

# TIMELINES

## NEWSLETTER OF THE OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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### OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

Monday, May 5, 2025 Time: 7:00

Guest Speaker Greg Comly-Milwaukee Road Archivist  
Location: Cedarburg American Legion—Hilbert Street



### Milwaukee Road Beginnings: The First Train in Wisconsin

Step aboard a journey through history as we commemorate the 175th anniversary of Wisconsin's first rail trip—from Milwaukee to Wauwatosa on November 20, 1849—a pivotal moment that sparked the legacy of the Milwaukee Road. Greg Comly, Milwaukee Road archivist at the Milwaukee Public Library, will guide us through this landmark event and its significance. His engaging presentation will shed light on the origins of Wisconsin's first railroad, the early days of rail travel in the state, and the rich historical records preserved in the Milwaukee Road Archives.

Greg Comly was born and raised in Laramie, Wyoming. He earned a dual degree in History and Geography from the University of Wyoming and later completed a Master's in Library and Information Science, with an archives concentration, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Since 2016, Greg has been an integral part of the Milwaukee Public Library, where he has continuously strived to connect individuals with valuable resources and foster a love for learning. In 2021, Greg took on the new and exciting role as the Milwaukee Road Librarian in the Special Collections Department at Central Library. He is dedicated to preserving and showcasing the remarkable history of the Milwaukee Road.

## Greetings From the President:

**Hello ! Are you READY for another exciting year of events and other projects going on at OCHS . We are preserving structures (log cabin project), documenting images of old (Michael Matthies Studio glass negatives), compiling stories (genealogy) and collecting artifacts that represent our heritage. This year our school tour docents are taking the show on the road to West Bend to share how the founding families used the skills from their homelands to embrace the challenges of the new world. They will be presenting before 51 students.**

**We are excited to welcome our new Village Maintenance Manager, Doug Peterson, to our support staff. Doug has been involved with OCHS for the past five years, starting with the amazing job he did painting the Cedarburg Train Station! He has since, painted the caboose, Welcome Center and Stony Hill School. He has high standards of quality in the work he does and his main role will be maintenance, preservation and restoration at the village. He is anxious to get involved and meet all of our volunteers associated with the projects we have planned for the year.**

**I am looking forward to seeing all of you this summer. If you have time, please sign up to volunteer for one of our events. Call me with any ideas, comments or suggestions you may have.**

*Mary Ann Velnetske* - President

### BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Ann Velnetske, President  
Mike Hecker, Master Gardener  
Becky Miller, Secretary  
Don Borgwardt, Treasurer  
Keri Eichner, Director  
Evonne Boettge—Quarterly Program Chair  
Dan Paulus, Director  
Dick Liersch, Director  
Ashley Bombeck -Director  
Open, Volunteer Coordinator

### SUPPORT STAFF

Village Maintenance Manager-Doug Peterson  
Jane Butz, Archivist  
Chris Fricke, Archivist  
Charlotte Guifree— Membership  
Eugene Durben/ Kayla Beegle-Storck Blacksmiths

### TOUR GUIDES/DOCENTS

Karen Boedecker	Barbara Roob
Donna Smith	Carol Stephenson
Linda Ziebell	Carol Curtis
Kathy Callaway	

### CONTACTS

Village Hall Rentals-Allen Buchholz  
Website-Mary Ann Velnetske  
Lindsey Harness, Newsletter Editor  
Marketing-Becky Miller  
Videographer-Dick Liersch  
Photographer/Social Media-Laura Bruederle  
School Tours-Mary Ann Velnetske

## Governor's Archives Award: Preserving Images of Old

Written By: Mary Ann Velnetske

Joseph Cramer served in Company E of the 24th Regiment of the Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War. In 1872, he made an investment of \$11.00 in a property in Grafton,

Wisconsin where he built a photo studio. Little did he know that it would be among the oldest photo studios in the country lasting for 137 years. The property was located at what has been now known as 1219 12th Avenue. In 1898, Joseph's son John, took over the business as a "daguerreotypist", what photographers of this time were called.

John ran the studio until 1903, when he sold it to Edward Laabs. Edward Laabs not only photographed people and places, but also some commercial businesses during his time of ownership, such as the Wisconsin Chair Factory in Port Washington and early Harley Davidson Company motorcycles. Later Laabs took in a young man named Walter Burhop, to work with him in the studio until a medical issue suddenly took Laabs' life in 1926. The most likely person to carry on the business, was Walter Burhop, who purchased it from Laabs' estate.



Burhop made the most of running the business throughout the Great Depression Era, believing that during the depression people became more family oriented. Walter Burhop and his wife owned the business for 50 years. His business closed in 1971. Michael Matthies, a young Grafton High School physics teacher, had seen a "For Rent" sign in the window of the studio and was welcomed in by Burhop and was shown around. At that time Matthies, just had an interest in photography, loved being in the darkroom at the high school and occasionally took photos of weddings and special occasions. Burhop made him a deal to rent the studio for \$125.00 per month to see how it went. Michael Matthies talked it over with his wife, Dale, and said it was an opportunity he could not pass up. He purchased the studio in 1977.

Michael Matthies was a genealogy buff and was passionate about history. He enjoyed running his business on the very desk that the Cramer's used in the 1800s. There was a beautiful Century View Camera from 1900 in the office area that was similar to the one that would have been used by Laabs and Burhop. Matthies also used props that were left behind by his predecessors for special memories. Many generations of families had their portraits taken on the same bench, chair or next to the very same pillar.

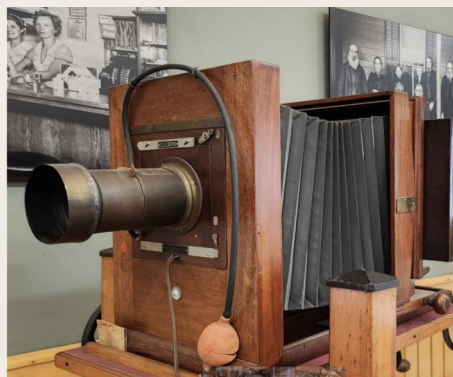


Matthies found a treasure-trove of more than 1,000 glass negatives in the studio attic, dating back to 1912 that most likely were taken by Edward Laabs. They were stored in old wooden crates, some from Eastman Kodak, piled one on top of another.

The largest glass negatives were 8" by 10" and were commercial photos of engines, the Wisconsin Chair Factory in Port Washington and the Junger Stove Company in Grafton. The smaller negatives, 5" by 7", were portraits of babies, mothers, children, WWI soldiers and weddings. Some were images of local farms, businesses, fire departments, police departments, sports teams and one of Matthies's favorites was a photo of an old brewery wagon loaded with barrels of beer that was hitched to a team of horses. Matthies marveled at the fact that in early years, Laabs had to cut his own glass plates and take all his equipment out to the site where the photo would be taken. His dream was to have "these plates scanned and out online so people could see them".



Michael Matthies died November of 2009 and the studio was closed and left undisturbed until 2024. The studio was sold at the end of 2024 and the Ozaukee County Historical Society and Grafton Historical Societies were invited to remove the glass plate negatives for cleaning, scanning and digitizing for further preservation. Volunteers carefully removed all the wooden crates from the attic and boxed the negatives to be transported to a facility owned by the Ozaukee County Historical Society.



At least 30 volunteers from the Ozaukee County Historical Society and the Grafton Historical Society carefully cleaned and sorted all the negatives by category (babies, mothers, children, WWI soldiers and weddings and civic organizations). Some of the glass plates were in old paper sleeves with identification of the photos subject. These details have been captured and written on the plate to save for describing the image. Each negative will be photographed using a high-quality camera and reverse imaged using the technology of Photoshop and Adobe Bridge software programs. Each image will be given a unique accession (catalog) number that will be loaded into the Past Perfect archival database. These images will be readily searchable and printable. Future plans to share with the public will depend on the wishes of the Matthies family.



This has been an enormous undertaking by the Ozaukee County Historical Society and Grafton Historical Society in preserving the legacy of these photographers from over a century ago. This project truly is to preserve a collection that could have been destroyed or forgotten. The passion of both of these organizations to preserve this incredible piece of history and share it with the community, which echoes the desire of Michael Matthies. For this reason, we nominate them for the 2025 Governor's Archival Achievement Award.

## EXCITING NEWS! HISTORIC LOG CABIN IS MOVED

The 1850s log cabin, donated by Mike and Nancy Byers of Cedarburg, was moved to Ozaukee County Pioneer Village on Friday, March 21st.

This is the first building moved to the village in over 20 years. The building movers were DeVooght House Movers from Manitowoc.

The foundation will be built in the next month or two and DeVooght will come back to set the cabin on its own foundation.

The purpose of the building will be to set up a print shop that will provide demonstrations of the print trade of old.



## NEWS & FOND MEMORIES

### Welcome Saukville Area Historical Society!

The Saukville Area Historical Society in combining with the Ozaukee County Historical. We welcome all the former members of the Saukville Area Historical Society with a complimentary one-year membership. We hope after enjoying our events, programs, archival resources, they will renew as members in 2026!

### Dobberpuhl Scholarship

This year the Ozaukee County Historical Society will award two scholarships, one to Ashley Anna Commons from Cedarburg High School and the other to Matthew Seiberlich of Homestead High School. Each has outstanding academic achievements. Ashley will be pursuing a degree in graphic arts/design at UW Stevens Point. Matthew will be majoring in history and political science. Congratulations to both!



### In Memory of Ruth E. Goeden

Ruth Elsie Goeden, a lifelong Ozaukee County resident and dedicated community member, passed away on March 9, 2025, at the age of 95. Born in the Town of Grafton in 1929, Ruth lived a life of creativity, service, and deep family devotion. She and her husband Armand shared a love of gardening, travel, and German culture, welcoming international guests and forming lifelong friendships through German Fest and the Alte Kameraden Band. A talented seamstress and artist, Ruth taught sewing to 4-H members and art to students at Our Savior Lutheran Church, where she was a charter member. Her passion for history and local heritage led her to volunteer as a Stone House tour guide and to operate the print shop at Ozaukee County Pioneer Village alongside Armand, after founding their family printing business in

1968. Ruth's warm spirit, volunteerism, and dedication to preserving community traditions will be fondly remembered. The Ozaukee County Historical Society thanks the Goeden Family for their volunteer and monetary contributions. We send heartfelt condolences to the family of Ruth Goeden. Our new print shop will be named in honor of Armand and Ruth Goeden.

## WHAT'S COOKIN' OZAUKEE COUNTY: GRAHAM CRACKER CREAM PIE

### Step 1: Pie Crust

- 16 graham crackers rolled fine
- 1 tsp flour
- 1/2 cup of melted shortening, part butter
- 1/2 cup of granulated sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon

*Take 1/2 of mixture and line pie tin.*

### Step 2: Custard filling:

- 3 egg yolks
- 1/4 cu of sugar
- 2 cu of milk
- 2 tbs cornstarch
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

*Cook together until mixture coats the spoon. Pour into pie crust.*

### Step 3: Meringue Filling

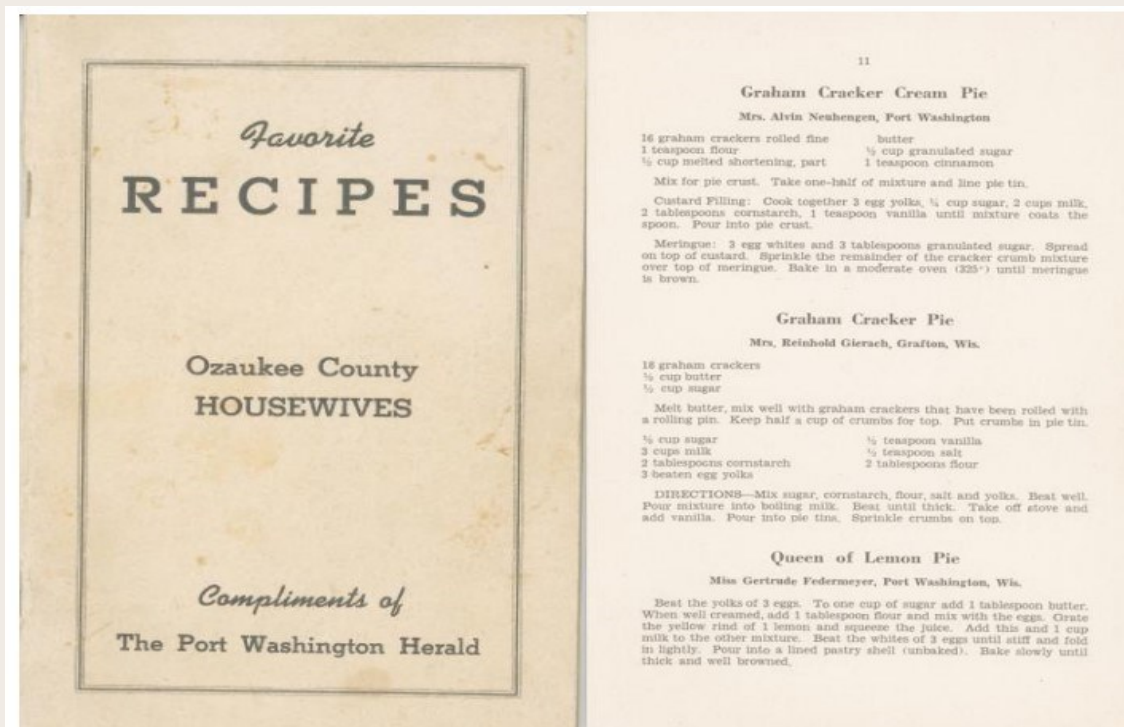
- 3 egg whites
- 3 tbsp of granulated sugar

*Spread on top of custard. Sprinkle the remainder of the cracker crumb mixture over top of meringue. Bake in moderate oven (325 degrees) until meringue is brown.*

### Step 4: Enjoy

- 2-3 Neighbors
- Coffee or Tea

*Invite over a few neighbors and enjoy with coffee or tea while having a joyful discussion!*



UPCOMING EVENTS:



# Dine, Donate & Stay

*Calling all Ozaukee County History Buffs and everyone who loves a delicious dinner! The Port Hotel is the crown jewel of downtown Port Washington and is celebrating 123 years of hospitality. For all these years it has been run by local Ozaukee families. If you have never been there, or have not visited in some time, now is the time to rediscover this Historic Port Hotel and the Moonlight Tavern Supper Club. They have generously created this special event specifically in support of the Ozaukee County Historical Society.*

*It gets better! Dine with us, and all OCHS Members can receive a coupon for 20% off any overnight stay at the Port Hotel. Bookings must be made directly with James Read and current OCHS membership card must be presented.*



**Wednesday, May 7 - 11AM-8PM**  
**Moonlight Tavern**

101 E Main St, Port Washington, WI 53074

<https://moonlighttavernsupperclub.com>



*15% of food sales during this event will help support our efforts to complete our buggy and wagon restorations. Have a delicious dinner while supporting a great restoration project!*



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ozaukee County Historical Society presents

# SWING NOUVEAU



**Tickets \$5**  
at the door  
Dance included with  
WWII day wristband.

**SATURDAY,  
MAY 17, 2025  
7:00 - 9:00 PM**

Milwaukee's premier 17 piece Big Band performs the sounds from the 30's, 40's, 50's all the way to today.

Attendees encouraged to come in period attire.

Beer & Wine Cash Bar



## Ozaukee County Pioneer Village

4880 County Road I - Saukville, WI  
For more information, go to our website: [www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us](http://www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us)

Thank you to our sponsors:



Peter Wollner Amercian Legion Post

Ozaukee County Historical Society and NorthWoods Living History Group present

## WWII LIVING HISTORY EVENT

1945 - Going Home, the War is Over

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 9am - 4pm**

Public Preview Day:  
Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-3:00pm \$5/Person

**SATURDAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**  
Travel back in time while our living historians showcase various weaponry, uniforms, vehicles and artifacts from the WWII era.

- Remembering the Holocaust Exhibit
- Demonstrations throughout the Village
- Have Lunch in our Village Hall
- Scavenger Hunt
- Shop the Vendors
- 11:00am ... Military Vehicle Parade
- 12:00pm & 3:00pm ... Battle in the Bowl
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm ... Swing Nouveau

Admission: \$10 Adults, \$8 Students (13-17) & Seniors, \$5 Veterans & Children (5-12), WWII Veterans FREE.  
Saturday Night Dance \$5 (included w/Saturday's wristband)

**Ozaukee County Pioneer Village**  
4880 Highway I • Saukville, WI 53080  
For more information, go to our website: [www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us](http://www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us)

Thank you to our sponsors:



Peter Wollner Amercian Legion Post



**EVENT RECAP:**

**2025 EASTER EGG HUNT APRIL 19TH**



Who's that bunny?  
Could it be board  
member Mike Hecker?



We had an awesome time! So much fun and smiles!

## Donations:

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### Memorial Donations:

Elizabeth Wirth – Gus Wirth  
Nancy Perez - Ruth Herzinger  
Mary Kay Schuknecht - Red Schuknecht  
Arnold Kaul – Darlene Kaul

### Specific Donations:

Wayne & Marta Ullman – Caboose  
Anonymous – Log Cabin  
Ruth Goeden – Log Cabin  
Dean & Lois Schwarten – Pioneer Village Upkeep  
Michael & Carol Hecker- Pioneer Village Upkeep  
Laurie Bell – Archival Supplies  
Chris & Mary Ann Velnetske – Appliances

### General Donations:

Mary Lou McPhillips  
Marjorie Palleon  
Jane Boesch  
Helen Drexler

### Artifact Donations:

Mike & Nancy Byers – 1850 Log Cabin  
Rich Scheer - immigrant trunk  
Barbara Rathke - 3 rockers, bread box, misc. kitchen utensils, 2 pitchers and an antique high chair  
Dennis Didier - baby buggy, doll, milk can, Underwood typewriter and a typewriter stand  
Don Korinek - Two-inch-thick barn flooring for the Print Shop Cabin  
John Ahlers - Fanning mill, 2 fox farm enclosure barrels  
Mike and Nancy Byers - Misc. lumber and plywood, antique saws and snowshoes

### Event Sponsorships:

Jon & Sandy Dehlinger – Bluegrass  
Port-Saukville Rotary – Bluegrass  
Mueller Heatin & Cooling – Bluegrass  
Cedarburg Overhead Door – WWII  
Port Washington State Bank – Bluegrass  
Poul & Linda Sandersen – Bluegrass  
Charles & Sharon Lapicola – Bluegrass  
Answerport Technology & Mgmt. Consultants – WWII & Bluegrass  
Northshore Bank – WWII  
Horicon Bank – WWII  
Ted Grob Corporation – WWII  
Cedarburg Auto Repair Svc – Bluegrass  
Cedarburg American Legion – WWII

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Thank you for your  
kindness, generosity  
and support!

Ozaukee County Historical Society  
N57 W6406 Center Street -PO Box 206  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-0206  
www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us  
Hazel Wirth Archives Research Center  
262-377-4510  
E-Mail: ozaukeearchivist@gmail.com

## ~2025 Membership Application ~

Membership ~ January 1 thru December 31, 2025

Sign me up! I'm ready to be a part of history!

Enclosed please find my:  Renewal  New Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Your Email & Phone Number will never be shared!)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children (under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! Please contact me when you need volunteer help!

*I want to make a contribution to history. Enclosed please find my additional tax-deductible contribution specified for:*

Hazel Wirth Archives Research Center

Interurban Depot Preservation Fund

Acquisitions & Collections Maintenance

Memorial: In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Stony Hill School Upkeep

Celebration: In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ozaukee County Historical Society**

**N57 W6406 Center Street**

**P.O. Box 206**

**Cedarburg, WI 53012-0206**

