

Official Publication of the Portage County Historical Society of Wisconsin

**League of Women Voters of the Stevens Point Area
Will Honor and Celebrate the
100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the
League of Women Voters in 2019 and 2020!**

We begin the celebration with tentative plans for an event at the Heritage Park in June, 2019, commemorating Wisconsin's ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Women first organized and collectively fought for suffrage (the right to vote in public elections) at the national level in July of 1848. Suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott convened a meeting of over 300 people in Seneca Falls, New York. In the following decades, women marched, protested, lobbied, and even went to jail. By the 1870s, women pressured Congress to vote on an amendment that would recognize their suffrage rights. This amendment became known as the 19th Amendment.

After decades of arguments for and against women's suffrage, Congress finally voted in favor of the 19th Amendment in 1919. After Congress ratified the 19th Amendment, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of it for it to become law.

On June 10, 1919, Wisconsin became the first state to vote in favor of ratifying the 19th Amendment. By August 18, 1920, 36 states (including Wisconsin) ratified the amendment, recognizing women's suffrage rights. (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/wisconsin-women-s-history.htm>)

Plans are underway for a museum display, guest speaker, interviews, movie night, and other events during this special time. The community is invited to participate. If you would like to be involved in helping with any of these events please contact us at lwvspa@gmail.com.



Society Events

April 10 - Annual Meeting at the Public Library, Stevens Point. The **Annual Business Meeting** will start at **6:00PM**, all current members are encouraged to attend! At 6:30PM the program, **Taking a Stand: The Fight for Fair Housing in Stevens Point**, will begin.

Synagogue

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

May 3 - Shabbat, at 6:00PM.

Historic Fire House No. 2

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

Heritage Park

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

June 15-16 - Heritage Days.
Craft demonstrations for both

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President's Report

SPRING 2019 FROM THE PRESIDENT

A great many things are in the works for the spring to fall season of 2019. The Society has raised enough money to put a new roof on both the Church/Museum and the Depot. The Church roof is about 10 years past its recommended life span and the Depot is nearly the same. The result is that the Society will not be putting a display together in the church for the beginning of the summer.

What will be happening, once construction is finished, is a follow up on the Great War remembrance that the Society put forward for the last two years. We are looking at the early 1920's and following a number of themes. These include such things as the rise of the labor movement, particularly the railroad labor unions, the change in attitude toward county infrastructure such as paved roads, the women's movement toward enfranchisement and agriculture.

The Society's Annual Meeting will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of April (10th). in the Pinery Room of the Stevens Point Public Library. The Society's Annual Business Meeting will begin at 6:00 PM. Agenda will be:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of last year's Annual & General Membership meeting minutes and approval of Treasurer's Annual report
3. Election of board members
4. Report of President
5. Report of museum chairs
6. Report of other committee chairs
7. Miscellaneous business
8. Adjournment

Our program this year will be by Dr. Lee Willis, chair of the UWSP History Dept. He will be discussing the history of race relations in the Portage County/Stevens Point area. Dr. Willis's program will begin at 6:30 PM

*"UWSP History Department Chair Dr. Lee Willis and history honors student Taylor Pehrson will share their research for the project, **Taking a Stand: The Fight for Fair Housing in Stevens Point.** This project traces the history of housing discrimination in Stevens Point. Using the story of former UWSP professor Dr. Jimmie Franklin as a case study, Taking a Stand examines the discrimination minority group citizens faced in securing housing as well as the ways that local citizens responded. The project emphasizes that far from being removed from debates over racial and ethnic prejudice in America, the Stevens Point community was very much part of a broader struggle for civil equality. In the process, it calls on viewers to recognize the ways that local citizens took a stand in an effort to challenge discrimination on the eve of the landmark 1968 Fair Housing Act. Dr. Willis will discuss the inspiration behind the project and Ms. Pehrson will screen her documentary based on the story of Dr. Franklin."*

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adults and children. Grey Kats band will be playing Saturday at 1:00PM

Rising Star Mill

May 25 - 26, 2019 - Annual Rising Star Mill Art Show and Sale, . Saturday 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm.

Newly Restored "Cutter"



The Pinery

The Pinery logo was definitely in use by April 1956 until at least 1984. A return to our "roots".

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The third weekend in June (15th and 16th) will see Heritage Days and the theme this year will be craft demonstrations for both adults and children. Such things as butter churning, candle making, laundry, ice cream making, carving and so on. We will post a time frame for each of these crafts as they will not all be present for the whole weekend. The Grey Kats will be performing on Saturday afternoon. We hope to have a square dance performance on Sunday afternoon at the barn. The Plover Kiwanis Club has donated @250 to help pay for the band.

The early 1920's theme will have, as its beginning, a movie screening and presentation by Leslie Debausch on May 22. The event, as it is now planned, will take place at the CREATE screening room in the old Weber Fly Tackle building-behind the Synagogue.

Mr. Jim Abbrederis, Jason Jones and Anton Anday have been working on getting the Print Shop (front 1/3 of the Pierce Building) in shape as the next building to be brought "on line" at Heritage Park. To this point the wiring has been installed, work on the insulation has begun and interior wall lumber is in the process of being prepared. Once the Print Shop is completed the next project will be the Post Office/Doctor's Office which has been partially worked on already.

The city requires the Society to plow the sidewalks in front of the both the Synagogue and the Fire House. The amount of snow we have had over the past two months has required plowing to be done on numerous occasions. The result has been a bill of about \$900. Anyone who would be willing to help us offset this cost can send a check to the Society's P.O. Box-672 in Stevens Point. It would be greatly appreciated.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Annual Meeting, Heritage Days and the May 22 movie screening.

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment



Portrait of Theodora Youmans (Mrs. Henry), President of the Wisconsin Woman Suffrage Association, holding a Wisconsin flag and standing in front of a painted backdrop . Source: WHS.



Image by Bree McMahon (breemcmahon.com).
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Taking a Stand: The Fight for Fair Housing in Stevens Point

April 10, 2019, 6:30PM at the Stevens Point Public Library

UWSP History Department Chair Dr. Lee Willis and history honors student Taylor Pehrson will share their research for the project, *Taking a Stand: The Fight for Fair Housing in Stevens Point*. This project traces the history of housing discrimination in Stevens Point. Using the story of former UWSP professor Dr. Jimmie Franklin as a case study, *Taking a Stand* examines the discrimination minority group citizens faced in securing housing as well as the ways that local citizens responded. The project emphasizes that far from being removed from debates over racial and ethnic prejudice in America, the Stevens Point community was very much part of a broader struggle for civil equality. In the process, it calls on viewers to recognize the ways that local citizens took a stand in an effort to challenge discrimination on the eve of the landmark 1968 Fair Housing Act. Dr. Willis will discuss the inspiration behind the project and Ms. Pehrson will screen her documentary based on the story of Dr. Franklin.

ANNUAL MEETING
April 10, 2019

Taking a **STAND**

The Fight for Fair Housing in Stevens Point



Portage County Historical Society Annual Meeting

Presenters

Dr. Lee Willis, Chair UWSP History Dept. and Honors student Taylor Pehrson

Portage County Library, Pinery room

Business meeting at 6:00 pm
Presentation at 6:30 pm

Public is invited to both meeting and presentation
Free of charge



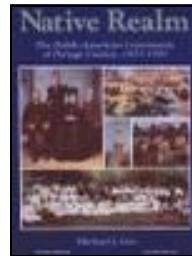
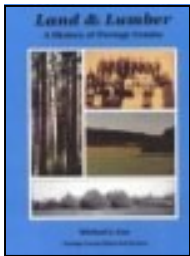
Spring Membership Drive from March 21 to June 21, 2019



← Stevens Point 1909, from the book *Native Realm*.

Become a member of the Portage County Historical Society during our Spring Membership Drive and receive a free copy of *Native Realm* or *Land & Lumber*.

1. For a \$25 Annual Membership receive a \$35 premium book.
2. For a Life Membership of \$500 receive *both books*.
3. Can pick up at one of the Society's Museum sites or at Heritage Days, June 15th or 16th.
4. Go to our web site to enroll or use the Membership Payment Form on page 7.



In the Beginning, Part 2

A Multi-Part Early History of the Portage County Historical Society

By Anony Mouse

The list of individuals holding the chair of "President" of the Society over the years is quite notable! Clifford D. Swanson, 1953-1957; Malcolm Rosholt, 1957-1963; Nelis R. Kampenga, 1963-1974; Guy Gibson, 1974-1980; Timothy Siebert; 1980-present.

More from Nelis. R. Kampenga's, June 2, 1983 "Early History"

In 1956, under the editorship of Marie Swallow, the Society began issuance of its publication "The Pinery", carrying a logo heading designed by board member Had Manske, using the treasured ancient printing press (now displayed at the Fire House No. 2 Museum) from which Stevens Point's first newspaper "The Pinery" (1853 - 1873) was pressed.

In 1957, the Society reorganized under the revised articles of incorporation, earning through this a direct affiliation with the State Historical Society. In this same year, Clifford Swanson, first president of the Portage County Historical Society, was elected to the Board of Curators of the State Society, a post held to this past year. It was in the same year (1957) that the local society was host to the annual meeting of the State Historical Society, sessions held in the theatre of the college library (now UWSP Student Service Center).

The Society very early looked forward to the celebration of Stevens Point's 100th anniversary of its charter, editing and publishing a useful compilation of local history materials, written and illustrated, of Stevens Point's past. (A History of Stevens Point; Issued in Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of incorporation, May 17, 1958. Stevens Point: Portage County Historical Society, 1958.

A major part of the society's work is in the establishment, the writing of legend and designing of local historical

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markers, all accredited under State Historical Society official documentation and recognition. The markers so dedicated this far are these: DuBay Trading Post, Village of Rosholt, The Public Square, The First Public Building, Jordan Dam, and Gateway to the Pineries.

It is important to note here that the Gateway to the Pineries marker located at the head of Pioneer Park (a gift of Mr. & Mrs. Win Rothman), dedicated in 1972, has two valuable dedicatory addresses that should be required reading for all Portage County young people: Karl Jacob's eloquent "Gateway to the Pinery: Dedicatory Words" delivered the morning of the unveiling of the marker and Malcolm Rosholt's remarkable paper read by the author the same evening at the University Science Building auditorium: "Gateway to the Pineries and Its Impact on the Indian Lands." These were published in The Pinery, April 14, 1973.

Heritage Park began in 1978 when the Historical Society acquired the Old Methodist Church. In 1983, the board of the Society purchased six adjoining lots in the park and moved the Franklin-Calkins House to the site. The remaining structures were moved from various locations in Portage County. The Park is a living monument to life in Portage County during the early settlement years.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources obtained the Rising Star Mill in 1984 and sold the structure to the Society in 1985. A committee was formed centered on Nelsonville to operate the mill. This Museum now serves as a community focus hosting weddings, musical events, movies and numerous art events. This building is now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Temple Beth Israel was deeded to the Society in 1986. The flourishing Congregation gradually declined in numbers until dissolution in 1985. The building was sold to the Society for a museum. This building is now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Society purchased the Fire House No. 2 in March, 2006 for \$1.00 from the City of Stevens Point. This is the oldest extant municipal building in Stevens Point.

In October, 2003 the Konkol Corners Shrine located at the corner of County Hwy B and County Hwy K was destroyed in a car accident. After several years wait while County Hwy B was improved, the land the shrine occupies was deeded to Society. This preserved another old custom going back to Poland. Many corner shrine were erected in Poland and the Polish immigrants erected similar structures here in Portage County.



So Long!!!



**We Hope to See as Many Society Members at Our
April 10th Annual Business Meeting!**



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 Casselberry
Eric McFarland Mary Beth Anday
Sarah Scripps Beverly West
Jason Jones Brad Casselberry
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: _____

Mar. 2019

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

Online Payments

Now accepting online
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Photos to Remember

On March 31, 1883, it was decided to form a School District No 3 in the northwestern section of the township (Alban). It became known as the **Simonis School**, named after the Simonis families that lived in the area. The first Simonis School burned in 1893. Another school was built not far from the first location. This became District No 2. (it was district No 3 when it was first organized in 1883). All the records before 1908 were lost in a fire that destroyed the second school building. A third building was built.



SIMONIS SCHOOL PRE-1915 BEFORE BELL TOWER ADDED

