

23RD ANNUAL
A VINTAGE SPRINGTIME TEA
MARCH 24, 2022 - 2:00PM

TICKETS
\$30/Member \$35/Non-Member
Limited Seating - Reservations Required

Enjoy an afternoon of sweet and savory treats, served with a little bit of history.

410 McIndoe St Wausau, WI 54403
www.marathoncountyhistory.org
(715)842-5750

CRAFTED WITH PURPOSE

By Ben Clark, Archivist/Historian

The picture in our masthead is probably William Johnson's family in Wausau, but we don't really know because it is from a collection of mostly unlabeled glass plate negatives. It's one of a few pictures of the younger children scrapbooking it up on a portable table made from a table on sawhorses. And while they probably were unaware of it at the time, the kids in this picture are taking part in one of the heydays of scrapbooking. During that time, the act of making a scrapbook wasn't simply a way of creating your own cherished souvenir of happy times. It was also a helpful way of processing the deluge of media that people were experiencing. By the turn of the century, there were a handful of newspapers being published in Wausau alone—in both English and German—plus many, many others available from other communities. The sudden influx in media available for people to consume often made it difficult to process what was actually important or interesting to the readers. Scrapbooking was a way to compile only what was important to the maker and preserve it for later reading, making a book out of scraps. While old scrapbooks are among the most frustrating kinds of materials to preserve, we are always happy to go through the extra challenge for good scrapbooks for the insight they give into the person who crafted them and the times in which they were created.

Our ever-popular Valentine Tea set for February 10, 2022 was rescheduled to March 24th at 2:00 pm as A Vintage Springtime Tea.

Our hostess will explain the history, significance of food and tea selection and etiquette for a proper tea. The vintage event will be resplendent in a garden theme with the local Garden Club creating the centerpieces for a lovely afternoon.

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MCHS

By Russ Wilson, MCHS Board President

What might David Clark Everest and his fellow directors have envisioned seventy years ago when they founded the Marathon County Historical Society in 1952? In just two years the house of Cyrus and Alice Yawkey would be donated by Leigh Yawkey Woodson and her daughters (Cyrus and Alice having died in 1943 and 1953, respectively.) Might the directors have foreseen the listing of the Yawkey House on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974? Back then only the first floor served as the house museum; all the work of MCHS was crammed into cobbled second floor spaces.

Did they dream that in the mid-2000s the Yawkey House would undergo one of the premier house restorations in Wisconsin, a several million dollar project that reveals the house in its 1908 splendor? And did the board dream of acquiring the Woodson House in 1995 to serve as the research library, archives and collections storage, exhibit space, lecture hall, gathering space, and operations center? Did they predict the donation of the Jablonski building on the South East side of town? Might they have envisioned the substantial growth of our archives and collections?

And then there is programming. Could they possibly have imagined our dynamic high quality presentations, lectures, and events? What would they think upon reviewing our guest book which shows that visitors come from all over the nation. (I often check to see where our visitors live. One guest's locale sticks in my mind- Williamsburg, Virginia. That's right, "Colonial Williamsburg" residents paid us a visit!)

We have a different set of challenges than those of 1952. Today the Woodson House is chock-a-block full with our collections and extensive archives. We are out of space for growth. To say that our research library is cramped is a gross understatement. Even the recently acquired Jablonski building is rapidly nearing full storage. New collections keep coming our way; Wausau Daily Herald newspapers that are not yet on-line being just one recent example. And we need more artifacts in a particular category- local businesses.

We dream of a striking, gleaming several story building located within a very short walking distance of the Woodson and Yawkey Houses where several floors of exhibit space would greet our visitors for the next seventy years. Not only would there be adequate space for collections, but room for badly needed future acquisitions. Our archival treasure trove- our stored knowledge- would become highly accessible. Our library would be transformed into a beautiful state of the art destination.

These are our dreams today. We welcome your support to help us make them come true.

THE WANIGAN PRODUCTION

Editor - Janet Klutterman Design and Editor - Alison Coady

Photo Selection and Colorization - Ben Clark Co-Editors and Authors - MCHS Staff

The mission of the Marathon County Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and exhibit materials related to the history of Marathon County, and to use these materials to help people learn about North Central Wisconsin, connect with their roots, and explore their own historical connections.

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The Wanigan is a quarterly publication sent as a benefit to the members of the Marathon County Historical Society.



The Marathon County Historical Society is supported in part by the City of Wausau Room Tax Funding.

1872-2022 WAUSAU CELEBRATES 150 YEARS!

By Gary Gisselman, Librarian/Historian

As our city celebrates 150 years, we look back at what life would have been like for Wausau's citizens in 1872. What follows is a fictitious letter that describes life in Wausau from the perspective of a German immigrant. Although this letter was not written in 1872, it does accurately portray people, places, and events of that year.

On a sunny day in early May, Jacob Zastrow wrote to his brother August in Ottendorf, Germany. He was compelled to promote life in Wausau and urge his brother to bring his family to Wausau. Ottendorf was located in the kingdom of Prussia, which is modern day Poland.

Dear August,

Wausau is celebrating its new status as a city. You might remember August Kickbusch, who I mentioned previously. He was recently elected as our first mayor. Kickbusch is from Kolberg, Germany on the Baltic coast. In his speech to the new city council, he spoke of his intent to improve our streets, now that Wausau is a city. Mr. Kickbusch and other city leaders are working hard to see that Wausau continues to prosper and grow. New companies are coming to Wausau, and our future looks good.

I am working at the Forest House Hotel on Forest Street, one of the finest in the city. I work in the stable taking care of the horses for the guests. The hotel is owned by Charles Single, one of the early settlers in Wausau. Important people stay at the hotel. For example, Misters Remington and Whyatt are representatives of the Wisconsin Valley Railroad and are here to discuss the railroad coming to our city.

Things are good here in Wausau: Churches, good jobs...and many people speak German. Please consider coming. You can bring mother and father, and I am sure you and father can find a good job. Mr. Clark and Mr. Plumer have large sawmills along the Wisconsin River. They put many men to work, both in the sawmill and also building rafts to send the sawn lumber down the river to places like St. Louis.

The Ruder and Mathie breweries are growing fast and also need good workers. Both are on Grand Avenue, just down the street from my house. There is a little park close to the breweries, and it is a very pleasant place to relax and have some beer. But there is not much time for that, my only free time is on Sundays after church.

Families in the neighborhood from Pommern are meeting in homes and hopefully will start a new church within a year or two. I plan to join that church when it opens. The church will be close to my home, so I can walk to services.

Cousin Albert found a job at the McIndoe Saw Mill on an island in the middle of the river. His wife Wilhelmina is a seamstress for the Alexander family. They are building a house on Seymour Street near St Mary's Catholic Church on Grand Avenue. That area is turning into a German neighborhood.

The journey to Wausau will be long and hard. Come now while our parents are young enough to withstand its perils. Life is good in Wausau; cousin Albert and I are here to take care of you when you arrive.

Your brother Jacob

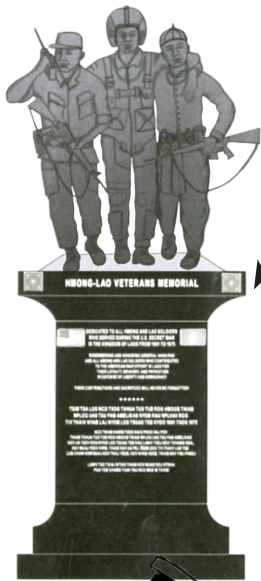
LET'S PLAY
WAUSAU
 TRIVIA

By Ben Clark, Archivist/Historian and
 Gary Gisselman, Librarian/Historian

It has been 150 years since the growing community of Wausau signed its city charter and we want to celebrate! The city of Wausau is hosting lots of fun events and tours for the whole year. You can make sure you catch everything by picking up a "Celebrate Wausau" passport at the Woodson History Center and getting it stamped at events, tours and more. Meanwhile, try out our trivia to prime your knowledge of Wausau's history. Remember - no peeking at the answers until you are all done! Have fun and let us know how you did!

Feeling stuck?
 Watch our recent History Chats and see if you can spot some answers.

History Chats



Q1: The City of Wausau was originally known by what name when the first sawmill was set up here in 1839?

A: _____

Q2: The current City Hall of Wausau was originally built to be home for what company?

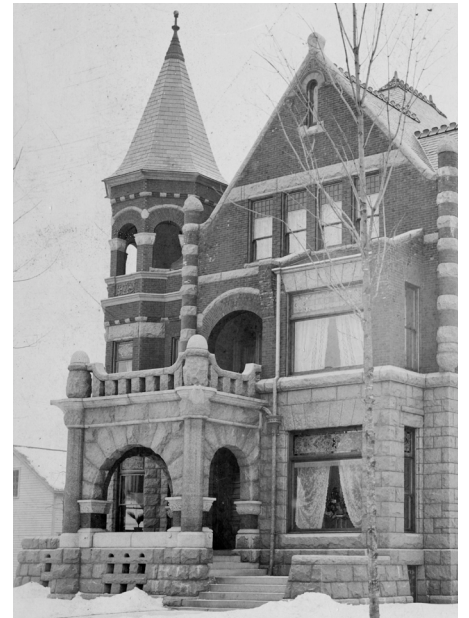
A: _____

Q3: Where is this Memorial located?

A: _____

Q4: Over his teaching career from 1936 to 1970, Win Brockmeyer was regarded as the winningest coach of what High School sport?

A: _____



Q5: This home was built by Daniel and Mary Jane Plumer and found a second purpose as the home of what business?

A: _____

Q6: What is the six-letter, last name of this pioneering John, which is hidden hundreds of thousands of times in the walls of Wausau buildings?

A: _____

Q7: What momentous event in 1912 became one of the most photographed events in the history of the city?

A: _____

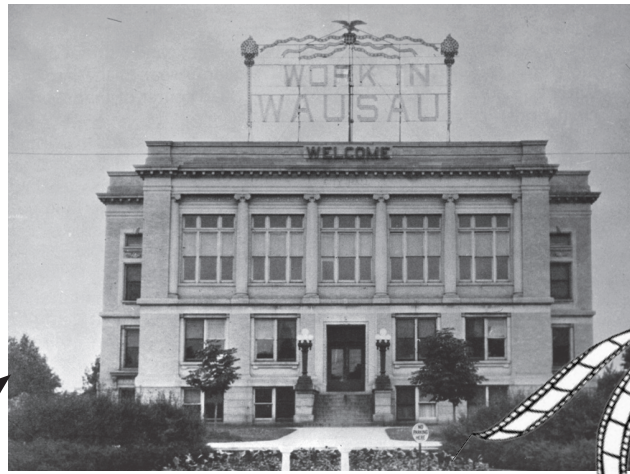
Q8: In the 1920s, what job did Helen Stephenson become the first woman to do in Wausau?

A: _____



Q9: There is a City Park that was once home to Wausau's first beer garden, originally known as Schubert's Park. What is this park called now?

A: _____

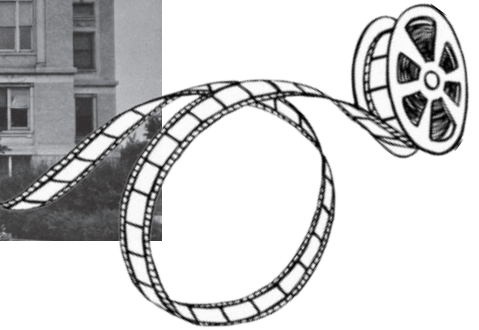


Q10: What is wrong with this picture?

A: _____

Q11: The Wausau Iron Works found success making this "Wausau" product, which was invaluable for any community in Wisconsin to have on hand. What was the product?

A: _____



Q12: The first film produced in Wisconsin was shot in Wausau back in 1902. What was the name of the film?

A: _____

Q13: Where was this picture taken?

A: _____



Q14: In 1929, which of the following winter sports was not present at that year's Wausau Winter Frolics Festival?

- a. Snowmobile Rides
- b. Hockey Tournament
- c. Ski Jumping Exhibition
- d. Slalom/Downhill Skiing Competitions

A: _____

ANSWERS

A1. Big Bull Falls
 A2. Wausau Insurance / Employers Mutual
 A3. The Courthouse Grounds
 A4. Football
 A5. WSAW Radio and TV
 A6. Ringle
 A7. The Flood of 1912
 A8. Police Officer
 A9. Hammond Park
 A10. The sign should read "Wausau"
 A11. The Wausau Snow Plow
 A12. The Lumberjack
 A13. Clinton Ave - Now called Stewart Ave
 A14. d. Slalom/Downhill Skiing Competitions

HISTORY TOOLS: THE CATALOG

By Kathy Volkmann, Curator of Artifacts

With the ever increasing popularity of online shopping, paper catalogs have fallen out of favor. Gone are the days when housewives paged through the Sears catalog creating their wish list of electric kitchen appliances, children circling the toys they wanted for Christmas, and farmers deciding how many chickens and tractor tires to list on their order form.

Catalogs were meant to be used for a short time then discarded, but many people hung onto them for kids to use for school projects and, well, because people have a tendency to keep things. Luckily, a nice selection of these saved catalogs have been donated to our historical society over the last 65 years. Dating from the 1870s to the 2000s, they range from the wildly popular Sears, JCPenney, and Montgomery Ward catalogs to specialty catalogs selling cameras, farm equipment, furniture, clothing, medical supplies and more.

Rather than keeping these catalogs as historic objects that are rarely handled, they're used by our artifact and textile curators as reference materials for identifying and dating donated items. While Google can be a great resource for researching the history of artifacts, sometimes paging through catalogs is a more efficient (and interesting) way to figure out what an object is and when it's from.

Catalog images are used in displays and programs to give the public a look at objects in "real life". For example, the recently donated Tonka Loader shown below is found in the 1974 JCPenney Christmas catalog, along with other Tonka vehicles. Only the printed catalog tells us that if you bought a set of three vehicles, your child got a construction hat for free!

Whether we're identifying and dating clothing, sporting equipment, typewriters or toys, paper catalogs are a valuable resource for our curators...and lots of fun to look at.



1931-32 Fall/Winter
Chicago Mail Order Co.

1952 Montgomery
Ward Photographic
Catalog



1964 Sears
Spring/Summer
Catalog



c. 1974 Metal
Tonka Loader

1974 JCPenney
Christmas Catalog



Join us online for
**HISTORY CHATS & HISTORY
SPEAKS - LIVE!**

A blue speech bubble containing the text "History Chats" in white serif font.

History Chats are 20 minute presentations that are live streamed on YouTube and Facebook every Thursday at 12:30pm. All programs are recorded and can be viewed later.

In February, History Chats has looked at some miscellaneous, odds and end stories, and one of the upcoming weeks will be dedicated to answering questions from the public. So this is your chance to ask whatever history question you've always wondered about but never knew who to ask. You can send us your questions in person here at the museum, message us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), or send Ben an email at bclark@marathoncountyhistory.org.

After that will be the return of March Mapness, with more maps and the stories behind them.



History Speaks is a 1 hour program presented by a guest speaker each month, and is currently live streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Upcoming History Speaks . . .

Feb. 26: The History of Wausau Public Media *presented by Rick Reyer*

Apr. 2: The Great Commoner: the Life of William Jennings Bryan *presented by Paul Clark*

History Chats and History Speaks are co-hosted by the Marathon County Public Library, and sponsored by Janke Book Store.

Coming Soon. . .
**WAUSAU AREA GARDEN CLUB'S
ANNUAL PLANT SALE**
Saturday, May 13th 2022

Spruce up your garden with new plants! Sale will be held in the driveway and carriage house of the Yawkey House Museum.

There is still time to join
THE CIVIL WAR BOOK CLUB!

The 2022 Civil War Book Club will meet at 7pm at the Woodson History Center on the last Thursday of each month.

Feb. 24th: *A Brotherhood of Valor: The Common Soldiers of the Stonewall Brigade, CSA and the Iron Brigade, USA* by Jeffery Wert

Mar. 31st: *Belligerent Muse: Five Northern Writers and How They Shaped Our Understanding of The Civil War* by Stephen Cushman

Apr. 28th: *The Crooked Path to Abolition: Abraham Lincoln and the Anti-slavery Constitution* by James Oakes.

Please contact Gary Gisselman at 715-842-5750 or email research@marathoncountyhistory.org with questions or for more information.

A Big Thank You to
**OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR
HOLIDAYS AT THE HOUSES**

After weeks of hard work, the Holidays at the Houses event was a huge success thanks to all our wonderful volunteers! We welcomed more than 200 guests, who toured the Yawkey House, watched our guest performers, did fun activities, and learned from several different cultural and religious groups of Wausau, including the Hmong American Center, Mt. Sinai Synagogue and the First Universalist Unitarian Church. If you were a volunteer - Thank You! We appreciate all you do to make our events come to life and run smoothly. If you attended - Thank You! The support of our members makes it possible for us to continue putting together amazing events. We hope you had a good time!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jim and Jean Burgener
Charles King, Lyle Nowak

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

H.J. Hagge Foundation
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LuAnn Spanton
Leigh Hagge Tuckey
Lee Ann and Gregory Venne
Amy Huftel
Gary and Mary Forbess
*in honor of Russ and Linda's
monumental contributions to MCHS*
Cyrus Hagge
in honor of Rob Hagge

Harvey Nelson Charitable Trust
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in memory of Patricia McConnell
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in memory of C. Duane Patterson
Dora Schield
in support of the research library
Kay Gruling and Tim Buttke
in memory of Joyce Hilmerhausen

Return Service Requested



Sweet Treats
Photo Fun
Children's Craft

A Spring Family Tea

Join us for an afternoon of fancy fun!
Dress your best or come as you are.
The Woodson History Center 410 McIndoe St Wausau, WI 54403

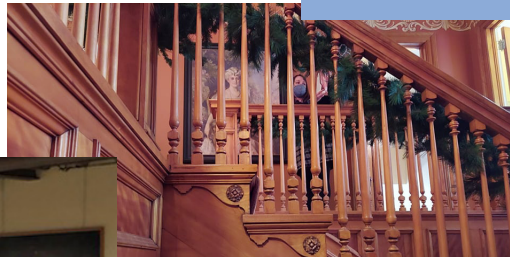
Saturday
March 26, 2022
2:00 pm

Tickets
\$15/Adult
\$10/Child
\$35/Family
maximum 4 people
\$5 for each additional person

Reservations required. Please call 715-842-5750 to buy tickets.
www.marathoncountyhistory.org

PHOTOS FROM . . .

HOLIDAYS AT THE HOUSES 2021



Congratulations to Patrick Bacher!
Gingerbread Contest Winner 2021

