

TIMELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL QUARTERLY MEETING

Monday, November 4, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m. CST

Location: Cedarburg American Legion Post

W57N481 Hilbert Ave, 53012



Wisconsin and Prohibition

Dr. Patrick W. Steele

Join us for an engaging presentation by Dr. Patrick W. Steele as he takes us on a journey through one of the most controversial eras in American history—Prohibition. Steele, a retired college professor with 27 years of teaching experience and a passion for Wisconsin history, will delve into the unique impact of Prohibition on our state.

Titled "Wisconsin and Prohibition," the presentation will explore how the nationwide ban on alcohol was enacted and enforced in Wisconsin. From the notorious hideouts of Al Capone in the Northwoods to the thriving underground speakeasies in local communities, Steele will uncover the fascinating ways in which Prohibition influ-

enced Wisconsin's social, economic, and political landscape.

While Prohibition is often labeled a failure, Steele will challenge this assumption, inviting us to consider the complex legacy of this period. Was it truly a failure, or did it shape the state in lasting and unexpected ways?

Steele brings a wealth of expertise to this topic. His award-winning book *Home of the Braves: The Battle for Baseball in Milwaukee* combines his love for sports and Wisconsin history. In addition to his academic career, Steele has been coaching baseball and softball since 1986—a reflection of his lifelong dedication to the state and its stories.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about how Prohibition shaped Wisconsin's history! Grab a drink from the cash bar, enjoy some snacks, and settle in for an evening of rich historical insights and lively discussion.

Greetings From the President:

Hello! The Ozaukee County Historical Society has made so much progress in 2024 due to the labor and commitment of our volunteers, the financial support of our donors and business community! We are ever so grateful for all their hard work and support. We have a beautiful antique wind-mill at the entrance of the village, we have new furnaces and air conditioning units at the archives in Cedarburg, we have new plaster, paint, shutters and lighting at Stony Hill School, and we have made tremendous progress on the caboose restoration. There is a wonderful Native American exhibit of our artifacts in the Welcome Center, and we have started restoring our wagon/buggy collection this year. I don't think we could have done more, and I know that we could not have done all this without our membership, as well.

It truly has been exciting to see all these accomplishments in one year! We have grown our membership, our board and our volunteers. That is who we are and how we get things done! It is an honor to be part of all this and to serve such an awesome organization and I thank all of you.

Allen Buchholz, who has been my right-hand man and so much more, has decided to retire from our board. His fingerprint is all over the village and the county with his craftsmanship, his artistry, in his knowledge of our very history. He will continue to support the organization with special projects and volunteering. He has helped "steer the ship" for decades and his contributions will never be forgotten.

Our future is bright and has so many opportunities, I hope that you will consider a special role in our organization. We are still looking for a membership coordinator, quarterly meeting coordinator, school tour coordinator, and volunteer coordinator. I'm still happy doing the cookin' as food service coordinator, but really need some help with these other roles. Please consider it and give me a call to talk about it.

I wish you all a wonderful and blessed holiday season. Remember to renew your membership and I look forward to working together in 2025!

Mary Ann Velnetske - President

BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Ann Velnetske, President
 Allen Buchholz, 1st Vice-President
 Becky Miller, Secretary/Graphic Design
 Don Borgwardt, Treasurer
 Keri Eichner, Director
 Open-Quarterly Program Chair
 Dan Paulus, Director
 Dick Liersch, Director
 Lindsey Harness, Newsletter Editor
 Ashley Fullerton, Director
 Open, Volunteer Coordinator

SUPPORT STAFF

Jane Butz, Archivist
 Chris Fricke, Archivist
 Open, Membership
 Jim and Sally Punzel-Pioneer Village Caretakers
 Eugene Durben/ Kayla Beegle-Storck Blacksmiths

TOUR GUIDES/DOCENTS

Dennis Beder	Barbara Roob
Donna Smith	Carol Stephenson
Linda Ziebell	Carol Curtis
Chris Schultz	Kathy Callaway

CONTACTS

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

Bringing History to Life: The Windmill at Pioneer Village

Written By: Lindsey Harness, Ph.D.

Pioneer Village, nestled in the heart of Ozaukee County, is a living testament to the county's rich agricultural past. Each building and artifact represent a piece of history, connecting visitors to the daily life and innovations that shaped the area over a century ago. The newest addition to the village, a fully restored 40-foot windmill, is no exception. This iconic structure stands proudly at the corner of the village near Highway I, drawing attention and sparking conversation about the vital role windmills once played in rural farm life.

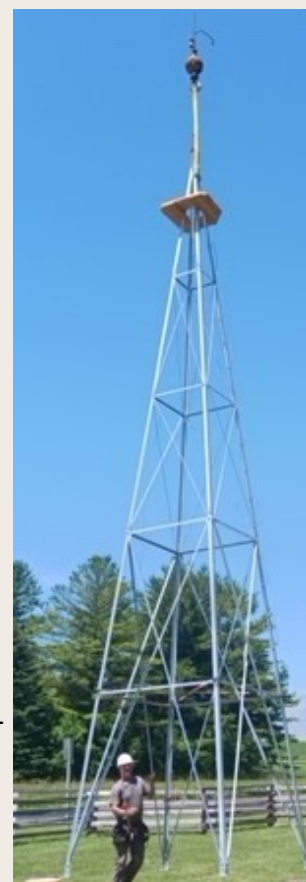
The effort to bring the windmill to Pioneer Village began as a conversation between two dedicated volunteers. "About a year ago, Brian Schmit and I were working on another project, and he asked if I had ever thought about erecting a windmill in the village," recalls Allen Buchholz. "I had, many times. I even tried to move a windmill from a farm in Grafton years ago, but it fell in the process. I've always loved old windmills. Almost every farm in Ozaukee County had one, and it felt only right that we should have one represented at the village."



The journey to find the perfect windmill took the team to central Illinois, where they connected with Paul Behrends, a windmill expert who travels across the Midwest dismantling, refurbishing, and restoring old windmills. The relationship turned out to be an ideal match. After selecting a windmill that was just the right fit for Pioneer Village, Allen and his wife, Cheri, drove down to Illinois to inspect it and confirm its condition. Behrends himself made the trip to Wisconsin, bringing the entire windmill on a trailer to ensure its safe transport and reassembly.

The windmill, towering 40 feet in the air, stands as both a functional and historical centerpiece for the village. With an 8-foot diameter mill at the top and an antique water pump mounted on a deck below, it harkens back to the days when wind power was a critical resource for farms across the region. In fact, windmills were once such an integral part of Ozaukee County farms that it would be rare to find a farmstead without one a century ago.

Restoring the windmill and setting it in place required precision and teamwork. Volunteers dug the foundation and poured the necessary footings, ensuring a strong and stable base. On installation day, a crane was brought in to help set the windmill into position. The work was meticulous, but the result is a striking and historically significant addition to the village.



Bringing History to Life: The New Windmill at Pioneer Village (continued)

Written By: Lindsey Harness, Ph.D.

But beyond its aesthetic appeal, the windmill serves as a symbol of the ingenuity and resilience of past generations. For the farmers of Ozaukee County, windmills were essential for pumping water for livestock, irrigating crops, and providing power for daily operations. The ability to harness wind energy was a game-changer for farms, making the difference between sustainable growth and hardship.

In addition to being historically accurate, the Pioneer Village windmill is also practical. A brake has been installed to shut it down during extremely windy days, preventing damage and ensuring its longevity for future generations to appreciate.

The addition of the windmill is yet another way Pioneer Village continues to evolve, adding layers of authenticity to its representation of 19th and early 20th-century farm life. Visitors are encouraged to stop by, explore the windmill up close, and imagine what life was like when wind power was a crucial part of daily farming operations.

This latest project highlights the dedication and passion of the volunteers who work tirelessly to preserve the history of Ozaukee County. It's a reminder that, even in our modern age, these relics of the past have an important story to tell. So next time you visit Pioneer Village, make sure to check out the windmill – it's a towering piece of history you won't want to miss.

Visit Pioneer Village and witness
the windmill!



Thank you to Allen Buchholz, Tom Albinger,
Paul Behrends, and Brian Schmit for bringing
this project to fruition!

Scenes from the Village: Scenes from the Fair

Written By: James Cornelius

The Ozaukee County Fair and Pioneer Village offer a unique glimpse into both the past and present of rural Wisconsin life. This article explores the highlights of the 2024 fair and how Pioneer Village continues to preserve the tools, skills, and stories that shaped the region's history. Whether you're drawn to the rustic charm of historical reenactments or the lively excitement of fair attractions, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

The Legacy of the Ozaukee County Fair

Ozaukee County's annual agricultural fair took place over five days in late July and early August 2024. It has been held almost every year since 1859. The fairgrounds in Cedarburg, where the fair has been held since 1890, are about 11 miles from the Historical Society's Pioneer Village, now in its fifth decade. Although Pioneer Village only recreates a farm or rural site, it serves as an excellent backdrop and training ground for this annual event. Next year, plan to attend both – the Village first, then the Fair.

Tools of the Past on Display at Pioneer Village

At Pioneer Village, all kinds of farming life are showcased through the tools on display. Many are housed in the Hashek Hay Barn, while others can be seen at the blacksmith shop, inside homes, or on the lawn. Kids can use the winnowing basket to separate wheat from chaff, while older visitors crank the beet-slicer (livestock like beets more than children do) or try out the wine press. Without a doubt, though, the elephant-sized harvester was a job for the men.



Farm Life and the Evolution of Tools

Who in the family enjoyed minding the chick incubator? It's anyone's guess, but that device is just one example of a tool that continues to evolve and remain vital to animal husbandry. A humble, deceptively simple post-hole digger hangs quietly on a wall until spring rains wreak havoc on your fence, and you need to start over...sometimes by hiring a professional. (At smarter universities, they joke that if you want to make real money, get a Ph.D.)

Tack and Equipment for the Farmer's Best Friend

Making the farmer's best friend, the horse, into a working member of the family requires a lot of tack. In the Hashek barn, a rudimentary wooden horse is fitted out with a saddle, bit, reins, and stirrups, alongside other models of leather and metal craft. Everything got used back then. As Laura Ingalls Wilder explains: "Even the apple cores were saved for making vinegar." Oat straw wasn't discarded either; it soaked in a bucket, and whenever mother had a spare moment, she braided bits into summer hats (from *Farmer Boy* 1933).



Scenes from the Village: Scenes from the Fair (continued)

Written By: James Cornelius

The Fair's Rich Heritage Lives On

If you head south from the Village down County Rd. I, where it meets Washington Avenue in Cedarburg near the County Fairgrounds, you'll see that some things have changed over the years, while others remain the same. This year, the 4-H and FFA judging events recognized young participants with surnames that are nearly identical to those from 150 years ago. Among the winners in the sheep judging, for example, were names from Germany, France, Luxembourg, Poland, and Mexico.

The Fair's Royalty and Their Unique Skills

The Queen of the County Fair this year had a German name, while Miss State Fair's name was English. She hails from Racine and was visiting her 31st of Wisconsin's 79 county fairs that day. These queens don't just stand around for photos; by the hog pens, they skillfully maneuvered around ornery swine with their delicate slippers. One wonders whether the gals of Pioneer Village could have done the same, or if there was a more expeditious tool for the job back then.

Fun, Music, and Modern-Day Festivities

As in days gone by, people come to the fair to buy new gear, enjoy food and drink, watch truck pulls, have fun, and get a little spooked on the midway. Nearly a dozen kinds of farm animals are displayed for judging and shows. Few individual farms in the 19th century had all these animals, so attending the fair was both an education and an inspiration for farmers looking to expand. The fair also offers excellent music. While Ozaukee may be the last free county fair in the state, it still attracts talent, including a three-man band that updated Buddy Holly's sound, which itself updated the fiddle, horn, and banjo combos of 70 years earlier. With a dozen other bands playing, it's clear that the land producing the best milk, cheese, vegetables, fur, wool, and meat is also a place that nurtures musical talent. Even non-singers find ways to express themselves at the fair, with wild outfits, painted faces, or bright political T-shirts like "Swift/Kelce '24." John Deere or Case IH reps are always on hand to assist as well.

Tradition Meets Modernity: Businesses and Fair Sponsors

Dozens of local businesses help sponsor the fair and Pioneer Village. In fact, some of them still manufacture tools and gear that support farm life, bridging the gap between past and present. This dedication extends to supporting the Historical Society and its Pioneer Village. It's a perfect fit – like hand and glove – so let's shake on it and see you again next year.



EVENT RECAP

July 27th: The Magic Returns at Harry Potter at the Village



Attendees showcase their best costumes for the crowd.

Members of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry explore Pioneer Village



Pioneer Village was transformed into a Harry Potter-themed park. Each house on the grounds included actors, which led participants through escape-room activities. Participants were encouraged to dress up in their best Harry Potter-esque outfits.

EVENT RECAP—Continued

August 11th: Bluegrass at the Village



With a mix of familiar and new faces, the festival provided a weekend of toe-tapping rhythms and community spirit.

The event included a variety of musical talents, including Pickin' up Speed, The Foxgloves, Fox Crossing Stringband, the MilBillies, Chicken Wire Empire, Heartland Howlers, and Badgerland Bluegrass Music Association.



We hope you will join us for the fun next year!

EVENT RECAP—Continued

September 7th: Planes, Trains, & Automobiles



The event included a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, demonstrations of all modes of transportation, experiential learning activities, and refreshments.



EVENT RECAP—Continued

September 21: Jam for History

September 28th: Autumn at the Village

October 5th: Cedarburg Gala



OCHS had a Jam for History at the Inter-urban Depot during the Cedarburg Wine & Harvest Festival. Neighbors on Center Street pulled together a dozen musicians to play on the platform. One of the musicians was singer songwriter, B.J. Fischer and his son. All donations benefited the society.

The event included musical guests, such as Pickin' Up Speed Bluegrass Band, fresh bread and cookies, and various demonstrations, such as butter churning, tractor operations, rope making, corn shelling, and many different crafts.



The Greater Cedarburg Foundation held their annual fundraising gala at Oz. Co. Pioneer Village on Oct 5th. It was an honor to host them, as they have donated to the Pioneer Village Hall, the Cedarburg Train Station restoration, the caboose restoration and the HVAC replacement at the Archives.

Fond Memories:

Clarice A. Buchholz (née Schmidt) & Judy Jepson

Clarice A. Buchholz (née Schmidt), of Cedarburg, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 3, 2024. Born in Port Washington on July 19, 1927, Clarice was the youngest and last surviving child of Charles and Clara (Krier) Schmidt. She married Frank Buchholz on October 18, 1947, and together they enjoyed a sixty-five-year marriage, raising six children. Clarice was well-known throughout Ozaukee County for her exceptional skills as a designer and seamstress, creating countless wedding gowns, prom dresses, and custom garments. Even in her later years, she remained dedicated to her craft, provided purses and potholders for the gift shop at Pioneer Village and was sewing daily until her final days.

A longtime member of St. Joseph's Parish in Grafton, Clarice was also a charter member of the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 5373 and a lifetime member of the Ozaukee County Historical Society. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, her parents, and her numerous siblings. Clarice is survived by her six children, eleven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, as well as many extended family members and dear friends.



Judy Jepson, who passed away on August 26, 2024, at the age of 82, will be lovingly remembered for her lifelong dedication to her community, historic preservation, and her passion for journalism. Born on November 13, 1941, in Brillion, Wisconsin, she graduated from Brillion High School in 1960. Her passion for writing led her to earn a degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1964, followed by a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Throughout her career, Judy worked in advertising, as a copy editor, and ultimately as the editor of *Exclusively Yours* magazine until her retirement in 2008.

Beyond her professional life, Judy was a tireless advocate for Cedarburg's historical preservation. She served on the Landmarks Commission for 31 years and was deeply involved on the board of the Ozaukee County Historical Society, the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts, and other local organizations. Judy's love for Cedarburg's rich history inspired her to curate an extensive collection of local artifacts, now preserved by the city. She will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and the Cedarburg community she so deeply cherished. Judy is survived by her children, David and Wendy Jepson, as well as her extended family, including her grandchildren, sister, and many nieces and nephews.

Donations August—October

Memorial Donations:

Curt Cruenwald, Memorial-C. Buchholz
Jane Boesch, Memorial-C. Buchholz
Bacchantic Family Fund, Memorial-C. Buchholz
Eugene Recob, Memorial C. Buchholz/PV Maint
Tomas Freed, Memorial C. Buchholz-Windmill
Phil & Jean Steinke, Memorial - Judy Jepson
Tami & Greg Forbes, Memorial-Judy Jepson

Specific Donations:

Katherine Adraktas, Archives Donation
Helen Ward, Archives Donation
Doug Peterson, Wagon Restoration Donation
The Stilt House, Wagon Restoration Donation
Neal & Cathy Wegner, Caboose Donations
Acuity, Stony Hill Donation

General Donations:

Richard Tollefsen, General Donation

Event Sponsorships:

Paul & Linda Sandersen, Bluegrass Sponsor
Mid-State Insurance, Bluegrass Sponsor
Jon Dehlinger, Bluegrass Sponsor
Grafton Roofing, Planes Trains & Auto Sponsor
Petersen Products, Autumn at the Village Sponsor
State Bank of Newburg, Autumn at the Village Sponsor
Mary Ann Velnetske, Autumn at the Village Sponsor
Lila Bast, Autumn at the Village Sponsor
Ken Albinger, Autumn at the Village Sponsor
Lochen, Autumn at the Village Sponsor

**Thank you for your
kindness, generosity
and support!**

Upcoming Events:



Touchdown Volunteers!
OCHS Volunteer Appreciation Tailgate Party!
Sunday, November 17, 2024
Ozaukee County Pioneer Village

It's game time! Cheer the Packers to victory over the Chicago Bears. Please bring your favorite tailgate appetizer or dessert to share with the group.
Buffet starts at 11:45pm.
Kickoff is at 12:00pm.
50/50 Raffle & Packer Pools for those interested.
Wear your favorite Packer attire!
RSVP by November 10th
Mary Ann 262-894-9666
or e-mail us at: ochsvolunteers@gmail.com



Winter Solstice,

Pioneer Village

December 21, 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy campfires, night of star-gazing and carols sung by Limited Edition choir. Hot chocolate and s'mores.

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

~2023 Membership Application ~

Membership ~ January 1 thru December 31, 2023

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

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Cedarburg, WI 53012-0206

