residents Marge Stratten. Mary Loberg, Karen Schimian, Tom and Donna Laterski, Chuck and Mary Egle, Karen and Jerry Trzebiatowski, Brenda Gingles, Ken Pierce, Katy and Bobby Bailey, Janine and Dave Osterbrink, Kaitlin Brillloski and many others who have contributed their time and support for specific projects. What a wonderful community effort!



Society Events

Bookstore Open - see page 3

Stevens Point Brewery -Oct. 12
See page 5 for detail.

Murder on Main St. - Oct. 18,
6:30PM. See Page 4 for details.

Halloween at the Firehouse,
Oct. 31st during Trick or Treat hours.

Rising Star Mill
Friday, Saturday, Sunday Oct. 6, 7, 8: 11:00AM - 4:00PM
The Rising Star Mill's Open House. Featuring: *"The Barns of Portage County"*

Synagogue

Open Memorial Day to Labor Day
Saturday & Sunday 1 - 4pm
By appointment 715-600-4930

Historic Fire House No. 2
Open Saturdays Memorial Day to Labor Day
9 am - 1:30pm
By appointment 715-600-4930

Heritage Park

Open Memorial Day to Labor Day
Saturday & Sunday 1 - 4pm
By appointment 715-600-4930

Heritage Days: June 16-17 2018



President's Report

2017 has been our most successful year to date. Thanks to the efforts of Jim Abbrederis, Anton Anday and Jason Jones our barn is now complete. All that remains is to finish the storage shelves in the basement and begin to put up the agricultural displays. The barn project still needs to raise about \$8,000 to pay the remaining bills.

Sarah Scripps has taken over the curator job at the Synagogue and that site has seen a steady number of visitors. The small book store that the Society set up in the building has drawn a number of people to the site.

David Simonis has redone the main bay of Firehouse #2 and begun to set up displays in the south side bay. Plans are now being made to clean the hay mow and use it for the storage of a large number of our clothing items. This will relieve a great deal of pressure on other storage areas that are at capacity.

Thanks to efforts of Jim Walker the Nelsonville mill is now on its way to being named to the National Register of Historic Buildings. This will make the third structure the Society owns that has found a place on the National Register. The Old Plover Methodist Church and the Beth-Israel Synagogue being the other two.

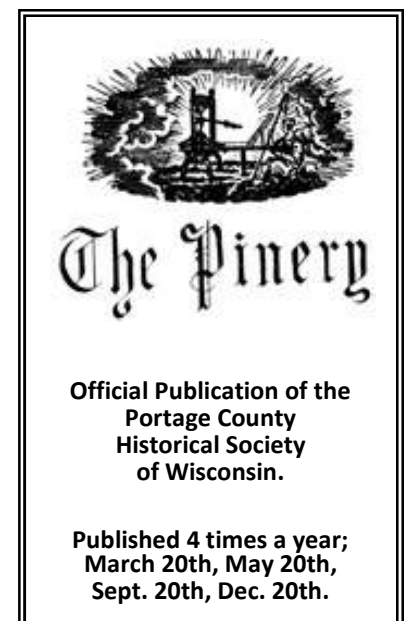
Over the past two plus years Sue Koehl has put in a tremendous amount of time and effort on the "Over There" project that the society has been involved with. This is a project to high light the efforts of the people of Portage County in the Great War. The "Over There" project now involves the publication of five new books and the reprinting of another seven all dealing with some aspect of Portage County and its role in the Great War. In addition, the Society has presented a series of speakers on the Great War and Portage County as well as a speaker's theater at Sentry last April. Thanks to the efforts of Sarah Scripps and the help of her UWSP class the Society also has produced a half hour video discussing the role of men and women from Central Wisconsin in the Great War.

Diane Lang of the Society's board and Brad Castleberry have coauthored a new book on Plover. It is a photographic look at the development of the village over the past 100 plus years. The Society has the book on sale for \$20.

Congratulations are in order for three members of the Society. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has recognized Jim Abbrederis, Sue Koehl and David Simonis for their long hours of volunteer service to the Society. Their efforts will be recognized at the state Society meeting in La Crosse in October.

On a separate note we are still looking for aluminum cans, cords/wires of any kind and microwave ovens. The items can be left at the south side door of the Synagogue. These are stripped and the copper/aluminum and brass is sold to help fund our archival supply fund. The Society needs to raise about \$1,000 to purchase much needed archival supplies. They are expensive. Any-one interested in helping may send a check to the Society's address and mark the memo line with the word archives.

Thank you.





Books

Currently the Society offers over 80 publications for sale. The modest success of our "store" inside the Synagogue during regular hours has been encouraging. The Bookstore will be open each Saturday during November and December, 12-4pm.

Adding a "store" to our web site could happen very soon. Details are still being discussed. If we open a "store" on the web site we would also add dues payments and a donations option.

The column on the right lists some of our recent and past publications. Of particular interest is the *Images of America - Plover* publication. It's a collection of historic photographs of Plover compiled by Brad Casselberry and Diane Lang, both Society members. Diane Lang is also a Director of the Society.

Please visit our web site using a desktop computer to download a full list of our publications with ordering instructions. Or, call 715-600-4930 for more information.



Stevens Point
Transfer Co. Bus

Guided Bus Tours

The Society is considering offering guided bus tours to start in the spring and/or fall of 2018. These tours would be of 8-10 hours in length going to places like EAA Museum in Oshkosh, National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, and nearby local/county societies in central Wisconsin.

Trips would be on a Saturday and limited to 20-24 people. Prices will be subject to transportation costs, entry fees and possibly lunch included.

We would appreciate any response from our members. Please send any responses/comments to our email address pchswi@gmail.com.

TRANSCRIBING DANCE CO.

www.transcribingdance.com

transcribingdancecompany@gmail.com



The Society is exploring the concept of a joint venture with Transcribing Dance Co. utilizing our buildings for "a multi-media dance work" based on local history.

More details as this develops.

Publications Available

World War I

From the Boys With the Colors
Voices of Portage County \$10

From the Boys With the Colors
The McCreedy Brothers \$10

Madame Schumann-Heink
"Mother" of the
American Legion \$10

Tales of An Old Air-Faring Man
By Paul F. Collins \$10

Official Recipe Book \$5

Emergency Cook Book \$5

Song of the Trenches
By Captain C. W. Blackall \$10

**A Salute to the Boys of Old
Troop I \$10**

Clayton Slack
Only Medal of Honor winner
from Portage County \$10

DD-649 USS Albert W. Grant
Named after a local hero \$25

"Over There" DVD \$10

32nd Division in WW I \$25

Other Topics

Images of America - Plover
By Brad Casselberry &
Diane Lang \$20

**Pioneers & Prominent People
Of Stevens Point and Area \$25**

**Land & Lumber, a History of
Portage County \$15**

Native Realm 2nd Edition \$15

**The Jewish Community of Ste-
vens Point \$25**

Murder on Main Street!

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 6:30PM.

Meet at the Courthouse parking lot, Church St. by Civil War Memorial, on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 PM. The tour will conclude at the Riverfront Art Center

A Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Stevens Point.

Learn about early Stevens Point's most infamous homicides.

Not suitable for children due to graphic subject matter.

Free to the public. Donations to the Portage County Historical Society appreciated

Rain or Shine. Dress appropriately for the weather.



Pat Lacey, Jim Draeger, State Historic Preservation Officer, presents a certificate to Jim Walker, Marianne Walker and Karen Trzebiatowski who were representing the Rising Star Mill.





The Portage County Historical Society Presents

"The History of the Stevens Point Brewery"

The Portage County Historical Society presents "The History of the Stevens Point Brewery" on Thursday Oct. 12th at 8pm in the tasting room at Point Brewery. PCHS member John Harry will tell the story of the nation's fifth oldest brewery as well as tales of Stevens Point's drinking past. Hear about the brewery's roots, and how the survival of prohibition, Point Brewery fits in the world of beer today. Your \$10 donation to the Portage County Historical Society includes two 8oz samples of your choice of Point Brewery's craft beer, cider, or soda. There will also be a raffle of a one-of-a-kind 160th Anniversary Point Brew-

**S O I D
S O U D**



Firehouse No. 2

Dave Simonis - Curator

Being newer to Firehouse I can't comment on the attendance comparisons from prior years, but I felt interaction with those who came was great as I continue to learn what folks like and want to see. It's still a common struggle, the residents aren't aware of the Firehouse location, or that we're open. I utilized Facebook and the group "You Know You're From Stevens Point If..." when open and on last day. That seemed to reach some people each week who said they saw the post and stopped by. On the last Saturday several entire families with younger children came by as the weather was rainy and cool. I "advertised" the location as a free something to do, inside.

Most people who stop in left a donation - which will go to weatherizing/painting the lobby windows for winter, replace supplies and perhaps aid in some paint as I make plans to start a rehab of the upstairs kitchen, hope to be completed by opening of the 2018 season. In addition I have a camera/surveillance system I acquired free from Riiser Energy I will be installing over the closed season. This will be mainly for monitoring activity when the site is open and will utilize 4 wireless cameras 2 downstairs and 2 upstairs, which will require just an outlet - no wires to run. This will allow a docent present to view activity in the firehouse from one spot in the lobby, and be unobtrusive. Also the hay-mow area will soon be getting readied for organized storage space for PCHS items in the form of cleanup, shelving and some updated lighting.

Tim/Anton are going through our archives and relocating relevant items from Plover to the Firehouse as they pop-up.

Our next event will be Halloween - the FH will be open during trick-or-treating hours in the neighborhood, handing out (donated) candy. I hope to get it mildly decorated and promote it on FB as well on Oct. 31st and maybe a day or so earlier. We will have lobby and garage area open only, upstairs will be closed. I continue to plan for some light music events in the future and most likely 2018 season. These would be fall/

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

The Pinery

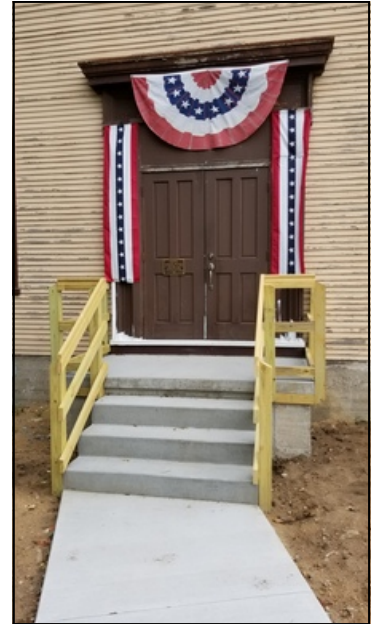
spring events, limited to 50-60 audience members, reserved/paid in advance, first-come first-serve. 1.5 to 2 hour performances selling soda/water/popcorn/etc during the event. I am still working out those details, including perhaps finding a sponsor to help cover some costs.

Heritage Park

Anton Anday - Curator

The official Heritage Park opening on weekends, from Memorial Day to Labor day, has been very busy. Our thanks go to all volunteers who helped out with tours during the season. The Heritage Park museum exhibit --"Over There -- Portage County in The Great War" -- was displayed in six of our buildings throughout the Park and was well received.

Through the season we continued with our construction projects to enhance our display areas and make the Park more accessible to visitors. In this effort, we have replaced the entrance to the Plover Methodist Church with railings and sidewalk, trimmed trees throughout the Park and completed some landscaping. With the great dedication of Jim Abbrederis and Jason Jones, we were able to complete the exterior repairs of the Pierce building, the interior of the "Barn" display area, and completed the archival storage space of the agricultural display building. We are cleaning out the front section of the Plover Post office for interior restoration during this winter. Yet this fall we still need to complete the exterior painting of the Pierce Building and the Bancroft Depot. These projects were scheduled for this summer, but weather and health issues postponed them. Interior display development this fall will focus on the Bancroft depot "station master's room", the "Barn" display areas and the development of a permanent display of the barns of Portage County. Moving and placement of the large agricultural artifacts will cause some challenges.



During this season the Park also hosted a number of events. We welcomed the Plover Village Board for its June meeting in the agriculture museum. Our "thank you reception" for the "Barn" project was well attended. The annual Green Bay & Western RR Historical Society Board of Directors meeting was also held at the Park. A number of local groups and organizations visited us. It was a very satisfying season. Thanks to all who made this possible.

Beth Israel Synagogue

Sarah Scripps - Curator

This season the synagogue continued providing tours while operating the gift shop. Two UWSP student interns kept the museum operational while I was on maternity leave. In the future, we are looking to streamline the inventory, I am setting up an advisory council from members of the Jewish community, and I am seeking opinions about setting up a temporary gallery space to encourage visitors to keep returning.



The Pinery

Is the official publication of the Portage County Historical Society, Inc. of Wisconsin published March 20th, May 20th, Sept. 20th and Dec. 20th of each year.

Officers

President: Tim Siebert
Vice-president: Dave Simonis
Secretary: Jerry Rohlinger
Treasurer: Janet Zblewski

Directors

Jim Abbrederis Anton Anday
Mary Egle Milo Harpstead
Dan Hoppe Diane Lang
Eric McFarland Mary Beth Anday
Sarah Scripps Beverly West
Terry Wick John Harry
CWMR, Ltd

A monthly business meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month, except for December, at the Synagogue Museum, 1475 Water St. Stevens Point, WI., unless otherwise announced.

An Annual Meeting is held the second Wednesday of April at a location to be announced. An annual report and election of Directors occur at this meeting

The membership and public are welcome to attend any meeting.

Visit our website at:
www.pchswi.org

Visit us on Facebook



"The purposes of this organization are exclusively educational and shall be to preserve, advance, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Portage County, Wisconsin."

Joining the Historical Society couldn't be easier! Just fill out the form and mail it today. Membership runs from January - December of the calendar year. Please circle the level at which you are joining or renewing.

Student (ages 17-21)	\$15/year	Senior (62 & older)	\$20/year
Individual	\$25/year	Family	\$40/year
Business	\$50/year	Pioneer	\$100/year
Patron	\$200/year	Sustaining	\$300/year
Benefactor	\$400/year	Life	\$500

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

- General Funds
- Synagogue Museum
- Rising Star Mill
- Heritage Park
- Historic Fire House No. 2
- Other - specify

No thanks, I don't want to become a member, but here is my tax deductible donation to the Society \$_____ Please circle your preference.

I'm interested in Volunteering, please call me at:

I have an artifact I'd like to donate, please call me at:

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!

Mail this form with check made out to:

Portage County Historical Society

P O Box 672

Stevens Point WI 54481

Or contact us at:

Phone: 715-600-4930

E-mail: pchswi@gmail.com



Portage County Historical Society
P O Box 672
Stevens Point WI 54481

Phone: 715-600-4930
E-mail: pchswi@gmail.com
www.pchswi.org

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #92
Stevens Point
Wisconsin

Electronic Service Requested



The Pinery

Photo to Remember

